

Programme Handbook

LSTM

LIVERPOOL SCHOOL
OF TROPICAL MEDICINE



**MSc/Dip/Cert
in
Humanitarian
Studies**

2019/20

Contents

Key Programme Contacts.....	3
Introduction	3
Aims of the Programme	4
Programme Structure	5
Assessment Schedule	8
Important Dates.....	9
Research Project.....	9
Reading Lists	9
Key Staff Profiles	9
Prizes	10

Key Programme Contacts

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Introduction

This handbook provides you with specific information about the MSc in Humanitarian Studies. You will also be provided with a general handbook which covers issues common to all Masters students studying at the School. It is most important that you are aware of the information provided in these handbooks.

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine is an international postgraduate centre of excellence in tropical medicine and international health. A significant proportion of LSTM post-graduate students go on to work with International Organisations (IOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and National Ministries involved in Humanitarian Assistance, Relief and Development.

One of the biggest challenges in improving the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions is to create a greater awareness and understanding of the complex issues that determine the evolution of humanitarian crises. In the immediate aftermath, there may be a critical lack of human and material resources. Contingency planning, coordination and cooperation between governments, donors, agencies and affected populations are essential to prevent additional loss or threat to human lives.

In responding to a natural disaster or a complex emergency, humanitarian workers may find themselves placed in situations that are well beyond their previous experience and where their professional and personal capacity to cope is tested to the limit. The melting pot of multiple agencies operating individual mandates frequently feeds confusion and compromises effective action.

Clearly, there is a need for a more professional, integrated and accountable approach to humanitarian interventions. Humanitarian workers must be prepared to operate in environments where demands extend beyond conventional professional boundaries. For effective communication and interaction, they need to be able to appreciate the problem from many different perspectives and be aware of every significant opportunity and constraint.

In recent years, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine has collaborated with the University of Liverpool, other universities and a number of leading NGOs. This collaboration, which draws on a wide range of expertise encompassing emergency humanitarian action and long-term sustainable development, led to the development of a new multidisciplinary training programme in LSTM, the Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance (DHA), launched in 2002.

Many students attending the DHA expressed an interest in more in-depth study of Humanitarian Assistance. This led to the development of the MSc Humanitarian Studies, a multidisciplinary programme designed to promote professionalism in Humanitarian Assistance, enhance career development, strengthen institutional links between academic institutions and humanitarian organisations and provide hitherto neglected opportunities for research.

Aims of the Programme

Outline

The programme reviews historical and current policies and practice in humanitarian assistance, analyses the effect of war, natural disasters and the international economy on social dislocation, health and wellbeing, investigates the evidence base for current operational guidelines and explores novel approaches in responding to the challenges of today's humanitarian problems. It is responding to the need for a professional, integrated, accountable and ethical approach to humanitarian interventions in which humanitarian workers are often called upon to operate in environments where demands extend beyond conventional professional boundaries. Opportunities for in-depth study include regional and country case studies and a choice of modules addressing specific aspects of humanitarian interventions. In addition, the programme offers participants an opportunity to develop and undertake a research project, usually overseas, in an area of special interest indicated by client Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), International Organisations (IOs) or National Ministries. The full programme specification can be viewed on the LSTM website.

Aims

The curriculum has been informed by current national and international priorities and policies in the field of Humanitarian Studies. The programme aims to:

- Provide humanitarian workers with a deeper understanding of the political economy of humanitarian emergencies including the internally displaced, refugees and migrants: the historical context; regional and country case studies; the effect of war and natural disasters and the international economy on social dislocation, health and wellbeing
- Provide an interdisciplinary forum in which participants from a variety of professional backgrounds (e.g. health, political and social sciences, arts, engineering, agriculture, development, international humanitarian law, human rights, administration and media) can review critically and debate key issues of mutual interest
- Give participants an opportunity to conduct an independent in-depth research study of a specialist aspect of humanitarian interventions in the field
- Produce graduates who are experienced, committed, informed, proactive and effective professionals, capable of taking substantial and leading professional roles in humanitarian interventions
- Facilitate high quality learning that is informed by critical analysis of current research
- Develop independent and reflective approaches to study that will enable graduates to continue to learn in the future

Subject-based Learning Outcomes¹

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are offered.

A. Knowledge and Understanding

Upon successful completion of the programme a student should have developed and be able to demonstrate:

A1. A systematic understanding and critical awareness of current issues and priorities in the field of Humanitarian Studies

¹ Learning outcomes for individual modules are provided in the relevant module specifications and are available on Brightspace.

A2. Knowledge of a range of relevant research methods and understanding of how the methods can be applied to address particular research questions

A4. Ability to critically analyse the impact of humanitarian emergencies on health and well-being

A5. Expertise in critically appraising the evidence base for current operational guidelines

A6. Ability to explore novel approaches in responding to the challenges of today's humanitarian problems

B. Cognitive Skills

Upon successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

B1. Analyse, synthesise and evaluate information from a variety of sources in a critical manner

B2. Apply subject knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts to analyse and reach evidence-based conclusions on complex situations, problems and opportunities

B3. Apply the principles and values of ethical practice with regard to the design and implementation of research studies, consent and confidentiality in the collection and presentation of data, and publication

B4. Demonstrate creativity, innovation and originality in the application of knowledge

C. Practical/professional Skills

Upon successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

C1. Formulate a research question, devise an appropriate research strategy and take a systematic approach to project planning and management

C2. Undertake research investigations in a responsible, safe and ethical manner and accurately record the data collected

C3. Effectively manage, analyse and report data collected in the laboratory or field

Programme Structure

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 develop self-directed learning, to enable the professional development of the student and to be relevant to students from both the UK and overseas.

