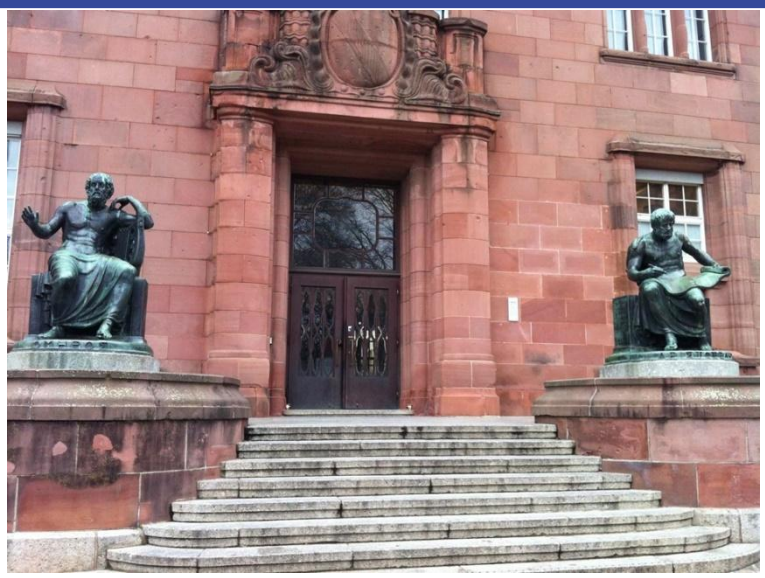
Master of Science in Global Urban Health

Module Handbook 2025/2026

universität freiburg



University of Freiburg
Centre for Planetary Health (CPH)

- Prof. Dr. Philipp Henneke, Executive Director of CPH, Faculty of Medicine
- Prof. Dr. Manuela Boatcă, Co-director of CPH, Faculty of Humanities
- Prof. Dr. Michael Scherer-Lorenzen, Co-director of CPH, Faculty of Biology
- Prof. Dr. Michaela Haug, Co-director of CPH, Managing Director of the Freiburg Institute of Ethnology

Core Team of the Master Programme

- Prof. Dr. Axel Kroeger
- Dr. Sonia Diaz-Monsalve
- Monika Gaalova
- Molly Catherine

Address of Master Global Urban Health:
Hermann-Herder-Straße 5
79104 Freiburg

In collaboration with:
Other faculties at the University of Freiburg and partner universities in Freiburg
Freiburg Protestant University of Applied Sciences
Catholic University of Applied Sciences Freiburg
Freiburg University of Education

Last revised on 20.10.2025

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1. Programme

1.1 Purpose and Characteristics of the MSc Global Urban Health

The following module handbook holds for the postgraduate programme Master in Global Urban Health (MSc GUH) at the University of Freiburg, Germany. After successful completion of this Master's programme, the academic degree Master of Science (abbreviated MSc) is awarded. The internationally oriented, English-language Master´s programme offers students a broad interdisciplinary training in the field of urban health. It is designed as an intensive, full-time postgraduate programme and has a focus both on practical interventions and on operational/implementation research. The MSc GUH programme holds an accreditation from the University of Freiburg and the Baden Wuerttemberg Ministry of Science & Arts until 2030.

The MSc Global Urban Health, established at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Freiburg, together with the University Centre for Planetary Health: Global Health (CPH), offers professionals from different backgrounds – medical and social sciences, urban planning, anthropological, psychological and others – the opportunity of a high-quality practice-oriented postgraduate training, which opens career opportunities at national and international level. All major institutions working in development cooperation (such as GiZ, KfW, MsF, Red Cross) and international organisations (including WHO, The Global Fund, World Bank, UNEP, UNICEF, GAVI) require a postgraduate Master Degree in Public Health, International Health, Global Health and related areas. Likewise, academic institutions with emphasis on Public Health, International Health, Global Health, Environmental Sciences, Urban Planning, Health Economy, Health Policy and similar areas will select and maintain staff with a relevant Master training. Ministries of Health, Social Security, Environment, Transport, Public Services and related areas in Low-and Middle- Income Countries (LMICs) prefer staff with post-graduate training for solving the enormous health problems in urban environments. In all professional areas mentioned above a certain amount of research skills is required – mainly in the field of Operational/ Implementation Research and Intervention Research – in order to develop innovative evidence-based intervention strategies. Participants coming from research institutions will have the opportunity of strengthening their skills and competences in these areas while the others will learn the basics, which enable them to conduct relevant studies in their professional area with the appropriate tools and/or to assess the relevance and quality of studies conducted by others.

