

**Programme  
Handbook**

**LSTM**

LIVERPOOL SCHOOL  
OF TROPICAL MEDICINE



**MSc/Dip/Cert  
in  
International  
Public Health  
2017/18  
(All pathways)**

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## Introduction

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

The aim of the MSc in International Public Health (MIPH) programme is to equip you with the knowledge and skills to provide leadership and technical support for public health practice in middle and low income countries. The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) is a multi-disciplinary institution and its staff have a wide range of academic expertise in the social, biomedical, clinical, and laboratory sciences that they use to support learning. The School is an international postgraduate centre of excellence and is a key player in developments in international health policy and practice.

The MIPH programme will provide you with the knowledge and skills to adapt and respond positively to new health challenges and to expand your ability to work individually and in teams. You will be supported to develop key skills in epidemiology, social science, disease control, programme management, and monitoring and evaluation. You will develop an in-depth understanding of public health and the capacity to continue to develop professionally. You are expected to show initiative, engage in self-directed learning and encouraged to read widely and follow up topics of particular interest throughout the programme. These activities will help you develop a high level of critical thinking and independent analysis.

## Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

### Outline

Students can follow one of four pathways, which are distinguished by a defined combination of required and optional recommended modules. All students undertake a research project on a topic appropriate to the pathway for their dissertation. Students have the opportunity to spend a period of six to eight weeks overseas or within the UK practising problem-solving skills and developing specialist knowledge in a real research setting. Project topics can be created by students themselves, but many are commissioned by health ministries, non-governmental organisations or international health agencies in middle and low income countries. The full programme specifications can be found on the LSTM website.

### Aims

The curriculum has been informed by current national and international priorities and policies in International Public Health. All pathways of the programme aim to:

- Provide a critical understanding of a range of health policies and strategies in a variety of social, epidemiological, cultural, economic and political settings in middle and low income countries
- Enable students to analyse critically, evaluate, and conduct responsive, public health-related research; and apply evidence to everyday practice
- Produce graduates who are experienced, committed, informed, proactive and effective professionals, capable of taking substantial and leading professional roles in order to promote improved health and well-being in middle and low income countries
- Facilitate high quality learning that is informed by critical analysis of current research
- Develop independent and reflective approaches to learning that will enable graduates to continue to learn in the future

Specific aims associated with the various pathways are as follows:

### **MSc International Public Health**

This pathway is aimed at students who wish to understand current policies and practice in international public health, and to explore approaches to developing policy and enhancing practice based upon sound, evidence-based principles. It aims to provide students with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to be part of senior management teams that develop, implement, and evaluate policies and strategies to improve health in communities, countries and globally.

### **MSc International Public Health (Humanitarian Assistance)**

This pathway is aimed at students who wish to understand current policies and practice in humanitarian assistance and to explore approaches to responding to the challenges of contemporary humanitarian problems. It aims to provide students with the skills, knowledge and understanding of humanitarian issues needed to practise at a senior level in organisations involved in the prevention of and response to humanitarian crises.

## **MSc International Public Health (Sexual and Reproductive Health)**

This pathway is aimed at students who wish to understand international aspects of sexual and reproductive health (SRH). It aims to provide students with knowledge, skills and understanding needed to enable them to contribute to strengthening health systems in support of SRH (including maternal & neonatal health, MNH); facilitating the implementation and scale-up of good practice; and raising awareness amongst politicians, professionals and the public of the need for more effective use of knowledge and tools to impact on SRH indicators.

## **MSc International Public Health (Planning and Management)**

This pathway is aimed at students who wish to understand the theories and methods of improving and managing health systems and human resources. It aims to provide students with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to enable them to take a leadership role in enhancing the effectiveness of health care organisations using quality and human resource management initiatives.

### **Subject-based learning outcomes**

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 (all pathways)**

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

- A systematic understanding and critical awareness of current issues and priorities in the field of international public health
- Knowledge of a range of relevant research methods and understanding of how the methods can be applied to address particular research questions
- Ability to design an applied research project and to critically analyse and interpret data
- Ability to analyse public, community and health systems problems rigorously

Additional outcomes for students following each of the pathways are as follows:

#### **International Public Health**

- Ability to identify and appraise a range of health policies and strategies relevant to improving health outcomes, taking into account management approaches, financing, human resources and their social, epidemiological, cultural, economic and political settings

## **Humanitarian Assistance (HA)**

- Ability to analyse critically the impact of humanitarian emergencies on health and wellbeing

## **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)**

- Knowledge and understanding of key issues, policies, strategies and solutions in international SRH (including MNH)
- Ability to plan and evaluate SRH programme implementation and service provision to meet the needs of individuals and groups in their social, cultural, political, economic, technical and other key contexts

