

Università  
della  
Svizzera  
italiana

Facoltà  
di scienze  
economiche



# International doctoral courses and seminars in health economics and policy

Advanced education in health economics and policy for PhD students

Offered by the Swiss School of Public Health+  
ETH Zurich | École romande de santé publique | University of Basel | University of Lausanne  
University of Lucerne | Università della Svizzera italiana

## THE PROGRAM

This program is being offered within the framework of the Swiss School of Public Health+ (SSPH+) in collaboration with the Institute of Economics (IdEP) and the various partners of the SSPH+ (Universities of Basel, Lausanne, Lucerne, and Zurich as well as the «Ecole Romande de Sante Public») will offer specialized courses for the participants.

## THE OBJECTIVES

The «International doctoral courses in health economics and policy» are intended for PhD students from Swiss universities as well as foreign universities who wish to enhance their specific knowledge and sharpen their capabilities in the field of health economics and policy. Researchers with a PhD in economics and related disciplines as well as health researchers with a significant interest in economics who wish to deepen their knowledge of some topics can also be admitted

**Students enrolled in the program will pursue a PhD in economics or in a related discipline** in their own university and benefit from the health economics and policy focused program offered by the “Swiss School of Public Health + (SSPH+)” as a specialization program. In order to ensure the highest quality of teaching and to maintain the attractiveness of the program, the “Swiss School of Public Health + (SSPH+)” supports and develops international exchanges and collaborations with universities of the highest reputation for the quality of their teaching and research activities in the field of health economics and policy. Advanced courses in microeconomics and econometrics or statistics will not be offered by the “Swiss School of Public Health + (SSPH+)” as such and applications are expected to already have good quantitative skills from the course work of the PhD program of their own university.

## Requirements for application

Successful applicants to the “International Doctoral Courses in Health Economics and Policy” have to:

- be registered as candidates of a PhD in economics or in a related discipline
- demonstrate sufficient proficiency in microeconomics, and
- demonstrate sufficient proficiency in econometrics or statistics. A full resume, a complete academic transcript and a letter of recommendation signed by the Academic Referee will have to be submitted to the administration of the program in order to provide evidence and to support the application. A final decision with regards to admission will be taken after a thorough and individual assessment of the application.

### **Access to the Program / Individual Course:**

The program has to be considered as a specialisation for Economists. Therefore priority will be given to PhD students in economics taking the full program. Other students wishing to follow part of the program, particularly students undertaking health research with a significant economic component are also encouraged to apply and will be admitted according to availability. Individual courses can be taken by other candidates upon approval of the Director of the program.

### **Access to the program / individual courses**

Applicants have access to the full program or to individual courses. The Program is considered as a specialization for economists, but other students interested in health economics and policy may also follow part of the program or individual courses subject to the above admission criteria.

## Basic information and contacts

**DEGREE:** Students will be receiving their doctoral degree from the university where they are registered as PhD students in economics. A certificate will be added to the title specifying the specialization offered by the “Swiss School of Public Health + (SSPH+)”.  
The total number of specialization credits required for the certificate is 10 (ECTS).

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** Registration as candidates to a PhD in economics or in a related discipline or holder of a PhD in economics or a related discipline, sufficient proficiency in micro-economics and sufficient proficiency in econometrics or statistics

### **DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED:**

- Full resume
- Complete academic transcript
- One passport photo
- Letter of recommendation signed by the Academic Referee

### **LANGUAGE:**

All courses will be taught in English

### **DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM:**

Prof. Fabrizio Mazzonna, Università della Svizzera italiana

### **STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Prof. Stefan Boes (University of Lucerne), Prof. Stefan Felder (University of Basel), Prof. Mark Dusheiko (University of Lausanne), Prof. Wanda Mimra (ETH Zurich)

**ADDRESS:**

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## Tuition fees

- Free for PhD students registered in a member university of the “Swiss School of Public Health + (SSPH+)”
- Euros 300.- per course for students not registered in a member university of the “Swiss School of Public Health+ (SSPH+)”
- Euros 1’500.- for students following all the courses

As a condition of acceptance, applicants must have paid the exact tuition fees before the start of the program, and must agree to attend and participate in all sessions they have chosen. All other students and candidates wishing to follow part of the program or individual courses have to contact the administration of the program for an adapted proposition. If you cannot follow a course, please let us know. The amount of the course will be given back to you.

All the students have to support their accommodation expenses.

## MICROECONOMIC TOPICS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS - BASEL, MARCH 23-27, 2015

Prof. Mathias Kifmann (University of Hamburg)		3 ECTS
<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p>The course is intended for PhD students and other researchers interested in micro-economic topics in health economics. It consists of five days of lectures and presentation. Students are assessed on their presentation and discussion of a paper.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give students understanding of micro-economic models in health</li> <li>• To make students competent in principle-agent models</li> <li>• To motivate students to conduct their own research into health economic models</li> </ul>	

