

**Professional Diploma
in
Tropical Nursing**



**Programme Handbook
2019/20**

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Key Programme Contacts

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Introduction

The Diploma in Tropical Nursing (DTN) is awarded by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) as part of its suite of non-credit-bearing Professional Diploma programmes aimed at enhancing the knowledge, skills and competencies of health care professionals working in low and middle-income resource settings.

The DTN aims to familiarise participants with common health issues in overseas settings, helping them develop their analytical, problem solving and practical nursing skills. The curriculum is flexible to include sessions relevant to current international events and also contains a laboratory element. The programme provides up-to-date factual knowledge and current best practice, as well as opportunities to develop practical hands-on skills relevant to overseas nursing contexts, leading to enhanced professional competence. The curriculum has been informed by the requirements of organisations deploying nurses in the tropics (e.g. Mediciens Sans Frontieres;

Voluntary Service Overseas) and is designed to introduce common health topics that nurses, and midwives are likely to come across whilst working in the tropics.

The DTN begins with a period of structured self-study with a pre-course online module, before commencing an intensive, three week taught element. It concludes with a 3-week assessment period. This format of concentrated contact time combined with flexible self-study makes the programme accessible to participants concurrently engaged in professional practice.

Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

The programme aims to:

- Equip participants with knowledge and practical skills relevant to nursing in low and middle income countries
- Produce graduates who are informed and effective professionals able to work in teams as well as individually
- Facilitate high quality learning that is informed by up-to-date knowledge and current best practice
- Develop independent and reflective approaches to study that will enable graduates to continue to learn in the future

Subject-based learning outcomes:

Below are the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are offered.

A. Knowledge and understanding

Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should have developed and be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The aetiology, prevention, treatment and nursing care of key disease conditions in the tropics
- A2. The organisation and provision of health care in resource poor settings
- A3. Approaches to promoting health in resource poor settings
- A4. The qualities needed for exercising personal responsibility and decision making in complex and unpredictable circumstances

B. Intellectual thinking skills

Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should be able to:

- B1. Synthesise, analyse, evaluate and interpret critically information from a variety of sources
- B2. Reflect on own practice and learning
- B3. Solve problems relevant to own professional practice

C. Practical/Professional skills

Upon successful completion of the programme, a student should be able to:

- C1. Demonstrate cultural competence
- C2. Evaluate ethical issues where there are human and material resource constraints

C3. Use appropriately a range of basic laboratory tests and interpret the results correctly

Key Skills

The programme gives students the opportunity to develop the following key (transferable) skills.

- Communicate effectively both in writing and orally
- Retrieve information and use IT efficiently
- Work both as an individual and as a member of a group
- Demonstrate analytical and problem solving skills
- Manage time efficiently
- Take responsibility for self-directed learning

Programme Structure and Content

The Diploma is based around three core themes:

- Care provision and management of common conditions
- Professional, ethical and legal practice
- Professional development

Prior to the taught component, students must complete a self-directed programme of learning and formative activities (estimated 20 learning hours). The formative activities do not count towards the final mark gained for the Diploma and are designed to introduce students to issues in tropical nursing and facilitate familiarisation with self-directed learning techniques. The entire Diploma will run from March 11th to 29th August 2019, with the taught component in Liverpool from 7th May to Saturday 25th May 2018. (See table below).

Summary of the structure of the Diploma in Tropical Nursing

2019	Dates October 2019 to February 2020	
	Beginning of October	Structured self-study around pre-course online module
	Thursday 15th November (23:55 UK Time)	Deadline for self-study task to be submitted
	Monday 25 th November to Friday 13 th December	Taught component weeks 1-3
	Friday 13th December	Unseen exam
2020	Saturday 14 th December to Thursday 16 th January	Self-directed learning, researching and writing assignment
	From Friday 17th January	Exam results (you will be informed if there is a delay)
	Thursday 16th January (23:55 UK Time)	Essay deadline
	From Friday 14th February	Essay results (you will be informed if there is a delay)

Possible structure of the three-week taught component: (Subject to availability of lecturers)

