
Call for Applications

SSPH+ Lugano Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics, and Management
34th Edition in Lugano, Switzerland, and Online **from 18 to 23 August 2025**

Deadline for the application: 5 March 2025 at 23:30 CET

Notification of applicants: By 30 April 2025 *

Online information session: 10 February 2025 at 14:00 CET on [zoom](#)

Application platform: https://usi.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9ijlmdPgvOP940

Before starting your application, please read the following instructions carefully.

* Applicants will be notified both in case of positive and negative response.



The SSPH+ Lugano Summer School

At the SSPH+ Lugano Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics, and Management, practitioners, researchers, and graduate students come together from all over the world for a unique learning experience focused on public health impact. The education obtained and networks created serve as an opportunity to reduce and prevent the gap between public health theory and practice. This year, we will gather in Lugano and Online from **18 to 23 August 2025**.

Here's the 2025 programme: <https://www.sspH-lugano-summerSchool.ch/courses>

Please read the programme carefully and choose the courses you would like to follow (based on the instructions below), before starting your application.

Courses will be offered in 3 different formats:

1. **ONLINE:** the course will be held entirely online.
2. **ON-SITE:** participation is on-site in Lugano only - no online participation.
3. **HYBRID:** at least one facilitator will be on-site, but participation is both on-site and online.

About Swiss Plexus

Swiss Plexus builds capacity for global public health and contributes to the transformation of educational opportunity into a global common good. The program matches health professionals, policy makers, students, and researchers from around the globe with high quality training offers provided by member institutions of the [Swiss School of Public Health \(SSPH+\)](#), the national coordinating body for promoting university education and research in public health sciences in Switzerland. By providing scholarships for short, skill and competency-based courses, Swiss Plexus supports the public health workforce to respond constructively to challenges of the public health sector.

Swiss Plexus is run by SSPH+ and supported by a grant of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The Swiss Plexus Scholarship Programme

Prerequisites for the application

- Your work/research domain is relevant for the improvement of public health.
- You have a good English language level (written and oral).
- You are able to FULLY commit to the classes during the times and dates indicated in the course(s) description.
- You do not have other financial means to cover your registration fees.
- It is highly suggested that you have a laptop.
- (IF ONLINE) Your internet connection and IT equipment are sufficient to allow you to follow smoothly the online classes.
- (IF ON-SITE) You are able to travel to Switzerland (no visa-related restrictions) during the SSPH+ LSS week.

Please note: due to the funder conditions, most of the scholarship are dedicated to applicants from Low and Middle Income Countries. This does not exclude persons from High Income Countries to apply, but their chances to receive a scholarship may be lower, unless new funds will be available.

Terms to apply

- You MUST read the course details (content, format, date) thoroughly before applying. You will not apply for an open scholarship but for a **scholarship for specific course(s)**. Course description are available on the [SSPH+ LSS website](#).
- It is NOT possible to revise your application once it is submitted. The courses listed in the notification of acceptance are binding. In case the course is cancelled by the organizers, participants will be able to ask to withdraw their participation or choose a different course.
- You can apply only for ONE scholarship format. The formats are described below.
- To earn a certificate of completion and/or ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits, participants MUST attend at least 80% of the course, pass the final assessment, and attend the plenaries offered during the first day(s) of the selected course(s).
- Scholarship winners who do not show up to the selected courses, will not be able to win another scholarship in the next four years.
- The information you provide will be used for managing your application and potential participation in the summer school.
- (Only for ON-SITE) The expenses pre-financed by the participants will be reimbursed after the SSPH+ LSS week. No cash reimbursement will be possible, but only wire transfers. More information will be provided in case the scholarship is granted.

Scholarships Formats

Participants can apply to different types of scholarships, both on-site and online; each type is described below. As the number of on-site scholarships is limited, we HIGHLY encourage, in case you have the possibility to do so, to apply for a partial scholarship and co-fund your participation. Having the possibility to co-finance the expenses, for example if you or your organization can pay the travel and/or accommodation, it may increase the chances to come to Lugano. More information below. If you have a good internet connection and if it is challenging to travel to Lugano (e.g. visa restrictions), please consider applying for an online scholarship.