## **Planning and Management (P&M)**

- Ability to critically assess and apply key management concepts and functions in a range of health care settings

## **B. Cognitive skills**

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

- Analyse, synthesise and evaluate information from a variety of sources in a critical manner
- Apply subject knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts to analyse and reach evidence-based conclusions on complex situations, problems and opportunities
- 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
- 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:

- Formulate a research question, devise an appropriate research strategy and take a systematic approach to project planning and management
- Undertake research investigations in a responsible, safe and ethical manner and accurately record the data collected
- Effectively manage, analyse and report data collected in the 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 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 MIPH programme (Required modules for all MIPH pathways are shown in bold)

w/b	Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri (am)	Fri (pm)				
11/9	Induction	Induction + Introduction to Key Skills									
18/9	1	<b>TROP 934: Research Methods in International Health (30 credits)</b>		<b>TROP 937: Key Themes in International Health &amp; Health Policy (30 credits)</b>		<b>Research Methods (am) and Key Themes (pm)</b>					
25/9	2										
02/10	3										
09/10	4										
16/10	5										
23/10	6										
30/10	7										
06/11	8										
13/11	9										
20/11	10										
27/11	11										
04/12	12										
11/12	13							Revision + Assessments			
18/12		Christmas Holiday									
25/12		Revision + Assessments									
02/01	14	Revision + Assessments									
08/01	15	<b>TROP807: Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (20 credits)</b>		<b>OR</b>		TROP708: Organisation & Management (10 credits) or TROP923: Key concepts in Sexual & Reproductive Health (10 credits)					
15/01	16					TROP915: HR Planning & Management (10 credits) or TROP924: Maternal & Newborn Health (10 credits)					
22/01	17					Revision + Assessments					
29/01	18					Revision + Assessments					
05/02	19	Revision + Assessments									
12/02	20	TROP927: Global Climate Change & Health (10 credits) or TROP973: Systematic Reviews for Policy & Practice (10 credits)									
19/02	21										
26/02	22	TROP976: Health Promotion (10 credits) or TROP926: Sexual Health & Human Sexuality (10 credits)									
05/03	23										
12/03	24	Revision + Assessments									
19/03	25	Revision + Assessments									
26/03*	26	Easter Holiday									
02/04*	27	Easter Holiday									
09/04	28	TROP941: Management of Refugee & Displaced Populations (10 credits) or TROP 971: Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research (10 credits) or TROP972: Quality Improvement in Maternal & Newborn Health (10 credits)									
16/04	29										
23/04	30	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) or TROP971 Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research (10 credits)									
30/04	31										
07/05**	32	Revision + Assessments									
Weeks 33-45 (14/5/18**-11/8/18) Dissertation hand-in 16/08/18		<b>Semester 3 (60 credits)</b>		<b>Project Presentations (week 33) &amp; Research Project TROP942</b>							
Deferred Holiday											

\* School closed for Easter Bank Holidays 30/03/18 and 2/4/18

\*\* School closed for May Bank Holiday 7/5/18

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. Optional modules recommended for students on MIPH are shaded. Other modules can be taken by MIPH students subject to the approval of the Director of Studies. Some modules (in bold type) are required, rather than optional, depending on the pathway chosen (See table 3).

Wks							
15-16	08/01	<b>Organisation &amp; Management TROP708</b>	<b>Complex Humanitarian Emergencies TROP807</b>	<b>Key Concepts in Sexual &amp; Reproductive Health TROP923</b>	Quality Improvement in Global Child Health TROP910	Parasite Epidemiology and Control TROP719	Key Aspects in Molecular & Cellular Biology of Tropical Diseases and Vectors TROP775
	15/01						
17-18	22/01	<b>HR Planning &amp; Management TROP915</b>		<b>Maternal &amp; Newborn Health TROP924</b>			HIV in Resource Limited Settings TROP974
	30/01						
19	05/02	Reading week/Assessments					
20-21	12/02		Systematic Reviews for Policy and Practice TROP973		Global Climate Change & Health TROP927	Vector Population Biology & Control TROP741	Immunology of Tropical Diseases TROP739
	19/02						
22-23	26/02	<b>Health Promotion TROP976</b>	Development of a Disease Control Programme TROP706	<b>Sexual Health &amp; Human Sexuality TROP926</b>			
	05/03						
24-25	12/03-23/03	Reading week/Assessments					
26-27	26/03-06/04	Easter Holiday					
28-29	09/04	<b>Management of Refugee and Displaced Populations TROP941</b>	Key Topics in Snakebite TROP969	<b>Quality Improvement in Maternal &amp; Newborn Health TROP972</b>	Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research TROP971*	Medical Bacteriology Trop 975	
	16/04						
30-31	23/04	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
	30/04						
32	07/05	Reading Week + Assessments					
33	14/05	Project Presentations					