The programme comprises an introductory induction week, followed by taught modules totalling 120 credits and a 60-credit dissertation (Table 1). A 10 credit module (5 ECTS credits) represents 100 hours of student learning activity including assessment and self-directed study.

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 these optional modules with modules offered as part of other LSTM MSc programmes, subject to the agreement of the Director of Studies for the programme (see Table 2).

Table 1: Modular Structure of the MHS programme (Required modules are shown in bold)

w/b	Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri (am)	Fri (pm)
09/09	Induction	Induction + Introduction to Key Skills					
16/09	1	Semester 1 (60 credits)	TROP 934: Research Methods in International Health (30 credits)	TROP 806: Political Economy in Humanitarian Emergencies (30 credits)	Research Methods(am) and Key Themes (pm)		
23/09	2						
30/09	3						
07/10	4						
14/10	5						
21/10	6						
28/10	7						
04/11	8						
11/11	9						
18/11	10						
25/11	11						
02/12	12						
09/12	13						
16/12		Revision + Assessments					
23/12		Christmas Holiday					
01/01*	14	Revision + Assessments					
06/01	15	Semester 2 (60 credits)	Block 1	TROP807 Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (20 credits)			
13/01	16						
20/01	17						
27/01	18						
03/02	19		Block 2	Revision + Assessments			
10/02	20			TROP927 Global Climate Change & Health (10 credits) OR TROP973 Using Systematic Reviews in Policy (10 credits)			
17/02	21			TROP976 Health Promotion (10 credits) OR TROP706 Development of a Disease Control Programme (10 credits)			
24/02	22						
02/03	23		Block 3	Revision + Assessments			
09/03	24			TROP941 Management of Refugee & Displaced Populations & Transitions from Conflict to Peace (10 credits)			
16/03	25						
23/03	26			TROP809 Media, Policy & Advocacy in Humanitarian Action (10 credits), OR, TROP900 Health in Humanitarian Emergencies (10 credits), OR TROP901 Humanitarian Operations: Environmental Health & Logistics (10 credits)			
30/03	27						
06/04*	28						
13/04*	29			Assessments			
20/04	30			Reading Week			
27/04	31			Preparation for Research Presentations + 1 st Semester re-sits			
04/05**	32			Research Presentations			
Weeks 33-48 (11/5/20**- 23/8/20) Dissertation hand-in 27/08/20		Semester 3 (60 credits)	Research Project TROP942				
			Deferred Holiday				

* School closed for New Year BH (1/1/20) & Easter Bank Holidays 10/4/20 and 13/4/20

** School closed for May Bank Holiday Fri 8/5/20 & 25/5/20

Awards: Master = 180 credits; Diploma = 120 credits (which may include dissertation credits); Certificate = 60 credits (which may not include dissertation credits)

Table 2: Optional modules offered in Semester 2 for LSTM MSc programmes. Modules recommended for students on MHS are shaded. Other modules can be taken by MHS students subject to the approval of the Director of Studies

Wks									
15-16	06/01	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	HIV in Resource Limited Settings TROP974	
	13/01								
17-18	20/01	HR Planning & Management TROP915		Maternal & Newborn Health TROP924					
	27/01								
19	03/02	Reading week/Assessments							
20-21	10/02		Using Systematic Reviews in Policy TROP973		Global Climate Change & Health TROP927	Vector Population Biology & Control TROP741	Immunology of Tropical Diseases TROP739		
	17/02								
22-23	24/02	Health Promotion TROP976	Development of a Disease Control Programme TROP706	Reproductive Sexual & Adolescent Health TROP926					
	02/03								
24	09/03-13/03	Reading week/Assessments							
25-26	16/03	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			
	23/03								
27-28	30/03	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		
	06/04**								
29-32	13/04**	Assessments							
	20/04	Reading Week							
	27/04	Preparation for Research Presentations + 1 st semester re-sits							
	04/05***	Research Presentations							

