

# Module Specification

LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

<b>Overall aim</b>	To demonstrate understanding of the functioning of health systems, drawing on relevant disciplinary perspectives and enable students to undertake analysis of health systems in developed and developing countries. This will involve understanding the core building blocks of health care systems and modes of operation, the implications of different approaches to system design for access, quality, and broader outcomes, and highlighting the equity impacts of different design features
<b>Intended learning outcomes</b>	<p>By the end of this module, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define the concept of a 'health system', and its core objectives, elements and functions. Understand the debates around boundaries of a health system, and major theories and research approaches related to the understanding of health systems;</li><li>• Drawing on a range of key approaches and models, to analyse health systems and the role of historical and political factors influencing these;</li><li>• Assess the role of different health care system configurations to promoting good health, access to services, equity, and economic and wider social outcomes;</li><li>• Critically appraise and apply key concepts and approaches to health systems evaluation and performance measurement, the role of policy actors, and global influences on health systems</li><li>• Be able to apply a health systems approach to major health challenges in a range of different contexts.</li></ul>
<b>Target audience</b>	It is expected that the module will be of interest to students on the MScs in Public Health, PHDC and CID

## CONTENT

<b>Session content</b>	<p>The module is expected to include sessions addressing the following topics (though please note that these may be subject to change):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is a health system? What are the health systems for?</li><li>2. Health system functions: Financing</li><li>3. What makes up a health system? Governance function</li><li>4. Health system functions: Creating resources</li><li>5. Health system functions: Provision.</li><li>6. Global Health Systems, Local Health Providers and Praxis: the View from Below</li></ol>
------------------------	---

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Universal coverage as a key health system goal</li> <li>8. Pluralistic health systems: what challenges for regulation? The role of the private/voluntary sector in health systems- models of engagement</li> <li>9. Evaluating health systems and their performance</li> <li>10. Globalization: panacea or poison for public health?</li> </ol>
<b>TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT</b>	
<b>Study resources provided or required</b>	A reader specifying essential and further readings, and online resources in the area of health systems will be provided to students. All readings are available through the library or the internet.
<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>	The module includes a combination of lectures, seminars, group activities, and self-guided learning. Students will be divided into seminar groups covering high- or low-income settings (and possibly middle-income) according to their preferences. The seminars will be to a large extent student-led and will focus on practical case studies chosen to illustrate key policy issues, and will be supplemented by private study.