

## Master of Science in Global Health –

### Program Overview (120 ECTS)

The Master of Science in Global Health (MSGH) is a two-year, full-time program (4 semesters, 120 ECTS) that combines interdisciplinary training, methodological foundations, specialization, and professional experience.

### Curriculum Structure

Year / Semester	Focus	ECTS	Main Components
Year 1 – Autumn	Foundations: Methods & Policy	30	Mandatory methodological core (18 ECTS) + optional courses (12 ECTS)
Year 1 – Spring	Integration of Knowledge	30	Mandatory courses (12 ECTS) + thematic electives (18 ECTS)
Year 2 – Autumn or Spring	Specialization Semester	30	MSGH specialization courses (recommended), or complementary courses at UNIGE/partner universities when justified
Year 2 – Autumn or Spring	Professionalization & Research	30	Internship (3–6 months) + Master’s thesis & defence

### Key Features

- Strong Foundations: Epidemiology, qualitative research, law, governance, and policy analysis.
- Interdisciplinary Integration: Bridging health, law, economics, humanitarian action, and planetary health.
- Specialization: Tailored focus area, with MSGH specialization courses strongly recommended.
- Internship & Thesis: Professional placement that can be linked to a master’s thesis, ensuring both academic and practical experience.

## Year 1 – Foundations and Integration (60 ECTS)

The first year builds the common foundations of the MSGH, combining methodological training with thematic breadth to prepare students for specialization.

Autumn Semester (30 ECTS):

- Mandatory methodological core (18 ECTS): Epidemiology, qualitative methods, population and development.
- Optional courses (12 ECTS): Choice among thematic courses in law, governance, inequalities, food systems, drug policy, and related areas.

Spring Semester (30 ECTS):

- Mandatory courses (12 ECTS): Global health law and geospatial approaches.
- Optional courses (18 ECTS): Options include planetary health, sexual and reproductive health, humanitarian health, health economics, medicines policy, etc.

📖 Reference: The official Plan d'études (PE 2025–26) provides the full list of courses, codes, and instructors. Course details and personal study plans are managed via the UNIGE platform: [Programmes des cours – MSGH](#).

## Year 2 – Specialization, Internship & Thesis (60 ECTS)

The second year centers on individual academic and professional development. Students tailor their specialization, undertake an internship, and complete a master's thesis.

### Specialization Semester (30 ECTS)

The third semester is dedicated to specialization. Students are expected to select a coherent set of courses aligned with their academic and professional goals.

Recommendation:

MSGH specialization courses ensure continuity with the program's learning outcomes, provide direct access to faculty, and strongly support the internship and thesis. For most students, this is the best path to maximize coherence and preparation.

#### Other Options:

Courses at the GSI, other UNIGE faculties, or partner universities may complement the specialization when:

- a specific course essential to the thesis/professional profile is not offered in MSGH, or
- a comparable MSGH specialization course has already been completed.

**All specialization plans must be validated with the Academic Counsellor.**

#### Partnership Pathways:

- Dual Master's with the Graduate Institute (IHEID): Double degree in Health, Development & Governance (two master's in three years).
- Swiss TPH – University of Basel: Epidemiology and tropical public health.
- Other UNIGE Faculties: Law, social sciences, environmental sciences, economics, management.
- International Mobility: Select partners (e.g., University of Melbourne, Hong Kong University, Tsinghua University).

👉 Note: External pathways are possible but should be chosen strategically. MSGH specialization courses remain the most coherent preparation for internship and thesis.

#### Formats:

- Standard (recommended): Specialization in autumn, internship/thesis in spring.
- Reversed: Internship/thesis in autumn, specialization in spring.
- Mixed: Combination of courses and internship activities across both semesters.

#### Internship & Thesis (30 ECTS)

The internship (3–6 months) allows students to apply academic learning in a professional context. Host institutions may include international organizations, NGOs, public health agencies, universities, or the private sector.

#### Validation Requirements:

- Prior approval of internship project and host institution by the program (tripartite agreement required).
- Duration: at least 3 months full-time or 6 months part-/full-time (12–20 weeks).
- Tasks may include hours directly contributing to the thesis, if validated by the supervisor.
- Final evaluation by the institutional supervisor (attestation form).

- Internship report submitted by the student within one month of completion.
- Internship credits (30 ECTS) are validated as a bloc together with the thesis defence.

Thesis:

- Original research project (6,000–12,000 words) supervised by MSGH faculty.
- May be linked to the internship or pursued independently.
- Evaluated through a written essay and oral defence before a jury.
- Thesis may be written in English or French, as agreed with the supervisor.

Timeline:

- End of Year 1: Transcripts confirming 60 ECTS enable the start of the internship.
- Year 2: Specialization semester + internship (flexible formats). Thesis topic and supervisor must be confirmed before the end of Semester 2.
- Defences: Organized throughout the year. Most students defend in late June/early July; alternate sessions are held in August/September, with options in January/February.
- To defend, students must have validated at least 90 ECTS (including the internship).

## Part 4 – Academic Rules & Key Procedures

The MSGH follows the official regulations of UNIGE and the Global Studies Institute. Key points for registered students:

Recognition of a Previous Degree:

- Up to 30 ECTS may be recognized for students holding a relevant Master's (90–120 ECTS) or medical degree. 60-ECTS programs cannot be considered.
- Recognition is granted by the MSGH Director.
- Students with recognition may proceed directly to the internship and thesis after Year 1. They may still choose to take MSGH specialization courses in consultation with the Academic Counsellor. If additional courses are taken, and recognition of prior ECTS was pre-approved, the formal validation of those credits will only occur once the courses are completed.

#### Individual Study Plans:

- Each student must prepare and discuss their Year 2 plan (specialization courses, internship, thesis supervisor) with the Academic Counsellor by the end of the second semester.
- Any modifications must also be approved.

#### Credit Requirements:

- Year 1: 60 ECTS (mandatory blocks)
- Specialization: 30 ECTS
- Internship + Thesis: 30 ECTS
- Total: 120 ECTS
- Additional credits earned in Year 1 may be transferred to the specialization block (except for dual degree students).

#### Exams & Progression:

- Minimum average of 4.0/6.0 required in:
  - Year 1 blocks,
  - Specialization courses,
  - Thesis defence.
- Internship is validated on a pass/fail basis (no grade).
- Students must acquire at least 90 ECTS (including the internship) before the thesis defence.

📖 For full details, students must consult the MSGH Rules (2023), the Internship Directives, and the Thesis Directives. The Academic Counsellor remains the main point of contact for guidance and validation.