

SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus IGC

Ann Walser, Arnaud Chiolero
November 19, 2025



IGC

The Training Flagship of SSPH+

IGC – What it is about

Goals

- Provision of a high-level multidisciplinary PhD training in public health and epidemiology across Switzerland
- Foster inter-university networking for PhD students, MD students, and postdocs

Structure

- > 380 PhD and MD students from all 14 partner universities
- IGC Academic Board with 2 members from each partner university and with student and postdoc representatives
- IGC coordination team (Ann Walser, Catherine Girard, Fribourg)

Benefits for IGC Students:



State-of-the-art training

in public health methods and topics



Cost-free access

to IGC courses (a processing fee of CHF 30 per course applies)



SSPH+ Certificate in Public Health

awarded to IGC participants who complete the IGC requirements



Reduced fees

for selected courses offered by IGC partner institutions



Broad access

to the multidisciplinary SSPH+ research and teaching faculty across universities



Guidelines and support

for developing a high-quality PhD path in public health sciences



Networking opportunities

with fellow PhD and MD students, as well as junior and senior SSPH+ researchers across Switzerland

Enrollment in the IGC does not require additional ECTS credits or publications beyond the requirements of the home university.

IGC Membership

IGC Students

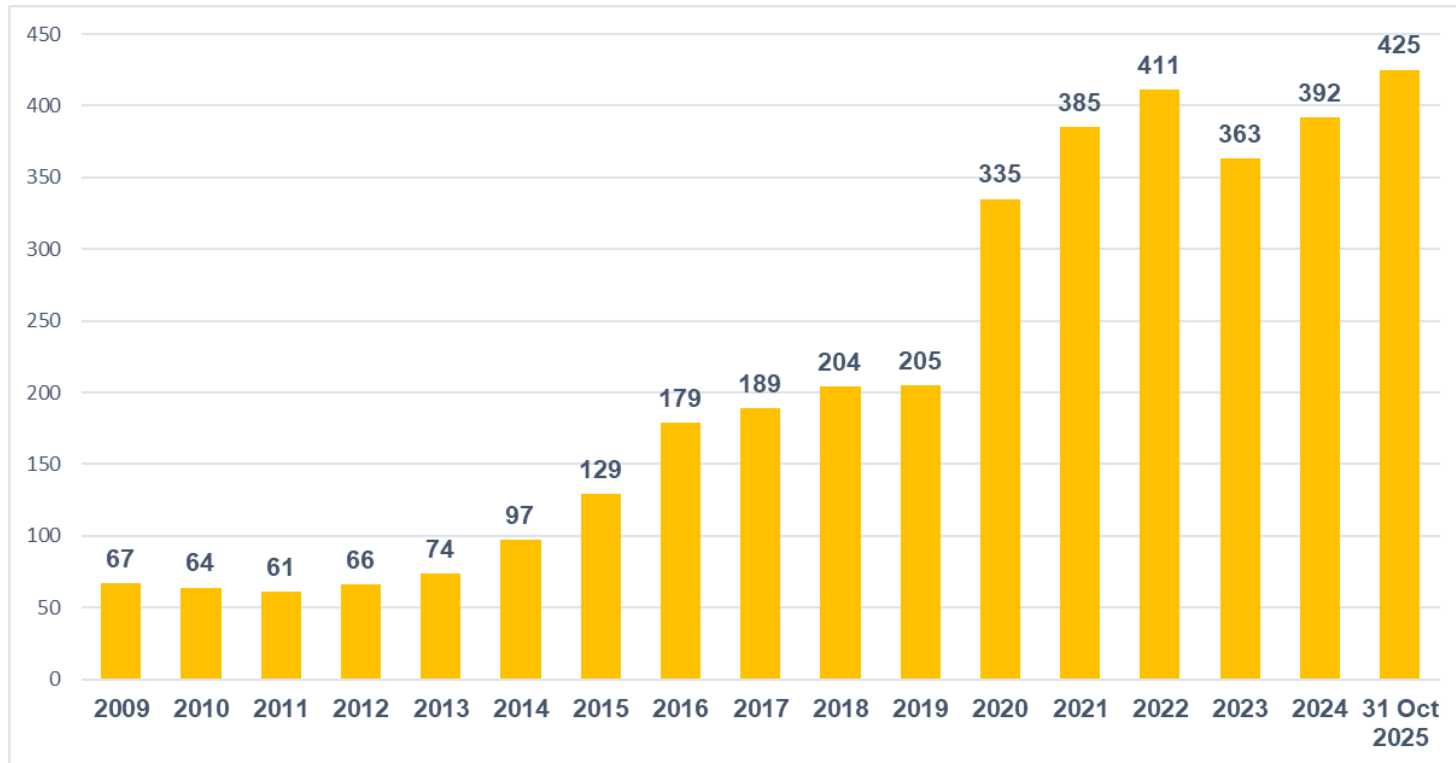
- PhD or MD student is enrolled in a SSPH+ partner university as doctoral student
- First supervisor of PhD or MD student is a SSPH+ Faculty Member

