

The logo for the Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ) features the letters 'USJ' in a large, white, serif font.

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

A background photograph of a man and a woman in a professional setting. The man, on the left, has a beard and glasses, wearing a blue suit and a blue lanyard. He is holding a white tablet. The woman, on the right, has blonde hair and is wearing blue scrubs. They are both looking at the tablet. A large, semi-transparent teal circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'DOCTORAT EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE' and 'PHD IN PUBLIC HEALTH' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

DOCTORAT EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

PHD IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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, designed to equip future leaders with advanced competencies in health policy, management, and global health leadership.

Recruitment Begins: December 2025

Registration: To be announced on the University website and official channels

Credit fee: In 2025–2026 is USD 150, subject to change by the university decision

Start of Next Term: Fall 2026

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

Degree Title

- Doctorat en Santé Publique / PhD in Public Health, Concentration in **Global Health Leadership (GHL)**
- Doctorat en Santé Publique / PhD in Public Health, Concentration in **Health Policy and Management (HPM)**
- **Required credits:** 180 ECTS.
- **Program length:** minimum of 6 and maximum of 10 semesters.
- **Degree format:** hybrid mode (on campus and online courses and seminars).
- **Program Director:** Professor Walid Ammar, MD, PhD.

Program Overview

Designed in alignment with the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) DrPH accreditation standards, the curriculum integrates 20 foundational competencies and emphasizes hands-on learning, practical projects, and peer collaboration. Students also engage in applied practice experiences and contribute to international events.

In addition to complying with [DrPH international standards](#), the program adheres to the [PhD requirements](#) set by the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education.



Program Highlights

The “Doctorat en Santé Publique” / PhD in Public Health Program 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 and other ministries, UN agencies such as WHO or other international organizations, this program will help you expand your knowledge and develop the skills you need to succeed.

It equips candidates with analytical and technical competencies related to:

- Contemporary health governance, strategic intelligence and policy development.
- Production and use of evidence for decision making.
- Organizational development and community involvement.
- Leadership skills, including negotiation, alliance building, networking, HR management, and resource mobilization.

Candidates who enroll in the Program are awarded a “Doctorat en Santé Publique” / PhD in Public Health, upon the successful completion of courses and seminars (40 ECTS), practicum (20 ECTS), and thesis write-up and defense (120 ECTS).

Candidates can specialize in either **Global Health Leadership (GHL)** or **Health Policy and Management (HPM)**, depending on their practicum and research focus.

Teaching and Learning Approaches

- Interactive lectures and assignments
- Digital and self-paced learning
- Practicum and project-based learning
- Case studies and problem-solving exercises
- Individual research projects and group discussions



Admission Process

Admission involves **two stages**: **shortlisting** and **final selection**.

1. Shortlisting phase:

In addition to filling out the application form and providing the requested supporting documents, candidate must:

- Hold a master's degree in health sciences, grounded on a bachelor's degree in one of the public health specialties or biological sciences including biochemistry or medical sciences or pharmacy or agriculture or food sciences and nutrition.
- Have a minimum of 4 years of experience in a full-time position in public health or a related field or 2 years in a full-time leadership position.
- Submit a 1000-word research proposal with practicum site suggestions.
- Submit a 1000-word motivation letter.

2. Final Selection Criteria:

Shortlisted candidates must submit:

a. A detailed Thesis project (3000 words) including:

- Provisional thesis title.
- Research project objectives, highlighting its innovative aspects compared to existing publications.
- Proposed methodology.
- Data sources and availability.
- Preliminary work plan and resources needs
- Budget and potential funding sources, if needed.

It is 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.

Advisor and Preceptor Requirements, Roles and Responsibilities

The technical advisor (if already appointed) and the practicum preceptor should fulfill the requirements below.

Technical Advisor:

- Holds a doctorate in a relevant health discipline.
- Affiliated with an academic institution.
- Has at least 5 years of experience in fields related to the candidate's research topic.
- Has published articles in related fields.
- Is willing to advise and support the candidate.

The technical advisor could be considered as a potential co-director of the candidate's thesis (subject to approval from ISSP 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:

- Holds a university degree.
- Has at least 5 years of experience in a public health-related field.
- Holds a leadership position in the practicum site.
- Is 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. They 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 in relation to the candidate's research topic.

Thesis Director

Thesis directors are assigned by Saint Joseph University of Beirut.

Final Selection Process:

- Assessing the candidate's application:
 - The thesis project and technical advisor endorsement.
 - The practicum and practicum preceptor approval.
- Candidates whose applications meet all the above criteria will be invited for a face-to-face or an online interview.



■ 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.

Courses (24 ECTS)

Governance & Health Leadership	3 ECTS
Applied Biostatistics and Quantitative Research	3 ECTS
Qualitative Research and Mixed Methods	3 ECTS
Applied Health Policy	3 ECTS
Global Governance and Health Diplomacy	3 ECTS
Organizational Development	3 ECTS
Comparative Health Systems	3 ECTS
Information Systems and E-Health	3 ECTS

Seminars (16 ECTS) selected from the list below:

Thesis and Research Proposal Writing	2 ECTS
Management & Leadership	2 ECTS
Effective Communication for Leaders	2 ECTS
Evidence Synthesis and Dissemination	2 ECTS
Human Rights and Ethics	2 ECTS
Production and Use of Strategic Intelligence	2 ECTS
UHC-People-Centered Health Care	2 ECTS
Health Technology	1 ECTS
Program Design and Evaluation	1 ECTS
Media communication and presentation skills	1 ECTS
Social Determinants of Health	1 ECTS
Advocacy and Community Mobilization	1 ECTS
Emergency Preparedness and Response	1 ECTS
Value-Based Health Care	1 ECTS

Practicum (20 ECTS)

The practicum is a hands-on, experiential learning opportunity. It can take place in various settings, such as government health departments, non-profit organizations, healthcare institutions, or community-based organizations. The practicum allows the students to gain exposure to the professional environment and to learn from experienced practitioners and enhance practical skills.

■ Engagement in national, regional and international events

As a candidate, you will engage in applied practice experiences, contributing to initiatives such as the Mediterranean Academy for Learning Health Systems (MEDALS) and participating in international forums like the World Health Assembly.

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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