Programme Specification

2016/2017

Part A: Programme Summary Information

1	**Title of Programme**	**Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors**
2	**Programme Code**	MSC/BCPDV
3	**Entry Award (s):**	
3a	Entry Award 1	MSc – 180 Credits:FHEQ Level 7 of which up to 30 credits may be at FHEQ Level 6
3b	Entry Award 2	PGDip – 120 Credits:FHEQ Level 7 of which up to 30 credits may be at FHEQ Level 6
3c	Entry Award 3	PGCert – 60 Credits:FHEQ Level 7 of which up to 15 credits may be at FHEQ Level 6
4	**Exit Award (s):**	
4a	Exit Award 1	MSc – 180 Credits:FHEQ Level 7 of which up to 30 credits may be at FHEQ Level 6
4b	Exit Award 2	PGDip – 120 Credits:FHEQ Level 7 of which up to 30 credits may be at FHEQ Level 6
4c	Exit Award 3	PGCert – 60 Credits:FHEQ Level 7 of which up to 15 credits may be at FHEQ Level 6
5a	**Start Date**	September 2016
5b	**End Date**	September 2017
6	**Frequency of Intake**	Annually
7	**Mode of Study**	FT
8a	**Applicable Framework**	UoL Framework for FT or PT Postgraduate Programmes
8b	**Exemption Required**	No
8c	**Exemption Approved**	N/A
8d	**Details of Exemption**	N/A
9	**Director of Studies**	James La Course
10	**Board of Studies**	Tropical Disease Biology Masters Board of Studies
11	**Board of Examiners**	MSc Board of Examiners
12	**External Examiner(s)**	Prof Paul Horrocks (Keele University)
13	**Professional or Other Body**	Priorities of relevant national and international organisations in global health (Department for International Development, UK; United States Agency for International Development; World Health Organisation); QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement (2015); The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
14	**Reference Points**	Priorities of relevant national and international organisations in global health (Department for International Development, UK; United States Agency for International Development; World Health Organisation); QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement (2015); The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
15a	**Home/EU Fee**	£8,100
15b	**Overseas Fee**	£17,950
16	**Additional Costs to the Student**	The programme fee covers the cost of an experimental project based in the LSTM research laboratories. Some projects also involve a short period of data collection overseas (normally 2-4 weeks). Students who choose these projects must cover any additional costs for the overseas trip (estimated £1500).

Part B: Programme Aims and Outcomes

17 Overview of the Programme

This programme provides advanced contemporary training in parasitology and the study of disease vectors. The broad scope of the programme ranges from the biology, immunology, ecology and population biology of the organisms to public health, disease epidemiology and tropical health issues. In addition to providing a solid foundation in parasite and vector biology, the programme provides practical experience of essential techniques, as well as significant theoretical and practical knowledge in all important and topical areas of the field. Following the taught component, participants complete a dissertation including a period of applied research either overseas or in Liverpool.

18 Aims of the Programme

No.	Specific Aim	Entry Award
1	Equip students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to develop a career in research, training or control of parasitic and vector-borne diseases.	All Awards
2	Provide practical experience of a range of specialised technical and analytical skills relevant to the study of parasites and disease vectors.	All Awards
3	Enable students to conduct independent research in the laboratory and/or field.	MSc Only
4	Produce graduates who are experienced, committed, informed, proactive and effective professionals, capable of taking substantial and leading professional roles.	All Awards
5	Facilitate high quality learning that is informed by critical analysis of current research.	All Awards

19 Skills and Other Attributes

No.	Skill/Attribute	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing
1	To communicate ideas, knowledge, and strategies confidently and effectively, both orally and in writing	All modules	Written assessments and oral presentations
2	To apply numerical and IT skills with confidence and accuracy	TROP 936, 942, 970, 971	Formative and summative calculation exercises (971); examination (936); dissertation data analysis (942); poster and research notebook (970)
3	To work effectively both independently and in collaboration with others	All modules	Indirect contribution to all assessments
4	To take responsibility for self-managed learning	All modules	Indirect contribution to all assessments
5	To apply skills in effective project and time management to set goals, prioritise activities and meet deadlines	All modules	Assessed indirectly in all modules through timely submission of assessments

