

**UNIVERSITY OF  
LUCERNE**

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
AND MEDICINE**



**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN HEALTH SCIENCES**

# Greetings by the Program Director



The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the growing need for experts who have a deep understanding of health systems and who can develop solutions that effectively reduce the burden of the disease. But pandemics are not the only challenge that health systems face. For example, the changing health care needs of the population, rising health care costs, and increasing health disparities are on top of the agenda of health policymakers in many countries. Recent advances in medical technologies and digital transformation hold the promise to change our health systems profoundly, but they need to be made accessible and usable to achieve our common goal of improving the health and well-being for all.

The MSc Health Sciences at the University of Lucerne offers a unique qualification in the domain of health, preparing you for different roles in the health sector. Whether in health promotion, health care management, the pharmaceutical or insurance industries, or in a policy-oriented position, our program allows you to shape your learning experience based on your interests, for example, by offering five different Majors and integrating a mandatory internship into the curriculum.

If you are ready to start a career in health, join us now for one of our information events, or contact us directly at [masterhealth@unilu.ch](mailto:masterhealth@unilu.ch).

We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Stefan Boes  
Professor of Health Economics

# Content and Goal of the MSc Health Sciences

The health sciences are a scientific field that studies individuals' health and lived experience of health in interaction with their environment, and society's response to health needs. The program integrates different scientific disciplines rooted in the biological, clinical, and socio-humanistic meta-perspectives, offering a comprehensive approach to health. Our aim is to provide you with the essential skills to become competent actors in the health system, including critical thinking, methodological knowledge, and implementation strategies. The MSc Health Sciences provides students from a variety of backgrounds an ideal learning environment to start a career in health, foster innovation in our society, and ultimately contribute to the goal of improving the health of individuals and populations.

## Study Program

The 2-year program with 120 ECTS consists of the following main modules:

<b>Principles of Health Sciences (30 ECTS)</b>	<b>Advanced Research Methods (12 ECTS)</b>	<b>Academic and Professional Skills (6 ECTS)</b>
<b>Major (30 ECTS)</b>	<b>Internship (18 ECTS)</b>	<b>Master's Thesis &amp; Oral Examination (24 ECTS)</b>

The module «Principles of Health Sciences» comprises the first semester. Starting from the second semester, you have a flexible study plan and can build your own curriculum by selecting a major and courses from a diverse course catalogue. You will also do a research internship as part of the curriculum, ideally leading to your Master's Thesis.







# Majors

- **Health Communication:** Studying the science of using communication to influence health and related decisions at the level of individuals, institutions, and in policy.
- **Health and Social Behavior:** Learning how health behaviors and health experiences can be addressed and changed with appropriate interventions.
- **Health Economics and Policy:** Providing the principles of economic thinking and theories of political science to understand and manage complex health systems.
- **Health Services Research:** Learning the methods to evaluate the effectiveness of health services, optimize service delivery, and assess the performance of health systems.
- **Health Data Science:** Developing the skills to analyze complex health data and derive actionable results using modern tools of data science and machine learning.



“ By joining the Master in Health Sciences I had the opportunity to meet international students, academics, and researchers with different backgrounds and a common interest in improving individual and collective health. The Master's program allowed me to personalize my studies based on my background as health care professional and fields of interest – clinical quality and health economics. The Major in Health Services Research equipped me with fundamental research methodologies to pursue an academic career and contribute my part in optimizing health care services.



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**Gaia Garuffi**

Major Health Services Research



“ As a Philosophy undergraduate and healthcare worker, the Master in Health Sciences gave me the opportunity to bring these two paths together: By means of its majors, hands-on skills and methodical approach, the Master gave me the chance to pursue my interests in health economics, develop my potential and boost my career.

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**Giancarlo Marin**

Major Health Economics and Health Policy

“ This Master's program was a milestone for my personal and professional development. The basic modules provided the important scientific foundation, while the major courses allowed for specialization in individual areas of interest. What I particularly liked about the Major in Health Behavior and Management was that I was able to directly observe and apply the new knowledge in my everyday life and environment.



