

**Programme
Handbook**

LSTM

LIVERPOOL SCHOOL
OF TROPICAL MEDICINE



**MSc/Dip/Cert
in Tropical
and
Infectious
Diseases
2018/19**

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Introduction

This handbook provides you with specific information about the MSc in Tropical and Infectious Diseases. 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 MSc in Tropical and Infectious Diseases places emphasis on the scientific evidence for diagnosis, management and control of the most prevalent diseases in developing countries and provides new insights into working in a very challenging but rewarding area of medicine. Alumni from this course have become well-established clinicians, pursued international careers (e.g. WHO and MSF) or have become leading researchers in their field.

The programme has particular reference to high burden diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhoea. Emphasis is also given to the development of research skills applicable to a wide range of problems in clinical and epidemiological settings and addresses both the curative and preventive strategies available to deal with these problems.

The MTID is an integrated programme of recommended and optional modules designed to address knowledge and comprehension of these common disorders from both a clinical and community perspective. A primary aim is to provide doctors with previous experience in high burden diseases the necessary training in research methods required to address these problems. The programme will enable doctors to practice with improved knowledge and skills at both a clinical and community level. It is therefore highly relevant for medical officers working within an international organisation. In addition, the programme will enable students to comprehend and conduct health-related research through a supervised project which can include a three month period of applied research in an overseas location.

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine has an international reputation in training in tropical and infectious diseases. The Masters Programme in Tropical and Infectious Diseases, has been taught since 1983 and approximately 300 doctors have successfully completed the course.

Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Outline

This programme develops research skills that are applicable to a wide range of problems in clinical and epidemiological settings. Emphasis is also given to the scientific and empiric evidence for diagnosis, management and control of the most prevalent diseases in developing countries, with particular reference to high burden diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV and malaria, from a public health and clinical perspective. However, the programme does not include a clinical attachment and teaching at the bedside. Following a taught component, participants complete a dissertation including a period of applied research either overseas or in Liverpool. 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 critical and participatory approaches to learning. These skills will be essential to take on leadership roles in the future.

Aims

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

- Provide doctors with previous experience in high burden diseases with research skills relevant to tropical and infectious diseases in low income countries
- Develop students' knowledge and comprehension of the preventive and curative management strategies that promote health and well-being in tropical countries
- Enable students to comprehend and conduct health-related research
- Produce graduates who are experienced, committed, informed, proactive and effective professionals, capable of taking substantial and leading professional roles
- 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 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

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 tropical and infectious diseases

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

A3. Ability to apply statistical knowledge and understanding to design a research study and to analyse and critically interpret data.

A4. Appropriate skills related to the diagnosis, management and control of tropical parasitic, bacterial, viral and fungal infections of children and adults in a variety of regional and resource settings

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 practice 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 recommended 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). Before choosing any module, students should get familiar with its aims and learning outcomes.

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

w/b	Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri (am)	Fri (pm)
10/9	Induction	Induction + Introduction to Key Skills					
17/9	1	TROP 934: Research Methods in International Health (30 credits)		TROP 938: Current Clinical Challenges in Tropical Medicine (30 credits)		Research Methods	
24/9	2						
01/10	3						
08/10	4						
15/10	5						
22/10	6						
29/10	7						
05/11	8						
12/11	9						
19/11	10						
26/11	11						
03/12	12						
10/12	13						
17/12		Christmas Holiday					
24/12		Revision + Assessments					
01/01*	14	Revision + Assessments					
07/01	15	Semester 2 (60 credits)		Block 1		TROP910: Quality Improvement in Global Child Health (10 credits) or TROP708 Organisation & Management (10 credits) or TROP923 Key Concepts in Sexual & Reproductive health (10 credits)	
14/01	16					TROP974 HIV in Resource Limited Settings (10 credits)	
21/01	17					Revision + Assessments	
28/01	18			Block 2		TROP973 Systematic Reviews for Policy & Practice (10 credits)	
04/02	19					TROP976 Health Promotion (10 credits) or TROP706 Development of a Disease Control Programme (10 credits)	
11/02	20					OR TROP739 Immunology of Tropical Diseases (20 credits)	
18/02	21			Block 3		Revision + Assessments	
25/02	22					TROP 971: Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research (10 credits) OR TROP 969 Key Topics in Snakebite (10 credits) OR TROP975 Medical Bacteriology (10 credits)	
04/03	23					TROP 971: Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research (10 credits) OR TROP 776 Child Nutrition (10 credits)	
11/03	24			Revision + Assessments			
18/03	25	Revision + Assessments					
25/03	26	Revision + Assessments					
01/04	27	Revision + Assessments					
08/04	28	Revision + Assessments					
15/04*	29	Revision + Assessments					
22/04*	30	EASTER BREAK 1 WEEK					
29/04	31	Preparation for Research Presentations					
06/05**	32	Research Presentations					
Weeks 33-46 (13/5/19**-12/8/19) Dissertation hand-in 15/08/19		Semester 3 (60 credits)		Research Project TROP942			
Deferred Holiday							