Week 1	
Day 1	Welcome and Introduction to DTN Programme
Day 2	Global Health/Humanitarian and Development Aid
Day 3	Introduction to Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), HIV/AIDS
Day 4	Parasites

Week 2	
Day 5	Public Health/Primary Health Care/ Lab ½ Day 1
Day 6	NTDs cont./ Lab ½ Day 2
Day 7	Sexual and Reproductive Health
Day 8	Child Health Day 1/ Lab ½ day 3
Day 9	Child Health Day 2
Week 3	
Day 10	Mental Health
Day 11	Viral Haemorrhagic diseases
Day 12	Working in LMICs
Day 13	Non-communicable diseases
Day 14	Various/Course evaluation and next steps
Day 15	Examination in the morning

A range of approaches to learning and teaching provides a rich and encouraging environment in which participants will acquire knowledge and skills throughout the duration of the DTN. The programme includes both factual information and applied knowledge and skills. Self-directed learning, using on-line resources is used as a way to consolidate learning from contact teaching and develop key transferable skills. A culture of reflective practice and self-evaluation is encouraged throughout. The following teaching and learning methods will be applied in combination to assist students in attaining the learning outcomes:

- Keynote Lectures form the basis of the three-week taught component of the Diploma. They will be used as a starting point for introducing the participants to what are likely to be new and unfamiliar topics.
- Case Studies are examples taken from real life to show how health problems and their causes are identified, how they are addressed, and how solutions are found in a welldefined context, integrating the role of the nurse. They are used mainly to explore how “theory” works in the real world and to learn from empirical experience. This learning method is of particular importance to bridge the gap between theory and practice and to facilitate the application of theory in real life situations. To this end, Diploma participants will spend time working on common case study scenarios that they may well encounter in their future overseas work.
- Laboratory-based practical sessions are used for practising diagnostic and other lab skills with support from highly trained and experienced facilitators.

Assessment: Testing your knowledge

The assessment strategy is designed to encourage participants to develop their clinical knowledge as well as a range of practical nursing skills (e.g. using lab-based techniques for diagnosis and the nursing care of a patient with a particular disease or health problem). There are pre-course activities (which do not count to your final mark) and two summative assessments; an unseen exam (on the last day of the course) and a post course 2000-word essay.

An online pre-course module is made available to the students at least 6 weeks in advance of coming to Liverpool and is expected to take approximately 20 hours to complete. Students' learning is revisited in class on the first day of the course via an interactive quiz created using 'Turningpoint' software and answered using electronic personal response systems ('clickers'). The quiz is designed to allow students to reflect on their skills and knowledge prior to starting the DTN, to identify gaps and to plan to address these during the programme, as well as making them familiar with Turningpoint as a learning tool.

As the taught component progresses, students undertake Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) in both the class and the laboratory and they will also have access to other resources on-line.

There are two final summative assessments which will contribute to your final mark:

1. *Unseen examination (50 %)*

A 2 hour examination will be held on the final day of the course and will include both Short Answer Questions (SAQ) and MCQ questions based around case studies. It will cover both factual knowledge and application of theory, including interpretation of laboratory tests.

2. *Written assignment (50%)*

Students complete a 2000-word assignment centred on a choice of two questions. This assessment requires students to demonstrate the ability to identify and analyse a problem from a nursing perspective, appraise different options available, and select solutions appropriate to the particular context.

It also requires a reflective approach to place the knowledge and skills gained on the programme within the context of future professional practice. The assignment is submitted 3 weeks after completion of the taught component and is expected to take approximately 30 hours to complete. During this period, students have access to on-line tutor and peer support.

Students should observe the following rules in presenting the written assignment

- a) Length: 2000 words
- b) Use Ariel 12 point size The paper should have at least 1.5 spacing between lines.
- c) Pages should be numbered in a single sequence through the paper, with numbers centered at the bottom of each page
- d) The assignment will be submitted to Turnitin on Brightspace by **Thursday 16th January 2020 23:55 (UK Time)**. The document title should only contain Student Exam number and the Question number (e.g. Question 1 or Question 2)
- e) The title page should give the full title of the assignment, the Programme (i.e. Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing), ***the student's exam number, the question number and a total word count***. Penalties are applied for not including a word count.
The student's name should not be included as the assignment will be marked anonymously.
- f) Citations in the text should be linked to the list of references, following the Harvard system, with references by the author's surname and date in the text and then listed alphabetically.

