Programme Specification

2022/2023

Part A: Programme Summary Information

1	**Title of Programme**	**Tropical Disease Biology**
2	**Programme Code**	MSc/TDB
3	**Entry Award (s):**	
3a	Entry Award 1	MSc – 180 Credits:7
3b	Entry Award 2	PGDip – 120 Credits:7
3c	Entry Award 3	PGCert – 60 Credits:7
4	**Exit Award (s):**	
4a	Exit Award 1	MSc – 180 Credits:7
4b	Exit Award 2	PGDip – 120 Credits:7
4c	Exit Award 3	PGCert – 60 Credits:7
5a	**Start Date**	September 2022
5b	**End Date**	September 2023
6	**Frequency of Intake**	Annually
7	**Mode of Study**	FT
8a	**Applicable Framework**	LSTM LT REG 01
8b	**Exemption Required**	
8c	**Exemption Approved**	
8d	**Details of Exemption**	
9	**Director of Studies**	James LaCourse
10	**Board of Studies**	Tropical Disease Biology Masters Board of Studies
11	**Board of Examiners**	Master's Board of Examiners
12	**External Examiner(s)**	Dr. Helen Price
13	**Professional or Other Body**	None
14	**Reference Points**	Priorities of relevant national and international organisations in global health (Department for International Development, UK; United States Agency for International Development; World Health Organisation); QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement (2020); The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
15a	**Home/EU Fee**	
15b	**Overseas Fee**	
16	**Additional Costs to the Student**	The programme fee covers the cost of a project based in LSTM and, this includes lab projects. However, students on programmes that are not lab-based may only be able to do a lab project if they are suitably qualified. Some projects also involve a short period of data collection overseas (normally 2-4 weeks). Students who choose projects with overseas travel must cover any additional costs for the overseas trip (estimated £3,500). Students are not required to pay these additional costs at registration but must have the necessary funds available in March when booking travel, accommodation etc.

Part B: Programme Aims and Outcomes

17 Overview of the Programme

The MSc programme 'Tropical Disease Biology' provides advanced and research-informed contemporary learning in parasitology, microbiology, host-pathogen interactions, and the study of disease vectors and the pathogens they transmit in tropical and/or resource-limited regions of the world. Delivered by an internationally diverse team of research-active experts in their disciplines, the broad scope of the programme ranges across the biology, biochemistry, immunology, ecology, and population biology of the organisms of importance to public health in predominantly tropical regions of limited resource, and their associated epidemiology.

The programme will give students the opportunity to develop employer-relevant transferable skills, producing independent and collaborative team workers, critical thinkers, adaptable problem-solvers, and as confident communicators in a range of environments. Experience in essential laboratory, field, and computing-based research techniques, as well as significant theoretical and applied practical knowledge in all important and topical areas of the field is further provided within core taught elements. Participants further demonstrate and apply their comprehensive understanding and critical awareness through completion of a research-based dissertation either overseas or in Liverpool, with opportunities to engage with professional and industrial bodies in global health as part of this process.

18 Aims of the Programme

No.	Specific Aim	Entry Award
1	To produce students with a critically developed, comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the current issues and priorities with regard to the biology of host-pathogen interactions, and control of pathogens, vectors of disease, and organisms of importance to public health in tropical and resource-limited regions of the world.	All Awards
2	To enable students to identify, conceptualise and frame research questions, and critically analyse problems and challenges with relevance to the biology and control of the pathogens, vectors of disease, and organisms of importance to public health in tropical and resource-limited settings and contexts.	All Awards
3	To provide applied experience, and equip students with the abilities to design strategies, and apply a range of specialised technical and analytical skills, to respond to biologically related research questions, problems, and challenges in regard to the pathogens, vectors of disease, and organisms of importance to public health in tropical and resource-limited settings and contexts.	All Awards
4	To equip students with transferable abilities and skills in critical and reflective thinking, effective, independent, and collaborative team working, adaptable problem-solving, ethical project planning and management, and in confident communication within a range of environments/contexts.	All Awards

