

The Master of Science in Global Urban Health (MSc. GUH)

INTRODUCTION

Global health is the health of populations in a global context and transcends the perspectives and concerns of individual nations; it is about worldwide improvement of health, reduction of disparities and protection against global threats that disregard national borders. Urban health is about the health challenges of the growing urban populations (1.02 billion additional people in 14 years with an upwards trend), including health risks by air and water pollution, noise, stress, the impact of violence, dissolving families, migration, unhealthy food, reduced physical activities, overburdened health services with the double threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases and others.



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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MSc

This modular course will be taught in English covering one full academic year. It is offered to graduate students worldwide with a minimum of four years fulltime higher education and at least one year of working experience.



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The MSc GUH course, which is hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and organised by the ZMG (Centre for Medicine and Society), is a full-time course with subsequent field study (for the M.Sc. thesis).

The master course includes interdisciplinary approaches with input from several faculties of the University of Freiburg and external lecturers. It offers excursions to WHO-Geneva, relevant institutions in Basel and Strasbourg and is showing the efforts of the city of Freiburg to create healthy living conditions. The District of Freiburg Vauban is a good example of a green city district.

TOPIC AREAS

The MSc in Global Urban Health is organised through an interdisciplinary effort using participatory learning techniques; it covers different topic areas in relation to urban health needs:

Health assessment & interventions

- Epidemiology, statistics & qualitative methods
- Social sciences including economics
- Geography & anthropology
- Primary mental care dealing with stress, depression and other issues
- Communicable diseases & transmission dynamics
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) & prevention
- Social mobilisation strategies
- Management of urban health systems
- Quality management
- Alternative medical systems

Environmental threats & treatment

- Air, water, soil and noise pollution
- Urban micro-climates
- Urban structure and land use

Social challenges

- Migration, violence & gender issues
- Social mobilisation



Structure of the MSc GUH (60 ECTS)

2. Core module (3 months; 16 ECTS)

- Research methods
- Special topics (epidemiology, statistics, health systems analysis, urban planning, traditional health, social mobilisation, excursions etc.)



3. Advanced modules (6 months; 21 ECTS)

- Communicable diseases & quality assured programmes
- Environmental management & control of NCDs in urban areas
- Migration, violence & mental health among urban poor

4. Overall course assessment (3 ECTS)

- Written and oral exam

5. Research project (20 ECTS)

PREREQUISITES



The Master of Science is open to professionals in health and social sciences, including economics, urban planning and others, holding a higher academic degree (minimum four years of academic full-time training). Proficiency in the English language is required.

COURSE FEES

Euro 12,000

Includes: core course + advanced modules + thesis + final exam + excursions to WHO Geneva and nearby cities.

Not included in the course fees are:

Accommodation or other personal living expenses.

Scholarships and Career Opportunities

SCHOLARSHIPS

The University of Freiburg cannot unfortunately grant any scholarships. However, several donor agencies offer scholarships for the programme. Information will be provided upon request.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates are expected to take up management, policy, research or teaching positions at international, national or district level, in implementing agencies, academic institutions or NGOs. All major institutions working in development cooperation / international organisations (including WHO, The Global Fund, World Bank, UNEP, UNICEF) require a post-graduate Master degree in Public Health, International Health, Global Health or related areas. Likewise, urban and regional planners often need expertise in health and related issues.



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