

Qualitative Health Research :

BASIC module: Defining and developing qualitative research in public health

Facilitators

PD Dr. Christina Akre, PhD

Unisanté – Head of Social Sciences Sector – Department of Epidemiology and health systems (DESS), Université de Lausanne

Dr. Yara Barrense-Dias, PhD

Unisanté – Senior researcher in Social Sciences Sector – Department of Epidemiology and health systems (DESS), Université de Lausanne

Description

Within public health, there is a growing interest to study and understand human behavior, representations, and individual experiences of those taking part in a studied phenomenon. Qualitative designs are the method of choice to address those issues.

Objectives

Understanding the main features of qualitative methods and approaches; overview of tools such as interviews, focus groups and participant/non-participant observation; organizing data collection and coding and analysis.

This basic module will guide participants in understanding and defining the main specificities of qualitative methods and approaches. It will help them plan and organize the data collection and familiarize them with data coding and analysis. An emphasis will be put on the importance of the theoretical frameworks underlying the interpretive process of researchers.

It will focus on the choice of tools and the concrete use of interviews, focus groups and participant observation.

Learning outcomes: define qualitative research, choose between several designs and tools and develop a qualitative research protocol.

Dates	12 - 14 November 2025										
Eligibility	Open to SSPH+ PhD students, other students, health professionals, and researchers in the health field.										
Course Structure	Presentations, guided discussions, small assignment during the course, multimedia course material, group exercises, classroom experience of conducting qualitative research, interactive sessions.										
Assessment	Personal daily reflexive tasks and journal uploaded on Moodle.										
Credits	1 ECTS Preparation work: 3 h; Contact time: 21 h; Personal work: 2 h (1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours workload)										
Location	Unisanté, University of Lausanne										
Course Fees	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">1 ECTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SSPH+ IGC PhD and MD Students</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30 CHF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30 CHF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>External PhD students, external MD Students and Swiss Public Health Doctors in training</td> <td style="text-align: right;">300 CHF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td style="text-align: right;">800 CHF</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1 ECTS	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
	1 ECTS										
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										
Registration	https://www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2025/										
Deadline for Registration	12 October 2025										