

Program rules

Masters of Science in Global health

(Maîtrise universitaire en Santé globale)

(In the event of a litigation, the French version of the rules is authoritative.)

I. OVERVIEW

Article 1 Purpose

- 1 The University of Geneva's Global Studies Institute (hereinafter "GSI") offers a Master's of Science in Global Health (hereinafter "MSGH").
- 2 The MSGH is a cross-disciplinary degree at the second level of basic university education, as defined in Article 63.1(b) of the University of Geneva Statutes. It is worth 120 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits. One ECTS credit is equivalent to 25 to 30 hours of work by the student (class time, set work, personal study, revision, etc.).

Article 2 Aims

- 1 The teaching aim of the MSGH program is to provide students with cross-disciplinary training in global health, taking an intersectoral perspective that looks at how human health interacts with the health of the planet as a whole (as part of the “planetary health” or “healthy lives on a healthy planet” movement). Students are thus given the opportunity to study the world's health-related challenges in a cross-cutting, integrated and global manner. The program seeks to provide students with the resources they need to respond to the current and nascent challenges of global health using innovative methods and approaches that are sustainable and accessible for all and that abide by the principles of medical ethics and human rights.
- 2 The Master's prepares students for further training, for a teaching and research career in the field of global health, or for a professional career in global health.

Article 3 Organization

- 1 The MSGH Director is supported by an Academic Committee and is a full member of that committee. The Academic Committee also includes the MSGH Academic Advisor (full member) and at least two professors involved in the program. Members of the Academic Committee are appointed by the MSGH Director. The GSI Director approves the list of committee members for a term of no more than four years. Members' terms are renewable. The Academic Committee is responsible for the program's research direction and for proposing and implementing the study plan. In fulfilling its functions, the Academic Committee regularly consults with teachers involved in the program (professors and teaching and research staff) and students enrolled in it (particularly the representative(s) of first- and second-year students).
- 2 The Admissions Committee is made up of the MSGH Director (full member), the MSGH Academic Advisor (full member) and at least two professors or teaching and research staff members involved in the program; these members are appointed by the MSGH Director. The GSI Director approves the list of committee members. Members who are not entitled to automatic membership are appointed for a term of two years, which may be renewed.

II. ENROLMENT, ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

Article 4 Enrolment and registration

- 1 To be admitted to the MSGH, applicants must meet the University of Geneva's general enrolment requirements.
- 2 Students admitted to the MSGH are enrolled at the University of Geneva and registered with the GSI.
- 3 The GSI Director reserves the right not to admit a new class of students in a given year if there are not enough suitable applicants.
- 4 Students must enroll with the University's admissions service.
- 5 Students can only register with the GSI for the beginning of the following academic year, in September.

Article 5 Admissions requirements

- 1 Those holding a Bachelor's degree (representing at least 180 ECTS credits) or a degree deemed equivalent by the GSI Director may be admitted.
- 2 The MSGH is a specialized Master's, as per the terminology used to implement the Bologna Process in Switzerland. No degree automatically grants the holder admission to the Master's. Students are selected by the Admissions Committee (Article 3.2) based on their applications.

Student applications must contain the following:

- a. A certified copy of their Bachelor's degree or equivalent. If the applicant has a degree other than a Bachelor's, the GSI Director decides whether the degree is equivalent, in keeping with the first paragraph of this Article. If the applicant has not yet obtained their degree, they may be granted conditional admission if the conditions set out in Article 7 below are met.
- b. The transcript of the university courses taken and the grades obtained during undergraduate study.
- c. Proof that the applicant can follow classes given in English (e.g., a degree in English, a Cambridge certificate, or TOEFL) or other proof accepted by the Admissions Committee.
- d. Two recommendation letters, each from a university teacher or line manager who is able to attest to the applicant's capacities and motivations.
- e. A cover letter setting out the reasons why the applicant wishes to study global health at the University of Geneva and why the applicant believes they are qualified for and compatible with the goals of the program; the letter should also set out the applicant's expectations and, where applicable, their career plans.
- f. A CV indicating any professional experience the applicant may have.