\*Module runs twice to increase student choice

**Table 3:** List of Required (R) and Optional (O) modules

TROP	Title	Status (Optional/ Required)				Credit	Wks
		MIPH	MIPH (HA)	MIPH (SRH)	MIPH (P&M)		
934	Research Methods in Public Health	R	R	R	R	30	1-12
937	Key Themes in International Health and Health Policy	R	R	R	R	30	1-12
708	Organisation and Management	O			R	10	15-16
923	Key Concepts in Sexual and Reproductive Health	O		R		10	15-16
807	Complex Humanitarian Emergencies		R			20	15-18
915	HR Planning & Management	O			R	10	17-18
924	Maternal & Newborn Health	O		R		10	17-18
973	Systematic Reviews for Policy & Practice	O	O	O	O	10	20-21
927	Global Climate Change & Health	O	O	O	O	10	20-21
976	Health Promotion	R	O		O	10	22-23
926	Sexual Health and Human Sexuality			R		10	22-23
941	Management of Refugee & Displaced Populations & Transitions from Conflict to Peace	O	R		O	10	28-29
971	Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research	O			O	10	28-29
972	Quality Improvement in Maternal & Newborn Health	O		R	O	10	28-29
809	Media, Policy & Advocacy in Humanitarian Action	O	O	O	O	10	30-31
900	Health in Humanitarian Emergencies	O	O	O	O	10	30-31
901	Humanitarian Operations: Environmental Health & Logistics	O	O	O	O	10	30-31
971	Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research	O	O	O	O	10	30-31
942	Research Project	R	R	R	R	60	33-45

## Assessment Schedule (MIPH)

Module	Timing	Assessment Strategy	% of module mark
<b>Semester 1</b>			
TROP 934 (R)	In module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	30
	End of module	1500 word critical reflection of group qualitative research study. 2500 word research proposal (mandatory minimum mark 40%)	30 40
TROP 937 (R)	In module	3000 word critical analysis Poster	40 30
	End of module	1500 word written assignment logistical framework	30
<b>Semester 2 Block 1</b>			
TROP 708 (O)	End of module	3000 word critical analysis of a case study	100
TROP 923 (O)	End of module	15 minute oral presentation	20
		3000 word sexual and reproductive health programme proposal	80
TROP 915 (O)	End of module	3000 word written assignment	100
TROP 924 (O)	In module	15 minute oral presentation	20
	End of module	2000 word written assignment	80
<b>Semester 2 Block 2</b>			
TROP 927 (O)	End of module	3000 word critical analysis	100
TROP 973 (O)	End of module	1500 word written assignment	80
		1.5 hour exam (extended matching set questions)	20
TROP 976 (R)	End of module	2000 word written report	100
<b>Semester 2 Block 3</b>			
TROP 941 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (short answers)	100
TROP 971 (O)	End of module	2000 word report based on analysis of a data set	100
TROP972 (O)	In module	15 minute oral presentation	20
	End of module	2000 word written assignment	80
TROP 809 (O)	End of module	500 word personal reflection	15
		3000 word written assignment	85
TROP 900 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
TROP 901 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
<b>Semester 3</b>			
TROP 942 (R)	In module	10 minute oral presentation of research proposal.	10
	End of module	16,000 word dissertation	90

## Assessment Schedule (MIPH - HA)

Module	Timing	Assessment Strategy	% of module mark
<b>Semester 1</b>			
TROP 934 (R)	In module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	30
	End of module	1500 word critical reflection of group qualitative research study. 2500 word research proposal (mandatory minimum mark 40%)	30 40
TROP 937 (R)	In module	3000 word critical analysis Poster	40 30
	End of module	1500 word written assignment logistical framework	30
<b>Semester 2 Block 1</b>			
TROP 807 (R)	In module	20 minute oral presentation	30
	End of module	5000 word written assignment	70
<b>Semester 2 Block 2</b>			
TROP 973 (O)	End of module	1500 word written assignment	80
		1.5 hour exam (extended matching set questions)	20
TROP 927 (O)	End of module	3000 word critical analysis	100
TROP 976 (O)	End of module	2000 word written report	100
<b>Semester 2 Block 3</b>			
TROP 941 (R)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (short answers)	100
TROP 809 (O)	End of module	500 word personal reflection	15
		3000 word written assignment	85
TROP 900 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
TROP 901 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
TROP 971 (O)	End of module	2000 word report based on analysis of a data set	100
<b>Semester 3</b>			
TROP 942 (R)	In module	10 minute oral presentation of research proposal.	10
	End of module	16,000 word dissertation	90