IGC Alumni with SSPH+ Certificate in Public Health

- At least 18 ECTS, covering the 4 fields with at least 2 ECTS for each:
 - Epidemiology
 - Social and behavioral sciences in health research
 - Health systems research
 - General scientific skills
- Minimum 4 SSPH+ courses
- Minimum 1 IGC students meeting

IGC Students

Number of IGC students across the years



IGC Students per 31 October 2025:

425

IGC students

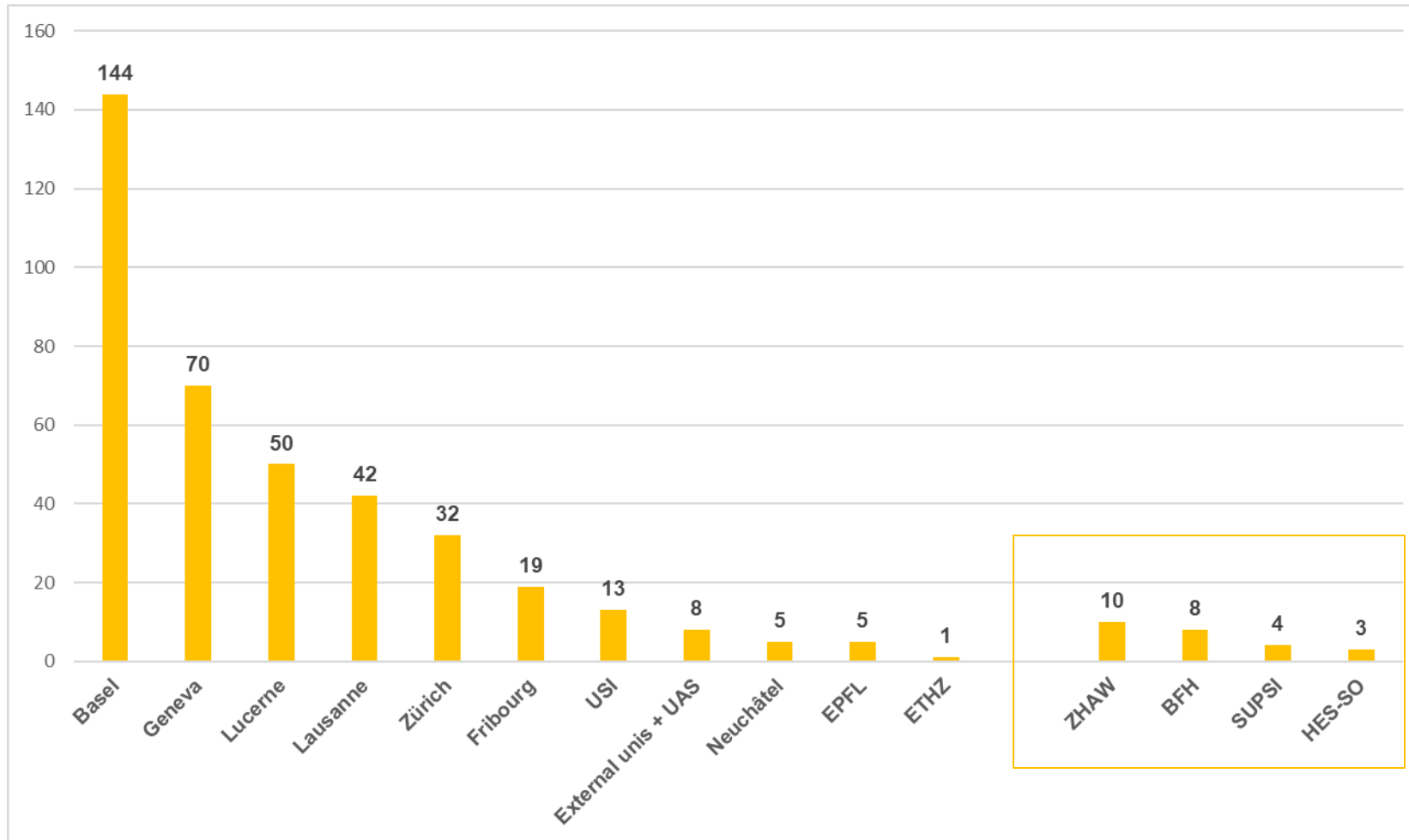
389

Enrolled PhD and MD students

36

new IGC graduates in 2025 who received the SSPH+ Certificate in Public Health

Number of IGC Students per University



31 October 2025:

- 381 PhD students
 - 8 MD students
- = 389 enrolled IGC students

IGC Courses/ Events/ Collaborations

Courses

- 25-30 courses
- 3-5 day courses covering all aspects of public health sciences
- Short online courses, taught by postdocs (2-3h courses)

Events

- Annual Students Meeting with speed talks of new IGC graduates
- Career Speed Dating events with “business angels”
- Online Christmas event
- IGC Academic Board meetings

Collaborations

- Coordinators of local PhD programs of the partner universities
- GLOHRA (German Alliance for Global Health Research)
- ORPHEUS PhD student forum

IGC Courses

Financed by SSPH+

- Lump sums (**5000 CHF/ ECTS**) to the partner universities
- All SSPH+ Faculty Members can suggest topics for new courses
- Calls for new course proposals go to all SSPH+ Faculty Members

