

# Applied Bayesian Methods in Epidemiology and Public Health

## Facilitators

- **Prof. Dr. Gian Luca Di Tanna, PhD**
- **Dr. Joseph Alvin Ramos Santos, PhD**

Department of Business Economics, Health and Social Care (DEASS),  
University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)

## Description

This course aims to provide a general, application-oriented introduction to Bayesian data analysis. It offers an overview of the basic concepts of Bayesian modelling essential for common applications, with a specific focus on regression models. Through practical examples and hands-on exercises, the course builds on the foundations of simple and generalized Bayesian regression models.

The program is divided into three parts. The first part covers the theoretical concepts of Bayesian analysis. The second part focuses on the application of Bayesian methods in public health and epidemiological studies. The third part consists of practical sessions, enabling participants to perform Bayesian analyses using the freely available, open-source software R.

## Objectives

Upon completing the course, the participants will have the knowledge and skills to:

- Describe the fundamental concepts of Bayesian analysis and explain the key differences between Bayesian and frequentist/classic approaches
- Explain the role of prior distributions in Bayesian inference
- Implement different forms of Bayesian statistical models using R/RStudio
- Interpret the results of Bayesian regression models and perform model evaluation
- Communicate the results and findings of their analyses effectively

<b>Date</b>	<b>14 – 16 April 2026</b>										
<b>Eligibility</b>	SSPH+ PhD and MD students and external participants are eligible to participate.										
<b>Prerequisites</b>	We expect participants to have a basic knowledge of statistical concepts like probability distributions, hypothesis testing, p-values, confidence intervals, and regression. Having some familiarity with core epidemiological outcome measures and study designs like randomized controlled trials and cohort studies would be an advantage.										
<b>Course Structure</b>	The course will feature a mixture of theoretical, face-to-face lessons combined with practical hands-on sessions.										
<b>Assessment</b>	End-of-course practical assessment										
<b>Credits</b>	<p>1 ECTS</p> <p>21 h contact (lessons and practicals), 4 h of preparatory work (software installation, pre-readings)</p> <p>(1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours workload)</p>										
<b>Location</b>	Bern University of Applied Sciences, Bern <a href="#">Bern, Schwarztorstrasse   BFH</a> ; the definite room number will be displayed on the screen at the entrance to the building on the first day of the course										
<b>Course Fees</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td><b>1 ECTS</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students</td><td>30 CHF</td></tr> <tr> <td>Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes</td><td>30 CHF</td></tr> <tr> <td>External PhD students, external MD Students and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training</td><td>300 CHF</td></tr> <tr> <td>Others</td><td>800 CHF</td></tr> </table>		<b>1 ECTS</b>	SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students	30 CHF	Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes	30 CHF	External PhD students, external MD Students and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training	300 CHF	Others	800 CHF
	<b>1 ECTS</b>										
SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students	30 CHF										
Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes	30 CHF										
External PhD students, external MD Students and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training	300 CHF										
Others	800 CHF										
<b>Registration</b>	<a href="https://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2026/">https://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2026/</a>										
<b>Deadline for Registration</b>	14 March 2026										