

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 2020	5b End Date	September 2021
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 La Course		
10 Board of Studies	Tropical Disease Biology Masters Board of Studies		
11 Board of Examiners	MSc 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 (2015); The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)		
15a Home/EU Fee	£8,900	15b Overseas Fee	£19,850
16 Additional Costs to the Student	The programme fee covers the cost of an experimental project based in the LSTM research laboratories. Some projects also involve a short period of data collection overseas (normally 2-4 weeks). Students who choose these projects must cover any additional costs for the overseas trip (estimated £1500).		

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 with opportunities either overseas or in Liverpool.

18 Aims of the Programme

No.	Specific Aim	Entry Award
1	Equip students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to develop a career in research, training or control of vector-borne diseases, pathogens, parasites, and organisms of importance to public health with particular emphasis on tropical and resource-poor regions of the world.	
2	Provide practical experience of a range of specialised technical and analytical skills relevant to the study of disease vectors, pathogens, parasites, and organisms of importance to public health with particular emphasis on tropical and resource-poor regions of the world.	
3	Enable students to conduct independent research in the laboratory and/or field.	
4	Produce graduates who are experienced, committed, informed, proactive and effective professionals, capable of taking substantial and leading professional roles.	
5	Facilitate high quality learning that is informed by critical analysis of current research.	

19 Skills and Other Attributes

No.	Skill/Attribute	Module(s)	Mode of Assessing
1	To communicate ideas, knowledge, and strategies confidently and effectively, both orally and in writing	All modules	Written assessments and oral presentations
2	To apply numerical and IT skills with confidence and accuracy	TROP719,739, 942, 969, 970, 971	Formative and summative calculation exercises (971); examination (936); laboratory reports (739, 775, 969); dissertation data analysis (942); poster/slide presentation with data analyses included (719, 970)
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
1	A systematic understanding and critical awareness of current issues and priorities in the fields of biology, molecular and cellular biology, and control of pathogens, parasites, vectors of disease, and organisms of importance to public health with particular emphasis on tropical and resource-poor regions of the world.	TROP 719, 739, 741, 775, 939, 969, 970, 975	Practical & written exams, essays, poster/slide presentation	
2	Knowledge of a range of relevant research methods and understanding of how the methods can be applied to address particular research questions	TROP 936, 942, 969, 971, 970, 975, 775	Practical Reports, written exams, research notebook, poster/slide presentation, dissertation	
3	Ability to apply statistical knowledge and understanding to design a research study and to analyse and interpret critically data	TROP 719, 775, 936, 942, 971, 975, 970	Practical Reports, written exams, dissertation, poster/slide presentation	
4	Knowledge and understanding of the biology, molecular and cellular biology, and epidemiology of pathogens, parasites, vectors of disease, and organisms of importance to public health with particular emphasis on tropical and resource-poor regions of the world.	TROP 719, 739, 741, 775, 936, 939, 969, 975	Practical & written exams, poster/slide presentation, practical reports	
5	Critical understanding of current methods for preventing human disease and an appreciation of research developments in the study of organisms of importance to public health, parasite, pathogen and vector biology that may lead to the development of novel control strategies with particular emphasis on tropical and resource-poor regions of the world.	TROP 719, 739, 741, 775, 936, 939, 942, 969, 975	Practical & written exams, essays, practical report, poster/slide presentation, dissertation	

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
1	Analyse, synthesise and evaluate information from a variety of sources in a critical manner	TROP 719, 739, 741, 936, 939, 942, 969, 970, 975	Practical & written exams, essays, practical report, poster/slide presentation, research notebook, dissertation	
2	Apply subject knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts to analyse and reach evidence-based conclusions on complex situations, problems and opportunities	TROP 719, 739, 741, 936, 939, 942, 975	Practical & written exams, essays, poster/slide presentation, practical reports, dissertation	
3	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	TROP 936, 942	Research Proposal (936) and Dissertation (942)	
4	Demonstrate creativity, innovation and originality in the application of knowledge	TROP 719, 739, 741, 775, 942, 936, 939, 969, 970,	Practical reports, research proposal, written &	

		971, 975	practical exams, poster/slide presentations, essays, research notebook, dissertation	
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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
1	Formulate a research question, devise an appropriate research strategy and take a systematic approach to project planning and management	TROP 719, 775, 936, 942, 969, 970, 971, 975	Practical reports, poster/slide presentations, research proposal, dissertation	
2	Undertake research investigations in a responsible, safe and ethical manner and accurately record the data collected	TROP 942	Dissertation	
3	Effectively manage, analyse and report data collected in the laboratory or field	TROP 719,775, 936, 969, 970, 971, 942, 975	Practical reports, research proposal, dissertation, research notebook, poster/slide presentation	