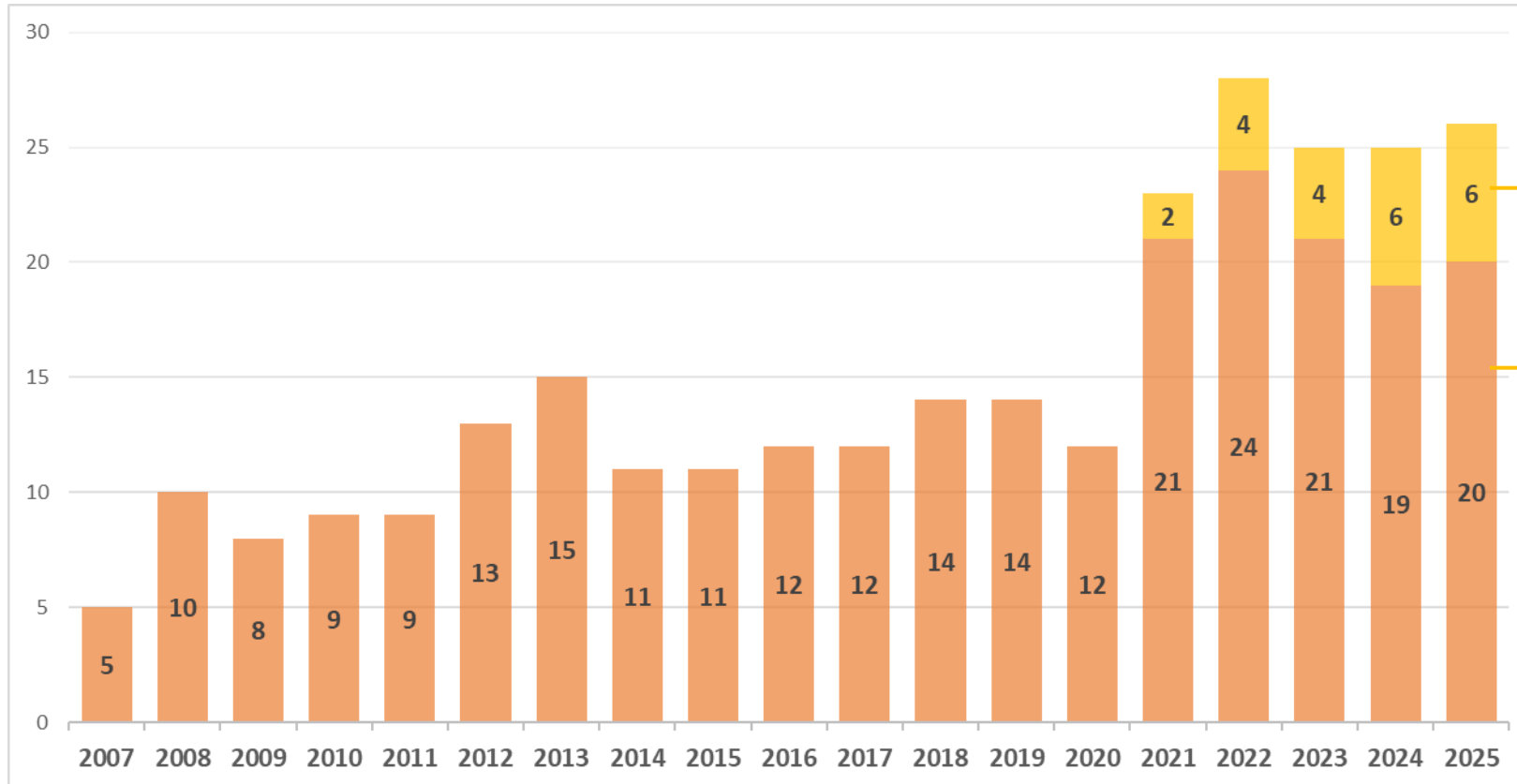
Course fees

- **30 CHF:** IGC students and post-docs from SSPH+ partner institutes
- **300 CHF per ECTS:** external PhD students, external MD students and public health doctors in training
- **800 CHF per ECTS:** all others

Courses outside IGC

- Not financed by SSPH+
- No involvement for coordination or registration
- Agreements for privileged access for IGC students (reduced course fees or reserved places)
- Advertised by SSPH+ (Newsletter)

Number of IGC Courses



2h online courses,
taught by postdocs

Regular courses,
taught by SSPH+
Faculty Members and
guest lecturers, 3-5
days

IGC Course Program

Regular courses	Fields				Format
	Epidemiology	Social and behavioral sciences in health research	Health systems research	General scientific skills	
Public health Law and Ethics		x			on site
Designing and using questionnaires for research: practical insights and challenges	x	x	x	x	on site
Systematic reviews and meta-analysis	x			x	on site
Basics of scientific writing in English: A structured method for organizing and writing better, faster papers				x	online
Public health surveillance and population health monitoring	x		x		on site
The Swiss Health System: Key characteristics and policy challenges			x		on site
Applied Bayesian Methods in Epidemiology and Public Health	x				on site
Epidemiological concepts, principles, and methods: A practice-oriented introduction	x				on site
Big Data in Public Health	x	x	x		on site
Migration health		x			hybrid
Writing and Publishing a Scientific paper				x	hybrid
Life Course Epidemiology and Public Health	x	x			on site
Missing data in observational epidemiologic studies including non-detects	x				on site
Medical care epidemiology: from variation to low-value care	x		x		on site
Artificial Intelligence, deep learning & healthcare	x				online
Principles of Health Economics			x		on site
Epidemiological data analysis strategy	x				on site
Causal inference for population health sciences	x				on site
Introduction to the statistical Software R	x			x	on site
Writing better, faster scientific papers in English: A structured method for non-native English speakers				x	online
Introduction to hierarchical/multilevel models for the analysis of clustered data	x	x			on site
Qualitative Research: Basic Module: Defining and developing qualitative research in public health		x			on site
GIS for Public Health	x			x	on site
Qualitative Research: Advanced Module: Appraising qualitative health research		x			on site
Understanding social inequalities and social problems in health		x			on site
Public health nutrition	x	x			hybrid
Foundations of public health	x	x	x		on site