TYPES OF ON-SITE SCHOLARSHIPS

1. ON-SITE FULL SCHOLARSHIP to participate in Lugano, Switzerland, covers the following costs:

- Tuition costs for **TWO** courses in onsite or hybrid format. On-site participants can select two courses, one during the first half of the week (18-20 August) and one during the second (21-23 August). If you are willing to take just one course, please select the online scholarship.
- Plenaries attendance.
- Lunches at the University Canteen.
- Allowance for dinners (100 CHF total).
- Scheduled networking events (tentatively 2 events with apero/dinner and social activities).
- Expenses for accommodation. The SSPH+ LSS will organize and book the accommodation in one of the SSPH+ LSS selected hotels for a maximum of 7 nights and for the scholarship recipient only.
- Expenses for travel, health insurance, and visa. **Scholarship recipients MUST self-organize and pre-finance the travel-related expenses**, which will be reimbursed at the end of the SSPH+LSS up to a predefined amount. The SSPH+ LSS office will support this process with invitation letters, hotel confirmations, etc. IF the scholarship recipient cannot anticipate all these expenses, the SSPH+ LSS can support him/her **ONLY** with the flight booking. It is mandatory for scholarship recipients to anticipate the money for health insurance, visa fees, and trains from the airport to Lugano.

2. ON-SITE PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIP (TUITION + ACCOMMODATION) to participate in Lugano, Switzerland, covers the following costs:

- Tuition costs for **TWO** courses in onsite or hybrid format. On-site participants can select two courses, one during the first half of the week (18-20 August) and one during the second (21-23 August). If you are willing to take just one course, please select the online scholarship.

- Plenaries attendance.
- Lunches at the University Canteen.
- Allowance for dinners (100 CHF total).
- Scheduled networking events (tentatively 2 events with apero/dinner and social activities).
- Expenses for accommodation. The SSPH+ LSS will organize and book the accommodation in one of the SSPH+ LSS selected hotels for a maximum of 7 nights and for the scholarship recipient only.

* *While all travel-related costs – flights, trains, health insurance, visa, etc. - must be self-covered by the participant.*

3. ON-SITE PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIP (TUITION + TRAVEL) to participate in Lugano, Switzerland, covers the following costs:

- Tuition costs for **TWO** courses in onsite or hybrid format. On-site participants can select two courses, one during the first half of the week (18-20 August) and one during the second (21-23 August). If you are willing to take just one course, please select the online scholarship.
- Plenaries attendance.
- Lunches at the University Canteen.
- Allowance for dinners (100 CHF total).
- Scheduled networking events (tentatively 2 events with apero/dinner and social activities).
- Expenses for travel, health insurance, and visa. **Scholarship recipients MUST self-organize and pre-finance the travel-related expenses**, which will be reimbursed at the end of the SSPH+LSS up to a predefined amount. The SSPH+ LSS office will support this process with invitation letters, etc. IF the scholarship recipient cannot anticipate all these expenses, the SSPH+ LSS can support him/her **ONLY** with the flight booking. It is mandatory for scholarship recipients to anticipate the money for health insurance, visa fees, and trains from the airport to Lugano.

* *While the accommodation costs must be self-covered by the participant. Please note that two hotels in Lugano offer special rates for LSS participants. More info in the website [FAQ session](#) - There are special prices for accommodation for paying participants?*

4. ON-SITE PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIP (TUITION ONLY) to participate in Lugano, Switzerland, covers the following costs:

- Tuition costs for **TWO** courses in onsite or hybrid format. On-site participants can select two courses, one during the first half of the week (18-20 August) and one during the second (21-23 August). If you are willing to take just one course, please select the online scholarship.
- Plenaries attendance.

- Lunches at the University Canteen.
- Allowance for dinners (100 CHF total).
- Scheduled networking events (tentatively 2 events with apero/dinner and social activities).