Article 6 Admission and recognition of credits

- 1 The Admissions Committee (Article 3.2) decides whether to admit applicants based on their applications.
- 2 Students are admitted or refused admission based on the terms and conditions set out in Article 5, subject to Article 7.

- 3 Admission decisions apply only to the academic year in question. An applicant who is admitted but decides not to study at GSI may reapply at a later date.
- 4 For students to obtain credits for previous university studies, the following conditions apply:
 - a. No credit can be awarded for the first year of the MSGH program for studies conducted prior to admission to the MSGH.
 - b. If the applicant already holds a Master's that relates to the second-year specialization semester for the MSGH, they may request credit for those studies, provided that the conditions set out in Article 13.1(b) below are met.
 - c. Where the GSI has set up a dual degree program, as described in Article 12, with a partner institution, as defined in Article 11.2, on the basis of an inter-institutional agreement, 60 ECTS credits may be recognized for the MSGH at the GSI, in accordance with the provisions of the agreement.
 - d. The MSGH Director is in charge of taking decisions on recognizing previously obtained credits, on the recommendation of the MSGH Academic Advisor.

Article 7 Conditional admission

- 1 To enable students to continue their university studies, the Admissions Committee may grant an applicant conditional admission if the applicant is about to obtain a Bachelor's degree and has already obtained at least 120 ECTS credits.
- 2 In this case, the applicant is only admitted if they then obtain the degree. The degree, within the meaning of Article 5.1, must be obtained before the start of the academic year for which the student has applied for admission.
- 3 The Admissions Committee cannot grant conditional admission on any grounds other than those set out in paragraph 1 above.
- 4 If the applicant fails to obtain their degree before the start of the academic year in question, the admission decision is nullified.
- 5 If the degree is obtained after the start of the academic year for which the application was submitted, the applicant is not automatically entitled to admission during a subsequent academic year. The applicant may submit a new application, which will be processed in accordance with Article 6 of these program rules.

III ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE MASTER'S PROGRAM

Article 8 Length of study

- 1 To obtain the MSGH, the student must acquire a total of 120 ECTS credits. A full-time year of study in a graduate program, as defined in Article 63 of the University of Geneva Statutes, generally corresponds to 60 ECTS credits. The minimum length of study for the MSGH is therefore four semesters.
- 2 Students who are working or enrolled in another university degree program may be granted an exception to the length of study by the GSI Director if they submit a request in writing.

- 3 Exceptions to the length of study may be granted by the GSI Director under certain other conditions (such as illness, pregnancy, military service, or significant professional or family responsibilities), if the student submits a request in writing. When the request is for the maximum length of study to be extended, the extension may not exceed two semesters.
- 4 Such requests must be submitted before the start of the semester in question. The above does not apply to cases of force majeure.

Article 9 Leave

- 1 A student who wishes to take a temporary break from their Master's studies must set out their reasons in a leave request submitted to the GSI Director, who will then inform the University's enrolment service of the decision. Such requests must be submitted before the start of the semester in question, except in cases of force majeure. Leave can be granted for a period of one semester or one year and may be renewed.
- 2 However, total leave may not exceed two consecutive semesters, barring exceptional circumstances.

Article 10 Structure of the Master's program

- 1 Master's courses are taught through lecture classes, seminars, workshops and independent or supervised coursework.
- 2 Each course is usually taught over one semester and represents at least two hours per week.
- 3 Classes under the responsibility of the GSI are taught in English.
- 4 The number of ECTS credits obtained for each course, as well as for the research thesis and the internship, is provided in the study plan adopted by the GSI Assembly upon the recommendation of the GSI College of Professors.
- 5 First-year MSGH students must select a certain number of compulsory core courses from the list in the study plan. Second-year students normally have to take five or six specialized courses and complete a research thesis and an internship.
 - a) The core courses (selected from the list) are taught in the first two semesters of the Master's program. Students must obtain at least 60 ECTS credits from these courses (disciplinary and methodological foundations (30 ECTS) and interdisciplinary integration of knowledge (30 ECTS)). Students may also take additional courses during this time, as long as they are included in the study plan. If a student passes these additional courses, the ECTS credits obtained can count towards the credits needed for the specialization semester. These additional courses and the credits obtained are recognized as specialized courses.