Number of IGC Courses per University

University	21 regular courses 2023	4 short online courses	19 regular courses 2024	6 short online courses 2024	20 regular courses 2025	6 short online courses 2025	20 regular courses 2026 (1 tbd)	7 short online courses 2026
Basel	11	3	10	3	9	1	5	0
Lausanne	5	0	6	0	6	0	6	0
Fribourg	3	0	3	1	3	2	3	3
Zürich	1	0	2	1	2	1	3	0
USI	1	0	2	0	1	1	3	1
SUPSI	1	0	2	0	4	0	3	0
Neuchâtel	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Geneva	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
Lucerne	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
BFH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
EPFL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZHAW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HES-SO	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0

- Regular courses with the involvement of several universities are counted more than once
- Some courses are offered every 2nd/3rd year only

IGC Course Registrations

Registrations by deadline	Course Scheduling
18-25	Course will be offered annually .
15-17	Course will be offered but skipped the following year .
12-14	Decision made following consultation with course organizers: • The course may be cancelled and rescheduled for the following year, OR • It may be offered with half of the lump sum remuneration but will then be skipped the next year.
<12	Course is cancelled and rescheduled for the following year. If registrations remain below 12 again, the course must be revised or discontinued .

New IGC Courses 2025 and 2026

2025

- Applied Bayesian methods in epidemiology and public health
- Introduction to hierarchical/multilevel models for the analysis of clustered data
- Dissemination of health research findings
- Utilization of preventive health services: determinants and social inequalities
- A practical guide on how to submit, review, and get your paper published in public health journals

Planned for 2026

- Advanced Survey Methods for Population Health
- 3 additional new online courses by postdocs
- Writing retreat, organized by student representatives

New IGC Courses 2026

Advanced Survey Methods for Population Health

- Call launched to all SSPH+ Faculty Members
- 3 proposals received
- Ongoing selection process by IGC board

New online courses by postdocs

- Call launched to SSPH+ postdocs and all Faculty Members
- 5 proposals received
- 3 proposals selected, to be implemented in course program 2026

Writing retreat for PhD students

- Suggested and organized by IGC student representatives
- Financed with IGC course budget, contribution by participants
- In planning with student representatives, teacher, adviser from IGC board and IGC coordination

IGC Career Speed Dating



**CAREER
SPEED DATING**
ONLINE

18 April 2024 | 15:00

Calling SSPH+ PhD students and postdocs to participate in a career event!

Take part in several rounds of "speed dating" sessions where you can discuss your career plans with fellow members of the SSPH+ community.

Includes option for a 1:1 session with a career/business "angel" from the SSPH+ Board and get their insights on your path.



PROF. ARNAUD CHIOLERO
PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH &
DIRECTOR OF #POPHEALTHLAB,
UNIVERSITY OF Fribourg



PROF. EVA SOOM AMMANN
HEAD OF IF PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH,
BERN UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED
SCIENCES

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ORGANIZED BY THE SSPH+ STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

SSPH+
SWISS SCHOOL OF
INTER-UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE CAMPUS PUBLIC HEALTH



**CAREER
SPEED DATING**
ONLINE

20 November 2024 | 16:00

Calling SSPH+ PhD students and postdocs to participate in a career event!

Take part in several rounds of "speed dating" sessions where you can discuss your career plans with fellow members of the SSPH+ community.

Includes option for a 1:1 session with a career/business "angel" from the SSPH+ Board or from the private sector and get their insights on your path.



**PROF. ISABELLE
PEYTREMANN BRIDEVAUX**
FULL PROFESSOR & HEAD OF
HEALTH SYSTEM AND SERVICES
SECTOR, UNISANTE-UNIL



**DR. HABIL. CHRISTINE
FEKETE**
HABILITATED HEALTH SCIENTIST,
PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT, CO-FOUNDER
OF WORKMASTERY



[REGISTER HERE](#)

ORGANIZED BY YOUR SSPH+ STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

SSPH+
SWISS SCHOOL OF
INTER-UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE CAMPUS PUBLIC HEALTH



**CAREER
SPEED DATING**
SSPH+ ANNUAL MEETING
BERN UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

4 June 2025 | 17:00

Calling SSPH+ PhD students and postdocs to participate in a career event!