19 Skills and Other Attributes

No.	Skill/Attribute	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing
1	To communicate complex principles, knowledge, and strategies confidently and effectively, via a range of media including oral, visual and written, to a variety of relevant audiences.	All modules	Written assessments and oral presentations
2	To apply statistical and scientific computing skills with confidence and accuracy.	TROP 714, 728, 705, 733, 700, 715, 727	Formative and summative calculation exercises (727); examination (705); laboratory reports (728, 723,); dissertation data analysis (733); poster/slides presentation with data analyses included (714, 715)
3	To work effectively both independently and in collaboration with others.	All modules.	Indirect contribution to all assessments
4	To take responsibility for self-managed learning.	All modules	Indirect contribution to all assessments

5	To apply skills in effective project and time management to set goals, prioritise activities and meet deadlines.	All modules	Assessed indirectly in all modules through timely submission of assessments

20 Subject Based Learning Outcomes

A **Knowledge and Understanding.** Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should have developed and be able to demonstrate:

No.	Learning Outcome	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing	Entry Award
	Define and critically appraise current issues and priorities in the fields of biology, host-pathogen interaction, molecular and cellular biology, epidemiology, and control, of pathogens, vectors of disease, and organisms of importance to public health with particular emphasis on tropical and resource-limited regions of the world.	TROP 714, 728, 722, 723, 707, 715, 700	Practical & written exams, essays, presentation	All Awards
	Review, identify and comprehensively describe appropriate research methods to answer research questions with relevance to the biology and control of the pathogens, vectors of disease, and organisms of importance to public health in tropical and resource-limited settings and contexts.	TROP 705, 733, 727, 715, 700, 723	Practical Reports, written exams, research notebook, presentation, dissertation	All Awards
	Critically appraise and evaluate current methods, findings, and research developments in preventing human disease, that may lead to the development of novel control strategies with particular emphasis on tropical and resource-limited regions of the world.	TROP 714, 728, 722,723, 705, 707, 733, 700	Practical & written exams, essays, practical report, presentation, dissertation	All Awards
	Critically analyse and interpret statistical data in the design of a research study.	TROP 714, 723, 705, 733, 727 715, 700	Practical Reports, written exams, dissertation, presentation	All Awards

B **Cognitive Skills.** Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should be able to:

No.	Learning Outcome	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing	Entry Award
	Critically analyse, synthesise and evaluate information from a variety of sources.	TROP 714, 728, 722, 705, 707, 733, 715, 700	Practical & written exams, essays, practical report, presentation, research notebook, dissertation	All Awards
	Apply subject knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts to analyse and reach evidence-based conclusions on complex situations, problems and opportunities.	TROP 714, 728, 722, 705, 707, 733, 700	Practical & written exams, essays, presentation, practical reports, dissertation	All Awards
	Review 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.	TROP 705, 733, 700	Research proposal (705) and dissertation (733)	All Awards
	Demonstrate creativity, innovation and originality in the application of knowledge.	TROP 714, 728, 722, 723, 733, 705, 707, 715, 727, 700	Practical reports, research proposal, written & practical exams, presentations, essays, research notebook, dissertation	All Awards

C **Practical/Professional Skills.** Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should be able to:

No.	Learning Outcome	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing	Entry Award
	Formulate a research question, devise an appropriate research strategy and take a systematic approach to project planning and management.	TROP 714, 728, 722,723, 705, 733, 715, 727, 700	Practical reports, presentations, research proposal, dissertation.	All Awards
	Undertake research investigations in a responsible, safe and ethical manner, select with critical awareness and deploy accurately with precision, techniques and methods, and record data collected.	TROP 733	Dissertation	MSc Only
	Effectively manage, analyse, and critically interpret data collected in the laboratory, field setting and in silico.	TROP 714, 728, 722, 723, 705, 707, 733, 715, 727, 700	Field course, practical reports, research proposal, dissertation, research notebook, presentation	All Awards
	Critically appraise and select effective means of reporting and communicating research questions, strategies and findings within differing contexts and environments	TROP 714, 728, 722, 723, 705, 733, 715, 727, 700	Practical reports, research proposal, dissertation, research notebook, presentation	All Awards