* School closed for New Year BH (1/1/19) & Easter Bank Holidays 19/4/19 and 22/4/19

** School closed for May Bank Holiday 6/5/19 & 27/5/19

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

Wks								
15-16	07/01	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
	14/01							
17-18	21/01	HR Planning & Management TROP915		Maternal & Newborn Health TROP924				
	28/01							
19	04/02	Reading week/Assessments						
20-21	11/02		Systematic Reviews for Policy and Practice TROP973		Global Climate Change & Health TROP927	Vector Population Biology & Control TROP741	Immunology of Tropical Diseases TROP739	
	18/02							
22-23	25/02	Health Promotion TROP976	Development of a Disease Control Programme TROP706	Reproductive Sexual & Adolescent Health TROP926				
	04/03							
24	11/03-15/03	Reading week/Assessments						
25-26	18/03	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		
	25/03							
27-28	01/04	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	
	8/04							
29-32	15/04	Revision + Assessments						
	22/04	EASTER BREAK 1 WEEK						
	29/04	Preparation for Research Presentations						
	06/05	Research Presentations						

*TROP971 – module runs twice – students should only choose once

Assessment Schedule

Module	Timing	Assessment Strategy	% of module mark
Semester 1			
TROP 934 (R)	In module	1.5 hour exam (multiple choice)	25
	End of module	1500 word critical reflection of group qualitative research study 2500 word research proposal (minimum mandatory mark 40%)	25 50
TROP 938 (R)	In module	2.5 hour exam (short answer)	35
	End of module	2.5 hour exam (short answer) 30 minute oral examination	35 30
Semester 2 Block 1			
TROP 910 (O)	End of module	2500 word written assignment	100
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 60 question MCQ exam	40 60
TROP 974 (R)	End of module	2 hour exam (short answer and essay)	100
Semester 2 Block 2			
TROP 973 (O)	End of module	Written assignment (completion of pre-prepared form) 1.5 hour exam (extended matching set questions)	80 20
TROP 739 (O)	End of module	2 hour exam (essay) 3000 word laboratory report	50 50
TROP 976 (O)	End of module	2000 word written report	100
TROP 706 (O)	End of module	2500 word written assignment	100
Semester 2 Block 3			
TROP 975 (O)	End of module	1500 word written assignment 1 hour exam (multiple choice)	60 40
TROP969 (O)	End of module	3000 word assignment	100
TROP776 (O)	End of module	Poster Presentation 1 hour written exam (short answer questions)	50 50
TROP 971 (O)	End of module	2000 word report on analysis of data set	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 2018

Deadline for Semester 2 module choices – 31 October 2018

Allocating/defining dissertation topics: September-November 2018

Developing proposal for Dissertation Project: September 2018-January 2019

Submission to Masters Ethics Committee (if required): February 2019

Fieldwork: April/May – June/July 2019

Dissertation writing: June – August 2019

Dissertation Submission deadline: 15 August 2019

Board of Examiners meeting: October 2019

Release of results: Following Board of Examiners meeting

Graduation Ceremonies: December 2019

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 TROP934/936.

Prizes

Glen Williams Prize

The Glen Williams Prize is awarded to the candidate with the highest overall mark in the examinations.

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 his/her 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.

Selected LSTM Teaching Staff

Department of Clinical Sciences

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Prof Luis Cuevas

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Prof Stephen Allen

Dean

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Department of International Public Health

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Statistics and Epidemiology

Dr Ian Hastings	Reader, Statistician	ian.hastings@lstmed.ac.uk
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Dagnall Lab

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Mr Greg Harper	Senior Technician	gregory.harper@lstmed.ac.uk

Education

Dr Martyn Stewart	Senior Lecturer in Research Methods	martyn.stewart@lstmed.ac.uk
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Recommended Texts

Beeching, N & Gill G. 2014. Lecture Notes in Tropical Medicine. 7th Edition. Wiley Blackwell Publishing (also available as eBook)

Davidson R, Brent A, Seale A. 2014. Oxford Handbook of Tropical Medicine. 4th Edition. Oxford University Press