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**Michaela Kaufmann**

Major Health Behavior and Management



“ The master's program gave us an in-depth understanding of how a health system works. We can now use different methods to analyse health challenges and develop as well as implement evidence-based solutions. Studying together with students from various backgrounds gives the opportunity to learn from each other. Not only have we found study partners, but also friends for life.

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**Ladina Ghilardi and Corinne Matti**

both Major Health Economics and Health Policy



# Research Internship and Master's Thesis

We are collaborating with different partner institutions for research internships, e.g.,

- Swiss Paraplegic Research & Swiss Paraplegic Centre
- Lucerne Cantonal Hospital
- Center for Primary and Community Care, University of Lucerne
- Pharmaceutical Companies
- Health Insurers
- Academic partners



The research internship allows you to gain early work experience in a field of your choice. Openings by our partner institutions and self-organized internships offer different possibilities for completing this element of the program. The internship is ideally organized in the third semester, but alternative arrangements are possible (please consult with the Dean's Office for further information). You also have the opportunity to develop your Master's Thesis proposal during the internship and you will be actively supported by your internship supervisor and by members of the research group.

## Admission

Formal admission requirement is a Bachelor's degree (or an equivalent higher education degree) with at least 180 ECTS from a University or University of Applied Sciences, which is recognized by the University of Lucerne. According to its interdisciplinary nature, the program welcomes students with different backgrounds, such as natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities

The MSc Health Sciences (120 ECTS) starts once a year in the fall semester. For questions regarding admission requirements, organization and planning of studies, please contact the Dean's Office, or visit our website [www.unilu.ch/gmf](http://www.unilu.ch/gmf).

# Career Prospects

In our master program, we are dedicated to educating students, so they are in an excellent position to further a career in the health sector including positions in health administration, public health, health education and promotion, research, management in state and federal health agencies, eHealth and in other health-related industries.

## **Our graduates are working as:**

- Regulatory Affairs Specialists
- Health Economists
- Project Managers Health Promotion
- Health Education Experts
- Marketing Communication Managers
- Market Access Associates
- Pricing and Reimbursement Associates
- Patient Relations Managers
- Research Associates
- Clinical Trial Coordinators

# Studying in Lucerne

Lucerne is located in the German-speaking region of Switzerland. It is the capital of the equally named canton and the largest city in Central Switzerland with around 80'000 inhabitants. Lucerne has long been a destination for tourists due to its location on the shores of Lake Lucerne, within sight of the Pilatus and Rigi mountains, the panorama of the Swiss Alps, and its many recreational opportunities. Zurich Airport, the largest airport in Switzerland with intercontinental services, is only a one-hour train ride from Lucerne. The University of Lucerne is located directly on Lake Lucerne, close to the SBB railway station, and offers an easily accessible and modern learning environment.



“ Acquiring a Master in the Health Sciences was a key component towards acquiring specialized knowledge in a professional field. It allowed me to develop in-depth understanding of real-world application of health economics and policy concepts. My current job consists of applying evidence-based research into professional policy projects, the program’s curriculum was fundamental as it allowed me to strengthen my research skills. ”

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**Sonia Barbosa**

Scientific Collaborator at the  
Swiss Medical Association (FMH)

“ The Master in Health Sciences program gave me the required skills to switch from the health provider front – as my professional background is physiotherapist – into health policy where I hope to contribute my part in overcoming current provider issues on a system level in Switzerland. ”

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**Fabienne Lüthi**

Scientific Associate Section Healthcare Professions,  
Federal Office of Public Health

“ The Master in Health Sciences program is a unique and highly valuable learning process especially during the internship where learning is not only by understanding theories but also by doing and practicing knowledge and skills. For me, it surely made me discover my potential and gave me a head start in the career I am pursuing. I believe doing this Master at the University of Lucerne is one of the best decisions I made. ”

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**Rita Saleh**

PhD ETH Zurich, Institute for Environmental Decisions/Consumer  
Behavior, now Scientific Collaborator at Agroscope



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## CONTACT

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