Take part in several rounds of "speed dating" sessions where you can discuss your career plans with fellow members of the SSPH+ community.

Includes option for a 1:1 session with a career "angel" from the SSPH+ Faculty and get their insights on your path.



**PD TRACY
GLASS**
GROUP LEADER, CLINICAL STATISTICS
& DATA MANAGEMENT,
SWISS TPH



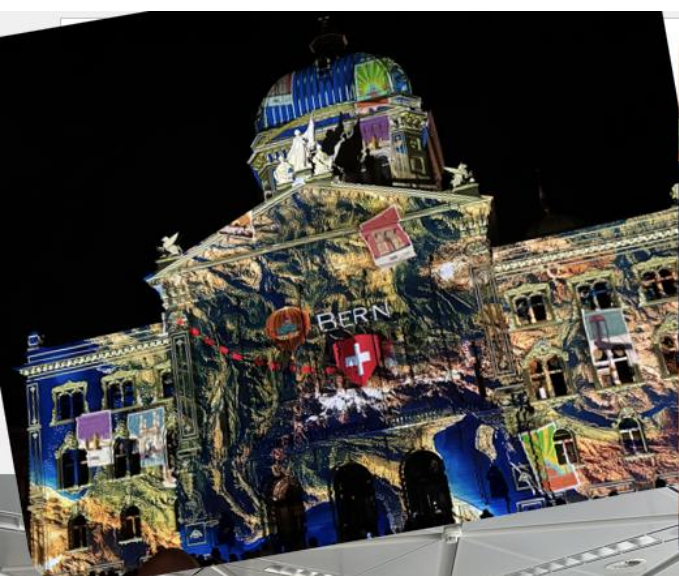
**PROF. SARA
RUBINELLI**
PROFESSOR OF HEALTH
SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF
LUCERNE



**PROF. SIMON
WIESER**
PROFESSOR FOR HEALTH
ECONOMICS, ZURICH UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES

ORGANIZED BY YOUR SSPH+ STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

SSPH+
SWISS SCHOOL OF
INTER-UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE CAMPUS PUBLIC HEALTH



Networking Events during IGC Courses



IGC Events: Christmas



SSPH+
SWISS SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

JOIN US FOR A

*Christmas around
the world*

ONLINE EVENT

DECEMBER **4** 5:00 PM CET

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT:

- Discover and share Christmas traditions from around the world;
- Connect and network with fellow PhDs and MD students and Post-Docs from IGC SSPH+;
- Enjoy games and fun activities.

HOW TO JOIN:

Scan the QR code, register now & share your Christmas cheer!



IGC Collaborations: ORPHEUS/ GLOHRA



ORPHEUS

Organisation for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System

- With Anna Romanova (PhD students forum) and Ann Walser (SSPH+ contact person)



GLOHRA

German Alliance for Global Health Research



- Fieldtrip to Geneva
- Group of 20 PhD students and post-docs
- Visiting of international organizations (WHO, Campus Biotech, FIND, UNICEF, DNDi, Alliance for Health Policy and Systems)
- GLOHRA year: 15 GLOHRA students, 5 IGC students & postdocs, 28 Sept – 2 Oct 2026
- SSPH+ year: 15 IGC students & postdocs, 5 GLOHRA students, 2027

IGC - Next Steps

2026/2027:

- Implementation of new courses
- Organization of writing retreat for PhD students
- Academic field trip in collaboration with GLOHRA

Long term:

- Getting all PhD students supervised by a SSPH+ Faculty Member to join the IGC and to take courses
- Strengthening the commitment of students, post-docs, and alumni
- Balanced course program (basic/advanced courses; public health fields and methods)

IGC

Thank you!

Ann Walser, Arnaud Chiolero

