

Dear Student



After 5 years of a successful running of the Master in Health Sciences Program, I was very happy to take over the Academic Directorship of the Program in September 2017. We have just celebrated the successful graduation of the fourth cohort and the sixth is just about to start their first courses. Our graduates have been very successful in finding jobs in the health sector covering diverse areas of specialities in public administration, the pharmaceutical industry, health insurance, hospital management, patient and physician organizations, but also in research and teaching.

An important first step into the health field for many is certainly our research internship in one of our research groups at the University of Lucerne, with our core partners of the Swiss Paraplegic Group in Nottwil and the Lucerne Cantonal Hospital, or with other partners of the Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy.

If you are interested in our Master in Health Sciences Program, get in touch with us during the Master Open Days in March and October to learn more about our study curriculum and application procedure or contact us for a personal appointment. For more information about our Program please visit www.master-healthsciences.ch.

I am looking forward to welcoming you in our Master in Health Sciences soon.

Prof. Gisela Michel
Program Director

1 Content and Goal

The Health Sciences Program at the University of Lucerne provides a broad background in health sciences from a biopsychosocial perspective. It provides the ideal curriculum to foster innovation in our society where aging and chronic diseases pose major challenges to the future provision of care, where health care delivery systems are too much focused on acute care and there is little coordination across providers and along the continuum of care, and where rising health care costs lead to an ever increasing financial burden on public and private households.

With the Master in Health Sciences Program, we seek to educate a new generation of health researchers that are capable of developing innovative solutions to address these challenges and bring about change to strengthen our health systems.

2 Study Program

The curriculum of the Master in Health Sciences at the University of Lucerne focuses on

- the person's health and functioning in interaction with the environment, and
- the response by society to individuals' and populations' health needs through its health and related social systems.

The two-year master's program with 120 ECTS consists of core courses, offered during the first three semesters, and major courses starting in the 2nd semester.

The core courses include different modules on:

- Principles of Health Sciences
- Human Functioning Sciences
- Health Systems and Services
- Research Design and Methodology
- Project Management
- Scientific Communication

«The Master in Health Sciences provided me with a solid foundation in health systems and health-related research methodologies. I particularly enjoyed the close interaction with the lecturers and my fellow students, which gave me the chance to make friendships for life during my two years there.»

Alexander Blumenthal, Major Health Communication, Graduate 2018



The aim of the core courses is to provide a common understanding of health sciences as a scientific field with the goal of improving the health of individuals and populations. The more specialized major courses offer in depth insights into the disciplinary perspectives of the health sciences, allowing students to become experts in a particular field.

After the first year, students will be required to do a research internship and start a research project, related to their major choice, while the final semester will be dedicated to completing the master thesis.

«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



Majors

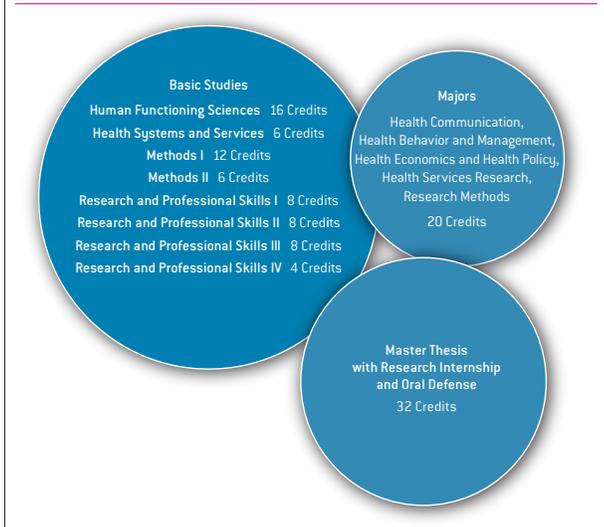
Our majors enable students to further develop their expertise in the chosen area of interest and work closely with their supervisors on the master thesis or small term projects. Students can choose one of the following five majors according to their interests:

- **Health Communication:** Studying the science of using communication to influence health decisions at the individual level, in institutions and in 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 foundation and principles of economic thinking and theories of political science to understand complex health systems, and to identify and address future challenges in the health sector.
- **Health Services Research:** Learning the methods to evaluate the effectiveness of health care services and assess the performance of health systems.
- **Research Methods:** Developing skills to aid decision-making in the health sciences and related fields using state of the art quantitative and qualitative research.

Overview Master Program in Health Sciences

Master of Arts in Health Sciences

(Interdisciplinary Study Programme, 120 ECTS-Credits)



3 Research Internship and Master Thesis

We are collaborating with various partner organizations in the health sector such as

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



Our students have the unique opportunity to do a paid research internship within these organizations. The research internship is a key and mandatory element of our program and takes place during the 3rd semester (June-Nov or July-Dec). Students are expected to develop their master thesis proposal during the internship with support of a supervising professor of the department and in close collaboration with members of their research group. The internship allows students to conduct their own research project, applying the knowledge acquired in the core courses and in their chosen major, and the same time gain first experience in a work environment. There is also the possibility for an external, self-organized research internship upon request.

4 Prospective students / Admission

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

The Master in Health Sciences starts once a year in the fall semester. For questions regarding admission requirements, organization and planning of studies, please contact the Program Manager or visit our website www.master-healthsciences.ch.

5 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 76 000 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.



6 Career Prospects

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

Our graduates are working as:

- Project Managers
- Pricing and Reimbursement Associates
- Marketing Communication Managers
- Research Associates or PhD students
- Health Communication Specialists
- Product Managers
- Market Access Associates
- Patient Relations Managers
- Clinical Application Specialists
- Health Information Management Analysts

«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 MA 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, Scientific Associate at the Section Healthcare Professions, Federal Office of Public Health

«The MA 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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For more information please visit our website

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