For more information and guidance please refer to LSTM's Harvard referencing guide which is available via the Library web pages at:
https://lstmed.sharepoint.com/sites/Students/SiteAssets/SitePages/Academic%20Liaison%20and%20Training%20Officer/LSTM%20Harvard%20Referencing%20Guide%20booklet_Final.pdf#search=harvard%20referencing%20guide

If you need advice on referencing or help with literature searching, please contact:

Alison Derbyshire (Academic Liaison and Training Officer) Alison.Derbyshire@lstmed.ac.uk

- g) Any abbreviations should be those in normal use and be used only after defining the full meaning early in the assignment e.g. human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- h) Photographs and other illustrations may be included if they are likely to help the reader comprehend the written material. Use of diagrams and summary tables are encouraged.
- i) The assignment should be submitted through the 'Turnitin on 'Summative Essay' page in Brightspace. (Instructions are provided in the LSTM Professional Diploma Student Handbook and Brightspace). ***The title of your submitted document must only contain your anonymous student exam number.***

Pass mark

Candidates who achieve a minimum mark of 50% in both summative assessments and an overall mark of 50% or above will be eligible for the award of an LSTM-certified Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing. A grade of Distinction will be awarded for candidates achieving an overall mark of 70% or above. (Please note: The United Kingdom award grading can differ from grading in other countries. A mark of 70% is considered excellent, 60% and above very good and 50% and above satisfactory)

Re-sits

Candidates who fail summative assessments may re-sit those assessments on one further occasion only.

Further information on assessment policies and procedures can be found in the LSTM Professional Diploma Handbook, including:

- Marking descriptors for written assignments
- Penalties for the late submission of assessments
- The rules relating to plagiarism and collusion
- Ill-health and other special factors

Feedback

Written and verbal feedback will be provided on all assessed work. In addition, many teaching sessions are interactive, with personal response systems ('clickers') being used as an innovative approach to provide instant feedback and promote discussion in the lecture theatre.

Announcement of Results

Provisional results will be announced following the meeting of the Board of Examiners at the end of March 2020. Final results will be released in June 2020, following approval from Audit Committee.

Student Support

Each student is the responsibility of the Director of Studies. Students should approach the Director of Studies for any general problems or difficulties with the programme as a whole, or personal problems that they would like to discuss. The Director of Studies may be able to provide assistance themselves, or identify other sources of support within the School. The Student Experience Officer is also available for any queries, email: To be confirmed

Student Representation

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. Students are invited to evaluate the programme on a weekly basis and upon completion via an on-line survey tool. There are also opportunities for ongoing informal feedback via the Director of Studies. Students are encouraged to elect two class representatives to facilitate communication with staff.

Learning Resources

The following texts are recommended:

- Gill G V, & Beeching, N J. (2014): Lecture Notes in Tropical Medicine (7th edition). Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester
- Eddleston, M, Davidson, R, Brent, A, Wilkinson, R (2014): Oxford Handbook of Tropical Medicine (4th Edition) Oxford. Oxford University Press New York
- Pocket Book of Hospital care for children: Guidelines for the management of common childhood illnesses (2nd edition) WHO 2013
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>
- World Health Organisation: <http://www.who.int/en/>
- Medics Sans Frontiers: http://refbooks.msf.org/msf_docs/en/tuberculosis/tuberculosis_en.pdf (2014Edition)
- Oxford Handbook of Humanitarian Medicine 2019 (Oxford Medical Handbooks) Ed Amy Kravitz

Additional reading and learning resources will be available on Brightspace.

Staff Associated with the DTN

Some of the teaching staff involved with the programme. This may vary depending on availability.

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