21 Career Opportunities

Many alumni of LSTM hold prominent positions in health ministries, universities, hospitals, and international organisations throughout the world. Graduates are competitively placed to begin PhD programmes, seek employment within research programmes, work overseas in resource-limited areas with a wide variety of employers including NGOs, military and public health-related employers, enter teacher training, industry, or return to previous employers with enhanced knowledge and widely transferable skills with which to advance their existing careers. Graduates of the MSc Tropical Disease Biology will have undergone excellent preparation for a career in laboratory and field research, or training, in the biological sciences, and are particularly well placed for careers in topics related to organisms of importance to public health, including a variety of pathogens and vector-borne diseases globally, and particularly within tropical or resource-limited regions of the world.

Part C: Entrance Requirements

22	**Academic Requirements**	Open to graduates with an Honours degree (2.ii or equivalent) in the biological sciences or a medical/veterinary degree. Overseas candidates with other qualifications may be accepted, particularly if they have the relevant experience through working in an appropriate field for a number of years. Medical or Veterinary students who have completed at least three years of study and wish to intercalate are also accepted onto the programme.
23	**English Language Requirements**	The programme is taught in English. Applicants whose first language is not English must normally provide evidence of an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score of at least 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in all learning components, or a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of at least 88 for the Internet-based Test (iBT), with minimum scores of 21 for Listening and Writing, 22 for Reading and 23 for Speaking. Tests should be within their validity period of 2 years. Other English Language Tests and country specific English Language qualifications are also accepted - a full list with details of levels required can be found on the LSTM website (http://www.lstmed.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements). Applicants who have recently completed a degree level qualification taught in a majority English speaking country (as defined by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) may also be accepted at the discretion of the Director of Studies.
24	**Recognition of Prior Learning**	All programmes of study will permit entry with credit attributed to previous certificated study up to a total of one third of the credits required to be awarded a MSc Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Award.
25	**Work Experience**	Non-graduates with considerable satisfactory work experience and evidence of appropriate in-service training will also be considered.
26	**Other Requirements**	None