20 Subject Based Learning Outcomes

A **Knowledge and Understanding.** Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should have developed and be able to demonstrate:

No.	Learning Outcome	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing	Entry Award
1	A systematic understanding and critical awareness of current issues and priorities in the field of biology and control of parasites and disease vectors	TROP 719, 739, 741, 939	Practical & written exams, essays, poster presentation	All Awards
2	Knowledge of a range of relevant research methods and understanding of how the methods can be applied to address particular research questions	TROP 936, 971, 970, 942	Practical Reports, Research notebook, poster presentation, dissertation	All Awards
3	Ability to apply statistical knowledge and understanding to design a research study and to analyse and interpret critically data	TROP 936, 942, 971	Practical Reports, dissertation	All Awards
4	Knowledge and understanding of the biology and epidemiology of parasites and vectors and the diseases of medical importance that they cause	TROP 719, 739, 741, 939	Practical & written exams, poster presentation, practical reports	All Awards
5	Critical understanding of current methods for preventing human disease and an appreciation of research developments in parasitology and vector biology that may lead to the development of novel control strategies.	TROP 719, 739, 741, 939, 942	Practical & written exams, essays, poster presentation, dissertation	All Awards

B **Cognitive Skills.** Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should be able to:

No.	Learning Outcome	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing	Entry Award
1	Analyse, synthesise and evaluate information from a variety of sources in a critical manner	TROP 719, 739, 741, 939, 942, 969, 970	Practical & written exams, essays, poster presentation, research notebook, dissertation	All Awards
2	Apply subject knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts to analyse and reach evidence-based conclusions on complex situations, problems and opportunities	TROP 719, 739, 741, 939, 942, 975	Practical & written exams, essays, poster presentation, practical reports, dissertation	
3	Apply the principles and values of ethical practice with regard to the design and practice of research studies, consent and confidentiality in the collection and presentation of data, and publication	TROP 942	Dissertation	MSc Only
4	Demonstrate creativity, innovation and originality in the application of knowledge	TROP 719, 739, 741, 942, 936, 939, 969, 970, 971	Practical reports, research proposal, written & practical exams, poster presentations, essays, research notebook, dissertation	All Awards

C **Practical/Professional Skills.** Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should be able to:

No.	Learning Outcome	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing	Entry Award
1	Formulate a research question, devise an appropriate research strategy and take a systematic approach to project planning and management	TROP 936, 942, 969, 971	Practical reports, research proposal, dissertation	All Awards
2	Undertake research investigations in a responsible, safe and ethical manner and accurately record the data collected	TROP 942	Dissertation	MSc Only
3	Effectively manage, analyse and report data collected in the laboratory or field	TROP 936, 969, 970, 971, 942	Practical reports, research proposal, dissertation, research notebook, poster presentation	All Awards

21 Career Opportunities

Over many years, we have educated hundreds of Masters students, many of whom have established successful careers in research in the academic or private sectors, or who have gone on to work in development as part of government or NGO teams. Graduates of the MSc Biology & Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors typically follow careers in research (some in LSTM) or training in areas related to the control of infectious disease, in particular parasitic and vector-borne tropical diseases. Other careers paths have led to teacher training, working overseas for NGO's, military and public health-related careers.

