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**UNIVERSITY
OF BERN**

Public Health Sciences Course Program



Public Health Sciences Course Program

Defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as «the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society», Public Health is a highly interdisciplinary field. The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the importance and interdisciplinary nature of Public Health and its sciences. This unique structured Course Program in the Public Health Sciences (PHS) aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of Public Health and develop competencies, focusing on key methods and applications.

The PHS Program is intended for PhD students working on public health related topics who want to prepare for a post-doc position in academia or an organization close to science. It is also useful for post-docs, clinicians and public health practitioners who want to learn about specific topics or methods. The Program is highly interdisciplinary, with scholars from several faculties contributing. The students will also benefit from access to the courses of the Swiss Epidemiology Winter School and other international course providers. Single course attendance is also possible.

Program Structure

The Program consists of two consecutive modules and four themes. Through Module 1, participants obtain a comprehensive overview of the foundations of Public Health, definitions of key concepts, its different disciplines, its history and ethics,

and an introduction to the 4 themes listed in Module 1. Through Module 2, participants acquire specific in-depth skills across the 4 themes.

Module 1	Introductory Units (2 ECTS)
	Overview of Public Health Sciences and Course Program
	Theme 1: Core Methods
	Theme 2: Population Health and its Determinants
	Theme 3: Health Systems and Policy
	Theme 4: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
	→ All units of Module 1 are mandatory.

Module 2	In-Depth Courses (≥ 8 ECTS)
	Advanced courses focusing on method application within the four themes (see above).
	→ Theme 1 «Core Methods» is mandatory. → Participants choose courses from at least one of the other three themes.

Key Features

The PHS Program is a complementary Program to the PhD curriculum defined by the Graduate Schools. It is not a Graduate School and does not award PhD diplomas.

Four pillars of the Course Program

Interdisciplinarity

Public Health is a highly interdisciplinary field, which is reflected in the structure of the Program. Lecturers and participants from different faculties are involved in the Program.

Comprehensive Public Health Vision

A global understanding of Public Health Sciences and applying their methods is at the center of the Program. Learning processes promote the transfer of knowledge into action through active engagement with the content. Lecturers apply modern didactic methods and promote competencies through small group teaching and practical exercises.

Networking

Through the interdisciplinary structure of the Program and networking activities, participants and lecturers can build lasting connections, including with alumni. Participants have access to courses offered by universities abroad where they can broaden their network.

Flexibility

The Program structure allows the students to individualise course choices according to their PhD project and their academic background. Before starting, participants discuss their study plan with their PhD supervisors and the PHS Program Manager. Entry is possible any time after starting with the PhD.

Entry

Either for full PHS Program or single courses (priority given to PhD students at University of Bern)

Recognition of achievement

Certificate of completion of PHS Program or single course attendance, additional mention on PhD title (if Graduate School offers this option)

Scope

At least 10 ECTS

Start and Duration

Start with Module 1, duration 2–4 years for Module 1 and 2

Language

English

Fees

For detailed information on fees and online registration please refer to our website:

www.medizin.unibe.ch/phs

Contact

If you have questions, contact us at phs-info.ispm@unibe.ch

Contributors

University of Bern:

- Medical Faculty: Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM), Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM), Clinical Trials Unit (CTU)
- Vetsuisse Faculty
- Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Centers: KPM Center for Public Management, Oeschger Center for Climate Research (OCCR)
- University Hospital Bern (Inselspital)

Other institutions:

- Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Population Health Sciences, University of Bristol UK
- Erasmus Summer Program, University of Rotterdam



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University of Bern

PHS Course Program

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