Part D: Programme Structure

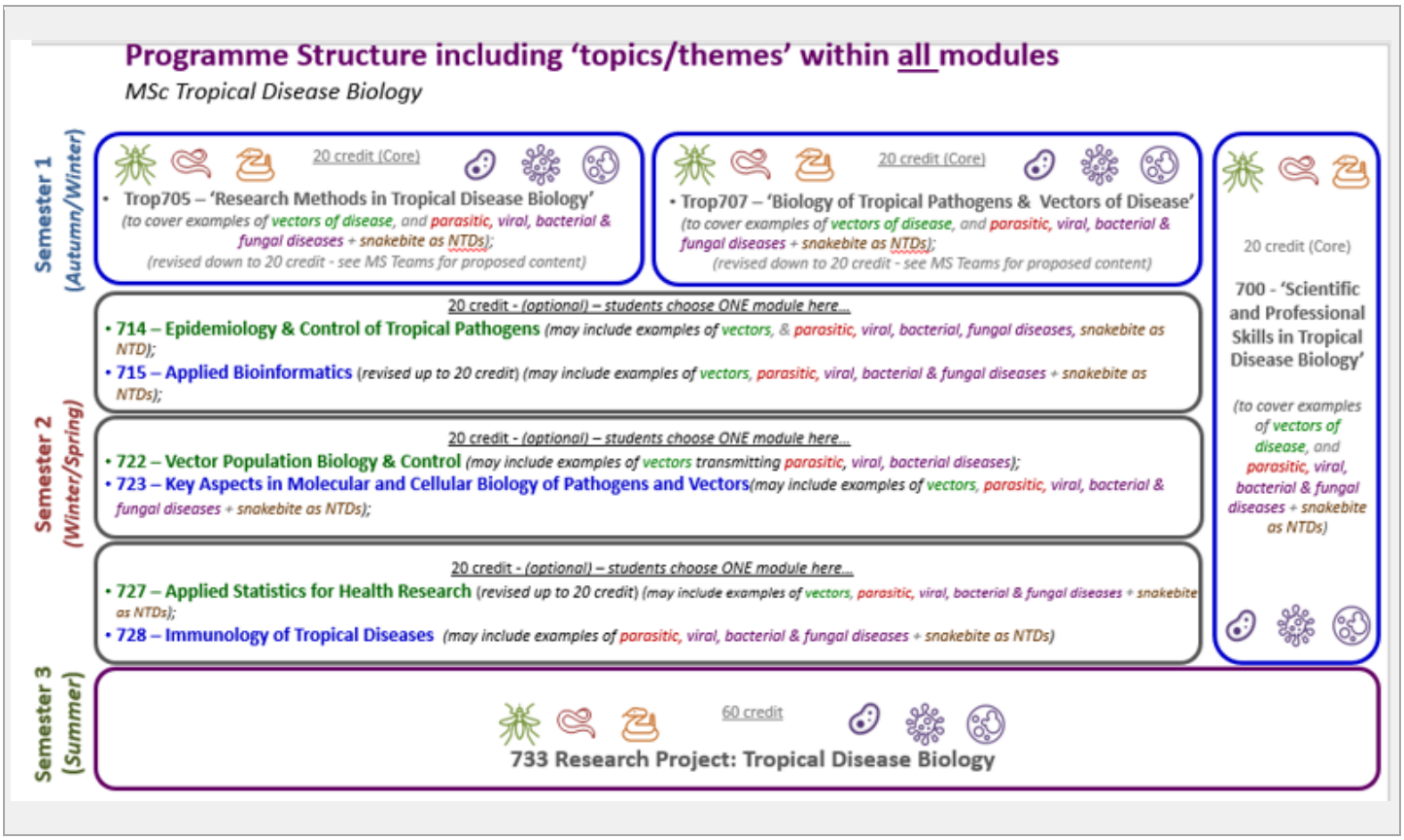
27a Overview

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 approaches to study that will enable graduates to continue their learning into the future.

The programme comprises an introductory induction period including a residential field course element at the start of the programme, taught modules totalling 120 credits and a 60 credit dissertation. A 20 credit module (5 ECTS credits) represents 200 hours of student learning activity including assessment and self-directed study. Many students carry out a laboratory or data/literature-based dissertation project in LSTM but students can opt to conduct a fieldwork-based project overseas. All types of project have the key aims of developing the students' skills in formulating a research question, designing and implementing a research project and critically interpreting and presenting the findings. The timing of modules across the academic year recognises the financial and time constraints faced by LSTM students, some of whom are from overseas. To allow students to access LSTM programmes in an economical and time-efficient manner, there are only 2 weeks holiday scheduled over Christmas and 1 week during the Easter period.

The modules available to students following the programme are shown in Section 27b. 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 a recommended optional module with one offered as part of another LSTM MSc programme (Section 27c), subject to the agreement of the Director of Studies and any restrictions on class size.

