

## London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

### Background

LSHTM is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in public health, international health and tropical medicine with a remarkable depth and breadth of expertise. Teaching is at the core of its mission - *to contribute to the improvement of health worldwide through the pursuit of excellence in research, postgraduate teaching and advanced training in national and international public health and tropical medicine, and through informing policy and practice in these areas.*

LSHTM is a postgraduate college and admitted its first students in 1899. Almost 100 years later, in 1998, it launched its first distance learning (DL) courses. Today there are over 2000 DL students around the world enrolled on courses which LSHTM offers through the University of London External System.

### Distance Learning Courses Offered

LSHTM offers the following Postgraduate Diploma/MSc distance learning courses relevant to international development:

- Clinical Trials
- Epidemiology
- Infectious Diseases
- Public Health

The programme is modular in structure and individual modules are also available for study as short courses. Students may also undertake part of their studies in London – as mixed mode.



Distance Learning support staff at LSHTM

### DL4D at LSHTM

LSHTM's DL courses cover critical aspects of international public health and tropical medicine. In the design and content of courses, particular attention is given to low and middle-income countries, as many students come from these settings or work in the international development arena.

As well as enhancing access to study in a core development field, LSHTM is using these DL courses as a key element in strengthening capacity linked to long-term research and practice collaborations, currently in several African countries and in India. The main approaches are:

- Creating communities of DL scholars in priority areas such as HIV, TB, malaria, health systems and newborn health. Central to this initiative has been financial support to students by the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission. These communities of scholars help address the isolation encountered by many DL students in settings where communication resources are limited.
- Licensing of the DL study materials to institutions (free in specific circumstances) for adaptation and use in developing new courses in a range of study modes.

Distance learning has thus become a vital part of LSHTM's work – through widening access to learning and through its contribution to capacity-strengthening – and the School is delighted to enhance that through the London International Development Centre's DL4D initiative.

**Website:** [www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/masters/distance.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/masters/distance.html)  
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