## Assessment Schedule (MIPH - SRH)

Module	Timing	Assessment Strategy	% of module mark
<b>Semester 1</b>			
TROP 934 (R)	In module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	30
	End of module	1500 word critical reflection of group qualitative research study. 2500 word research proposal (mandatory minimum mark 40%)	30 40
TROP 937 (R)	In module	3000 word critical analysis Poster	40 30
	End of module	1500 word written assignment logistical framework	30
<b>Semester 2 Block 1</b>			
TROP 923 (R)	In module	15 minute oral presentation	20
	End of module	3000 word written assignment	80
TROP924 (R)	In module	15 minute oral presentation	20
	End of module	2000 written assignment	80
<b>Semester 2 Block 2</b>			
TROP927 (O)	End of module	3000 word critical analysis	100
TROP 973 (O)	End of module	1500 word written assignment	80
		1.5 hour exam (extended matching set questions)	20
TROP 926 (R)	In module	15 minute oral presentation	20
	End of module	2000 word written assignment	80
<b>Semester 2 Block 3</b>			
TROP972 (O)	In module	15 minute oral presentation	20
	End of module	2000 word written assignment	80
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
TROP 901 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
TROP 971 (O)	End of module	2000 word report based on analysis of a data set	100
<b>Semester 3</b>			
TROP 942 (R)	In module	10 minute oral presentation of research proposal.	10
	End of module	16,000 word dissertation	90

## Assessment Schedule (MIPH – P&M)

Module	Timing	Assessment Strategy	% of module mark
<b>Semester 1</b>			
TROP 934 (R)	In module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	30
	End of module	1500 word critical reflection of group qualitative research study. 2500 word research proposal (mandatory minimum mark 40%)	30 40
TROP 937 (R)	In module	3000 word critical analysis Poster	40 30
	End of module	1500 word written assignment logistical framework	30
<b>Semester 2 Block 1</b>			
TROP 708 (R)	End of module	3000 word critical analysis of a case study	100
TROP 915 (R)	End of module	3000 word written assignment	100
<b>Semester 2 Block 2</b>			
TROP 927 (O)	End of module	3000 word critical analysis	100
TROP 973 (O)	End of module	1500 word written assignment	80
		1.5 hour exam (extended matching set questions)	20
TROP976 (O)	End of module	2000 word written report	100
<b>Semester 2 Block 3</b>			
TROP 941 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (short answers)	100
TROP 971 (O)	End of module	2000 word report based on analysis of a data set	100
TROP972 (O)	End of module	15 minute oral presentation	20
		2000 word written assignment	80
TROP 809 (O)	End of module	500 word personal reflection	15
		3000 word written assignment	85
TROP 900 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
TROP 901 (O)	End of module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	100
TROP971 (O)	End of module	2000 word report based on analysis of a data set	100
<b>Semester 3</b>			
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 – 17 October 2017  
Deadline for Semester 2 module choices – 24 November 2017  
Allocating/defining dissertation topics: September-November 2017  
Developing proposal for Dissertation Project: September 2017-January 2018  
Submission to Masters Ethics Committee (if required): February 2018  
Fieldwork: April/May – June/July 2018  
Dissertation writing: June – August 2018  
Dissertation Submission deadline: 16 August 2018  
Board of Examiners meeting: October 2018  
Release of results: Following Board of Examiners meeting  
Graduation Ceremonies: December 2018

## **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 usually supported by a designated person in the host country, and supervised throughout 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.

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.

## **Prizes**

### **Ken Newell Bursary**

Students are eligible to apply for the Ken Newell Bursary. The award is to assist you to remain in Liverpool for a short period after the end of the programme with the express aim of contributing to research outcomes in low and middle income settings. This can include further development of your research project in some capacity, for example, by developing dissemination products such as briefs, reports, online resources or papers for publication in a relevant journal. Professor Ken Newell was Head of the International Health Group for many years and applications are reviewed by his widow, Mrs Jane Newell, a former employee of LSTM. Awards valued up to a total of £1,000 are for students to remain in Liverpool for a short period once their programme has ended in order to write up their dissertation for publication in a relevant journal or to develop other publishable products.

### **David Smith Memorial Prize**

The David Smith Memorial Prize is awarded to a student from a low-income country who has contributed most to the 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.