27b Timetable



Sem	Dates	Week	Modular structure (TDB) 2022/23	
Semester 1	12/09/2022	0	Induction	
	19/09/2022	1	Trop705 Research Methods in Tropical Disease Biology (20 credits)	Trop700 Scientific & Professional Skills in Tropical Disease Biology (20 credits)
	26/09/2022	2		
	03/10/2022	3		
	10/10/2022	4		
	17/10/2022	5		
	24/10/2022	6	Assessment	
	31/10/2022		Reading week / Programme events	
	07/11/2022	7	Trop707 Biology of Tropical Pathogens & Vectors of Disease (20 credits)	
	14/11/2022	8		
	21/11/2022	9		
	28/11/2022	10		
	05/12/2022	11		
	12/12/2022	12	Assessment	
	19/12/2022		Xmas Break	
	26/12/2022		Xmas Break	
Semester 2	02/01/2023		Reading / Programme Re-induction	
	09/01/2023	1	Trop714 Epidemiology & Control of Tropical Pathogens (20 credits) *or* Trop715 Applied Bioinformataics (20 credits)	
	16/01/2023	2		
	23/01/2023	3		
	30/01/2023	4		
	06/02/2023	5		
	13/02/2023	6	Assessment	
	20/02/2023	7	Trop722 Vecgtor Population Biology & Control (20 credits) *or* Trop723 Key Aspects in Molecular & Cellular Biology of Pathogens & Vectors (20 credits)	
	27/02/2023	8		
	06/03/2023	9		
	13/03/2023	10		
	20/03/2023	11		
	27/03/2023	12	Assessment	
	03/04/2023		Reading week / Programme events	
	10/04/2023	13	Trop727 Applied Statistics for Health Research (20 credits) *or* Trop728 Immunology of Tropical Diseases (20 credits)	
	17/04/2023	14		
	24/04/2023	15		
	01/05/2023	16		
	08/05/2023	17		
	15/05/2023	18	Assessment	
Semester 3	22/05/2023	1	Trop 733 Research Project: Tropical Disease Biology (60 credits)	
	29/05/2023	2		
	05/06/2023	3		
	12/06/2023	4		
	19/06/2023	5		
	26/06/2023	6		
	03/07/2023	7		
	10/07/2023	8		
	17/07/2023	9		
	24/07/2023	10		
	31/07/2023	11		
	07/08/2023	12		
	14/08/2023	13		
	21/08/2023	14		
	28/08/2023	15		
	04/09/2023	16		

27c Options

Semester 1 modules Trop705, Trop707, and Trop700, which runs over semester 1 and 2, are core modules for all TDB MSc students, and amount to 3 x 20 credits in total.

Semester 2 contains three blocks of teaching within which options exist for choice and specialisation in areas of interest, each block representing 20 credits. Students must choose one of two module options within each block.

Semester 3 is a core 60 credit research project module.

A ***maximum of 20 Credits*** from selected Semester 2 modules within blocks 2 & 3 (not in block 1) from two other LSTM MSc programmes (MSc Public Health, and MSc Humanitarian Studies) are available as options for MSc TDB students if they meet module-specific pre-requisites (see individual modules specifications for details).

Part E: Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

28 Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy

The L&T strategy is designed to help all students to express their full potential through a combination of formal teaching and directed student-centred learning. Lectures highlight key points and provide participants with a core knowledge base. Students are expected to enhance this core knowledge and become reflective, independent learners through guided enquiry-based self-study and use of on-line learning packages. Self-study is supported by informal staff contact, scheduled help sessions and on-line discussion. To develop cognitive and intellectual skills, the programme involves discussion of key issues, analysis and interpretation of resource material and practice in applying concepts and solving problems. Group work develops students' abilities to work co-operatively, promotes creativity, provides opportunities to reflect critically and enables participants to take more responsibility for their own learning, as well as learn from each other. Practical skills are developed through opportunities to practise activities in the laboratory throughout a range of modules and in the dissertation options, and in fieldwork settings at the start of programme during a residential field course and as a further option dependent upon semester 2 modules chosen and dissertation options . Students can also take advantage of lectures given by the many distinguished researchers and policy-makers who regularly visit LSTM.
The L&T methods adopted reflect the diversity of the LSTM student population and an ethical and culturally sensitive approach is emphasised throughout.
The assessment strategy is designed to encourage the students to develop and improve on a range of skills, including synthesising and evaluating information, academic writing, numerical and IT skills, team-working, presentation skills, and time management. Both formative and summative assessment approaches are used.

