Programme Specification Clinical Trials: Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Trials (PGCert)

This programme provides students with a theoretical and practical understanding of the issues involved in the design, conduct, analysis and interpretation of randomised controlled trials of health interventions. It is suitable for students working in low-, middle- and high-income countries.

The need for rigorous evaluation of components of health care is increasingly recognised worldwide. An important type of evaluation is the randomised controlled clinical trial. The course will give students an understanding of trials which will equip them to work in this increasingly important field.

The programme is suitable both for those wishing to gain an overall understanding of trials before moving into the field, and those who have general or specialist experience in clinical trials and aim to broaden their role in the design, management, analysis and reporting of clinical trials in low-, middle- and high-income countries.

Exit qualification: Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Trials

Language of study and assessment: English

English language requirements Applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under the Entry Requirements tab. Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission the University may, at its discretion, consider the application.

The applicant needs a high standard of English to study this programme. You will meet our language requirements if you have achieved one of the following within the past three years:

- IELTS: 7.0 overall, with 6.5 in the written test and 5.5 in listening, reading and speaking.
- TOEFL iBT: 100 overall, with 24+ in writing, 23+ in speaking, 22+ in reading and 21+ in listening.
- Pearson Test (Academic): 68 overall, with 62+ in writing and 59+ in listening, reading and speaking.
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English: 185 overall, with 176+ in writing and 169+ in listening.
- Duolingo: must achieve an overall score of at least 130.

Alternatively, the applicant may satisfy the language requirements if you have at least 18 months of education or work experience conducted in English.

Mode of study Flexible and online study

The programme is fully supported by a Virtual Learning Environment. The applicant studies at a time and pace that suit them (subject to certain deadlines), using the study materials developed and supported by academic staff at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, which take you through a programme of directed self-study.

The study materials are mostly provided online via the Virtual Learning Environment. They may include study guides, textbooks, computer-based sessions and additional computer software (e.g., Stata), past examination papers and examiners' reports.

All of the study materials are made available since October

The applicant should expect to study for 15-25 hours per week throughout the study the academic year* if you wish to complete your qualification in the minimum time allowed (one academic year for the Postgraduate Certificate). Most students take between two and three academic years to complete the PGCert. In this case 10 hours per week throughout the study academic years shall be necessary.

*Take into consideration that an academic year include 8 months: from on October to May.

Maximum and minimum periods of registration: One year to Five years

Credit value:

15 UK credits or 7.5 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) for each module

One UK credit equates to a notional ten hours of study.

PGCert Clinical Trials - 60 UK credits or 30 ECTS credits

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the University of London website.

What qualifications does the applicant need?

Título Universitario Oficial de Grado: overall average of 6.0 out of 10 from all subjects, or acceptable equivalent

Título Universitario Oficial de Máster: successful completion

Support and guidance from LSHTM Moodle Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

This gives online access to the main module materials, module discussion forums, information on assignments, links to essential and recommended readings (where available), past examination papers and examiners' reports, and study skills resources as well as LSHTM online library resources.

Student support staff are available to offer help and advice on administrative matters. Communication may either be via the online 'Student Support Help' discussion forum on Moodle or by email, and sometimes by Skype/Zoom if needed.

Each module has at least one Module Organiser (MO) and a team of tutors assigned to it. The tutor team provides academic support to those studying on specific modules The tutors are specialists in their subject area.

Assessment methods

All examinations are scheduled using an online delivery method. You must ensure that your device is kept up to date and complies with University Computer Requirements. Wherever they are held, all examinations take place on the same dates and at specific times in line with the published timetables.

The PGCert comprises four compulsory core modules:

- CTM101 Fundamentals of Clinical Trials
- CTM102 Basic Statistics for Clinical Trials
- CTM103 Clinical Trials in Practice
- CTM104 Reporting and Reviewing Clinical Trials

The PGCert can be completed in one to five years. This diagram shows a suggested method for how the PGCert can be completed in one, two or three years.

		1 year				2 years				3 years			
		Core				Core				Core			
		CTM101	CTM102	CTM103	CTM104	CTM101	CTM102	CTM103	CTM104	CTM101	CTM102	CTM103	CTM104
Yr 1	Oct	M	M	M		M	M			M	M		
	Nov	X	X	X		X	X			X	X		
	Dec	X	X	X		X	X			X	X		
	Jan	X	X	X	M	X	X			X	X		
	Feb	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
	Mar	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
	Apr	XR	XR	XR	X	XR	XR			XR	XR		
	May	XR	XR	XR	X	XR	XR			XR	XR		
	Jun	E	E	E	X	E	E			E	E		
	Jul				X								
	Aug				X								
	Sep												
Yr 2	Oct							M				M	
	Nov							X				X	
	Dec							X				X	
	Jan							X	M			X	
	Feb							X	X			X	
	Mar							X	X			X	
	Apr							XR	X			XR	
	May							XR	X			XR	
	Jun							E	X			E	
	Jul								X				
	Aug								X				
	Sep												
Yr 3	Oct												
	Nov												
	Dec												
	Jan												M
	Feb												X
	Mar												X
	Apr												X
	May												X
	Jun												X
	Jul												X
	Aug												X
	Sep												

Key

M= access materials, begin work on module

X = work on module

XR = work on module/revision time

E = examinations