



Master in Health Sciences



Greetings by the Program Director



Rising health care costs, an aging population, and increasing health disparities are just a few of the challenges that we face in the health sector. To successfully address these and other challenges, there is a growing need for scientists who are capable of developing innovative solutions and who have the expertise to convert this knowledge into products and services for strengthening our health systems.

The MSc in Health Sciences at the University of Lucerne is designed to ideally prepare you for such a role, offering you a profound understanding of health and health systems from a variety of perspectives. The program structure allows you to shape your learning experience and follow your interests, for example by choosing a Major and working in an internship with one of our partners.

If you are ready to start a career in the health sector, join us now for one of our information events, or contact us directly at masterhealth@unilu.ch

We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Stefan Boes
Professor of Health Economics

Content and Goal of the MSc Health Sciences

The health sciences are a scientific field that studies individuals' health and lived experience of health and the response by society to health needs.

The MSc Health Sciences integrates different scientific disciplines rooted in the biological, clinical and socio-humanistic meta-perspectives, offering you a comprehensive understanding of health, functioning, and well-being. Our aim is to provide students with the essential skills to become competent actors in the health system, including critical thinking, methodological knowledge, and implementation strategies.

The program provides students from a variety of backgrounds an ideal learning environment to start a career in health, foster innovation in our society, and ultimately contribute to the goal of improving the health of individuals and populations.

Study Program

The unique curriculum of the MSc in Health Sciences at the University of Lucerne aims to equip students with a profound understanding of

- individuals' health, functioning, and well-being in interaction with their environment, in light of health conditions, and given their psychological resources; and
- the response by society to individuals' and populations' health needs through the health system and related social systems.

The two-year program with 120 ECTS consists of core and major courses.

Core modules include courses in

- Human Functioning Sciences
- Health Systems and Services
- Clinical Sciences
- Good Clinical Practice
- Translational Medicine
- Implementation Science
- Research Methods
- Project Management

Students can choose one of four majors according to their interest. After the first year, students will be required to do an internship and start a research project, while the final semester will be dedicated to completing the master thesis.

Study Plan MSc in Health Sciences

Semester 1 (fall)	ECTS	Semester 2 (spring)	ECTS
Human Functioning Sciences	6	Translational Medicine	2
Disciplinary Perspectives of the Health Sciences	3	Implementation Science	1
Health Systems and Services	6		
Introduction to Public Health	3		
Basics in Clinical Sciences	3		
Statistics and Epidemiology	3	Quantitative Methods	3
Good Clinical Practice	3	Qualitative Methods	3
Scientific Communication	2	Project Management	2
Lecture Series I	1	Lecture Series II	1
Major Courses			15
Term Paper			3

 Basic Module *Health Sciences*

 Basic Module *Research Methods*

 Major Courses and Term Papers

 Master Procedure and Research Internship

Semester 3 (fall)

ECTS

Semester 4 (spring)

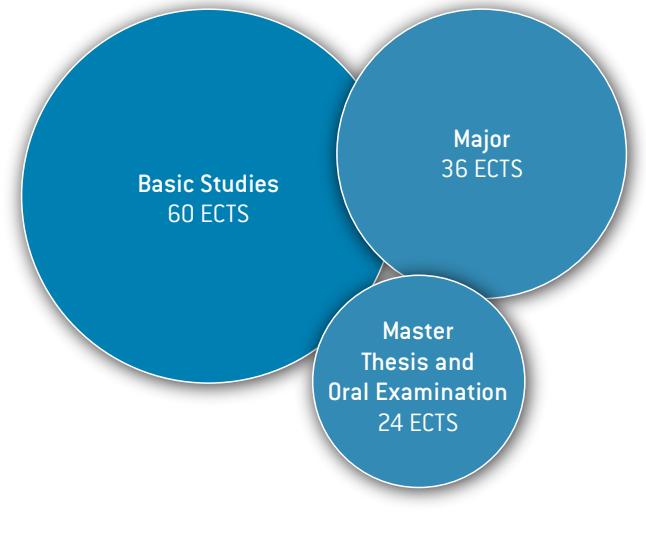
ECTS

Advanced Research Methods	6
Professional Development	2
Lecture Series III	1
Master Colloquium I	3
Health Sciences in Practice	2
Lecture Series IV	1
Master Colloquium II	3
Major Courses	15
Term Paper	3
Research Internship	18
Master Thesis	6
Oral Examination	

*Basic Module Academic and Professional Skills*

MSc Health Sciences (120 ECTS)

(incl. mandatory Research Internship)



Majors

Our majors, which start in the second semester, enable students to develop further expertise in an area of their interest:

- **Health Communication:** Studying the science of using communication to influence health and related decisions at the level of individuals, institutions, and policy.
- **Health Behavior and Management:** Learning how health behaviors and health experiences can be addressed and changed with appropriate interventions.
- **Health Economics & Health Policy:** Providing the principles of economic thinking and theories of political science to understand and manage complex health systems.
- **Health Services Research:** Learning the methods to evaluate the effectiveness of care, optimize service delivery and assess the performance of health systems.