29 Assessment Schedule

Module·Title·¤	Assessment¤	Timing¤	%of·module·mark¤
Trop705:··Research·Methods·in·Tropical·Disease·Biology¤	Written·report·(research·problem·scenario)¤	S1¤	100%¤
Trop700:·Scientific·and·Professional·Skills·¤	Scientific·report¤	S1¤	100%¤
	Research·proposal·(formative·but·required)¤	S2¤	¤
Trop707:··Biology·of·Tropical·Health,·Pathogens·&·Vectors·of·Disease¤	Critical·analysis¤	S1¤	100%¤
Trop714:·Epidemiology·and·Control·of·Tropical·Pathogens¤	Presentation¤	S2·B1¤	50%¤
	Examination¤		50%¤
Trop715:·Applied·Bioinformatics¤	Poster·presentation¤	S2·B1¤	100%¤
Trop722:··Vector·Population·Biology·&·Control¤	Examination¤	S2·B2¤	50%¤
	Written·Assessment·(Critical·Review)¤		35%¤
	Presentation¤		15%¤
Trop723:··Key·Aspects·in·Molecular·and·Cellular·Biology·of·Pathogens·and·Vectors¤	Critical·Scientific·Report¤	S2·B2¤	60%¤
	Examination¤		30%¤
	Presentation¤		10%¤
Trop728:··Immunology·of·Tropical·Diseases¤	Written·report¤	S2·B3¤	50%¤
	Examination¤		50%¤
Research·Project:·TDB¤	Research·project·report¤	S3¤	100%¤

¶

30 Pass Mark

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

31 Compensation and Resits

Compensation
Where the overall average mark in all taught modules is 50% or above, a mark of 40-49% in one module of 20 credits will be deemed compensatable. The compensation rule will not apply to stand-alone modules. Marks for modules passed by virtue of the compensation rule will be recorded as a pass mark of 50%.
Re-sits
Students who fail one or more modules at the first attempt will normally be offered one reassessment opportunity for each failed component. Reassessment will normally take place in the defined reassessment period, but where this is not possible, within twelve months of the failed assessment. A failed research project may be submitted on one further occasion only, within one year of the original date of submission. Marks achieved through reassessment will be capped at 50% for the purpose of calculating the overall average mark and determining classification for an award. The actual mark achieved through reassessment will be the mark recorded on the transcript. Students will not be permitted a reassessment opportunity for any module or assignment they have passed, with the aim of improving the mark, except in the case of extenuating circumstances. Further information relating to the re-sitting of examinations, including timing of re-sits, can be found in the LSTM Masters Student Handbook.

32 Marking Descriptors

LSTM has generic assessment criteria applicable to all written work (below). Assessment criteria for individual assignments can be accessed by students in the module Brightspace folder.

%	COMMENTS
90-100	**Distinction** Absolutely outstanding answer. Factually flawless; strong degree of originality and critical insight; clearly organised; comprehensive coverage; extensive evidence of supplementary reading; style and presentation excellent.
80-89	**Distinction** Outstanding answer. Factually flawless; clearly organised; logical; good evidence of supplementary reading; originality and critical insight present; style and presentation excellent.
70-79	**Distinction** Very good answer. Factually flawless; some originality of thought and critical insight; evidence of outside reading; good coverage; style, presentation and organisation very good.
60-69	**Merit** Comprehensive answer. Clear; logical; thorough; factually sound with no serious errors; evidence of outside reading and/or originality and critical insight; style, presentation and organisation good.
50-59	**Pass** Adequate answer. Accurate but limited to lecture material; perhaps some errors or key facts missing; no originality; little evidence of outside reading; style, presentation and organisation moderate.
40-49	**Fail** Incomplete answer. Information fairly sparse; some inaccuracies; answer broadly relevant to question but poor coverage of lecture material; no sign of outside reading; style, presentation and organisation poor.
30-39	**Fail** Deficient answer. Poorly directed at question; many omissions or errors but some relevant facts correct; understanding poor; style, presentation and organisation poor.
15-29	**Fail** Very deficient answer. Answer largely irrelevant to the question; a few facts correct but many omissions and errors; style, presentation, grammar and organisation very poor.
0-14	**Fail** Totally inadequate answer. Little relevance to question or little factual material; wrong approach; style, presentation, grammar and organisation extremely poor.

33 Final Award and Alternative Qualifications

Final Award

Students who attend for a minimum period of 12 months of full-time study, and who achieve a minimum 180 credit points at FHEQ level 7, and successfully complete a dissertation/research project worth 60 credits will be eligible for the award of a Master's degree. To be awarded the Master's in Tropical Disease Biology, the credits achieved must include TROP707, TROP705 and TROP700, plus either TROP714 ('Epidemiology') or TROP715 ('Bioinformatics').

