

**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
**Course specification for a postgraduate award**  
**MSc Global Health: Economics and Policy (3665)**

**Section 1 – Introduction to your course**

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

MSc Global Health: Economics and Policy is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or up to five years of part-time study (260 weeks). Teaching takes place during the day over two terms from September to April. The dissertation is submitted in September. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, each course provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

The MSc Global Health: Economics and Policy equips you with the appraisal, evaluation, data analysis, presentation, implementation and communication skills needed to understand and critically analyse existing and emerging health and economic challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as pandemics, economic growth, demographic change, climate change and the environment. The course will include core subjects in economics that underpins the contribution of the discipline to the understanding of health behaviours and outcomes, such as microeconomics and econometrics. This will provide the theoretical foundations for you to understand a range of key issues, and will train you in statistical methods used in causal inference and policy evaluation.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

*Degree course* – Also referred to as 'programme', this term refers to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. 'Courses' were formerly known as 'programmes' at Royal Holloway.

*Module* – This refers to the credits you will study each year to complete your degree course. Postgraduate taught degrees at Royal Holloway comprise 180 credits. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title. 'Modules' were formerly known as 'course units' at Royal Holloway.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	November 2023	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	MSc Global Health: Economics and Policy	Level of study	Postgraduate
Course code	3665	Year of entry	2024/25
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Department of Economics School of Law and Social Sciences	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full time	Duration of the course	One year (52 weeks) full-time Two to five years (104 - 260 weeks) part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	<a href="https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/">https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/</a>	For queries on admissions:	<a href="https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery">https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery</a>

Section 3 – Degree course structure				
3.1 Mandatory module information				
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study				
Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC)
EC5555	Pre-sessional Quantitative Methods	0	7	MC
EC5051	Mathematical Methods	15	7	MC
EC5113	Foundations of Microeconomics	15	7	MC
EC5114	Economics of Health	30	7	MC
EC5112	Empirical Methods for Health Economics	30	7	MC
EC5000	Dissertation in Economics	60	7	MNC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example: where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

### 3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection; please contact the Department for further information.

Optional modules are chosen from the list provided by the Department to the value of 30 credits. Pre-requisites based on prior study or academic background may apply. The list of electives for each student must be approved by the Course Director in advance. Please note that not all optional modules run each year. The full list of modules available for the current academic year can be obtained from <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/research-and-teaching/departments-and-schools/economics/>

Students should choose 30 credits of optional modules from those available from the Department of Economics of Health Studies Department.

### Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All postgraduate taught students are required to take and pass the non-credit bearing Moodle-based Academic Integrity module SS1001 in order to be awarded. The pass mark for the module assessment is stated in the on-line Academic Integrity Moodle module. Students may attempt the assessment as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who otherwise meet the requirements for award as stipulated in the [College's Postgraduate Taught Regulations](#) (Section 15: Consideration and classification of candidates for the award) but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be awarded.

Eligibility for progression to the dissertation is considered at a meeting of the Progression and Awards Board in June, based on performance in the taught modules. To progress to dissertation, students must achieve a mark of at least 50% in each taught module. Failed marks of 40-49% can be condoned to a maximum of 40 credits, thus allowing students to proceed to dissertation. PGT regulation specifies that students with failing marks of 0-49 in modules to a max value of 40 credits can have a summer resit. They can also progress to dissertation. If they successfully complete both their resits and their dissertation they meet the conditions for award.

If a student has failing marks of 0-49 in modules to a total value of more than 40 credits, they cannot have summer resits. They also cannot progress to dissertation. Instead, they will need to return the following year (to either resit or retake). If they then pass their failed modules, they can progress to dissertation at that stage.

### Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- To provide advanced training in the economic theory and empirical methods applied to the understanding of health markets, health behaviours and outcomes;
- To stimulate students intellectually through the study of economics and to lead them to appreciate its application to a range of health issues and its relevance in a variety of contexts;
- To develop, in students, the ability to apply the advanced knowledge, research methods and skills they have acquired to the solution of theoretical and/or applied problems in economic and health policy;
- To equip students with advanced tools of analysis to tackle issues and problems in economic and health policy;
- To develop, in students through the study of economics applied to health, a range of transferable skills that will be of value in employment and self-employment;
- To develop the subject-specific and generic skills and techniques that will facilitate progression to MPhil/PhD studies in Health Economics or related fields;
- To build students' confidence in presenting global health evidence to diverse audiences;
- To equip students with the skills needed to work in teams and independently and to plan, undertake, evaluate, deliver and communicate research findings and evidence.

**Section 6 - Course learning outcomes**

**In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (\*))**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of core topics in Economics (K);</li> <li>2. Demonstrate the application of core economic theory and economic reasoning to applied topics, including health (K);</li> <li>3. Develop advanced mathematical and statistical techniques (K);</li> <li>4. Relevant analytical methods (K)</li> <li>5. Analysing economic and health data (K);</li> <li>6. A number of specialised areas in health economics (K);</li> <li>7. Abstraction (the ability to simplify while still retaining relevance) (S);</li> <li>8. Analysis and deduction (Economic reasoning is highly deductive and logical analysis is applied to assumption-based models applied to health) (S);</li> <li>9. Quantification (the organisation and presentation of economic data) (S);</li> <li>10. Framing and specification (the ability to decide what should be taken as given or fixed for the purposes of setting up and solving a problem) (S);</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Analysis and deduction (Economic reasoning is highly deductive and logical analysis is applied to assumption-based models applied to health) (S);</li> <li>12. Quantification (the organisation and presentation of economic data) (S);</li> <li>13. Framing and specification (the ability to decide what should be taken as given or fixed for the purposes of setting up and solving a problem) (S);</li> <li>14. Understanding of the key concepts in economics applied to health, including incentives, equilibrium, strategic thinking, expectations and surprises and the relevance of marginal considerations (S*);</li> <li>15. General research skills (bibliographic, methods of data collection, verbal communication, managing, conducting and disseminating research) (S*);</li> </ol>
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## Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning in the modules are closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of economic theory, empirical methods, health economics and related fields. In general terms, the modules provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge of both core subject material and specialised research areas, and for students to develop and demonstrate learning outcomes. Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures; seminars; study groups; essay consultations; oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, online tests and exercises, oral presentations and the dissertation or long essay. Details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from Student Handbook.

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed as 'summative', means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

## Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.

**These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.**

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
<b>QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</b>	7
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
<b>QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)</b>	<a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements</a>
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10– Intermediate exit awards (where available)		
You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.		
Award	Criteria	Awarding body
PG Diploma	Passes in at least 120 credits, with fails of between 40% to 49% for up to 40 credits condonable (with the exception of any course specific requirements).	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
PG Certificate	Passes in at least 60 credits with no condonable fails	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College