Part C: Entrance Requirements

22	**Academic Requirements**	Open to graduates with an Honours degree (2.ii or equivalent) in the biological sciences or a medical/veterinary degree. Overseas candidates with other qualifications may be accepted, particularly if they have the relevant experience through working in an appropriate field for a number of years. Medical or Veterinary students who have completed at least three years of study and wish to intercalate are also accepted onto the programme.
23	**English Language Requirements**	The programme is taught in English. Applicants whose first language is not English must normally provide evidence of an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score of at least 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in all learning components, or a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of at least 88 for the Internet-based Test (iBT), with minimum scores of 21 for Listening and Writing, 22 for Reading and 23 for Speaking. Tests should be within their validity period of 2 years. Other English Language Tests and country specific English Language qualifications are also accepted – a full list with details of levels required can be found on the LSTM website (http://www.lstmed.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements). Applicants who have recently completed a degree level qualification taught in a majority English speaking country (as defined by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)) may also be accepted at the discretion of the Director of Studies.
24	**Recognition of Prior Learning**	All programmes of study will permit entry with credit attributed to previous certificated study up to a total of one third of the credits required to be awarded a MSc Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Award.
25	**Work Experience**	Non-graduates with considerable satisfactory work experience and evidence of appropriate in-service training will also be considered.
26	**Other Requirements**	None

Part D: Programme Structure

27a Overview

The programme is offered within a dynamic research-led environment and its content is informed by the cutting-edge research activities of the academic staff. It is designed to enable the professional development of the student, to be relevant to students from both the UK and overseas and to promote approaches to study that will enable graduates to continue their learning into the future.

The programme comprises an introductory induction week, taught modules totalling 120 credits and a 60 credit dissertation. A 10 credit module (5 ECTS credits) represents 100 hours of student learning activity including assessment and self-directed study. Many students carry out a fieldwork-based dissertation project overseas but students can opt to conduct a laboratory or literature-based project that does not involve travelling abroad. All types of project have the key aims of developing the students' skills in formulating a research question, designing and implementing a research project and critically interpreting and presenting the findings. The timing of modules across the academic year recognises the financial and time constraints faced by LSTM students, many of whom are from overseas. To allow students to access LSTM programmes in an economical and time-efficient manner, there are only 2 weeks holiday scheduled over Christmas and 2 days over Easter. The remaining weeks of holiday are deferred to the end of the academic year.

The modules available to students following the programme are shown in Section 27b. Required modules are necessary to achieve the programme learning outcomes and must be taken by all students following the programme. The optional modules listed have been identified as most suitable for contributing to the attainment of the programme learning outcomes. However, depending on their background or interests, students may opt to replace a recommended optional module with one offered as part of another LSTM MSc programme (Section 27c), subject to the agreement of the Director of Studies and any restrictions on class size.

