

**Programme  
Handbook**

**LSTM**  
LIVERPOOL SCHOOL  
OF TROPICAL MEDICINE



**MSc/Dip/ in  
Tropical  
Paediatrics  
2017/18**

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## Key Programme Contacts

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## Introduction

This handbook provides you with specific information about the MSc in Tropical Paediatrics. You will also be provided with a general student 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 Masters in Tropical Paediatrics was the first Masters Degree programme in Tropical Paediatrics offered in Europe. It commenced in 1990 and since then 180 doctors have successfully completed this full-time degree programme.

## Programme aims and learning outcomes

### Outline

The programme aims to provide doctors who are practising or intend to practise in developing countries with critical understanding of the evidence for the management and control of diseases in childhood, with particular reference to endemic diseases in tropical countries. A particular focus is the development of research skills applicable to a wide range of child health-related problems in hospital and community settings. Students will learn to appraise the evidence that underlies practice, in undertaking research and in improving the quality of health services delivered to children in these settings. The curriculum reflects current national and international priorities and policies in global child health. Following the taught component, that does not include a formal hospital attachment or bedside teaching, participants complete a dissertation including a period of applied research either overseas or in Liverpool. It 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.

### Aims

- The curriculum has been informed by current national and international priorities and policies in the field of tropical paediatrics. The programme aims to:
- Provide doctors with previous experience in paediatrics and child health with research skills relevant to child health-related problems in low income countries
- Develop students' knowledge and comprehension of the preventive and curative management strategies that promote child health and well-being in tropical countries
- Enable students to comprehend and conduct child 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.

### **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 paediatrics

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 interpret critically data

A4. Skills related to the diagnosis and treatment of the common diseases of childhood in tropical countries and low resource settings

A5. Understanding of the importance of maternal health and its consequences for child health and survival

### **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 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 (Table 2).

**Table 1:** Modular Structure of the MTP programme (Required modules 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 938: Current Clinical Challenges in Tropical Medicine (30 credits)</b>		<b>Research Methods (am) &amp; 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							Revision + Assessments					
11/12	13	Christmas Holiday											
18/12		Revision + Assessments											
25/12		Revision + Assessments											
02/01	14	Revision + Assessments											
08/01	15	<b>TROP910: Quality Improvement in Global Child Health (10 credits)</b>											
15/01	16												
22/01	17							TROP924: Maternal & Newborn Health (10 credits) or TROP974: HIV in Resource Limited Settings					
29/01	18												
05/02	19							Revision + Assessments					
12/02	20	TROP739 Immunology of Tropical Diseases (20 credits)		<b>OR</b>		TROP973 Systematic Reviews for Policy & Practice (10 credits) TROP976 Health Promotion (10 credits) or TROP706 Development of a Disease Control Programme (10 credits)							
19/02	21												
26/02	22												
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	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)											
16/04	29												
23/04	30							<b>TROP776 Child Nutrition (10 credits)</b>					
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 30/3/18 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 MTP are shaded. Required modules are shaded and in bold. Other modules can be taken by MTP students subject to the approval of the Director of Studies.

Wks								
15-16	08/01	Organisation & Management TROP708	Complex Humanitarian Emergencies TROP807	Key Concepts in Sexual & Reproductive Health TROP923	<b>Quality Improvement in Global Child Health TROP910</b>	Parasite Epidemiology and Control TROP719	Key Aspects in Molecular & Cellular Biology of Tropical Diseases and Vectors TROP775	
	15/01							
17-18	22/01	HR Planning & Management TROP915		Maternal & Newborn Health TROP924				HIV in Resource Limited Settings TROP974
	39/01							
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	Health Promotion TROP976	Development of a Disease Control Programme TROP706	Sexual Health & Human Sexuality TROP926				
	05/03							
24-25	12/03-23/03	Reading week/Assessments						
26-27	26/03-06/04	Easter Holiday						
28-29	09/04	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		
	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	<b>Child Nutrition TROP776</b>	
	30/04							
32	07/05	Reading Week + Assessments						
33	14/05	Project Presentations						

\* Module runs twice to increase student choice

## Assessment Schedule

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 (minimum mandatory mark 40%)	30 40
TROP 938 (R)	In module	2.5 hour exam (short answer)	35
	End of module	2.5 hour exam (short answer) 30 minute oral exam	35 30
<b>Semester 2 Block 1</b>			
TROP 910 (R)	End of module	2500 word written assignment	100
TROP 924 (O)	In module	15 minute oral presentation	20
	End of module	2000 word written assignment	80
TROP974 (O)	End of module	2 hour exam (short answer and essay questions)	100
<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 739(O)	End of module	2 hour exam (essay)	50
		3000 word laboratory report	50
TROP 976(O)	End of module	2000 written report	100
TROP 706(O)	End of module	2500 word written assignment	100
<b>Semester 2 Block 3</b>			
TROP 975 (O)	End of module	1500 word written assignment	60
		1 hour exam (multiple choice)	40
TROP969 (O)	End of module	3000 word assignment	100
TROP971 (O)	End of module	2000 word report on analysis of data set	100
TROP 776 (R)	End of module	Poster presentation	50
		1 hour exam (short answer questions)	50
<b>Semester 3</b>			
TROP 942 (R)	In module	10 minute oral presentation of research proposal	10
	End of module	16,000 word research 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 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.

## **Prizes**

### **John Hay Prize**

The John Hay Prize is awarded to the candidate with the highest mark in the overall examination.

### **Matthew Lukwiya Prize**

The Matthew Lukwiya prize is awarded to the candidate with the highest scoring dissertation.

### **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 Teaching Staff**

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Dean

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#### Centre for Maternal and Newborn Health

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#### Dagnall Lab

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#### Education

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