- b) Generally speaking, students start taking the specialized courses in the third semester, either at the University of Geneva or at one of the partner institutions. However, depending on the courses available, students may take the specialization semester either in the fourth semester or over the third and fourth semesters. Students must choose their courses from among the lecture classes and seminars listed in the study plan of the partner institution at which they are taking their specialization semester. These courses must account for 30 ECTS credits, based on the University of Geneva's credit scale. If a student obtains more than 60 ECTS credits in the first year, as per paragraph (a) above, they may write to the MSGH Director and the MSGH Academic Advisor to request that the credits be recognized for the specialized courses. This option is not available to students enrolled in a dual degree program; no credits can be recognized in this case.

- c) A research thesis and an internship make up the final stage of the Master's program and represent 30 ECTS credits. The internship can take place once the student has the 60 ECTS credits usually obtained during the first two semesters of the program. Students must obtain 90 ECTS credits from courses and have validated their internship before they can defend their thesis.

Article 11 Individual study plan

- 1 The second year of the MSGH is built around the student's objectives, based on their course choices and/or their skills and prior experience. Each student must draw up their second-year study plan and submit it to the MSGH Academic Advisor for approval before the end of the second semester (i.e., before the end of the spring semester, which ends after the August/September exam session and before the start of the academic year in September). The MSGH Academic Advisor must be informed of any change to the individual study plan. Before deciding on the topic of their thesis (which may or may not be related to their internship), students must obtain the agreement of a Thesis Supervisor. The Thesis Supervisor is either an authorized person under Article 18.2 or an authorized person at the partner institution, as defined in the following paragraph, at which the student completed their specialization semester.

- 2 The specialization semester (the third or fourth semester), together with the research thesis and the internship (normally in the third or fourth semester), may be conducted at the University of Geneva or at a partner institution, with the student remaining enrolled at the University of Geneva, in keeping with the partnership agreements that the University of Geneva has signed with each of these institutions. Partner institutions include the Graduate Institute, the University of Basel's Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, the University of Neuchatel's Institute of Health Law (IDS), the Università della Svizzera Italiana, and the University of Luzern.

Article 12 Dual degree program

- 1 The GSI offers MSGH students the possibility of obtaining a dual degree. This means that the student has to either study in the MSGH program for two years and then complete one year in a Master's program at a partner institution, as defined in Article 11.2, or study for two years at a partner institution and then complete one year in the MSGH program. The student will then obtain two Master's degrees in just three years, as two of the semesters count towards both Master's programs, in accordance with the terms of the relevant partnership agreement.

- 2 The student must apply to the partner institution in accordance with the dual degree program agreement. They must also comply with the partner institution's procedures and deadlines, and submit their application either at the end of the first semester or the end of the third semester. The student is admitted based on the admission rules of the partner institution.
- 3 Each dual degree program is governed by its own program rules and study plan.
- 4 Students are enrolled at the institution at which they are studying for the Master's.
- 5 Each Master's program may require a thesis to be written to obtain the dual degree. The thesis is usually co-supervised by a Thesis Supervisor involved in teaching the MSGH at the University of Geneva and a Thesis Supervisor involved in teaching the Master's at the partner institution.
- 6 In all other respects, the terms and conditions governing the dual degree program, and particularly the related tuition fees, are set out in ad hoc agreements and in addenda to these rules. These addenda form an integral part of these rules. They were recommended for approval by the GSI College of Professors, approved by the GSI Assembly and then adopted by the Rectorate.

