

PhD student position at the Institute of Public Health (IPH), Faculty of Biomedical Sciences at USI Università della Svizzera italiana

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity open to the world where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged and take center stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative.

Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness and responsibility.

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) is an inter-faculty institute dedicated to teaching, research and service activities in public health sciences and its component disciplines. As such, it brings together, among others, the expertise of epidemiology, psychology, communication sciences, and economics. A key research area in the IPH is the study of caregivers' need and support in dementia care.

The Institute invites applications for a fully funded Ph.D. position in a Health Promotion Switzerland funded project CoPeC - "Building Care Pathways for Dementia: An Integrated and Participatory Approach to Preserving Autonomy".

The project

The project focuses on formalizing and communicating the care pathways developed and tested during the multi-year experience of the cantonal dementia strategy. A key element is the anchoring of a dense network of local stakeholders, including health professionals, and social and family organizations of patients. The method of collaboration is highly participatory, ensuring a holistic and inclusive perspective in defining care pathways, with the person's needs at the center. Through an integrated approach, we intend to make the most of existing but often underutilized resources because they are not known, difficult to access and use, pooling the different skills and perspectives of a wide range of stakeholders. Our proposal is centered on an innovative integrated approach that is not exclusively person-based but starts from and focuses on the family caregiver-person with dementia dyad.

The Ph.D. Position

The Ph.D. student will be enrolled in the doctoral school of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences and follow the Ph.D. program in Public Health. The doctoral student will work under the scientific supervision of Dr. Maddalena Fiordelli (<http://usi.to/dpe>).

Within the project CoPeC, the Ph.D. candidate will collaboratively work together with a postdoc acting as the project manager, in close contact with other researchers working with the population of caregivers of people with dementia, and with a network of local stakeholders. In addition, the successful Ph.D. candidate will participate in a variety of tasks related to the research streams in which s/he is involved.

The PhD candidate will collaborate to the development of the institute research agenda. He or she will have the task of setting up a collection of data for his or her dissertation, while at the same time participating in a variety of tasks related to the research streams in which he/she is involved.

The Ph.D. candidate is also asked to present the research output at scientific conferences and produce publications for scientific journals as part of his/her cumulative dissertation and beyond.

Candidates' profile

Ideal candidates should satisfy the following requirements:

- A Master (or equivalent title) in Psychology, Communication Science, Public Health, or related disciplines;
- Excellent skills in oral and written English;
- Excellent skills in Italian;
- Very good skills in another Swiss national language (German or French);
- Be curious, creative, and interested in learning from different disciplines;
- Interest and open-mindedness in adopting highly participatory research approaches;
- Show effective communication and negotiation skills;
- Ability to work independently, to proactively plan and direct own work, and to manage one's time and resources efficiently;
- The ability to work in a team and the ability to collaborate with colleagues are required.

Contract terms

Admission to the Ph.D. program is highly competitive. Admission decisions are based on the candidate's background, interests, attitude and potential for academic achievement. Successful enrolment in the Ph.D. program and the position as doctoral researcher are not compatible with a further professional activity.

The position is fully financed and the salary levels correspond to those set by the Swiss National Science Foundation for PhD researchers.

Workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. Availability to travel to other parts of Switzerland and abroad (for purposes of collaboration and research) is required.

Starting date is 01.04.2025.

The Application

Applications may be submitted upon acceptance of the Applicant Personal Data Processing Notice found at the following [LINK](#). In the online form, you will be asked to declare that you have read and understood our privacy policy.

Applications should contain: (1) a letter in which the applicants describe their research interests and the motivation to apply, (2) a complete CV, (3) copies of relevant diplomas, certificates as well as the full transcript of records that prove the candidates' eligibility for doctoral studies in Public Health, (4) an electronic version of a research work (Master thesis or other scientific publication).

The latter must be accompanied by a short summary in English (1 page maximum). A support letter written by the Master thesis supervisor (or another Professor who knows the candidate well) is equally welcome.

Applications must be submitted ONLINE by filling out the form accessible through the following link: [APPLY](#). You will also need to upload the documents listed above.

Requests for further information to Dr. Maddalena Fiordelli (maddalena.fiordelli@usi.ch).

Applications received before 31.01.2025, will be given priority. However, applications will be received until the position is filled.

USI strives to be an equal opportunity and family friendly employer and is further responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We guarantee that the selection process will give equal opportunities to female and male researchers.

As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

Lugano, 10.01.2025