

# MScGH Study Plan – Year 1 – 2024/2025

## First semester – Fall

Disciplinary and methodological foundations: Mandatory 18 ECTS*			Hours of lessons per	Additional study hours per week	Hours of seminars per week	ECTS credits	Semester (indicative)
J4M326	Stéphanie Dagon	Introducing Global Health: current and future trends	2			0	A
J4M190	Raphaëlle Beau, Olivia Keiser	Quantitative methods in global health - epidemiology	2		2	6	A
J4M191	Simon Mathias Waelli	Qualitative methods in global health	2		2	6	A
J4M199	Géraldine Marks	The Law in practice, an introduction	2			6	A

Disciplinary and methodological foundations: Mandatory 12 ECTS out of 48 optional ECTS*			Hours of lessons per	Additional study hours per week	Hours of seminars per week	ECTS credits	Semester (indicative)
T415006	Clémentine Rossier	Population and development: data sources and analysis methods	2		2	6	A
J4M189	Antoine Flahault	Global Health Prevention	2			6	A
J4M192	Didier Wernli	Systems thinking for global Challenges	2			6	A
J4M196	Michaela Told	Global Health Policy, Governance and Diplomacy	2			6	A
J4M328	Claire Sommerville	Tackling Health Inequalities in Global Health			2	6	A
J4M329	Veronica Gomez-Temesio	Post-colonial approaches to Global Health	2		2	6	A
J4M330	Christine Choirat	Artificial Intelligence and Global Health	2			6	A
J4M344	Jennifer Hasselgard Rowe	Drug Policy and Global Health	2			6	A

\* 30 ECTS in total must be followed with 18 ECTS from the mandatory methodological bloc and 12 ECTS from the optional bloc of the study plan to validate the first semester.

## Second semester - Spring

Disciplinary integration of knowledge: Mandatory 30 ECTS of 36 optional ECTS**			Hours of lessons per week	Hours of lectures and seminars per week	Hours of seminars per week	ECTS credits	Semester (indicative)
T409000	Clémentine Rossier	Sexual and reproductive health: between public health and social science perspectives	2		1	6	P
J4M194	Karl Blanchet	Humanitarian Health	3			6	P
J4M197	Hélène Barroy	Health economics and Global Health	2			3	P
J4M252	Stéphanie Dagrón	Global Health Law	3			6	P
J4M274	Rafael Luis Ruiz de Castaneda	From One Health to Planetary Health: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Health in a Changing World	3		2	6	P
J4M316	Pascal Bonnabry, Sandrine Von Gruningen	Addressing the global challenges related to medicines	2			3	P
J4M327	Nicolas Ray, Fleur Hierink	GeoHealth - Geospatial Approaches in Global Health	2		2	6	P

\*\* 30 ECTS in total must be followed from the the 36 ECTS from the study plan to validate the second semester.

# MSGH Study Plan – Year 2 – 2025/2026

## Third semester – Fall Study plan for the second year of the Master of Science in Global Health(MSGH)

### Principles

#### 1 For students who already have a master degree<sup>1</sup> or medical degree before starting the MSGH program:

The University of Geneva recognizes certain master's degrees on the basis of its own criteria. For students who start the MSGH program already with a Master's degree or medical degree with a solid background in a field related to what can be validated for the "focus area", this can be partially and exceptionally fully recognized up to 30 ECTS. This allows the student to begin the internship and master's thesis to acquire the total of 120 ECTS, directly after the first year. If the student whose anterior Master credits can be recognized and validated for the program wishes to follow courses during, they may do so.

#### 2 For students pursuing the regular MSGH program:

In preparation for the second year, MSGH students are requested to identify a relevant domain and focus area that would increase knowledge and specific competences in the field of Global Health. The students are oriented towards various "focus areas" which are then validated with the program coordination. These "focus areas" need to be complemented with practical work experience in the form of an internship at relevant institutions (international organizations, NGOs, universities, foundations, medical industries etc.) working in the area of Global Health.