Article 13 Obtaining ECTS credits

- 1 The 120 ECTS credits needed to obtain the MSGH are usually acquired on the terms set out in Articles 17, 18 and 19 below, with:
 - a. 60 ECTS credits obtained in the first year for the core courses.
 - b. 30 ECTS credits obtained as a whole for the specialized courses. Applicants who already have a Master's degree recognized by the University of Geneva and who are not enrolled in a dual degree program under Article 12 above may have up to 30 previously obtained ECTS credits recognized for the specialization semester, provided that the Master's they already hold is in a field relating to the specialization semester and deemed relevant to the field of global health by the MSGH Director.
 - c. 30 ECTS credits for the completion of an internship that is the full-time equivalent of at least three months but no more than six months, and for writing and defending a research thesis. The 30 credits are awarded once the student has successfully defended their thesis.
- 2 Semester courses generally account for between three and six ECTS credits each, provided that the assessment, as defined in Article 17, has been successfully completed.
- 3 The 60 ECTS credits for core courses must be acquired in courses listed in the MSGH study plan.
- 4 Each group of courses is allocated a weighting used to calculate the final grade average:
 - a. Core courses: 2
 - b. Specialized courses: 1
 - c. Thesis and internship: 1

Article 14 Obtaining ECTS credits outside the MSGH program (outside courses)

- 1 Students may obtain no more than six ECTS credits for one or several outside courses, i.e., courses that are not included in the MSGH study plan and that are not related to a stay at a partner institution.
- 2 Such courses must be of exceptional interest for student and not be part of the University of Geneva's standard course program.
- 3 Students must submit a request in writing setting out their reasons for wishing to take the course to the MSGH Director at least two months before the course in question begins.
- 4 The request must include the name of the teacher, where and in which program the course is given, the number of teaching hours, the dates on which the course starts and ends, the assessment method, and the number of ECTS credits awarded for the course.
- 5 The MSGH Director then has one month to approve or deny the request. If the request is approved, the MSGH Director will specify the number of ECTS credits that will be awarded to the student for the MSGH program.
- 6 The ECTS credits are awarded when the institution responsible for the course provides proof that the student has passed the course assessment. These ECTS credits count as ECTS credits for the specialized courses.
- 7 If the student fails the course assessment, they cannot retake the assessment and no credits will be awarded.
- 8 A student who has failed to obtain the ECTS credits for an outside course cannot submit a request to take any other outside course.

III. KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT

Article 15 Knowledge assessment at the University of Geneva

- 1 There is an assessment for each course. The assessment may take the form of an oral and/or written exam, an ongoing assessment, an individual essay (along with an oral presentation in some cases), one or several individual or group presentations, or a certificate.
- 2 If the type of assessment is not specified in the study plan, it is up to the teacher to choose the assessment. The teacher must inform the students of the type of assessment at the start of the course and include this information in the course syllabus.

- 3 For courses that are assessed through exams, students are awarded either a grade of between zero and six (very good) or a pass or fail ("yes" or "no"). If a grade is awarded, grading is by quarter point, and the grades obtained count towards the student's grade average for each group of courses, as described in Article 17.1. The final grade average is determined based on the procedure set out in Article 13.4. Where a pass or fail is awarded, a pass allows the student to obtain the ECTS credits for the course, based on the requirements set out in Article 13. However, a pass grade does not count towards the student's grade average for the group of courses in question or for their overall grade average.
- 4 The above does not apply to assessments conducted in partner institutions. Where necessary, the requirements for sitting such exams are detailed in an addendum to these rules.

Article 16 Signing up for exams at the University of Geneva

- 1 For courses that are assessed through an exam, the assessment takes place during the exam session immediately following the course. The GSI Secretariat announces the exam times at least two weeks before the start of the exam session.
- 2 All students must have sat all exams for their core courses by the end of their first two semesters at GSI.
- 3 Students must sign up for the courses at the start of the semester, in accordance with the deadlines and procedures set by GSI Management. Deadlines must be respected.
- 4 Unless an exception is granted by the GSI Director, students may re-sit an exam only during the exam session that brings the spring semester to an end (i.e., in the extra exam session in August/September). If a student re-sits an exam, the grade obtained during the extra exam session replaces the grade obtained during the ordinary exam session.
- 5 By signing up for a course, the student automatically signs up to sit the exam during the ordinary exam session immediately following the end of the course.
- 6 Thesis defenses are organized by the GSI Secretariat, at the convenience of the members of the panel and the student.
- 7 The above does not apply to exams sat at partner institutions. Where necessary, the requirements for sitting such exams are detailed in an addendum to these rules.