The overall goal of the intensive MSc programme is to strengthen participants` competence in the following areas:

- To develop analytical and management skills to meet the challenges of urban health
- To identify and quantify biological-psychological-social threats to health and risk factors in urban areas
- To develop knowledge and skills in the field of prevention, control, programme development and implementation, monitoring and evaluation for improving urban health
- To design and conduct research projects in the field of urban health
- To make proactive evidence-based decisions and to gain leadership qualities and effective working skills according to the professional background
- To enhance independent and reflective thinking and inspire an interest for lifelong learning.

1.2 Expected learning outcomes

Knowledge

After the successful completion of the programme, the participant will be able to:

- Understand the current issues and priorities in the field of urban health, social determinants and interconnectivity
- Use relevant research methods and understand how the methods can be applied to address particular research questions
- Apply epidemiological/ statistical and social science research tools to design an operational research study and to analyse and interpret research questions
- Use appropriate skills related to the prevention, control and management of health problems and health services problems related to the challenges of urbanization

Cognitive skills

After the successful completion of the programme, the participant will be able to:

- Analyse, synthesize and evaluate information from a variety of sources in a critical manner
- Apply knowledge in a variety of contexts to analyse and reach evidence-based conclusions on complex situations, health problems and opportunities in the field of urban health
- Put into practice the principles and values of ethical practice with regard to the design and implementation of operational research studies, consent and confidentiality in the collection, analysis, presentation, publication and dissemination of data
- Demonstrate creativity, innovation, inspiration and originality in the application of knowledge

Practical skills

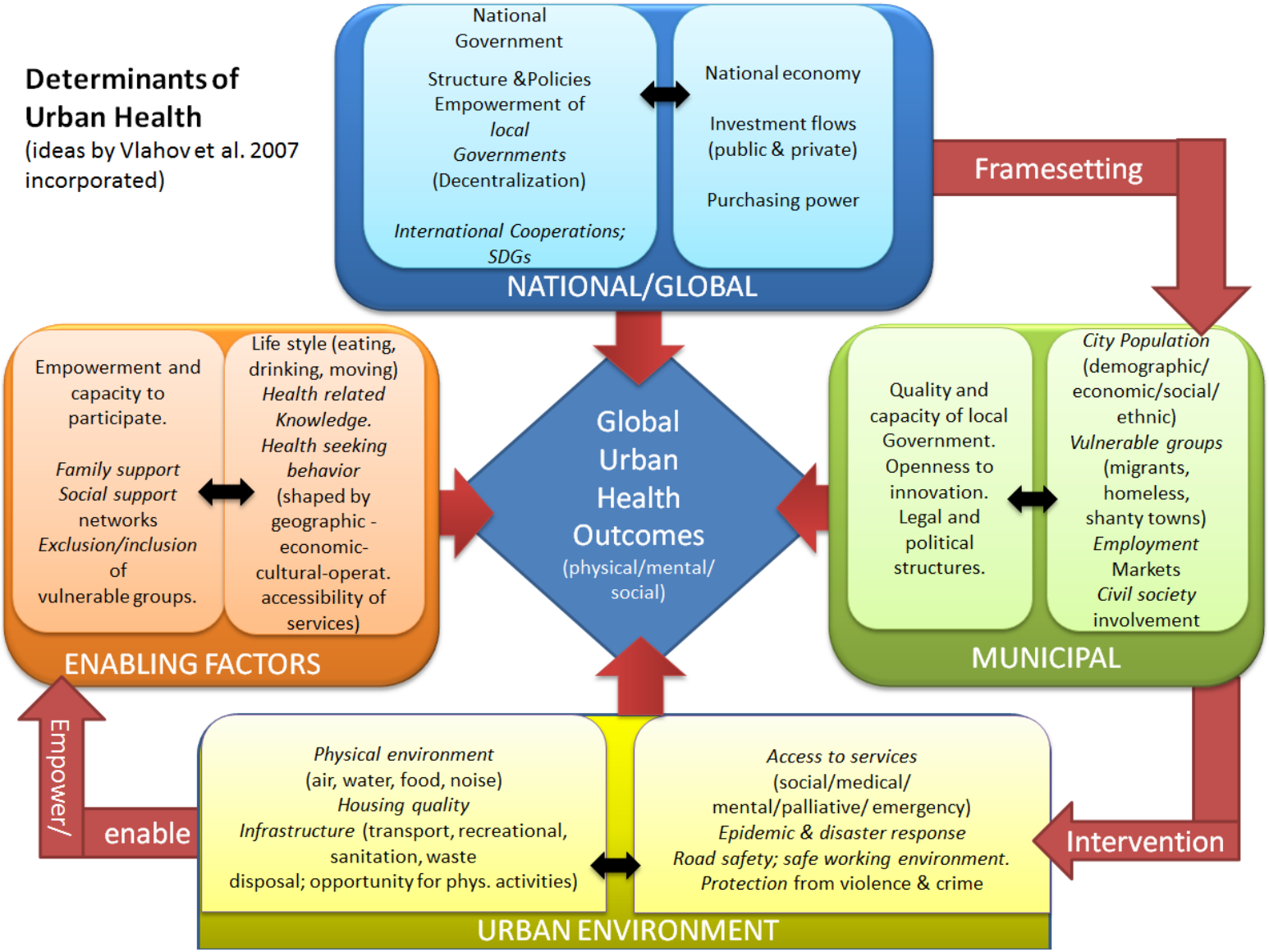
After the successful completion of the programme, the participant will be able to:

- Formulate research questions, develop an appropriate research strategy and implement a systematic approach to urban health planning and quality management

- Undertake research studies in an ethical and responsible manner and accurately record and store the collected data
- Efficiently and effectively collect, analyse, manage and disseminate data collected in the field
- Inform policy-makers and other actors (including community leaders) about short, medium- and long-term policy options for urban health systems design and preparedness in an increasingly interconnected urban health context in a global environment.

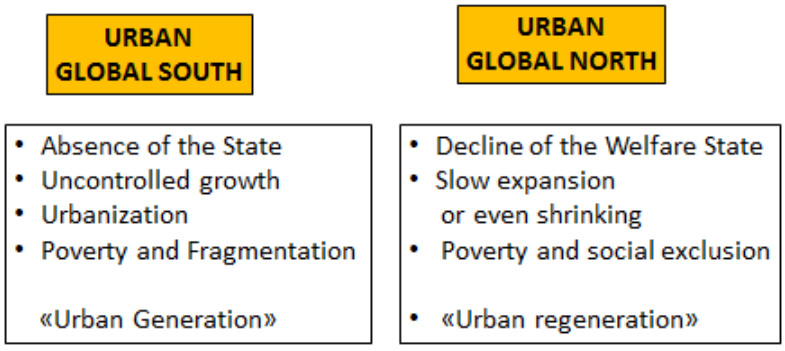
Source: Master GUH records

1.3 Conceptual Framework of the MSc Global Urban Health



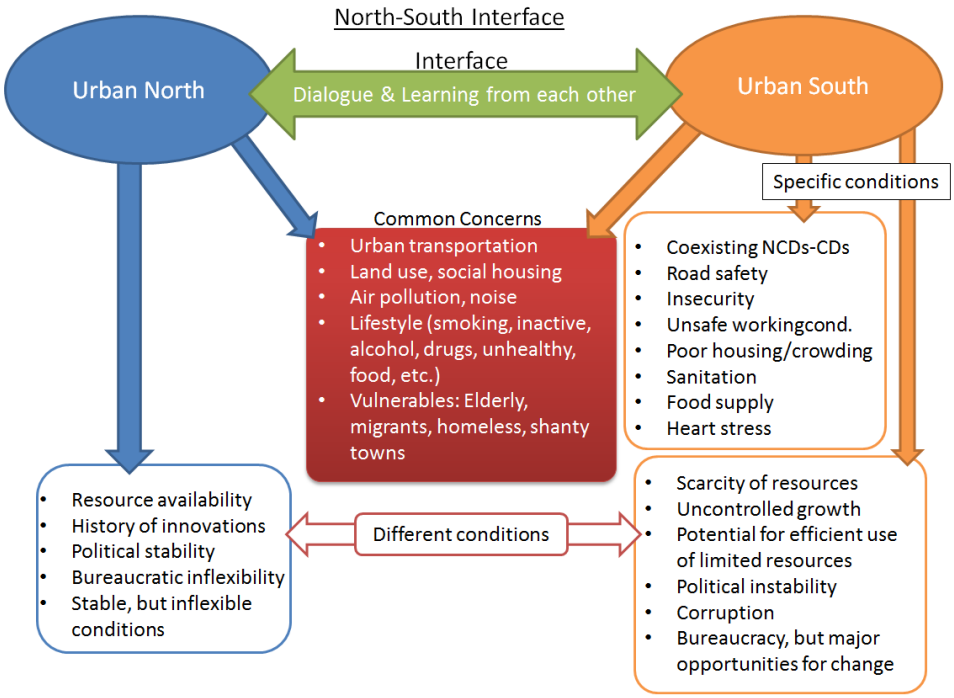
An infinite number of conditioning factors, or determinants, shapes the "urban setting". Many of them have a direct or indirect health impact. In the diagram 1.3, these have been ordered into different layers, which belong to the global and national level (shaping legislation and depending on macro-economic variables), to the municipal level (where many interventions are being initiated), as well as to the urban environment including individual living conditions and work. Enabling and limiting "intermediary" factors that rest in the community and/or the individual levels are also mentioned. The social and political conditions in the "Urban Global South" and the "Urban Global North" are not stable but in a continuous transformation, a process that appears to be faster in the South compared to the North. These features (see diagram below) will be analysed in the MSc GUH.

Urban South& Urban North: Social and political characteristics



Source: Eberhard Rothfuss

The Master´s programme will facilitate the dialogue and interface between the urban South and the urban North. There are numerous common concerns in urban environments of the South and the North, which have been addressed in different ways due to contrasting economic, political, social and environmental conditions:



Learning from each other does not mean that the same solution can be adopted in every setting, but the wealth of approaches both in poverty-driven, intermediate and better-off settings will stimulate new ideas about what can be done and where more evidence has to be collected. This environment of dialogue, exchange of experiences and networking between South and North will be provided by the MSc GUH.

2. Structure and Organisation

2.1 Interdisciplinarity and collaborating institutions

The Master programme is truly **interdisciplinary** undertaking at the University of Freiburg; it integrates many disciplines and faculties. The programme is under the responsibility of Faculty of Medicine organised by CPH, Centre for Planetary Health. Together with other University of Freiburg centres, the members of the CPH are closely interlinked in teaching and research.

Faculty of Medicine
There are more than 100 professors at the Freiburg Faculty of Medicine work at 58 institutes, departments and other institutions, located in the heart of Freiburg and at the Medical Centre – University of Freiburg. They carry out first-class research in cooperation with other faculties and research institutions in Freiburg and within national and international networks. The faculty has a long tradition, as medicine was one of the four original faculties when the University of Freiburg was founded in 1457. More than 100 years ago, it was a pioneer in equal rights for women; Germany's first female students of Medicine were enrolled in Freiburg in the winter semester of 1899-1900. Master students visit the University museum to learn more about the history.

Centre for Planetary Health (CPH)
The Centre was founded in 2014 as a central unit of the University of Freiburg. It is committed to research and training in the field of Global Health, including Planetary Health with a special focus on urban settings. The Centre is responsible, through its Executive Director and the other three Directors, for overseeing the implementation and further development of the Master programme which is being organised and implemented by the Master Core Team.