Students who attend for a minimum period of 30 weeks of full-time study, and who achieve a minimum of 120 credit points at FHEQ level 7, will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma. A Postgraduate Diploma shall be comprised either of all taught modules if an entry award, or may include the 60 credit research project module if an exit award. To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Tropical Disease Biology, as an *entry award,* candidates must achieve 120 credits from the taught component of the MSc programme to include TROP707, TROP705 and TROP700, plus either TROP714 ('Epidemiology') or TROP715 ('Bioinformatics'). An exit award that includes the dissertation project should also include TROP707.

Students who attend for a minimum period of 15 weeks full-time study, and who achieve a minimum of 60 credit points at FHEQ level 7, will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate. To be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Tropical Disease Biology, the credits achieved must include TROP707 plus at least 20 credits from the modules listed in Section 27c (excluding TROP733).

A mark of Merit or Distinction will be awarded according to the criteria below. A Merit or Distinction may be awarded if a student has failed and then passed on re-sit any credit that counts towards the final award during the relevant period of study at LSTM, however, marks are capped at 50% for the purposes of calculating the award. Marks achieved in modules which are passed under the compensation rule may also be counted towards a Merit or Distinction. It should be noted that students who register on a Master's, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate but who exit with a lower award, will be eligible for a Merit or Distinction for the lower award, provided the student meets the criteria outlined below:

For a Master's Degree with Distinction a student must achieve:

- Distinction grade for the dissertation and;
- an overall average of at least 70% in 120 credits of taught modules

For a Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction a student must achieve:

- an overall average mark of at least 70% in 120 credits of taught modules; or
- an overall average mark of at least 70% in 60 credits of taught modules and a Distinction grade for the dissertation

For a Postgraduate Certificate with Distinction a student must achieve:

- an overall average mark of at least 70% in 60 credits of taught modules

For a Master's degree with Merit a student must achieve:

- a Merit grade for the dissertation and;
- an overall average mark of at least 60% in 120 credits of taught modules

For a Postgraduate Diploma with Merit a student must achieve:

- An overall average mark of at least 60% in 120 credits of taught modules; or
- an overall average mark of at least 60% in 60 credits of taught modules and a Merit grade for the dissertation

For a Postgraduate Certificate with Merit a student must achieve:

- an overall average mark of at least 60% in 60 credits of taught modules

Average marks falling up to 2% below any grade boundary are deemed to be borderline cases. In these cases the award is determined by consideration of the profile of marks across all taught modules. To be awarded the higher grade, at least 50% of the taught credits must be at the higher grade.

Students who take modules on a stand-alone basis will become eligible for an award with Distinction or Merit where they:

- Subsequently register for a programme of study which leads to an award and successfully complete the required credit through the study of appropriate modules as defined in the programme specification or;
- Accumulate sufficient credit for an unnamed award in accordance with an approved programme of study.

Where a student has successfully completed modules which exceed the required credit for the award the calculation of the overall average mark and determination of classification will be based on the modules with the higher marks.

Criteria for the award of an alternative qualification

If a student fails to meet the criteria for the award of a Master's degree, a Postgraduate Diploma, or Postgraduate Certificate or is unable to complete the programme he or she registered for, he or she will be eligible for the award of one of the following as an exit qualification:

Postgraduate Certificate in Tropical Disease Biology – this will be awarded to students who have previously registered for either the Master's degree or Postgraduate Diploma provided that the student has achieved a minimum of 60 credits. The credit may not include any dissertation credits. In order to qualify for a '*named'* Postgraduate Certificate in Tropical Disease Biology, the credits achieved must include TROP707.

Postgraduate Diploma in Tropical Disease Biology – this will be awarded to students who have previously registered for the Master's degree provided that the student has achieved a minimum of 120 credits, the 120 credits may include dissertation credits to the value of 60 credits. In order to qualify for a '*named'* Postgraduate Diploma in Tropical Disease Biology, the credits achieved must include TROP707, TROP705 and TROP700, plus *either* TROP714 ('Epidemiology') *or* TROP715 ('Bioinformatics'). An exit award that includes the dissertation project should also include TROP707.