## EMPIRICAL METHODS WITH MICROECONOMIC APPLICATIONS TO HEALTH - LUGANO, JUNE 22-26, 2015

Prof. William Greene (NYU Stern School of Business) Prof. Patrick Gagliardini (Università della Svizzera italiana)		3 ECTS
<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p>The aim of this course is to provide the students with the necessary analytical tools to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulate appropriate econometric models</li> <li>• estimate them</li> <li>• and draw proper inference, using micro level data related to health issues, for instance data from health surveys. The key features of such data sets are their qualitative nature and/or panel type structure. Hence it is important to know and be able to apply the models and methods specially designed for incorporating the particular characteristics of these data sets.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>At the end of the course the student would know how to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Specify a suitable econometric model for investigating the problem under study;</li> <li>2 Compare the theoretical model with empirical observations; and</li> <li>3 Draw proper conclusions based on the results.</li> </ol>	

## INEQUALITY IN HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE - LAUSANNE, JULY 6-10, 2015

Prof. Tom Van Ourti (Erasmus University Rotterdam)  
Prof. Owen O'Donnell (EUR & University of Macedonia, Greece)

3 ECTS

### Presentation

The course is intended for PhD students and other researchers interested in the quantitative analysis of inequality and inequity in health and health care. It consists of five days of lectures and computing laboratory sessions on a number of topics related to the measurement and explanation of inequalities in health and health care.

Apart from providing a general introduction to the range of approaches available to researchers, it also provides practical guidance on various issues of computation. Illustrative examples draw on analyses conducted of OECD and developing countries. Students are assessed on their completion of a practical exercise of data analysis.

### Objectives

- To give students understanding of approaches to the measurement of health inequality and inequity employed in economics and other disciplines
- To make students competent in the computation of health inequality measures using Stata
- To motivate students to conduct their own research into health inequalities

## EMPIRICAL POLICY EVALUATION IN HEALTH - LUCERNE, 25-29 JANUARY 2016

Prof. Maarten Lindeboom, (VU University Amsterdam) Prof. Bas van der Klaauw, (VU University Amsterdam)		3 ECTS
<b>Presentation</b> The aim of this course is to provide the students with state of the art econometric methods for evaluation of public policy. The course deals with theoretical literature on causal inference in lectures, but emphasis is given to empirical applications using micro data. The course therefore includes also practical computer assignments using Stata.	<b>Objectives</b> The key objective of the course is to make students familiar with empirical tools for public policy evaluation and to provide an introduction to working with micro data.	



Prof. Andrew Street (University of York)

3 credits (ECTS)

**Presentation**

The health care sector is extremely complex, and this gives rise to a number of regulatory issues. These concern how the health system should be organised, how incentives should be designed, and how performance should be evaluated. The objective of the course is to give students an introduction to how health systems are constructed; the role of regulation; the complexities of evaluating policy and performance; and the contribution that health economics can make to the development of health policy

**Objectives**

At the end of the module, the students will have an understanding of:

- How the health system is organised and of the key relationships between different parts of the system.
- The role of regulation in the health system and the nature of the regulatory problem.
- Be familiar with principal-agent models and how these can be applied to the regulatory setting.
- The complexities of evaluating policy initiatives in non-experimental settings.
- The idea of 'yardstick competition', the design of regulatory instruments, the challenges involved in designing optimal reimbursement systems and the relative strengths and weaknesses of different payment mechanisms.
- The challenges involved in assessing the output of the health care system, in how to measure health care inputs, and in how to calculate health system productivity and productivity change.
- The challenges involved in comparing health system performance across different countries and the issues involved in evaluating the performance of different parts of the health system.

**ADVANCED METHODS AND THEORIES IN COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS -  
LAUSANNE, JULY 2016**

Prof. Anirban Basu (Washington State University)		3 ECTS
<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p>of the most significant developments in the financing and delivery of health care has been the application of cost effectiveness analysis in evaluating the health and economic benefits of medical treatments.</p> <p>The aim of this course is to provide a deeper insight into the methodological and theoretical underpinnings of cost-effectiveness analysis. It will cover the key topics in modelling expenditure outcomes and estimating comparative effectiveness of health care interventions from observational databases, understanding the role of heterogeneity and uncertainty in adoption decisions and methods for prioritization of research. The course will be both lecture based and hands-on with practical.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>Students will have gained an understanding of core methods and theory in the application of cost-effectiveness analysis. Topics that will be covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modeling health care expenditures + hands-on exercises</li> <li>• Treatment effect estimation using matching methods + hands-on</li> <li>• Treatment effects estimation (instrumental variables in the presence of heterogeneity) + hands-on</li> <li>• Theoretical foundations in cost-effectiveness analysis</li> <li>• Roles of Uncertainty and Inference in CEA</li> <li>• Value of Information analysis + hands-on</li> </ul>	

**COURSES TO BE DEFINED (AUTUMN 2016)****INFORMATION PROBLEMS IN HEALTH MARKETS - ZURICH, FALL TERM 2016**

Prof. Wanda Mimra (ETH Zurich), N.N

3 ECTS

**Presentation**

The course is intended for PhD students interested in the contract theoretic modelling of health markets. The course discusses the implications of information problems between the three key player in health markets: patients, health insurers and health care providers. Topics covered are:

- Health Insurance: Moral Hazard, Adverse Selection, Longterm Contracts
- Provider: Physician Agency, Expert Markets, Payment Systems
- Managed Care

**EXPERIMENTAL HEALTH ECONOMICS OR MEDICAL DECISION MAKING, BASEL, 2016****LUCERNE, FALL 2016, COURSE TO BE DEFINED (3 ECTS)**



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