27b Timetable

<table>
<tr><th colspan="8">Modular structure of MSc BCPDV Programme (required modules are shown in bold)</th></tr>
<tr><td>w/b</td><td colspan="2">Week</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tues</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thurs</td><td>Fri</td></tr>
<tr><td>5/9</td><td colspan="2">Field Course</td><td></td><td>Registration</td><td colspan="3">Residential Field Course</td></tr>
<tr><td>12/9</td><td colspan="2">Induction</td><td colspan="5">Induction + Introduction to Key Skills</td></tr>
<tr><td>19/9</td><td>1</td><td rowspan="13">Semester 1(60 credits)</td><td colspan="3" rowspan="12">TROP 936: Research Methods in Parasitology and Vector Biology (30 credits)</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="12">TROP 939: Human Parasitology and Vector Biology (30 credits)</td><td rowspan="12">TROP 936 & TROP 939</td></tr>
<tr><td>26/9</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>3/10</td><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>10/10</td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>17/10</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>24/10</td><td>6</td></tr>
<tr><td>31/10</td><td>7</td></tr>
<tr><td>7/11</td><td>8</td></tr>
<tr><td>14/11</td><td>9</td></tr>
<tr><td>21/11</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td>28/11</td><td>11</td></tr>
<tr><td>3/12</td><td>12</td></tr>
<tr><td>12/12</td><td>13</td><td colspan="5">Revision + Assessments</td></tr>
<tr><td>19/12</td><td></td><td colspan="5">Christmas Holiday</td></tr>
<tr><td>26/12</td><td></td><td colspan="5">Christmas Holiday</td></tr>
<tr><td>2/01*</td><td>14</td><td colspan="5">Revision + Assessments</td></tr>
<tr><td>9/01</td><td>15</td><td rowspan="15">Semester 2 (60 credits)</td><td rowspan="4">Block 1</td><td colspan="4" rowspan="4">TROP 719: Parasite Epidemiology & Control (20 credits)</td></tr>
<tr><td>16/01</td><td>16</td></tr>
<tr><td>23/01</td><td>17</td></tr>
<tr><td>30/01</td><td>18</td></tr>
<tr><td>6/02</td><td>19</td><td rowspan="5">Block 2</td><td colspan="4">Revision + Assessments</td></tr>
<tr><td>1302</td><td>20</td><td colspan="4" rowspan="4">TROP 741: Vector Population Biology and Control (20 credits)
or
TROP 739: Immunology of Tropical Diseases (20 credits)</td></tr>
<tr><td>20/02</td><td>21</td></tr>
<tr><td>27/02</td><td>22</td></tr>
<tr><td>6/03</td><td>23</td></tr>
<tr><td>13/03</td><td>24</td><td rowspan="9">Block 3</td><td colspan="4">Revision + Assessments</td></tr>
<tr><td>20/03</td><td>25</td><td colspan="4" rowspan="2">TROP 971: Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research (10 credits)or TROP 969 Key Topics in Snakebite (10 credits)</td></tr>
<tr><td>27/03</td><td>26</td></tr>
<tr><td>3/04</td><td>27</td><td colspan="4" rowspan="2">TROP 971: Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research (10 credits) or TROP 970: Applied Bioinformatics (10 credits)</td></tr>
<tr><td>10/04**</td><td>28</td></tr>
<tr><td>17/04**</td><td>29</td><td colspan="4" rowspan="2">Revision + Assessments</td></tr>
<tr><td>24/04</td><td>30</td></tr>
<tr><td>1/05***</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td colspan="4">Project Presentations</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Weeks 32-45 (9/5/17-12/8/17) Dissertation hand-in 17/8/17</td><td>Semester 3 (60 credits)</td><td colspan="5">Research Project
TROP942</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td><td></td><td colspan="5">Deferred Holiday</td></tr>
</table>

* LSTM closed for New Year Bank Holiday,
** LSTM closed for Easter Bank Holidays14/04/17 and 17/04/17
*** LSTM closed for May Bank Holiday 1/5/17

27c Options

Optional modules offered in Semester 2 for LSTM MSc programmes. Optional modules recommended for students on MSc BCPDV are shaded. Required modules are shaded and in bold. Other modules can be taken by MSc BCPDV students subject to the approval of the Director of Studies

Wks								
15-16	9/01	Organisation & Management TROP708	Complex Humanitarian Emergencies TROP807	Key Concepts in Sexual & Reproductive Health TROP923	Quality Improvement in Global Child Health TROP910	**Parasite Epidemiology and Control TROP719**	Key Aspects in Molecular & Cellular Biology of Tropical Diseases and Vectors TROP775	
	16/01							
17-18	23/01	HR Planning & Management TROP915		Maternal & Newborn Health TROP924*				HIV in Resource Limited Settings TROP974
	30/01							
19	06/02	Reading week/Assessments						
20-21	13/02		Systematic Reviews for Policy and Practice TROP973		Global Climate Change & Health TROP927	Vector Population Biology & Control TROP741	Immunology of Tropical Diseases TROP739	
	20/02							
22-23	27/02	Health Promotion TROP976	Development of a Disease Control Programme TROP706	Sexual Health & Human Sexuality TROP926				
	06/03							
24	13/03	Reading week/Assessments						
25-26	20/03	Management of Refugee and Displaced Populations TROP941	Key Topics in Snakebite TROP969	Quality Improvement in Maternal & Newborn Health TROP972	Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research TROP971*	Medical Bacteriology Trop 975		
	27/03							
27-28	03/04	Health in Humanitarian Emergencies TROP900	Applied Bioinformatics TROP970	Media, Policy & Advocacy in Humanitarian Action TROP809	Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research TROP971*	Humanitarian Operations TROP901	Child Nutrition TROP776	
	10/04							
29-31	17/04-05/05	Reading Week/Assessments/Project Presentations						