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 developing countries with a wide variety of employers including NGOs, military and public health-related employers, enter teacher training, or return to previous employers with enhanced knowledge and skills with which to advance their existing careers. Graduates of the MSc Tropical Disease Biology have undergone excellent general preparation for a career in laboratory and field research in biological sciences, and are particularly well placed for careers in research or training in areas related to organisms of importance to public health, pathogen, parasitic and vector-borne diseases globally, and particularly within tropical or resource-poor 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, taught modules totalling 120 credits and a 60 credit dissertation. A 10 credit module (5 ECTS credits) represents 100 hours of student learning activity including assessment and self-directed study. Students can opt to do a desk-based project, laboratory or field-based project (as conditions allow) which may be based 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 2 weeks holiday scheduled over Christmas. The remaining weeks of holiday are deferred to the end of the academic year.

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

Note: All MSc Tropical Disease Biology Students must select either Trop 719 or Trop 775 during Block 1 Semester 2. No other modules from other MSc programmes can be chosen during this period.

Table 1: Modular structure of MSc TDB Programme (required modules are shown in bold)

w/b	Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
14/09	Induction	Induction + Introduction to Key Skills				
28/09	1	TROP 936: Research Methods in Parasitology and Vector Biology (30 credits)				
05/10	2					
12/10	3					
19/10	4					
26/10	5					
02/11	6					
09/11	7					
16/11	8					
23/11	9					
30/11	10					
07/12	11					
14/12	12					
21/12						
28/12						
04/01	13	Christmas Holiday				
11/01	14	Revision + Assessments				
18/01	15	TROP775 Key Aspects in Molecular & Cellular Biology of Tropical Diseases & Vectors (20 credits) OR TROP 719: Parasite Epidemiology & Control (20 credits)				
25/01	16					
01/02	17	TROP 741: Vector Population Biology and Control (20 credits) or TROP 739: Immunology of Tropical Diseases (20 credits)				
08/02	18					
15/02	19	Revision + Assessments				
22/02	20	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)				
01/03	21					
08/03	22	TROP 971: Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research (10 credits) OR TROP 970 Applied Bioinformatics (10 credits)				
15/03	23					
22/03	24	Revision + Assessments				
29/03	25	Reading week				
05/04*	26					
12/04	27	Revision + Assessments				
19/04	28					
26/04	29	Preparation for Research Presentations + 1 st semester re-sits				
03/05**	30	Research Presentations				
10/05	31	Research Project TROP942				
17/05	32					
Weeks 33-48 (24/5/21-03/9/21) Dissertation hand-in 09/09/21		Deferred Holiday				

* School closed for Easter Bank Holidays 02/4/21 and 05/4/21
** School closed for May Bank Holiday Mon 3/5/21 & 31/5/21

27c Options

Table 2: Optional modules offered in Semester 2 for LSTM MSc programmes. Optional modules recommended for students on MSc TDB are shaded. Required modules are shaded and in bold.

Wks						
15-16	Organisation & Management TROP708	Complex Humanitarian Emergencies TROP807	Key Concepts in Sexual & Reproductive Health TROP923		Parasite Epidemiology and Control TROP719***	Key Aspects in Molecular & Cellular Biology of Tropical Diseases and Vectors TROP775***
17-18	HR Planning & Management TROP915		Maternal & Newborn Health TROP924			
19	Reading week/Assessments					
20-21		Using Systematic Reviews in Policy TROP973		Global Climate Change & Health TROP927	Vector Population Biology & Control TROP741	Immunology of Tropical Diseases TROP739
22-23	24	Development of a Disease Control Programme TROP706	Reproductive Sexual & Adolescent Health TROP926	Health Promotion TROP976		
24	Reading week/Assessments					
25-26		Key Topics in Snakebite TROP969	Quality Improvement in Maternal & Newborn Health TROP972	Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research TROP971*	Medical Bacteriology** Trop 975	Management of Refugee & Displaced Populations TROP941
27	Reading Week					
28-29	Health in Humanitarian Emergencies TROP900	Applied Bioinformatics TROP970	Media, Policy & Advocacy in Humanitarian <u>Action</u> TROP809	Statistical Methods for Epidemiological & Clinical Research TROP971*	Humanitarian Operations TROP901	
30-32	Assessments					
	Preparation for Research Presentations + 1 st semester re-sits					
	Project Presentations					

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

**Students on the Tropical Disease Biology programmes should normally only undertake TROP975 if they are intercalating medical students or have a clinical background, due to the clinical content of the module.

***Students on TDB must choose one of these modules

Part E: Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

28 Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy

those appropriate to 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 and those appropriate to the field. 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 student 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. General assessment procedures, assessment criteria and regulations with respect to late submission are communicated to the students in the LSTM Masters Student Handbook. Students are directed to the relevant module area in Brightspace for information relating to specific assignments.