Faculty of Humanities (Philosophical Faculty)
The Faculty includes a number of disciplines which contribute to the teaching of the MSc GUH using the "city" as the connecting concept. External lecturers, with backgrounds in social sciences, broaden the analysis of "urbanity". Examples of specific themes are Health in Megacities; City and the global South; Health governance in cities; and the history of urban epidemics.

Department of Knowledge Transfer
This department at the Central University Administration and Educational Transfer/ Scientific Continuing Education coordinates the continuing Education Programme at the Ministry including the MSc GUH and publishes an annual report on all the university activities related to continuous education.

2.2 Responsible Persons

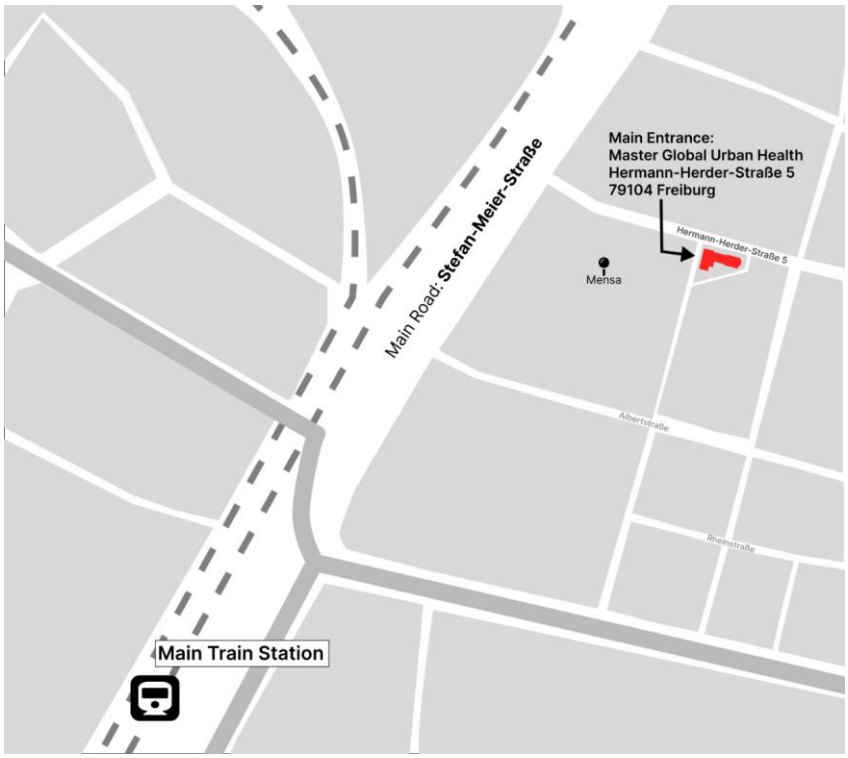
Scientific Advisor
Prof. Dr. Axel Kroeger
Centre for Planetary Health (CPH)
World Health Organisation (Consultant)
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (UK)
Hermann-Herder-Straße 5
79104 Freiburg

Coordinator of the Master Programme
Dr. Sonia Diaz-Monsalve
Centre for Planetary Health (CPH)
Hermann-Herder-Straße 5
79104 Freiburg

Teaching staff
The teaching staff includes professors and lecturers of the University of Freiburg from a variety of faculties, external lecturers from partner universities and institutions as well as external experts with long-term practical experiences (see list of lecturers in the Annex).

2.3. Location

The Master Programme is located at Hermann-Herder-Straße 5, 79104 Freiburg
Classes are held on the 1st floor.
Map with precise location of building:



2.4 Prerequisites and selection criteria of the MSc GUH

The Master course is **open to all professionals and disciplines** in health, social sciences including economics, urban planning and others, holding a higher academic degree with a **minimum 4 years of academic full-time training** (240 ECTS; see below 2.4). Candidates are expected to have at least 1 year of working experience (paid or unpaid) in a relevant field.

The medium of instruction is English. Proficiency in reading and speaking English is required – **minimum English required level is B2.** Accepted certificates: Cambridge FCE, (CAE (C1) and CPE (C2)), IELTS Academic (5.5-6.5 points), PTE Academic (59-75 points), TOEFL iBT (72-94 points "Internet" / min. 567 points "Paper"); the certificate is valid for 2 years, TOEFL Essentials (8-9,5 points); the certificate is valid for 2 years, OOPT (60-79 points), telc B2-C1 University, TOEIC (min. 785 points "listening/reading", 160 points "speaking" and 150 points "writing"), UNIcert II or III.