*Module runs twice to increase student choice

Part E: Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

28 Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy

The L&T strategy is designed to help all students to express their full potential through a combination of formal teaching and directed student-centred learning. Lectures highlight key points and provide participants with a core knowledge base. Students are expected to enhance this core knowledge and become reflective independent learners through guided enquiry-based self-study and use of on-line learning packages. Self-study is supported by informal staff contact, scheduled help sessions and on-line discussion. To develop cognitive and intellectual skills, the programme involves discussion of key issues, analysis and interpretation of resource material and practice in applying concepts and solving problems. Group work develops students' abilities to work co-operatively, promotes creativity, provides opportunities to reflect critically and enables participants to take more responsibility for their own learning, as well as learn from each other. Practical skills are developed through opportunities to practise activities in the laboratory and in the field. Students can also take advantage of lectures given by the many distinguished researchers and policy-makers who regularly visit LSTM. The L&T methods adopted reflect the diversity of the LSTM student population and an ethical and culturally sensitive approach is emphasised throughout.

The assessment strategy is designed to encourage the student to develop and improve on a range of skills, including synthesising and evaluating information, academic writing, numerical and IT skills, team-working, presentation skills, and time management. Both formative and summative assessment approaches are used. General assessment procedures, assessment criteria and regulations with respect to late submission are communicated to the students in the LSTM Masters Student Handbook. Students are directed to the relevant module area in Brightspace for information relating to specific assignments.

29 Assessment Schedule

Module Code	Timing	Assessment Strategy	% of module mark
Semester 1			
Trop 936	In module	1 x 3000 word report from practicals 1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	30 30
	End of module	2500 word research proposal (minimum mandatory mark 40%)	40
Trop 939	In module	2 hour MCQ exam 1 hour practical examination (diagnostic microscope)	60 20
	End of module	2500 Critical Review coursework	20
Semester 2 Block 1			
Trop 719	In module	Poster and 10 minute oral presentation	50
	End of module	2 hour exam (essay)	50
Semester 2 Block 2			
Trop 741	End of module	2 hour exam (essay) 1500 word critical review	65 35
Trop 739	End of module	2 hour exam (essay) 3000 word laboratory report	50 50
Semester 2 Block 3			
Trop 971	End of module	2000 word report based on analysis of a data set	100
Trop 970	End of module	Poster and 15 minute oral presentation	100
Trop 969	End of module	3000 word assignment	100
Semester 3			
Trop 942	In module	10 minute oral presentation of research proposal.	10
	End of module	16000 word research dissertation	90

30 Pass Mark

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

31 Compensation and Resits

Compensation

Where the average of the total marks in all modules is 50% or above, a mark in the range 40 – 49% shall be deemed compensatable in 'taught' modules totalling up to 20 credits; compensation cannot apply to any 'independent research' modules. Marks for modules passed by virtue of the compensation rule will be recorded as a pass mark of 50%. Compensation shall not be applied where more than 20 credits are failed or to any credit contributing to a Postgraduate Award. It should be noted that the range of compensatable marks for FHEQ level 6 modules shall also be 40-49%.

Re-sits

Students who fail taught modules may re-sit those modules on one further occasion only. Re-sits should normally take place within the registration period. A failed dissertation or assessed work from an independent research module may also be resubmitted on one further occasion only. For full-time and part-time students the dissertation must be resubmitted within one year of the original date of first submission. Marks achieved in re-sit examinations will be recorded on the transcript as the actual mark achieved but shall be flagged in the transcript to indicate that they were achieved at a second attempt. Marks for modules passed by reassessment will be capped at 50% for the purpose of calculating the award. Further information relating to the re-sitting of examinations, including timing of re-sits, can be found in the LSTM Masters Student Handbook.

32 Marking Descriptors

LSTM has generic assessment criteria applicable to all written work (below). Assessment criteria for individual assignments can be accessed by students in the module Brightspace folder.

