



Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
Faculté de médecine
Institut supérieur de santé publique

DOCTORATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM (DRPH)

The Higher Institute of Public Health (ISSP) in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine (FM) at Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) offers a multi-disciplinary Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) degree.



Open for registration
Deadline for file submission
October 31st 2023.

For information:
drph.issp@usj.edu.lb

Degree Title

Doctorat en sciences biologiques et médicales
Spécialité : Santé publique - Gestion et politiques de santé

Doctorat en sciences biologiques et médicales
Spécialité : Santé publique- Leadership en santé globale

Required credits: 180 ECTS.

Program length: minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 semesters.

Degree format: hybrid mode (on campus and online courses and seminars).

Program Director: Dr. Walid Ammar, MD, PhD.

Program Design

The Doctorate of Public Health Program (DrPH) is your gateway to becoming a highly qualified health professional, ready to take on leadership roles in your institution, and at national, regional, and global levels. Our flexible schedule is adapted for busy health professionals. Whether you work in health and social institutions, the pharmaceutical industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media, the Ministry of Public Health or other ministries, as well as UN agencies such as WHO and other international organizations,

this program will help you expand your knowledge and develop the skills you need to succeed by providing candidates with analytical and technical skills and competencies related to:

- Organizational management and communication;
- Contemporary health sector governance, regulation, and policy development;
- Production and use of strategic intelligence;
- Leadership (leadership skills and competencies including negotiation skills, collaborative governance, alliance building, networking, HR management, mobilization of human and financial resources).

Candidates who enroll in the Health Leadership Program are awarded a Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH), upon the successful completion of courses and seminars (40 ECTS), practicum (20 ECTS), and thesis write-up and defense (120 ECTS). The latter is based on the completion of research conducted in Lebanon or any other country in the region.

Based on the practicum and research topic chosen, candidates can enroll in one of two concentrations: **Global Health Leadership (GHL) and Health Management and Policy (HMP).**

Teaching Method

- Interactive lectures
- Project-based learning
- Personal documentary research
- Problem-solving
- Digital learning
- Case studies
- Group work
- Simulation and role playing



Admission

The admission follows a 2-step process: shortlisting and final selection.

1. Shortlisting Requirements:

- a. Master's degree or equivalent in a health discipline, environment, economics, management, education, natural sciences, other social sciences, or humanities;
- b. At least 2 years of experience in a full-time leadership position or 4 years of experience in a full-time position in public health and/or service experience in a relevant field;
- c. Previous training in public health methodologies and specialized technical fields of public health is also beneficial (if no background in public health; an introductory course in public health should be taken);
- d. 1000-word research proposal and practicum site suggestions;
- e. 1000-word letter of motivation;
- f. Curriculum Vitae.

2. Final Selection Requirements:

a. Thesis project (3000 words) including:

- i. Provisional thesis title;
- ii. Research project objectives, highlighting its innovative aspects compared to existing publications;
- iii. Proposed methodology;
- iv. Data sources and availability;
- v. Preliminary work plan and inventory of human, material, and financial resources to be deployed;
- vi. Potential funding and budget if necessary.

It is also advisable to have a technical advisor endorsing the research topic and methodology in advance.

b. Proposition of a practicum in relation to the thesis:

The candidate should get the approval of a practicum preceptor from a practicum site of their choice.

The technical advisor (if already appointed) and the practicum preceptor should fulfill the below terms of reference (TORs).



Technical Advisor Qualifications and TORs:

- Holding a PhD in a health-related discipline;
- Being affiliated with an academic institution;
- Having 5+ years of experience in fields related to the candidate's research topic;
- Having published articles in fields related to the candidate's research topic;
- Willing to advise and support the candidate in conducting the research.

The technical advisor could be considered as a potential co-director of the candidate's thesis (subject to approval from ISSP-USJ) and doctoral school. They help the candidate identify the research topic with particular attention to its novelty and its relevance for policy-making and public health. They also assist the candidate in choosing the appropriate methodology while considering the latter's capacity and resources, and information availability.

Practicum Preceptor Qualifications and TORs:

- Holding a university degree;
- Having 5+ years of experience in a public health-related field;
- Holding a leadership position in the practicum site for over 2 years;
- Willing to dedicate time to guide, assist, and assess the candidate.

The practicum preceptor introduces the candidate to the practicum site's mission, functions, and operations. Preceptors help candidates understand the relationship of the site with stakeholders and the public. Preceptors are also expected to dwell on the use of information and decision-making mechanisms, and data generation and retrieval with particular emphasis on performance and information related to the candidate's research topic.

Thesis Director

Thesis directors are assigned by Saint Joseph University of Beirut.

Final Selection Process:

- a. Assessing the candidate's application:
 - i. The thesis project and technical advisor endorsement;
 - ii. The practicum and practicum preceptor approval.
- b. A face-to-face interview with the candidate (can be done via Skype).



■ Courses and Seminars

The program offers hybrid learning classes, where courses are usually attended in person on Saturdays, while seminars are mostly given during weekdays as online evening sessions. The learning mode and the schedule take into consideration the instructors' and students' preferences. Teaching modalities may change depending on the applicable law and regulations of the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Mandatory Courses (24 ECTS)

Governance & Health Leadership	3 ECTS
Study Design and Research Methods	6 ECTS
Applied Health Policy	3 ECTS
Global Governance and Health Diplomacy	3 ECTS
Organizational Development with Emphasis on Human Resources Management	3 ECTS
Comparative Health Systems	3 ECTS
Information Systems and E-Health	3 ECTS

Seminars (16 ECTS)

Eight of the following seminars are to be selected by the Faculty:

Social Determinants of Health	2 ECTS
Leadership & Management	2 ECTS
Research Proposal Writing	2 ECTS
Value-Based Health Care	2 ECTS
Human Rights and Ethics	2 ECTS
Production and Use of Strategic Intelligence	2 ECTS
Health Technology	2 ECTS
UHC People-Centered Health Care	2 ECTS
Effective Communication for Leaders	2 ECTS
Program Design and Evaluation	2 ECTS
Advocacy and Community Mobilization	2 ECTS
Emergency Preparedness and Response	2 ECTS
Evidence Synthesis and Dissemination	2 ECTS

■ Internships and Trainings


As a DrPH candidate, you will have access to a wide range of internship and research sites, both public and private. You will have the opportunity to participate in national, regional, and global forums, in particular the Mediterranean Academy for Learning Health Systems (MEDALS) as well as other ongoing initiatives.

Our program is designed to offer a multidisciplinary and personalized approach to learning, with a faculty composed of leading experts in their respective fields. The personalized approach ensures that each candidate will receive the necessary guidance to succeed in this journey and make a real impact in the field of public health.


Through interactive lectures, online conferences, webinars, and workshops, you will gain the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in today's fast-paced public health landscape. We also believe in hands-on, practical learning, and our program is structured to provide that. Through case studies, practical exercises, and the personal experiences of candidates, you'll be able to apply what you've learned in real-world situations. Analytical work is a combination of in-depth document analysis, field observations, and group work, providing you with a well-rounded education that prepares you for various challenges you may face in your career.




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