Article 17 Conditions for passing assessments at the University of Geneva

- 1 Students must obtain an average of at least 4.00 out of 6.00 for each of the following groups of courses:
 - a. The group of core courses for each semester of the first year.
 - b. The group of elective specialized courses taken in the second year and representing 30 ECTS credits.

Students must also obtain an average of at least 4.00 out of 6.00 for the thesis and have validated their internship.

- 2 If the required average grade is obtained, all ECTS credits are awarded for the group of courses in question. This applies to each group of courses mentioned in paragraph 1 above
- 3 The average is not weighted within the abovementioned groups of courses.
- 4 No more than two attempts are allowed for each assessment. A second fail may lead to expulsion, except where the average grade for the group of courses in question is high enough for the ECTS credits for the course to be awarded.
- 5 In cases of cheating or plagiarism, the student is awarded a grade of 0 for the assessment.
- 6 Partner institutions have their own exam requirements. Where necessary, the requirements for such assessments are detailed in an addendum to these rules.

Article 18 Assessment of the thesis carried out at the University of Geneva

- 1 The thesis comprises a written essay and a defense. Both of these components are compulsory.
- 2 The thesis must be carried out under the supervision of an MSGH teacher. The teacher may be a professor or a member of the teaching and research staff (a senior lecturer, lecturer, or teaching and research fellow), or a scientific staff member provided that the thesis is co-supervised by a member of the teaching and research staff or an individual with the same status in a partner institution, as defined in Article 11.2.
- 3 The panel is made up of between two and five examiners who are either professors or members of the research and teaching staff, or their substitutes, at the University of Geneva or a partner institution. The panel is appointed by the MSGH Director, who is also a full member of the panel.
- 4 Students must have obtained 90 ECTS credits from courses and have validated their internship before they can defend their thesis.
- 5 A single grade is awarded for the written essay and the defense, with the written essay accounting for two-thirds of the grade and the oral presentation and subsequent discussion for one-third. Students must obtain a grade of 4.00 or above for their thesis (written essay and defense).
- 6 If a grade lower than 4.00 is obtained, the panel decides what form the second attempt should take. It can be either a new version of the written essay, followed by a second defense, or simply a second defense. If the student fails the second attempt, they are expelled from the program.
- 7 The above does not apply to theses carried out at partner institutions. Where necessary, the requirements for such assessments are detailed in an addendum to these rules.

Article 19 Internship terms and accreditation

- 1 The MSGH Academic Advisor must approve the choice of institution/company in which the internship will take place. If the choice is not approved, the student may appeal to the GSI Director.

- 2 The internship can last no less than three months on a full-time basis and no more than six months. It can be carried out in several institutions, but the minimum time that can be spent in each institution is one month. If the circumstances require the student to commit to an internship of more than six months, the student must submit a written leave request to the GSI Director.
- 3 A three-way contract is signed with the GSI, represented by the GSI Director, the institution or company in which the internship will take place, represented by the Internship Supervisor, and the student intern. In exceptional cases, an internship contract drawn up by the institution in which the internship will take place may be accepted by the MSGH Academic Advisor instead of the three-way contract. The contract sets out the length of the internship, the conditions in which it will be carried out, and the tasks assigned to the student intern, together with the criteria and process for assessing the internship.
- 4 The student intern must draw up an internship report and submit it to the MSGH Director by email no later than one month after the end of the internship. Unless a dispensation is granted by the GSI Director before the deadline, non-compliance with this requirement will prevent the internship from being validated.
- 5 The MSGH Director and the Internship Supervisor will validate the internship as a whole. No grade is awarded. The internship will be awarded a pass or fail, in the form of a "yes" or "no."
- 6 If the internship is not validated, the student must do another internship of no less than two months and no more than four months. The new internship will be assessed on the terms set out in this Article. If the second internship is not validated, the student is expelled from the program.