** School closed for Easter Bank Holidays 10/4/20 and 13/4/20

*** School closed for May Bank Holiday Fri 8/5/20 & Mon 25/5/20

*Module runs twice to increase student choice

Assessment Schedule

Module	Timing	Assessment Strategy	% of module mark
Semester 1			
TROP 934 (R)	In module	MCQ exam	25
	End of module	1500 word critical reflection of group qualitative research study 2500 word research proposal (minimum mandatory mark 40%)	25 50
TROP 806 (R)	In module	15 minute oral presentation	20
	End of module	3 hour exam (essay) 4000 word written assignment	40 40
Semester 2 Block 1			
TROP 807(R)	In module	20 minute oral presentation	30
	End of module	5000 word written assignment	70
Semester 2 Block 2			
TROP 973 (O)	End of module	Written assignment – completion of a pre-prepared form. 1.5 hour exam (extended matching set questions)	60 40
TROP 927 (O)	End of module	3000 word critical review	100
TROP976 (O)	End of module	2000 word written report	100
TROP706 (O)	End of module	2500 word written assignment	100
Semester 2 Block 3			
TROP 941 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (short answer)	100
TROP 809 (O)	End of module	500 word personal reflection 3000 word written assignment	15 85
TROP 900 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
TROP901 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
Semester 3			
TROP 942 (R)	In module	10 minute oral presentation of research proposal	10
	End of module	16,000 word dissertation	90

Important Dates

MSc Project choices deadline – 18 October 2019
Deadline for Semester 2 module choices – 31 October 2019
Allocating/defining dissertation topics: September-November 2019
Developing proposal for Dissertation Project: September 2019-January 2020
Submission to Masters Ethics Committee (if required): February 2020
Fieldwork: April/May – June/July 2020
Dissertation writing: June – August 2020
Dissertation Submission deadline: 27 August 2020
Board of Examiners meeting: October 2019
Release of results: Following Board of Examiners meeting
Graduation Ceremonies: December 2020

Research Project

Many students carry out a fieldwork-based dissertation project overseas. Others opt to conduct fieldwork in the UK or to carry out another type of study (using literature or data already collected) that does not involve travelling abroad. Whilst overseas, students are supervised by a designated person in the host country, as well as by a member of LSTM staff. All projects have the key aims of developing students' skills in formulating a research question, designing and implementing a research project and critically interpreting and presenting the findings. Further information regarding the dissertation will be provided elsewhere.

Where appropriate, research proposals must be approved by the MSc Ethics Review Panel of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and by in-country Ethics boards or committees. Further information and guidance on preparing a submission to the Ethics Committee will be provided during TROP934.

Reading Lists

Reading lists are provided for individual modules. See Module Specifications on Brightspace.

Key Staff Profiles

Dr Tim O'Dempsey is a Senior Lecturer in Clinical Tropical Medicine at LSTM with over 35 years' experience in international health and tropical medicine. He has worked in hospital, community and public health medicine in rural Kenya, Sierra Leone, The Gambia (with the Medical Research Council), and in the development of postgraduate training programmes in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Africa. He is particularly interested in training and capacity building in developing countries. He is the principal architect in the design, development and implementation of LSTM's training programmes in Humanitarian Assistance and is Director of Studies for the Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance, MSc Humanitarian Studies and MSc Humanitarian Health Programme Management. He has worked as a Consultant for the World Health Organisation (IMAI, IMCI, ARI, Malaria, Malaria in Complex Emergencies), Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland (Health Programmes and Operational Research, Ethiopia), and Concern Worldwide (Global Health Strategy). From July 2014 to December 2015 he was on secondment from LSTM to WHO as Clinical Lead for the Ebola response in Sierra Leone. His clinical and research interests include clinical tropical medicine, ARI and malaria in children; health issues among refugees and asylum seekers; health education in developing countries, infectious disease and global climate change.

Emeritus Professor Barry Munslow is a top-level policy advisor for governments and regional organisations on sustainable development, environment, land reform, agriculture, energy, public and development management, higher education, health and humanitarian emergencies. He has written numerous books and academic articles on a wide variety of subjects within a political economy framework. He is visiting Research Professor at the School of Governance, University of

Witwatersrand, South Africa, and has been Visiting Professor at the Centre for Healthcare Planning and Management, University of Keele, UK and Visiting Professor at the Centre for Public Policy and Management, Manchester Business School, UK, teaching on Public Health and Healthcare Management. Barry has been working and writing in recent years on complex political emergencies and teaching on this topic at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. His books include *The Politics of Service Delivery* (in South Africa), *Guyana: Microcosm of Sustainable Development Challenges*, *Proletarianisation in the Third World*. He is a member of the editorial board of *Progress in Development Studies* and *Third World Quarterly*.

Module Convenors

Please refer to specific module information for profiles of Module Convenors and other key staff.

Prizes

Humanitarian Master's Student Prize

A prize of £100 is awarded to the overall best performance of a student on a Humanitarian Master's programme.

David Smith Memorial Prize

The David Smith Memorial Prize is awarded to a student from a developing country who has contributed most to the collective and team work of students on her/his programme. It is open to students on any programme.

David Smith was a member of staff of the School for many years and was head of the Tropical Medicine Division in the School at the time of his tragically early death. A former Director of the UK Medical Research Council's unit in Kisumu, Kenya, he was also at one time head of the vector-borne disease division of the Kenyan Ministry of Health. He worked extensively in Africa on the control of tropical diseases, including malaria, sleeping sickness and haemorrhagic viral infections. In addition he had extensive knowledge of South America and Asia and worked for a year on secondment to the British Government's overseas development ministry, assisting them in developing more effective policies in health and disease control. He played a key role in the establishment of the Malaria Consortium as a joint operation of the Liverpool and London Schools.