

Education a Training

at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute



Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)

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Helping to Make the World a Healthier Place

For 75 years, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) has focused on its mission to improve population health locally, nationally and around the globe. The Department of Education and Training (ET) at Swiss TPH plays an important role in this mission and contributes to our status as a world-leading institute in global health, through undergraduate, master, PhD and postgraduate programmes, trainings and short courses. Swiss TPH teaches health science fundamentals and shares the latest advances in various healthrelated fields. Lecturers and participants come from all around the world to share their knowledge across disciplines, cultures and continents. Every year, hundreds of students are trained at the institute, becoming part of an extensive network that lasts beyond the duration of a course or programme. Together, we can make a difference to improving global health and promoting a healthier future.

Prof. Nino Künzli Deputy Director, Swiss TPH Head, Dept. of Education and Training



Education and Training at a Glance

Swiss TPH offers a unique learning experience in a wide range of topics, including international health, epidemiology, public health, infection biology, clinical practice, insurance medicine and management.

The benefit of experience

Education and training has been a cornerstone of Swiss TPH since its creation in 1943. The experiences accumulated since the first general tropical course offered in 1943 have helped us to create a meaningful and well-established teaching portfolio. With our long-standing experience in well-structured, interfaculty PhD education, Swiss TPH is now a key partner in developing the Graduate School of Health Sciences at the University of Basel.

Using research and services to shape education

Swiss TPH's unique combination of research, services and training shapes the course curricula and provides participants a multi-disciplinary view of the complex interactions between health, diseases and health systems. Novel contributions to science can be introduced and applied in classrooms or through blended learning methods without delay.

Mutual learning and networks

Mutual learning is a core principle of Swiss TPH. The professional postgraduate programmes in particular, offer lively platforms for exchanging experiences due to the diversity of participants and their professional backgrounds. Swiss TPH engages in joint programmes with global organisations, as well as in national and international education networks and projects, such as the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) and tropEd, the worldwide network for education in international health.

The oldest university in Switzerland

Swiss TPH is an associated institute of the University of Basel, the oldest university in Switzerland and internationally known for its outstanding achievements in research and teaching, particularly in life sciences. The close cooperation between the institute and the university enriches the curricula and offers additional study possibilities. The University of Basel provides the official accreditation for all Swiss TPH programmes and courses.

Teaching structure

Consistent with Swiss TPH's philosophy, programmes and courses cover topics at various levels (locally, nationally and internationally] and in multiple contexts – from bench-to-bedside and through to the communities and environments in which people live. The philosophy is reflected in three distinct but complementary teaching levels. Swiss TPH offers undergraduate and master opportunities, as well as doctoral and PhD programmes in association with the University of Basel. At the postgraduate level, Swiss TPH provides a range of professional certificates (CAS), diplomas (DAS) and master (MAS) programmes.

Programmes and Courses at Swiss TPH



Undergraduate and Master Programmes



Doctoral and PhD Programmes



Professional Postgraduate Programmes

Undergraduate and Master Programmes

The department contributes to seven undergraduate and master opportunities in association with the University of Basel. The undergraduate programmes provide students with the scientific foundation necessary for research careers in biology and medicine. Students can choose from a range of subjects, such as biology, medicine, African studies, and anthropology, among others. In the University of Basel Medical School, Swiss TPH leads the public health curriculum and contributes to training in research methodologies as well as in various clinical courses. The Master Programmes in Epidemiology and in Infection Biology are run by Swiss TPH. They offer specialised and unique degrees that qualify students to work in the field.

Master in Epidemiology and Master in Infection Biology in a nutshell

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Up to 70% of the master students come from outside of Switzerland

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20 bachelor disciplines are represented in the Master Programme in Epidemiology



55 nations represented in the last 10 years



35 people graduate from a programme every year.



Swiss TPH provided me with crucial assistance in conducting the relevant field work for my master project. The professional as well as personal contact during the project was remarkable and helped me to ameliorate the quality of my work. The close and competent support of project members is surely one of the unique qualities of the Swiss TPH.

Judith Schärer, Master graduate

Doctoral and PhD Programmes

Swiss TPH hosts and supervises some 180 PhD students from all over the globe. They typically invest 3-4 years in research areas (rooted in various faculties), such as infection biology, epidemiology, public health, clinical immunology, medical anthropology and medical parasitology, where Swiss TPH is a world-leading institute in the field. Swiss TPH guides the PhD students through a range of structured programmes that offer unique multi-disciplinary training opportunities.

Doctoral and PhD Programmes in a nutshell

High cultural, age, and disciplinary diversity





Longstanding scholarship culture



in the last 10 years



30 students get promoted to PhD every year



The PhD in Clinical Immunology at Swiss TPH offered me a wide range of 66 possibilities. I am sure that my time abroad, clinical experience and acquired lab skills have provided me with a platform to enter into the workforce as prepared as possible. 📕

Tobias Rutishauser, PhD graduate

Professional Postgraduate Programmes and Courses

Swiss TPH offers 45 practice-oriented and evidenced-based programmes and courses a year. From short courses to professional master programmes, students can choose from a diverse teaching portfolio, covering topics such as international health, clinical practice, management, and global health in the Swiss context. All of the offers contribute to extending and building the skills and knowledge of an individual. Thus, the courses and programmes facilitate career changes as well as personal and professional development.

Professional Postgraduate Courses in a nutshell



45 postgraduate trainings a year, including:

- MAS in International Health
- MAS Versicherungsmedizin
- MBA in International Health Management
- DAS Health Care and Management
- CAS in Internationale Zusammenarbeit und globale Gesundheit
- various short courses



80 nations represented in the last 10 years



270 postgraduate teaching days a year



Thanks to the MBA in International Health Management, I have learned a lot about global health and management. Whatever comes now, I feel ready and confident to tackle the challenges in my new occupation as the head branch manager at Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania!

Frederick Masanja, MBA graduate



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