** While all travel-related costs – flights, trains, health insurance, visa, etc. – and accommodation costs must be self-covered by the participant. The LSS office can support with the documents needed for the visa application (e.g. invitation letter). Please note that two hotels in Lugano offer special rates for LSS participants. More info in the website [FAQ session](#) - There are special prices for accommodation for paying participants?*

TYPES OF ONLINE SCHOLARSHIPS

1. ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP, to participate on zoom, covers the following costs:

- Tuition costs for **ONE** course in online or hybrid format. Online participants can select one course during the first half of the week (18-20 August) OR during the second half of the week (21-23 August).
- Plenaries attendance.
- Scheduled online networking events

2. HUB SCHOLARSHIP, to participate in a hub location* covers the following costs:

- Tuition costs for ONE course. Hub participants can select only one course between those pre-selected by the hub organizers.
- Plenaries attendance.
- Scheduled online networking events.
- Some hubs may provide additional services (e.g. lunches, coffee breaks, social events).

** Hybrid hubs are LSS satellites where clusters of LSS participants physically gather to attend synchronous online classes of the SSPH+ LSS. Hubs provide the opportunity for face-to-face interaction within one location, both for additional discussions of course contents as well as for networking. They also ensure that participants have good technical equipment and stable network connectivity to enable remote and smooth participation in the pre-selected LSS courses. All hubs are co-created in cooperation with local partners acting as hosts. More info on the hub locations and courses below.*

If you are interested in the hub participation, please see below the list of hubs available and the courses they are going to offer:

1. **Hub in Prishtina**, Kosovo. Will offer the following courses:
 - Nutrition for Public Health: From Research to Policy (18-20 August 2025)
 - Foundations of Digital Health: Navigating the evolving landscape of digital solutions for health systems strengthening (18-20 August 2025)
 - Current Hot Topics in Noncommunicable diseases and health systems (21-23 August 2025)
 - Design Thinking: User-Centered Innovation for Public Health Professionals (21-23 August 2025)

*The Hub will also offer simultaneous translation and lunches and coffee breaks.
2. **HUB in Mogadishu**, Somalia. Will offer the following course:
 - Nutrition for Public Health: From Research to Policy (18-20 August 2025)

*The Hub will also offer lunches and coffee breaks.
3. **HUB in Chisinau**, Moldova. Will offer the following course:
 - Nutrition for Public Health: From Research to Policy

*The Hub will also offer lunches and coffee breaks.
4. **HUB in Lahore**, Pakistan. Will offer the following course:
 - Foundations of Digital Health: Navigating the evolving landscape of digital solutions for health systems strengthening (18-20 August 2025)
5. **HUB in Kathmandu**, Nepal. Will offer the following course:
 - Courses to be confirmed. More details will follow. Please wait until courses are confirmed before starting the application process.
6. **HUB in Kafue/Kabwe**, Zambia. Will offer the following course:
 - Courses to be confirmed. More details will follow. Please wait until courses are confirmed before starting the application process.
7. **HUB in Hanoi**, Vietnam. Will offer the following courses:
 - Current Hot Topics in Noncommunicable diseases and health systems (21-23 August 2025)
 - Measuring health spending and results to improve health sector performance and meet strategic objectives and inform policy reforms (21-23 August 2025)
 - Bridging research, policy and practice to improve the health of migrants (21-23 August 2025)
 - Design Thinking: User-Centered Innovation for Public Health Professionals (21-23 August 2025)

*The Hub will also offer coffee breaks.

Application Guidelines

Once you choose the course(s) you want to follow, based on the scholarship format for which you will apply, you can start your application. Before opening the application link (https://usi.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9ijlmdPgvOP940) we highly recommend that you prepare the following information. In fact, once the application is started you cannot exit, save it, etc.

1. **BIO SKETCH** - A short description of your work, academic background, expertise, and any other qualification/skill relevant for your application (Maximum 1500 character - ~ 250 words).
2. **MOTIVATION** - Please tell us why you want to attend the LSS, and more specifically the selected courses, and why you need a scholarship to do so (Maximum 1500 character - ~ 250 words).
3. **IMPACT** - Please tell us what you hope to gain out of attending the LSS this year and what is the expected impact of the LSS on your work/studies (maximum 1000 character ~ 160 words).
4. **PAST LSS PARTICIPATION** - If you have attended the LSS in the past, please specify when, which courses you took and how the knowledge and networks provided during the LSS impacted your work (maximum 800 character ~ 120 words).

**Be sure to include all information requested in each point!!*

Thanks for submitting your application before March 5, 2025, at 23:30 CET.