%	COMMENTS
90-100	**Distinction** Absolutely outstanding answer. Factually flawless; strong degree of originality and critical insight; clearly organised; comprehensive coverage; extensive evidence of supplementary reading; style and presentation excellent.
80-89	**Distinction** Outstanding answer. Factually flawless; clearly organised; logical; good evidence of supplementary reading; originality and critical insight present; style and presentation excellent.
70-79	**Distinction** Very good answer. Factually flawless; some originality of thought and critical insight; evidence of outside reading; good coverage; style, presentation and organisation very good.
60-69	**Merit** Comprehensive answer. Clear; logical; thorough; factually sound with no serious errors; evidence of outside reading and/or originality and critical insight; style, presentation and organisation good.
50-59	**Pass** Adequate answer. Accurate but limited to lecture material; perhaps some errors or key facts missing; no originality; little evidence of outside reading; style, presentation and organisation moderate.
40-49	**Fail** Incomplete answer. Information fairly sparse; some inaccuracies; answer broadly relevant to question but poor coverage of lecture material; no sign of outside reading; style, presentation and organisation poor.
30-39	**Fail** Deficient answer. Poorly directed at question; many omissions or errors but some relevant facts correct; understanding poor; style, presentation and organisation poor.
15-29	**Fail** Very deficient answer. Answer largely irrelevant to the question; a few facts correct but many omissions and errors; style, presentation, grammar and organisation very poor.
0-14	**Fail** Totally inadequate answer. Little relevance to question or little factual material; wrong approach; style, presentation, grammar and organisation extremely poor.

33 Final Award and Alternative Qualifications

Final award

Students who attend for a minimum period of 12 months of full-time study, or for an equivalent period of part-time study, and who achieve a minimum 180 credit points with not more than 30 credit points at FHEQ Level 6, and successfully complete a dissertation/research project worth 60 credits or two independent research modules totalling 60 credits (included within the 180 credits), will be eligible for the award of a Master's degree.

Students who attend for a minimum period of 30 weeks of full-time study, or for an equivalent period of part-time study, and who achieve a minimum of 120 credit points with not more than 30 credit points at FHEQ Level 6, will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma. A Postgraduate Diploma entry award may not include a single 60 credit dissertation or project module among the credit to be achieved; credit achieved on a single 60 credit dissertation or project module, or two independent research modules totalling 60 credits, may only contribute to the award of a Postgraduate Diploma when it is an exit award. However, a Postgraduate Diploma entry award may include up to a maximum of 30 credits of independent research. To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors, candidates must achieve 120 credits from the taught component of the MSc programme (i.e. excluding TROP942) as detailed in Table 1.

Students who attend for a minimum period of 15 weeks full-time study or for an equivalent period of part-time study, and who achieve a minimum of 60 credit points (which may in some circumstances include up to 30 independent research credits) with not more than 15 credit points at FHEQ Level 6, will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate. To be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors, the credits achieved must include TROP939 plus at least 30 credits from the modules listed in Table 1 (excluding TROP942).

Students who attend for a minimum period of 8 weeks full-time study or for an equivalent period of part-time study, and who achieve a minimum of 30 credit points at FHEQ level 7 or up to 7.5 credits at FHEQ level 6 will be eligible for a Postgraduate Award. To be awarded the Postgraduate Award in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors, the credits achieved must include TROP939.

A mark of Merit or Distinction will be awarded according to the criteria below. A Merit or Distinction may be awarded if a student has failed and then passed on re-sit any credit that counts towards the final award during the relevant period of study at LSTM, however, marks are capped at 50% for the purposes of calculating the award. Marks achieved in modules which are passed under the compensation rule may also be counted towards a Merit or Distinction. It should be noted that students who register on a Master's, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate but who exit with a lower award, will be eligible for a Merit or Distinction for the lower award, provided the student meets the criteria outlined below:

For a Master's Degree with Merit a student must achieve:
- a mark of at least 60% for the dissertation, project or independent research modules; and
- marks of at least 60% in modules accounting for at least half the credit of the overall award; and
- an overall average mark of at least 60%.

