MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2025-26
Module Code	IDM205
Module Title	Healthcare-associated infections
Module Organiser(s)	Dr Astrid Leck
Contact email	The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with University of London Worldwide. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre. (Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based the LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk.)
Faculty	Infectious & Tropical Diseases: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/itd
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	**CATS:** 15 **ECTS:** 7.5
HECoS Code	100265:100345 (1:1)
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through provided and online materials
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	To benefit fully from this module those who register for it are strongly recommended either to be currently working in or to have previously worked in a healthcare setting. The type of healthcare setting is unimportant. Those who wish to study this module as part of another programme, or as an individual module, should have a prior knowledge of basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics and immunology in order to be able to work through and benefit fully from this module.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None

Target Audience	This module is intended for those who wish to understand the principles of healthcare associated infections and to apply this knowledge to the prevention of infection in the healthcare setting in which they work.
Module Description	This module explores the reasons for the spread of infection within healthcare settings; from the biological basis of infectious disease through to the processes involved in the prevention and control of infection.
Duration	Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study materials and work through the material until the start of the June assessments (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	March 2025

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGDip/MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective option
PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective option
PGDip/MSc Epidemiology (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective option
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health (General Stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Health and Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: • give students the necessary knowledge to be able to develop a strategy to prevent healthcare associated and hospital infections. If presented with infected patients, the students would know what clinical samples should be collected and how the information derived from them could be used to inform a strategy for the prevention of healthcare associated infection.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: 1. Demonstrate specific knowledge and understanding of essential theory and practice of controlling nosocomial infections, by evaluating real world scenarios; 2. Use specialist knowledge to debate the microbiological diagnosis and control of these infections in complex environments; 3. Critically evaluate current practices and the role of health care professionals in the surveillance and management of specific healthcare associated infections, developing recommendations for improved outcomes; 4. Apply specialist knowledge and insight to develop and assess effective protocols to address significant nosocomial infection risks.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: • **Section 1** Epidemiology and management How to develop a suitable management response: the role of epidemiology in the managerial & organizational requirements for the prevention & control of healthcare associated infections. • **Section 2** Microorganisms and the spread of infection The aetiology and pathogenesis of nosocomial pathogens and the role of the microbiology laboratory in the diagnosis and surveillance of infections. • **Section 3** Prevention of infection: Clinical aspects Preventative measures which are essential components in the delivery of care to patients; principally, aseptic & hygienic techniques and isolation as a means of infection control.

Session Content
• **Section 4** Prevention of infection: hospital and healthcare environment. The procedures and systems necessary to prevent the spread of infection within hospital & healthcare settings; including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, disposal of clinical waste, processing laundry, kitchen hygiene, community healthcare facilities and care of the deceased.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	75	50
Self-directed learning	25	17
Assessment, review and revision	50	33
Total	**150**	**100**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
The teaching and learning strategy is centred on a self-directed learning approach, working through a Study Guide and accompanying text "Manual of Infection Prevention & Control" (Damani, 4th Edition, 2019), against a detailed set of learning objectives. Students are also strongly encouraged to participate in discussion forums with both their peers and module tutors and to make use of the LSHTM online Library resources. Revision sessions are held using either discussion forums or Collaborate. Written feedback is provided for submitted assignments.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
The Assessed Assignment asks the student to apply the concepts and principles as introduced in the module material to one of two hypothetical real-life scenarios. They are encouraged to prepare a 2500-word report to critically evaluate the scenario and formulate a report focusing on how to apply infection control protocols and resources, discussing the feasibility of implementing the recommendations they have made within the context of the setting in which they work (30%). The time-limited assessment (70%) requires students to demonstrate the ability to apply infection control principles, concepts and methods and covers all sections of the module content. The assessment also provides the student with the opportunity to demonstrate critical appraisal and to integrate different concepts into a critical discussion.

Assessment submission deadlines

Assessed assignment submission deadline **31st March**

Time-limited assessment takes place in **June**

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	**Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)**	**Weighting** (%)	**Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested**
Assessed Assignment	2500 words	30	Covers all ILOs for the module
Time-Limited Assessment	3000 words	70	Covers all ILOs for the module

Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 31st March and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, mostly in June (including resits).

Time-limited assessments are held in accordance with University of London's annual guidance.

Please note that a separate assessment fee may be payable in addition to the module fee.

Resitting assessment

Resits will accord with the LSHTM's Resits Policy.

The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table). (Note that for those resitting module assessments, a fee will be payable.)

Resources

Indicative reading list

- Goering, R.V., Dockrell, H.M., Zuckerman, M. and Chiodini, P.L., (2024) *Mims' Medical Microbiology and Immunology.* 7th Ed. ISBN: 9780702071546.
- Damani, N. (2019) Manual of Infection, Prevention and Control, 4th Ed. ISBN 9780198815938

Textbooks will be made available in e-format to registered students in early autumn.

Other resources

Study Guide: Available online, and to download, via the virtual learning environment.

Reader: Online reading list available via the Virtual Learning Environment.

In addition to the materials above, students are given access to the **LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, (VLE; Moodle)** where they can access the study guide, reading list, web-based discussion forums, assignments, supplementary materials and the **LSHTM online library resources**.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the module learning materials, including a study guide (with accessible printable versions of sessions), an online reading list (containing essential readings), textbooks as e-format and additional resources including supplementary exercises.

All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

If you have specific, access requirements please contact the Inclusive Practice Manager via special.arrangements@london.ac.uk to request an alternative format of the study guide and for special exam arrangements.