MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

Interested in the health of populations?

Ever wondered...
...whether diesel exhaust from traffic causes harm to humans?
...how global climate change affects health?
...how we can best protect children from malaria?

And they do not only study disease and possible risk factors, they also propose actions and then measure whether the situation has improved. For example, buses are now increasingly fitted with filters against fine particles.

Or children sleep under mosquito nets that protect them from the mosquitoes carrying malaria. Thousands of lives get saved, many people benefit.

While medical doctors investigate disease in individual patients, epidemiologists investigate health of populations.

Epidemiologists also study disease outbreaks, for example when food is contaminated.

They conduct disease surveillance, identify possible health risk factors and propose measures of disease screening, for example against cancer. In order to do this, epidemiologist design field studies, they collect and analyse data using a variety of methods, often in the frame of large multi-disciplinary teams.

Epidemiologists work in research institutions, in governmental agencies and in industry. Epidemiology is the scientific basis to improve overall health, as it provides essential information for better planning.

The optimal basis for a successful epidemiology course is a basic training in natural sciences such as biology, biochemistry or a medical training. But epidemiologists also come from a wide variety of other backgrounds such as geography, demography, psychology or anthropology.
Course description

The MSc programme in Epidemiology at the University of Basel is run by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), an internationally recognized center for public health excellence. The course language is English.

The thesis work - which extends over a whole year - is usually embedded in a research project in one of the Swiss TPH Units, most often within the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. The MSc thesis work is typically a field-based project in Switzerland or abroad.

Admission criteria

A Bachelor of Science in natural Sciences, medicine or veterinary medicine with a minimum average degree of 5.0. Alternatively, for students with an average grade below 5.0: a GRE test result in “Quantitative Reasoning” in the top 35%. Students with a BSc in a different branch are encouraged to apply and will be assessed individually. Deadline for registration for a course starting in autumn is the 30th April of the same year, except for students completing a BSc at the University of Basel (mid August of the same year).

Further information

The Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) was founded in 1943 as the Swiss Tropical Institute (STI). It is a world-renowned Institution for teaching, research and services in the field of International Health. It is an associated Institute of the University of Basel, the oldest university in Switzerland.

For more details, please see www.swisstph.ch/teaching/graduate.html

or contact

Profs. Christian Lengeler or Martin Röösli
M.Sc. course coordinators
E-mails: christian.lengeler@unibas.ch
martin.roosli@unibas.ch

Mrs. Christine Mensch
Student administrator for general information
E-mail: christine.mensch@unibas.ch