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<sup>1</sup> Must be a 90-120 ECTS equivalent program to be considered, 60 ECTS programs cannot be taken into consideration).

### 3 Formats:

In order to give room for scheduling flexibility, students have the option of selecting a format that works best for their specific study plans. There are 3 formats to choose from.

	Fall Semester 30 ETCS	Spring Semester 30 ECTS
A. Standard format	Focus Area	Internship at an international organization, academic institution, NGO, private sector
B. Inversed format	Internship at an international organization, academic institution, NGO, private sector	Focus Area
C. Mixed format	Focus Area	
	Internship at an international organization, academic institution, NGO, private sector	

Classic format foresees the courses of the “focus area” during the fall semester and the internship in the spring semester. This is the recommended format. Reversed formats available only in the spring semester makes it possible to switch the “classic format” so that internships takes place during the fall and the courses in the spring. Mixed format for courses that are offered both in the fall and spring semester allowing students to do internship and take courses in their chosen focus area in parallel session.

In the first year of the MSGH program, students are presented with various networking opportunities to increase their knowledge on the different types of work carried out by the various institutions (international organization, NGOs, Foundations, and Universities etc.) operating in Geneva in the field of Global Health. These institutions are or are potential collaborating partners with the Institute of Global Health and one of the aims of the first year is to provide a solid network with the objective of increasing the students’ likelihood of securing an internship position for the second year. To this end, as part of the MSGH program, in addition to information sessions, networking is possible with professionals intervening in class. And the Geneva Health Forum, which takes place every other year.

This flexibility expresses our intention to focus the second-year learning program on the student’s objectives, that will depend on his earlier professional career and chosen focus area. Each student must also realize a master thesis, in theory the internship, should allow the student to have a fertile ground and subject for this academic work, in the form of a real research or report in relation to the work done during the internship. The academic nature of the thesis work requires the student to adopt a critical perspective with a problematic and arguments that are proper to the academic researcher’s stance.

### 3 Courses for « focus area»

#### 1. Preferred track – MSGH Courses

Focus area courses are offered as part of the MSGH curriculum that can be followed in the regular program track.

Specialisation: 30 ECTS of 48 optional ECTS ***			Hours of lessons per	Additional study hours per week	Hours of seminars per week	ECTS credits	Semester (indicative)
T415006	Clémentine Rossier	Population and development: data sources and analysis methods	2		2	6	A
J4M189	Antoine Flahault	Global Health Prevention	2		2	6	A
J4M192	Didier Wernli	Systems thinking for global Challenges	2			6	A
J4M196	Michaela Told	Global Health Policy, Governance and Diplomacy	2			6	A
J4M329	Veronica Gomez-Temesio	Post-colonial approaches to Global Health			2	6	A
J4M328	Claire Sommerville	Tackling Health Inequalities in Global Health			2	6	A
J4M330	Christine Choirat	Artificial Intelligence and Global Health	2			6	A
J4M344	Jennifer Hasselgard Rowe	Drug Policy and Global Health	2			6	A

\*\*\* 30 ECTS in total must be followed from the the 48 ECTS from the study plan to validate the third semester. Specialisation courses can be taken from the courses offered by the Master of Science in Global Health for the specialisation semester, from other Master's level courses offered by the UNIGE or through mobility with one of the UNIGE's partners.

#### 2. Other UNIGE faculties with course options for the Focus Area

<b>Global Studies Institute</b>	<b>Institute of environmental sciences</b>	<b>Faculty of law</b>	<b>Faculty of societal sciences</b>	<b>Faculty of economy and management</b>
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Other UNIGE Master level courses can be taken from different programs either in combination with MSGH focus area courses or independently up to the

required 30 ECTS.