Article 20 Absence

- 1 A student's unexplained absence from an assessment is recorded as such in the grade transcript. It represents a fail for the assessment and a grade of 0.00 when calculating the grade average for the group of courses in question.
- 2 If a student does not attend an assessment because of a "force majeure", the student must inform the GSI Director immediately in writing and provide proof of the "force majeure". If the grounds for the absence are accepted, the absence is recorded as justified, and the GSI Director determines the terms under which the program can be continued.
- 3 If a student is ill or involved in an accident, they must provide a medical certificate within no more than three days of the date of the illness or accident, except in the case of a force majeure. The student cannot sit assessments during the period covered by the medical certificate.

Article 21 Cheating and plagiarism

- 1 A student caught cheating or committing plagiarism, or attempting to cheat or commit plagiarism, fails that particular assessment.
- 2 Furthermore, the GSI College of Professors may cancel all exams sat by the student during that exam session; if that happens, the student fails that session.
- 3 The GSI College of Professors may also decide the student has failed the assessment definitively.

- 4 GSI Management will call on the University of Geneva's Disciplinary Board:
 - a. if it deems that a disciplinary procedure is necessary;
 - b. if the student has failed the assessment definitively, leading to the student being expelled from the GSI.
- 5 The GSI Director, on behalf of the College of Professors, or GSI Management, must have allowed the student to plead their case beforehand, and the student is entitled to view their file.

IV.OBTAINING THE MASTER'S OR EXPULSION

Article 22 Obtaining the MSGH

The Master's of Science in Global Health is awarded to any student who passes the assessments for the courses and for the thesis and has their internship validated, in accordance with the requirements of Articles 17 to 19. Where appropriate, the requirements set out in the addendum covering the institution in which the student took their specialization semester or thesis will be taken into account. The student must have obtained 120 ECTS credits, in keeping with the individual study plan, the terms and conditions set out in Article 11 and the deadlines specified in Article 8.

Article 23 Expulsion

- 1 A student is expelled from the GSI if:
 - a) after two semesters of study, they have not obtained a grade average of at least 4.00 for the core courses, as set out in Articles 10 and 17 above, and have no more attempts left;
 - b) they have not obtained a grade average of at least 4.00 for the specialized courses, as set out in Articles 10 and 17 above, and have no more attempts left;
 - c) they have not obtained a grade of at least 4.00 for the thesis (written essay and defense), in keeping with Article 18, the internship was not validated pursuant to Article 19, and they have no more attempts left; or
 - d) they have not obtained the 120 ECTS credits needed for the Master's within the deadlines set out in Article 8.
- 2 Cases of cheating, plagiarism and attempted cheating and plagiarism also apply.
- 3 The decision to expel a student is taken by the GSI Director.

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 24 Implementing the program rules

The GSI Director, assisted by the MSGH Director and the MSGH Academic Advisor, is responsible for implementing these program rules.

Article 25 Appeals procedures

- 1 A student may lodge an appeal with the relevant body against any decision taken under these rules, within 30 days following notification of the decision.
- 2 The University of Geneva's regulations on appeals procedures of 16 March 2009 apply.
- 3 The decision may then be appealed before the Administrative Chamber of the Court of Justice, within 30 days following notification of the decision (the French language version of the rules is the legal basis).

Article 26 Entry into force, scope and transitional provisions

- 1 These program rules come into force on 18 September 2023.
- 2 They apply to all students beginning their studies on or after that date.
- 3 They replace the program rules of 18 September 2017, subject to paragraph 4 below.
- 4 Students already studying for the MSGH when these program rules take effect remain subject to the program rules of 18 September 2017 (and the study plan governing their program).

Unanimously recommended for approval by the College of Professors of the Global Studies Institute at its meeting on 25 May 2023.

Approved by the Assembly of the Global Studies Institute at its meeting on 8 June 2023.

Adopted by the Rectorate at its meeting on 19 June 2023.