

Implementation Science: Translating Evidence to Real-world Impact

Facilitators

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- Prof. Dr. Sabina De Geest, University of Basel
- PD Dr. Aita Signorell, Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute
- Dr. Bastiaan Van Grootven, University of Basel
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- Dr. Bianca Albers, University of Zurich

Description

Implementation science is a scientific discipline dedicated to understanding and closing the persistent gap between research evidence and real-world practice in healthcare, public health, and health policy. Despite strong evidence for many interventions, programs, and policies, their uptake, effective use, and long-term sustainability in real-world settings (e.g., public health, clinical settings) remain limited. This course provides a rigorous introduction to the conceptual, theoretical, and methodological foundations of implementation science that are of particular relevance in the field of public health. It combines these theoretical inputs with practical applications to clinical and public health projects to guide the translation of evidence into real-world practice and impact.

Objectives

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

1. Define implementation science and explain its role in bridging the “Know–Do” gap in health and public health.
2. Clearly distinguish between different types of interventions and the strategies needed to (de-)implement them.
3. Identify relevant interest-holders and potential multi-level barriers and facilitators to implementation across diverse

contextual settings and select and apply strategies for equitable implementation.

4. Select and justify appropriate theories, models, and frameworks for specific implementation research questions and study phases.
5. Distinguish implementation outcomes from effectiveness outcomes.
6. Sketch the design of implementation studies and assess potential indicators of feasibility, cost, and benefit.
7. Understand how implementation research supports scalability, sustainability, and system-level change.
8. Apply implementation science concepts within own projects and/or an applied public health project.

Dates

5 - 8 April 2027

Eligibility

SSPH+ IGC students and postdocs. External participants are welcome to apply.

Course Structure

Lectures (morning) and workshops (afternoon)

Day 1 — Foundations of Implementation Science, Context & Implementation Strategies, Theories, Models, and Frameworks.

Day 2 — Implementation Outcomes, Interest-holder Engagement, Equity, Participatory Co-design and Human Centred Intervention Development

Day 3 — Research Designs, Methods, De-implementation and Economic Considerations

Day 4 — Scalability, Sustainability, and Applied Project Presentations

Pre- requisites

Basic knowledge of clinical research methods

Assessment

Active course participation and applied project work presentation

Credits

2 ECTS

Preliminary Work: 8-10h; Contact time: 28h; Applied project work: 14-16h

(1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours workload)

Location

University of Zurich

Course Fees

	2 ECTS
SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students	30 CHF
Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes with a SSPH+ Faculty Member as line manager	30 CHF
External PhD students, external MD Students, postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes without a SSPH+ Faculty Member as line manager and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training	600 CHF
Others	1'600 CHF

Registration

<https://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2027/>

Deadline for registration

5 March 2027