### 3. Other swiss mobility options

- a. IHEID – Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva – Health governance, diplomacy and development studies
- b. University of Basel – Swiss TPH (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute) - Epidemiology
- c. University of Neuchâtel – Health law
- d. EPFL – Life Sciences – Data management – Medical technology

### 4. International partners with an MOU with the Masters of Science in Global Health program

- a. University of Melbourne - Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
- b. Hong Kong – Faculty of Medicine – Public Health Department
- c. Tsinghua University – Vanke School of Public Health

Other collaborations between Swiss universities are possible. The partner universities of Geneva, listed on the web site “Mobility UniGE”, in Europe and elsewhere are also eligible and can be chosen by MSGH students for the “focus area” semester according to the proposed fields. Partner institutions for the Domain Specialization are: <https://www.unige.ch/exchange/en/outgoing/study-abroad/>

Focus area credits may be obtained through an exchange with another university program, within the standard UNIGE exchange program (please refer to the international relations of UNIGE website). This exchange and subsequent credits must be approved by the student counsellor or head of the MSGH program.

## 2. Internships

During the internship the student is provided with the opportunity to gain hands on work experience for which the theoretical background was taught during the student selected academic focus area. Thus, ideally the internship placement should aim to complement the focus study area selected by the student. Furthermore, the option of doing an internship which is more in line with the student's academic or professional background prior to the enrolment in the master's program can also be considered. This option needs to be validated by the director of the program before the internship begins.

The mandatory internship component of this master's program must meet the following criteria (see internship guidelines/directives de stage for details):

- Descriptive information on planned internship given by the student before the internship.
- Completed tripartite (or organizational) contract (clearly stating the Terms of Reference (ToR) and main work supervisor)
- 12-20 weeks of worked hours – at least 3 months full time or 6 months part or full time.
- hours spent working on the master's dissertation can also be counted (must be validated by the internship work supervisor and attested as an internship)
- Provide a base or foundation for a master's thesis which maybe in the form of research paper or report (where applicable)
- Completed final evaluation form by the main supervisor on the intern
- Completed final internship report by the student on the internship
- total 30 ECTS from one or several different internships, which is then validated with the presentation and defense of the Master Thesis

## 3. Master's thesis

The University of Geneva Master of Science in Global Health (MScGH) recognizes research as an important and fundamental element of the master's program. Through the process of producing a master's thesis, students will further develop the required essential research skills in the field of Global Health. Typically, the master's thesis would have a focus on either operational or implementation research in the area of global health.

It is recommended but not obligatory that the work for the master's thesis be carried out in relationship to the internship. The main advantage in simultaneously conducting the internship and the research is having the opportunity to discuss identified problems and potential solutions with professionals working in the field of global health. Furthermore, this arrangement allows the student to analyze the internship work experience using key global health principles such as interdisciplinary approach, innovation, ethics and equity, sustainability, etc. Although in some internship positions the student may not have the full autonomy to self-select the research topic, it is very important to still have a clear plan on how the work carried out will lay down the foundation for the master's thesis. It is mandatory that the selected main thesis supervisor is fully involved and supportive of the identified master's thesis. Students must have a main academic supervisor from any of the MSGH teachers a second supervisor can be proposed.

The format for the master's thesis may fall under the following suggestions:

- a) Project of a scientific article in global health (ready to be submitted and formatted to a chosen peer reviewed journal format – around 6000 words)
- b) A traditional form of a research dissertation (10'000 to 15'000 words) is also possible
- c) Depending on the type of internship and its specific requirements, other formats can be accepted such as (validation to be discussed beforehand):
  - a. A book chapter
  - b. A popularization for the general public of a subject in global health
  - c. A development of software or a smartphone application
  - d. The building of an e-learning course
  - e. The making of visual material such as a film, etc.

Except for the traditional research works, which already includes the elements mentioned hereafter, all the students must present in writing in addition to the core subject:

1. an abstract,
2. background
3. The (scientific) Methodology /approach
4. elements of evaluation and perspective
5. a literature review that shows the student has researched the appropriate and recent literature on the research question in Vancouver format

A defense of the master dissertations will take place at the end of year 2, between end of June and beginning of July, with a second session in September if necessary. Exceptionally a thesis defense is organized in February if students need to defend at that time.

Thesis language, the thesis can be written in either English or French, other languages must first be validated by the program Director.