Students who fail to achieve the required credits for a named award will exit with an unnamed award.

Part F: Quality Assurance

34 Examination Process

The Masters Board of Examiners consists of the Dean of Education (Chair), Academic Registrar (Secretary), the External Examiners from all LSTM MSc programmes and all members of academic staff who have made a major contribution to the teaching and assessment of the programmes.
The Terms of Reference are as follows:

- To monitor methods of assessment against set learning outcomes and programme requirements
- To ensure standards of assessment are maintained
- To assess students' performance in accordance with regulations
- To reach overall decisions concerning awards
- To make recommendations to the Board of Studies on the conduct and standards of all assessment procedures

External Examiners are responsible for ensuring that awards made by LSTM are of a comparable standard with those of similar subjects and awards of other Higher Education Institutions in the United Kingdom, as stated in the Code of Practice on External Examining of Taught Programmes which is available at:
http://www.lstmed.ac.uk/study/quality-manual
Further information on the assessment policies and procedures can be found in the LSTM Masters Student Handbook, including:

- The penalties for the late submission of assessments
- The rules relating to plagiarism and collusion
- Ill-health and other special factors

Information on the purpose, method and schedule of assessment and the timescales for the submission of assessments can be found in the Programme Handbook (available on the LSTM student intranet) and on the Brightspace programme page.

35 Student Representation and Feedback

Box 35 Student Representation and Feedback
LSTM is committed to receiving and responding to student feedback in order to develop learning and teaching within the institution and to improve the overall quality of the student experience. Students are encouraged to evaluate individual modules and the programme via an online survey tool. The survey results are reported at Board of Study (BoS) meetings, together with any additional feedback from the student representatives. Regular focus groups will be held and there are opportunities for informal feedback via tutors and module convenors.
Students will be formally represented within the LSTM committee structure:
(a) The **Staff Student Liaison Committee (SSLC)** meets 3 times a year and includes an elected representative from each programme, including any programme streams. The minutes of the SSLC are received by the Learning & Teaching Committee (L&TC). The membership of the SSLC, its terms of reference and the manner in which it conducts its business conform to the requirements of the Code of Practice on Student Engagement and Enhancing the Student Experience - http://www.lstmed.ac.uk/study/quality-manual
(b) Each Master's programme has a **Board of Studies (BoS)**, which oversees its planning, operation, management and development. Membership of the BOS consists of the Director of Studies for the Programme, the Academic Registrar, elected student representatives, Registry staff supporting the programme, Convenors of Modules and those making a significant contribution to the programme.
Students play an active role in the work of the BoS, with the exception of reserved and confidential business. The minutes of all Boards of Studies are received by the L&TC.
(c) The **Quality Management Committee** (QMC) oversees the academic standards and quality assurance and enhancement of all taught programmes, ensuring that LSTM's quality assurance processes are fully informed by external expectations including the UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Two students from across all programmes serve as full members of the QMC. The QMC reports on academic quality assurance and enhancement issues to the L&T Committee. The Committee meets a minimum of four times per academic year and is responsible for:

- Approving, monitoring and reviewing programmes and modules
- Approving recommendations for the appointment of external examiners for LSTM programmes.
- Monitoring the progress of actions raised by External Examiners
- Developing, monitoring and reviewing the peer observation system

Part G: Diversity and Equality of Opportunity and Widening Participation

36 Diversity and Equality Statement

The programme's design, structure and content are consistent and compliant with the Diversity and Equality of Opportunity Policy. LSTM provides a multicultural, multidisciplinary learning environment in which all students benefit from the opportunity to share diverse experiences and outlooks, supported by staff who are themselves from a variety of national and cultural backgrounds and spend significant periods of time working overseas. LSTM recognises that some students need extra help and guidance in adjusting to a new country, culture or learning environment. Accordingly, we provide a comprehensive range of relevant non-academic student support services. The Personal Tutor System aims to provide students with advice and support in matters related to academic work and to enable the development of independent study habits suitable for higher education. Reasonable adjustments are made to assessment for disabled students in line with the Code of Practice on Student Support and Welfare.