General information

IGC Courses: Calls, Proposals and Funding

IGC Course Development and Selection

IGC courses are initiated and supported by the Academic Board of the IGC.

Calls for new IGC courses are open to all SSPH+ Faculty Members, who are invited to submit course proposals. The Academic Board reviews all proposals and decides which courses will be implemented.

Selected courses are initially offered for **five editions**. The Academic Board reserves the right to discontinue a course earlier if it does not meet demand or the expected standards. After five editions, a new call for proposals is issued. The current course facilitator is welcome to submit a new proposal.

Course Proposal Submission

Please submit your course proposal by email to the IGC Manager:
Ann Walser: **awalser@ssphplus.ch**

Funding

Course Development

The selected candidate receives **CHF 3,000** for developing the full course concept.

Course Delivery

The course budget is **CHF 5,000 per ECTS**, regardless of the number of lecturers.
This budget covers:

- Lecturer remuneration, including honoraria and expenses
- Course materials
- Room costs
- Coffee breaks
- Local course organization

Additional Travel and Accommodation Allowance

For **onsite courses**, an additional travel and accommodation allowance is available **per in-class course day**, regardless of the number of lecturers:

Course Day with:	**Allowance per course day**
Lecturer(s) from SSPH+ partner universities	CHF 0
Guest lecturer(s) from Switzerland	CHF 100
Guest lecturer(s) from Europe	CHF 300
Guest lecturer(s) from overseas	CHF 600

SSPH+ INTER-UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CAMPUS SWISS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Call for a new course in the course program of the SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus (IGC)

Course Topic: "Introduction into GIS for Public Health"

Basic idea

Public health data are often geolocated, for instance when investigating the level of environmental pollution, access to recreation or health services, social inequalities, or the patterns or spread of disease. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provide the standard platform for exploring spatial attributes and relationships between our environment and health.

This course should offer an introduction to GIS and how it is used in public health and epidemiological research for students without prior knowledge of GIS. The course should provide the students with a practical guide about how to build a GIS project workflow. Thus, the course should offer practical time for hands-on data analysis, complemented with lectures and demonstrations. Ideally, students should be able to work on case studies based on their own data or on available datasets from the field of public health.

This course should introduce students to the basics in GIS including understanding the key concepts related to geospatial data and its manipulation; developing a coherent GIS database; working with and integrating spatial and non-spatial data; geographic scale and spatial precision/accuracy; projections; geocoding; understanding spatial relationships and basic analyses; visualization; thematic mapping; and map design. Further, specific skills and tools should be taught notably on the methods for exposure assessment, accessibility and route analysis, and health system planning. After the course, students should be able to spatially link various data and information.

Participants will likely have heterogeneous skill levels (e.g., related to coding). The course should ideally account for this by having both entry-level and advanced exercises that can be chosen from by participants, or code available that mirror some of the desktop GIS analyses.

For the course, preferably an open-source GIS software should be used (e.g. QGIS and R). No commercial license should be required from the participants.

Objectives

The overall aim of this course is to provide an introduction into GIS and how it is used in public health and epidemiological research. In particular, students should:

- understand how GIS can be used to enhance public health and research and understand the meaning of spatial patterns and possible biases related to their interpretation;
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- be able to work with different layers and types of spatial data, and relate them in meaningful ways. Be able to create a GIS database (find, acquire, incorporate spatial data);
- be able to utilize a GIS and perform basic spatial analyses;
- be able to appropriately generate and communicate results through maps and to develop simple reproducible data workflows.

Planned date

2028 / 2029

Planned duration

2 to 5 day-course (1 or 2 ECTS)

Teaching formats

Teaching modalities may include pre-course readings or preparation, E-learning, blended learning, in-person lectures, practical exercises, workshops, group work, and assessments

Submission date

30 November 2026

Course Proposal Submission

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Ann Walser: **awalser@ssphplus.ch**