For a Postgraduate Diploma with Merit a student must achieve:
- marks of at least 60% in modules accounting for at least half of the credit of the overall award; and
- an overall average mark of at least 60%

For a Postgraduate Certificate with Merit a student must achieve:
- marks of at least 60% in modules accounting for at least half of the credit of the overall award; and
- an overall average mark of at least 60%

For a Postgraduate Award with Merit a student must achieve:
- an overall average mark of at least 60%

For a Master's degree with Distinction a student must achieve:
- a mark of at least 70% for the dissertation, project or independent research module; and
- marks of at least 70% in modules accounting for at least half of the credit of the overall award; and
- an overall average mark of at least 70%

For a Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction a student must achieve:
- marks of at least 70% in modules accounting for at least half of the credit of the overall award; and
- an overall average mark of at least 70%

For a Postgraduate Certificate with Distinction a student must achieve:
- marks of at least 70% in modules accounting for at least half of the credit of the overall award; and
- an overall average mark of at least 70%

For a Postgraduate Award with Distinction a student must achieve:

- an overall average mark of at least 70%

Criteria for the award of an alternative qualification
If a student fails to meet the criteria for the award of a Master's degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate, or is unable to complete the programme he or she registered for, he or she will be eligible for the award of one of the following as an exit qualification:

Postgraduate Award in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors – this will be awarded to students who have previously registered for either the Master's degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate provided that the student has achieved a minimum of 30 credits, with no more than 7.5 credits at FHEQ level 6. In order to qualify for a 'named' Postgraduate Award in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors, the credits achieved must include TROP939.

Postgraduate Certificate in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors - this will be awarded to students who have previously registered for either the Master's degree or Postgraduate Diploma provided that the student has achieved a minimum of 60 credits, with no more than 15 credits at FHEQ Level 6. The credit may not include any dissertation, project or independent research credits. In order to qualify for a 'named' Postgraduate Certificate in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors, the credits achieved must include TROP939.

Postgraduate Diploma in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors – this will be awarded to students who have previously registered for the Master's degree provided that the student has achieved a minimum of 120 credits, with no more than 30 credits at FHEQ Level 6; the 120 credits may include dissertation project or independent research credits to the value of 60 credits. In order to qualify for a 'named' Postgraduate Diploma in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors, the credits achieved must include TROP939 and TROP719 plus at least one of TROP739, TROP 741 and TROP942.

Students who fail to achieve the required credits for a named award will exit with an unnamed award.

Part F: Quality Assurance

34 Examination Process

The Masters Board of Examiners consists of the LSTM Director (Chair), Academic Registrar (Secretary), the External Examiners from all LSTM MSc programmes and all members of academic staff who have made a major contribution to the teaching and assessment of the programmes.

The Terms of Reference are as follows:

- To monitor methods of assessment against set learning outcomes and programme requirements
- To ensure standards of assessment are maintained
- To assess students' performance in accordance with regulations
- To reach overall decisions concerning awards
- To make recommendations to the Board of Studies on the conduct and standards of all assessment procedures

External Examiners are responsible for ensuring that awards made by the University of Liverpool are of a comparable standard with those of similar subjects and awards of other Higher Education Institutions in the United Kingdom, as stated in the Code of Practice on External Examining which is available at: https://www.liv.ac.uk/media/livacuk/tqsd/code-of-practice-on-assessment/appendix_H_cop_assess.pdf

Further information on the assessment policies and procedures can be found in the LSTM Masters Student Handbook, including:

- The penalties for the late submission of assessments
- The rules relating to plagiarism and collusion
- Ill-health and other special factors

Information on the purpose, method and schedule of assessment and the timescales for the submission of assessments can be found in the Programme Handbook (available on the LSTM student intranet) and on the Brightspace programme page.

