

Master of Science in Global Urban Health

Cultural Diversity and Interdisciplinarity: Our Driving Forces

Faculty of Humanities
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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Global Urban Health refers to issues related to urbanization and health, primarily in low and middle income countries (LMICs). It addresses not only medical issues, but also topics that related to demographic, social, cultural, psychological and political determinants of health. The mission of the interdisciplinary and international Master of Science in Global Urban Health program (MSc GUH) is to improve health situations in urban settings, particularly in LMICs, through **training** and **implementation research**.



Training

MSc GUH Taught Modules

Formal presentations are complemented with didactic methods such as group work, role-play and discussions to deepen reflection of material, strengthen communication skills, improve teamwork and interdisciplinary and intercultural competence. There are also several excursions for students to experience firsthand how theoretical concepts are put to practice.



Core Module (3 months; 16 ECTS)

- Research methods
- Special topics (e.g. epidemiology, statistics, health systems, urban planning, traditional medicine, social mobilization)

Advanced Modules (6 months; 21 ECTS)

- Communicable diseases and quality Assured programs
- Environmental management and control of Non-Communicable Diseases in urban areas
- Migration, violence and mental health among the urban poor

Assessments and exams (3 ECTS)

Implementation Research

Research project (3 months; 20 ECTS)

Upon completion of the taught modules, students have the opportunity to do a field or desk study for their research project. The project includes the development of a research protocol, oral presentation and a final thesis. So far, 44 students have undertaken health-related research projects in various countries including Bangladesh, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Malawi, Malaysia, Nepal and Nigeria. Some students secured funding to support their project and personal living costs for the research thesis period through agencies like CONACYT, COLFUTURO, DAAD and ASA. We support and highly encourage students to publish their research project work. Through our network of PhD students and capacity-building projects in LMICs, the MSc team is currently expanding its research impact.



Career opportunities: Follow-up with graduates from the first two MSc cohorts shows that 7 graduates started PhD projects in Germany, Bangladesh, Malawi, Nigeria and Colombia, 4 were appointed to positions at research institutions and universities, 1 completed an apprenticeship at the WHO office in Istanbul and was then appointed to a leading position at the biggest hospital in Mexico city, 1 was appointed as Program Officer to the 'World Food Program' at United Nations, 1 was appointed to a GIZ refugee project in Jordan, 1 holds a senior position at the Ministry of Environment in Malaysia, and 1 graduate works as Country Director for the 'Save the Children' NGO in Laos.