For exceptions and more information regarding language certificates recognised by the University of Freiburg, please refer to https://www.studium.uni-freiburg.de/en/student-services/language-certificates/language-certificates

Approximately 20 students are enrolled each year, drawn from a wide range of countries, organisations and disciplines. We aim to achieve a balance in gender, age, discipline and between participants from industrialised and LMICs (Low- and Middle- Income Countries).

2.5 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

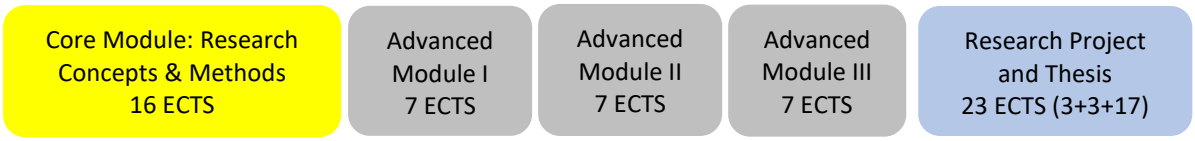
ECTS is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer, based on the principle of transparency of the learning, teaching and assessment processes. Its objective is to facilitate the planning, delivery and evaluation of study programmes and student mobility by recognizing learning achievements and qualifications and periods of learning.
http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/publications/2015/ects-users-guide_en.pdf

According to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), one Credit Point corresponds to an average workload of 25-30 hours. In Continuing University Education of the University of Freiburg, one Credit Point corresponds to an average workload of 30 hours (student effort). MSc students follow 37 CP (ECTS) of taught modules plus 23 CP (ECTS) in the Research Project module, **total 60 CP (ETCS)**.

The programme consists of 40 working hours per week (including theory and self-study). The proportion of self-studies is the following: Core module 36.4%; Communicable Diseases Module 35%; Planning Module 30%; Environment Module 25%; Non Communicable Diseases Module 40%; Mental Health Module 35%; Migration Module 30%.

2.6 General Information on Structure

The MSc GUH is a modular programme consisting of three major parts:



Duration and ECTS: See duration of the core module and advanced modules in table 2.
Language: English
Participants: 20

Study Performance
The various elements of a module are made up from formal contact time (lectures, tutorials, discussions, practical exercises, field studies, excursions and others), assessment (preparing and completing assignments and examinations) and self-studies.

Examination – Grading System
To pass examinations associated with the different modules participants need to achieve at least the grade 4.0 (sufficient). The final grade is calculated from the grade for the taught modules (core module and advanced modules 1 to 3 where the arithmetic mean of the core and advanced modules represent the overall grade for taught modules) and the master module (oral examination and master thesis). The taught courses count for 60% and the master module for 40% of the overall grade. Grades are awarded according to the German grading scale (1-5) specified on Table 1 below.

ECTS system	German Grading System	Definition
A	1 (1-1,3)	excellent
B	2 (1,7-2,3)	good
C	3 (2,7-3,3)	satisfactory
D	4 (3,7-4,0)	sufficient
F	5 (>4,0)	fail

Table 1: Grades according to the German and ECTS grading system and their definition.

Examination – Regulations and Assessments
Examinations (PL, Prüfungsleistungen in German) are marked as described in the table below. In case a student fails the exam, a repeat exam will be held 4 to 8 weeks after having received the information about the failure. In case PowerPoint presentations are the form of assessment, the repeat exam will be some homework on a similar topic to be submitted 4 to 8 weeks after having received the information on failure.
The description of the exams (PLs) is given after the presentation of each submodule, together with the relative weight (as percentage of the total of 60 ECTS) of each. The additional requirements for passing a module (SL, Studienleistung) are presented in the table below.

