



MSc Public Health for Eye Care

Our mission is to improve health and health equity in the UK and worldwide; working in partnership to achieve excellence in public and global health research, education and translation of knowledge into policy and practice.

Sara Varughese, from India



"The MSc was a great learning experience, the doorway to subsequent continuing professional learning and growth and gave me the confidence to take up new challenges. The contacts and friendships with public health professionals around the world are also invaluable. Since graduating I joined an international

NGO, CBM, as Medical Advisor and then spent 2 years with the WHO SE Asia regional office as Program Manager Disability and Rehabilitation. I have now undertaken the responsibilities of the Acting Regional Director CBM South Asia regional office. The MSc at LSHTM initiated a period of change and development in my professional career which has been both challenging and fulfilling".

Edson Mwaipopo, from Tanzania



"I choose the MSc for two reasons; one, the course content would enable me to gain the skills for my role more efficiently and be able to take more challenging responsibilities. Secondly, the aim of the course was in line with objectives of

research, programmes and training to my role. Although I had no background in ophthalmology I could see an opportunity in the course to become a professional in public health ophthalmology. At the end of the course I was able to more efficiently and confidently work with ophthalmic personnel, and my community in contributing towards elimination of blindness".

Consuelo Zepeda-Romero, from Mexico



"The MSc gave me the privilege of learning and building relations for international cooperation with many people who have influenced public health globally. I gained the tools to investigate, produce evidence, plan and build programs to reduce blindness and promote the integration of persons with visual disabilities. My research work titled, "Prevention of blindness from retinopathy of prematurity in Mexico" received the Best Poster Award at the 2012 IAPB 9GA. Thanks to the knowledge acquired during the MSc I can formulate strategies and health policies to improve the quality of life of the children in my country".

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate education in public and global health, with 4000 students and more than 1300 staff working in over 100 countries. The School is one of the highest-rated research institutions in the UK, and was recently cited as one of the world's top universities for collaborative research.

The School is situated in the heart of London, in Bloomsbury, between the City (London's financial quarter) and the busy West End, with its unparalleled shopping and entertainment facilities. There is easy access to the rest of central London and its many places of interest.

Recognised by national and international employers, the School's courses attract highly-motivated graduates and experienced professionals. The School has been providing advanced and interdisciplinary research training for future senior academics, policymakers, practitioners and research workers in the international medical and public health community for over 100 years. The diversity of our students and staff is exceptional; staff come from 45 countries and students from over 100. This provides a rich environment for students to learn.

Our alumni are now working in more than 180 countries and many hold prominent positions in health ministries, universities and international organisations worldwide.

Further Information

Details of research opportunities leading to MPhil, PhD or DrPH degrees and taught courses (MSc and Continuing Professional Development programmes/Short Courses) can be found on the School's website: www.lshtm.ac.uk/study

Scholarships and deadlines can be found on the course's website: www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/masters

Registry

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The Course

There are estimated to be 39 million people in the world who are blind, the majority of whom live in developing countries. An estimated 80% of blindness could be prevented or treated. The major avoidable causes of blindness are cataract, trachoma, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, refractive errors, vitamin A deficiency and onchocerciasis. Additionally, service delivery face challenges within health systems.

This MSc equates to the standard 180 UK credits, which is equal to 90 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).

Aims

This course aims to provide eye health professionals with the public health knowledge and skills required to reduce blindness and visual disability in their population. The training will enable them to:

- Develop a public health oriented approach to eye care services and the control of blindness in keeping with the objectives of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight;
- Acquire and apply skills in epidemiological and operational research, critical analysis of strategies for the control of major blinding eye diseases, programme planning, management and evaluation;
- Facilitate a personal development, so enabling individuals to contribute more fully to their countries' and societies' eye health;
- Engage with local, national and international networks of health professionals and systems, for the prevention of blindness worldwide.

Objectives

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Describe the basic epidemiology of the major blinding eye diseases;
- Design and interpret studies to assess public health eye care needs using appropriate research methods;
- Critically appraise and select appropriate public health intervention for the major blinding eye diseases;
- Design a comprehensive eye care programme for appropriate preventive and therapeutic measures for a community;
- Develop the skills necessary for resource mobilisation, management and evaluation of local comprehensive eye care programmes and integration into health systems;
- Discuss the importance of disability in the global context, appraise the epidemiology of visual and other impairments leading to disability and the impact of disability on people's lives.

Entrance Requirements

Students will be expected to have either a degree in medicine or a second class honours degree of a recognised university in a science/health related subject. Students are also expected to be health care professionals involved in eye care; or to have appropriate technical qualifications and work experience. Admission guidelines are available from the Registry.

Course Duration

Full-time for one year or part-time over two years. Students taking the course over two years must previously agree the periods of study at the School with the Course Director.

Modules can also be taken as short courses and are credit weighted. Please email shortcourses@lshtm.ac.uk for details.

Project Report

Students will undertake an individual research, planning or evaluation project that is related to their work, region and interests. The project will be carried out after the written examinations in June. All project work will be completed and submitted by the end of August. Students undertaking projects overseas will require additional funding of around £1,500 to cover associated costs.

Course Structure

Term 1

After orientation students will take six compulsory modules which will introduce them to:

- Epidemiology of Blinding Eye Diseases
- Skills for Field Projects in Eye Care
- Public Health Programmes in Eye Care
- Basic Epidemiology
- Basic Statistics for Public Health Policy
- Introduction to Health Economics

Career Opportunities

Graduates from this course are expected to develop careers in eye health with ministries of health, universities and non-governmental organisations involved in developing health services to prevent blindness and improve vision. The greatest impact for the application of such skills is in middle and low-income countries.

Successful completion of the course will give you access to our online alumni network. This enables you to cooperate with other alumni in the common pursuit of your professional goals and those of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight.

This course does not include any clinical training and is not appropriate for people wanting training in clinical ophthalmology.

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight

The World Health Organization, together with international agencies involved in eye care, has developed a global programme for the elimination of unnecessary blindness called "VISION 2020: The Right to Sight". The components of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight are:

- Strategies for control of the major blinding eye diseases
- Human resource development
- Infrastructure development
- Community participation

Term 2

All students will take four compulsory modules:

- Childhood Eye Disease and Ocular Infections
- Non-communicable Eye Disease
- Implementing Eye Care: Skills and Resources
- Global Disability & Health

Term 3

All students will take one optional module:

- Applying Public Health Principles in Developing Countries
- Principles and Practice of Public Health
- Proposal Development

The choice will depend on the student's interests in public health and health systems and should be discussed with their supervisor and the Course Director.