35 Student Representation and Feedback

LSTM is committed to receiving and responding to student feedback in order to develop learning and teaching within the institution and to improve the overall quality of the student experience. The LSTM Student Handbook conveys to the students the opportunities for formal and informal representation and input into the programme. Students are invited to evaluate individual modules and the programme as a whole via an online survey tool. The survey results are reported at BOS meetings, together with any additional feedback from the student representatives. Regular focus groups are held and there are also opportunities for informal feedback via tutors and module convenors.

MSc students are formally represented within the LSTM committee structure as follows:

(a) The **Staff Student Liaison Committee (SSLC)** meets 3 times a year and includes an elected representative from each MSc programme. The minutes of the SSLC are received by the LSTM Programmes Board, which reports to the L&T Committee. The membership of the SSLC, its terms of reference and the manner in which it conducts its business conform to the requirements of the Annex to the Code of Practice on Student Representation: http://www.liv.ac.uk/media/livacuk/tqsd/student-enhancement/student-representation/cop_on_student_representation.pdf. Elections are carried out within the structure determined by the University Student Representation Steering Group, and Programme Representatives are encouraged to attend the training provided for them by the Guild of Students.

(b) Each Master's programme has a **Board of Studies (BOS)**, which oversees its planning, operation, management and development. Membership of the BOS consists of the Director of Studies for the Programme, the LSTM Director of Education, Registry staff supporting the programme, convenors of modules making a significant contribution to the programme, and two elected student representatives. Students play an active role in the work of the BOS, with the exception of reserved and confidential business. The minutes of all Boards of Studies are received by the LSTM Programmes Board, which reports to the L&T Committee.

(c) The **Programmes Board** is concerned with the academic content of programmes and reports to the **Learning & Teaching Committee**. Membership of the Programmes Board consists of Directors of Studies, the Director of Education, relevant Academic Registry staff and the elected student representative. These committees meet every two months and are responsible for taking up any matters arising from the SSLC. Two students are elected from the MSc programme representatives to sit on the Programmes Board.

(d) The **Quality Management Committee** (QMC) oversees the academic standards and quality assurance and enhancement of all taught programmes, ensuring that LSTM's quality assurance processes are fully informed by external expectations including the UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Two MSc students serve as full members of the QMC. The QMC reports on academic quality assurance and enhancement issues to the L&T Committee. The Committee meets five times per academic year and is responsible for:

- Approving, monitoring and reviewing programmes and modules
- Approving recommendations for the appointment of external examiners for LSTM programmes.
- Monitoring the progress of actions raised by External Examiners
- Developing, monitoring and reviewing the peer observation system
- Identifying and disseminating effective practice

Part G: Diversity and Equality of Opportunity and Widening Participation

36 Diversity and Equality Statement

The programme's design, structure and content are consistent and compliant with the University's Diversity and Equality of Opportunity Policy. LSTM provides a multicultural, multidisciplinary learning environment in which all students benefit from the opportunity to share diverse experiences and outlooks, supported by staff who are themselves from a variety of national and cultural backgrounds and spend significant periods of time working overseas. LSTM recognises that some students need extra help and guidance in adjusting to a new country, culture or learning environment. Accordingly, we provide a comprehensive range of relevant non-academic student support services. The Personal Tutor System aims to provide students with advice and support in matters related to academic work and to enable the development of independent study habits suitable for higher education. Reasonable adjustments are made to assessment for disabled students in line with University of Liverpool regulations (Code of Practice on Assessment: Appendix K).

Part H: Status of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body Accreditation

37 Accreditation Status

Not applicable

Annex: Modifications

Annex of Modifications made to the Programme - Related List of Modification

Description of Modification (Please include details of any student consultation undertaken or confirm that students' consent was obtained where this was required)	**Major/Minor Modifications**	**Date Approved by QMC**	**Date Approved by Mgt Cttee**	**Cohort Affected**
TROP936 – change to assessment	Minor	July 2016	N/A	2016/17
TROP969 – change to assessment	Minor	July 2016	N/A	2016/17
TROP741 – change to assessment	Minor	July 2016	N/A	2016/17
TROP936 – change to assessment	Minor	July 2016	N/A	2016/17