«The Master in Health Sciences provided me with a solid foundation in health-related research methodologies but most importantly, I had the chance to make friendships for life during my two years there.»

*Alexander Blumenthal, Major Health Communication
Graduate 2018, Senior Sales Representative at Merck Sharp & Dohme AG.*



«By choosing the Major in Health Behavior and Management, I learned to look at health from different perspectives and how each individual's experience is a meaningful source in the contribution to an overall improved health.»

*Mona Piller, Major Health Behavior and Management
Graduate 2018, Research Associate at Healthecon AG.*



Research Internship and Master Thesis

The Department of Health Sciences and Medicine is collaborating with different partner institutions to offer you attractive internships:

- Swiss Paraplegic Research / Centre / Association
- Lucerne Cantonal Hospital
- Institute of Primary and Community Care Lucerne
- Interface Politikstudien Forschung Beratung GmbH
- Pharmaceutical Companies & Health Insurers



Mattia Gianinazzi, Graduate 2018, during his internship in the market access team of a pharmaceutical company.

Our students have the unique opportunity to do a paid research internship as part of the regular curriculum. The mandatory research internship takes place during the third semester (July-December) and students are expected to develop their master thesis proposal during the time in the internship. Each student will be actively supported by a professor and by members of the research group. There is also the possibility for external, self-organized research internships upon request.

Admission

The required qualification for formal admission to the MSc Health Sciences is a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent higher education degree) with at least 180 ECTS from a University or University of Applied Sciences, which is recognized by the University of Lucerne. According to its interdisciplinary approach, the program welcomes students with different backgrounds, such as natural sciences, social sciences, or humanities.

The MSc Health Sciences starts once a year in the fall semester. For questions regarding admission requirements, organization and planning of studies, please contact us at masterhealth@unilu.ch or visit our website www.master-healthsciences.ch.

Studying in Lucerne

Lucerne is located in the German-speaking region of Switzerland. It is the capital of the canton of Lucerne and the largest city in Central Switzerland with around 80'000 inhabitants. Lucerne has long been a destination for tourists due to its location on the shores of Lake Lucerne, within sight of the Pilatus and Rigi mountains and the panorama of the Swiss Alps. Zurich Airport, the largest airport in Switzerland with intercontinental services, is only a one-hour train ride from Lucerne. The University of Lucerne is located directly on Lake Lucerne in close proximity to the SBB railway station.



Career Prospects

In our master program, we are dedicated to educating students, so they are in an excellent position to further a career in the health sector including positions in health administration, public health, health education and promotion, research, management in state and federal health agencies, eHealth and in other health-related industries.

Our graduates are working as:

- Regulatory Affairs Specialists
- Health Economists
- Project Managers Health Promotion
- Health Education Experts
- Marketing Communication Managers
- Market Access Associates
- Pricing and Reimbursement Associates
- Patient Relations Managers
- Research Associates
- Clinical Trial Coordinators



«Ich erlebe,
wie Hands-on-Politik
am Puls der Zeit
betrieben wird.»

Fabio Knöfler, former employee at the Federal Office Public Health, Section Health Policy. Now lecturer at Xund Bildungszentrum Gesundheit Zentralschweiz.

«Acquiring a Master in the Health Sciences was a key component towards acquiring specialized knowledge in a professional field. It allowed me to develop in-depth understanding of real-world application of health economics and policy concepts. My current job consists of applying evidence-based research into professional policy projects, the program's curriculum was fundamental as it allowed me to strengthen my research skills.»

Sonia Barbosa, Graduate 2017, Scientific Collaborator at the Swiss Medical Association (FMH).



«The Master in Health Sciences program gave me the required skills to switch from the health provider front – as my professional background is physiotherapist – into health policy where I hope to contribute my part in overcoming current provider issues on a system level in Switzerland.»

Fabienne Lüthi, Graduate 2017, Project Manager in the field of Professional Development at physioswiss.



«The Master in Health Sciences program is a unique and highly valuable learning process especially during the internship where learning is not only by understanding theories but also by doing and practicing knowledge and skills. For me, it surely made me discover my potential and gave me a head start in the career I am pursuing. I believe doing this Master at the University of Lucerne is one of the best decisions I made.»

Rita Saleh, Graduate 2017, PhD candidate at the ETH Institute for Environmental Decisions/ Consumer Behavior.



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