29 Assessment Schedule

Assessment Schedule (TDB)

Module Title	Timing	Assessment Strategy	% of module mark
Semester 1			
TROP 936 (R)	In module	Short/long answer exam	50
	End of module	2500-word research proposal (minimum mandatory mark 40%)	50
TROP 939 (R)	In module	2-hour MCQ exam	60
		2-hour examination testing practical pathogen identification and diagnostic skills, with critical analysis of findings relating to the tropical pathogens and vectors responsible for transmission.	40
Semester 2 Block 1			
TROP 719 (O)	In module	Poster with 15-minute oral presentation	50
	End of module	2-hour exam (essay)	50
TROP775 (O)	In module	<u>1.5 hour</u> exam (essay)	30
	End of module	<u>2000 word</u> practical report	60
	In module	<u>10 minute</u> critical analysis and presentation of research journal paper	10
Semester 2 Block 2			
TROP 741 (O)	End of module	2-hour exam (essay)	65
		1500-word critical review	35
TROP 739 (O)	End of module	2-hour exam (essay)	50
		3000-word laboratory report	50
Semester 2 Block 3			
TROP 971 (O)	End of module	2000-word report based on analysis of a data set	100
TROP 970 (O)	End of module	Poster with 15-minute oral presentation	100
TROP 969 (O)	End of module	3000-word assignment	100
TROP975 (O)	End of module	<u>1500 word</u> written assignment	60
		<u>1 hour</u> exam (multiple choice)	40
Semester 3			
Research Project (R)	In module	10-minute oral presentation of research proposal.	10
	End of module	16,000-word research dissertation	90

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 or in two 10 credit modules will be deemed compensatable. The compensation rule will not apply to the Postgraduate Award or 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 TROP939 plus either TROP719 or TROP775 and either TROP739 or TROP741.

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 TROP939 plus either TROP719 or TROP775 and either TROP739 or TROP741. An exit award that includes the dissertation project should also include TROP939 and either TROP719 or TROP775.

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 TROP939 plus at least 30 credits from the modules listed in Table 1 (excluding TROP942), to include either TROP936, TROP719 or TROP775.

Students who attend for a minimum period of 8 weeks full-time study, and who achieve a minimum of 30 credit points at FHEQ level 7, will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Award. To be awarded the Postgraduate Award in Tropical Disease Biology, the credits achieved must include TROP939.

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:

- a 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 Postgraduate Award with Distinction a student must achieve:

- an overall average mark of at least 70% in 30 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

For a Postgraduate Award with Merit a student must achieve:

- an overall average mark of at least 60%

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 Award in Tropical Disease Biology – this will be awarded to students who have previously registered for either the Master's degree, the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate provided that the student has achieved a minimum of 30 credits. In order to qualify for a 'named' Postgraduate Award in Tropical Disease Biology, the credits achieved must include TROP939.

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 Biology & Control of Parasites & Disease Vectors, the credits achieved must include TROP939.

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 TROP939 and TROP719 or TROP775, plus at least one of TROP739, TROP741 or TROP942.

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

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. The LSTM Student Handbook conveys to the students the opportunities for formal and informal representation and input into the programme. Students are invited to evaluate individual modules and the programme as a whole via an online survey tool. The survey results are reported at BOS meetings, together with any additional feedback from the student representatives. Regular focus groups are held and there are also opportunities for informal feedback via tutors and module convenors.

MSc students are formally represented within the LSTM committee structure as follows:

(a) The **Staff Student Liaison Committee (SSLC)** meets 3 times a year and includes an elected representative from each MSc programme. The minutes of the SSLC are received by the LSTM Programmes Board, which reports to the L&T Committee. 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 LSTM Dean of Education, Registry staff supporting the programme, convenors of modules making a significant contribution to the programme, and two elected student representatives. 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 LSTM Programmes Board, which reports to the L&T Committee.

(c) The **Programmes Board** is concerned with the academic content of programmes and reports to the **Learning & Teaching Committee**. Membership of the Programmes Board consists of Directors of Studies, the Dean of Education, relevant Academic Registry staff and the elected student representative. These committees meet every two months and are responsible for taking up any matters arising from the SSLC. Two students are elected from the MSc programme representatives to sit on the Programmes Board.

(d) 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 MSc students 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 five 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

- Identifying and disseminating effective practice

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.

Part H: Status of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body Accreditation

37 Accreditation Status

Not applicable

Annex: Modifications

Annex of Modifications made to the Programme - Related List of Modification

Description of Modification (Please include details of any student consultation undertaken or confirm that students' consent was obtained where this was required)	Major/Minor Modifications	Date Approved by QMC	Date Approved by Mgt Cttee	Cohort Affected
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