

MSc / PgDip / PgCert Global Health – Frequently Asked Questions

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ADMISSIONS QUESTIONS

Am I eligible to apply for the course?

Full details of the qualifications and experience required for eligibility to the School's distance learning courses, and links to apply online, can be found at by clicking the link below:

[PG Certificate, PG Diploma and MSc in Global Health](#)

Applicants who don't meet these requirements are encouraged to apply and their applications will be considered on an individual basis.

When do the courses start? Can I apply now?

The courses run from September each year. The deadline date for submission of applications is 30 August (subject to availability of places remaining). Those who do not wish to register for a formal award and just wish to study one or two modules individually, may also apply throughout the year (subject to availability of places).

How long does it take to complete a course?

The distance learning Postgraduate Certificate can be completed in 8 months. Students are required to study all three core modules.

For a PgDip, this can take up to 20 months Part Time or 8 months Full time and consists of 3x core modules and 3x Optional Modules.

MSc degrees take a minimum of two years Part Time and a maximum of five years to complete the course. Students may find that, due to changes in personal circumstances over the period of their registration, they may take longer than they originally expected to finish the course.

I only want to study one or two of the modules initially. Can I do this?

Yes, you can apply to study individual modules, rather than for a full award. If you then decide to register for a full award at a later stage, any individual modules successfully passed and credits obtained, can be transferred to the relevant award, as long as it meets the requirements of the specific course, and this is requested

I am not sure whether I wish to register for the full MSc at this stage. What do you advise?

Students can register for the Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma. Registration can be transferred to either the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc degree after successful completion of the core modules. This top-up approach can be used up to a maximum registration period of 5 years. This starts from the first day of registration.

If I register initially for the Certificate or Diploma, and I decide to continue my studies and register for the MSc, will I be awarded both the intermediate award and the MSc?

No, students will receive the award at the stage they exit the programme. You need to complete the required elements of the award and therefore be assigned the correct number of credits for the award to be approved.

May I take any credit bearing modules at LSTM?

The MSc / PgDip / PgCert Global Health follows a specific pathway of learning outcomes and other LSTM modules and face to face modules are not currently included. We do hope to include additional modules in the future but these are not currently within the distance learning pathway.

If I register initially for the Certificate or Diploma, and I decide to continue my studies and register for the MSc, will I be awarded both the intermediate award and the MSc?

No, students will receive the award at the stage they exit the programme. You need to complete the required elements of the award and therefore be assigned the correct number of credits for the award to be approved.

FUNDING RELATED QUESTIONS

Do I have to pay for the whole course when I register?

No, you have to pay for the initial course registration plus the fee for at least one module. The remainder of the payments can be spread over the length of time it takes you to complete the course. All modules must be paid for before you start each one at the very minimum. More details can be found on the course webpage in a document called [“LSTM MSc Global Health Fees & Funding”](#).

Can I pay in instalments?

Yes, we are delighted to offer multiple ways of payment to be as flexible as possible. Please refer to the [“LSTM MSc Global Health Fees & Funding”](#) document on the course webpage for further details.

Can I pay and register for modules throughout the year?

Yes, we are trying to be very flexible. Students can pay and register for other modules throughout the year. All modules must be paid for in advance of starting. Access to modules is always subject to places being available. We recommend early application. This type of instalment payment is only for stand alone modules. Please see the document mentioned above for main instalment payments.

Are there any LSTM bursaries or scholarships for which I can apply, to help me pay the Distance Learning course fees?

We do have some scholarships available for the distance learning MSc / PgDip / PgCert. Please be advised these are restricted to partial funding scholarships against tuition fees only. Deadlines for scholarship forms is 18 May 2020.

Also, for eligible Home/EU students, the postgraduate loan scheme is available for distance learning – more details can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study>

GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMME SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

What is the level of expectation of learning hours?

Each 20-credit module represents 200 hours of student learning including assessments and self-directed study, of which 50 hours is associated with the assessments. Each 20-credit module is spread over 12 weeks teaching, this equates to 12.5 hours of expected learning hours per week per module.

There is usually a 3-week assessment period after modules to allow assessment preparation and submission. Please see the calendar in the programme specification for dates of assessment.

I want to take the Full Time 1 year Online MSc Global Health – what is the expectation of learning hours?

Like any full time Masters, there is a level of expectation that you would typically spend 40-50 hours per week on lectures, online tasks and independent study. This is a wonderful opportunity to obtain a Masters degree in one year. However, given the intensity of study, this would not be conducive to combining with other work commitments. If you would like to do this programme on a part-time basis, we recommend the 2 year part time route instead.

I am not sure how much time I will have to study during the year. How is the study year organised for part time?

Part time students begin their studies in September with 2 modules per semester. Assignment deadlines are clearly given in programme specifications and time is allocated in timetables for work on assessments. We start with 2 modules in Semester 1, both of 20 credits. Full breakdown of the modules and dates will be provided in the programme specification.

How are the modules graded?

Modules are graded out of 100, similar to many other award bearing modules. Pass marks are over 50%, with 60-69% being a merit pass and 70%+ being a distinction. Pass rates will

also show on transcripts. Full details of final awards and pass rates can be found on the programme specification on the course webpage.

Is there more detailed information on module content?

Yes, please see the module catalogue which gives much more information on all modules, including dates, content and assessments. You can see this on the MSc Global Health page as a download on the right hand side. - <https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/study/courses/global-health>

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What are the benefits of a part-time Masters?

A part-time Masters has a range of unique benefits that might not be applicable to a full-time, traditional degree.

- **Flexibility** – If you choose a part-time Masters, you'll have a much greater degree of flexibility and freedom than on a full-time equivalent, allowing you to combine your studies with any other commitments you may have.
- **Self-funding** – If you are a UK student and intend to carry on working while studying a Masters, you could pay for your tuition fees up front, which might be a more attractive option than taking out a loan. However, Postgraduate Loans available to eligible Home / EU students – more information at <https://www.gov.uk/masters-loan>
- **Employer sponsorship** – This is another funding possibility if you're working while studying a part-time Masters. If your qualification is related to your current job, an employer might decide to contribute towards the tuition fees (either fully or partly), especially if the course is related to continuing professional development (CPD). The findamasters website have written a guide to [employer sponsorship](#), covering what kinds of qualification are mostly like to receive sponsorship and how to make a case for funding.
- **Using professional experience to your advantage** – Depending on the kind of Masters you're studying, you may find that you're able to apply your professional expertise to the course itself (or vice versa).
- **Maintaining your career progress** – As you won't be focussing on a degree full-time, you'll be able to carry on working in your current position.
- If you're studying a part-time Masters via online learning methods, you might be worried that your qualification won't be considered the equal of a traditional, campus-based course. However, you can rest assured that this isn't the case: as long as the programme is run by an accredited university, **your qualification will be globally recognised.**

Can I work full time while I study?

Most part-time Masters degrees are designed to accommodate students with a wide variety of personal circumstances, including those with full-time jobs and family commitments. This might mean that lectures can be arranged around your **professional commitments**, or that **assessments are staggered** so that your workload is manageable.

Of course, working while studying isn't easy, and you'll need **excellent time management skills** to make the most of your postgraduate qualification and successfully juggle your various responsibilities. However, you'll probably find that your employer is extremely supportive (especially if they've **agreed to sponsor you!**).

Studying a Masters while working full-time is also evidence of independence and determination: qualities that will stand you in good stead when it comes to boosting your career prospects.

Working full time if you are considering a full time Masters is not suitable.