Overview of marked examination types (Prüfungsleistungen)

Modules	Examinations Type	ECTS- Points	Duration/Extent
Core Module – Research Concepts & Methods			
Qualitative and quantitative methods and findings of social and public health research (Qualitative research methods; Health economics)	Written Exam	10	2 x 2 h
Statistics	Written Exam	3	1,5h
Epidemiology	Written Exam	3	2h
	Total	**16**	
Advanced Module 1: Communicable Diseases and Quality Assured Health Programmes			
Communicable diseases and outbreaks in urban environments	Oral Presentation and Written Exam	7	10 Minutes Presentation (25%) and Written Exam (75%)
Needs assessment, planning tools and quality assurance in health systems for the urban poor			
	Total	**7**	
Advanced Module 2: Environmental Management and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in urban areas			
Environmental determinants of health in urban areas	Oral Presentation with Discussion	7	10 minutes Presentation including Discussion (80%) & Documentation (20%)
Social determinants and behavioural risk factors of Non-Communicable diseases			
	Total	**7**	
Advanced Module 3: Migration, Violence and Mental Health Issues Among the Urban Poor			
Mental health in urban environments	Poster Presentation & Written Concept Paper	7	10 minutes Presentation (50 %) & Concept Paper (50%)
Migration and violence in urban settings			
	Total	**7**	
Master Module: Research Project			
Research Design	Protocol	3	No word count
Oral Exam	Oral Examination	3	30 min
Master Thesis		17	4.000 words recommended for core part
	Total	**23**	
	Grand-total	**60**	

Table 2: Duration of core module and advanced modules

*For more details on each of the assignment methods and weighting factors, refer to the Modules' descriptions in the second part of the Handbook.

Overview of unmarked assessments (Studienleistungen)

*(In all courses attendance and active participation is **mandatory**, cf. § 9 Abs 2 Study-Regulations)*

Modules	Examinations Type	Duration / Extent
Qualitative and quantitative methods and findings of social and public health research (Qualitative research methods; Health economics)	MCQs answered and checked individually	10-15 questions
Statistics	2 Home exercises	4 pages
Epidemiology	Analysis exercise with presentation	10 minutes presentation
Advanced Module 1: Communicable Diseases and Quality Assured Programmes in Urban Settings		
Communicable diseases and outbreaks in urban environments	MCQs answered and checked individually	20 questions
Needs assessment, planning tools and quality assurance in health systems for the urban poor	Presentations of policy briefs & indicator exercise	2 x 10 minutes incl. discussion
Advanced Module 2: Environmental Management and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Urban Areas		
Environmental determinants of health in urban areas	Measurement & presentation of air quality in small groups	10 minutes incl. discussion
Social determinants and behavioural risk factors of Non-Communicable diseases	Presentation of different views of drug licensing	10 minutes incl. discussion
Advanced Module 3: Migration and Mental Health Issues Among the Urban Poor		
Mental health in urban environments	Oral presentations about excursions clinic and refugee institutions	10 minutes incl. discussion
Migration and violence in urban settings		
Master Module: Research Project		
Research Design Assessment before submission of the protocol to the Ethical Committee	Oral presentation & written assignment	10 minutes 7 pages

For being awarded credit points, requirements are the following:

- Take active part in each course/seminar/hands-on of the module and in its course.
- Complete self-studies: 36.4%; Comm. Diseases 35%; Planning tools 30%; Environment 25%; Non-Comm. Diseases 40%; Mental Health 35%; Migration 40%.
- Complete examinations during and after the sub-modules, presentation at seminars and active participation at discussions.

Methodologies: In the morning sessions usually formal teaching (lectures) and group work; in the afternoon usually exercises, excursions, field studies, group work and self-study. Participation in the modules is **mandatory** and a maximum of 15% absence is allowed which can be extended to 30% (§9 of the Study and Examination Regulations). The postgraduate programme M.Sc. Global Urban Health starts in the winter semester (last week of September). The courses offered within this programme are repeated annually. This full-time programme leads participants to a Master degree usually in one year (for more details see the document “Study- and Examination Regulations”).

The weighting factors for each component of the programme are in the following table:

Weighting Factors			
		ECTS	**%**
Core Module (26%)	Qualitative Research	5	8%
	Health Economics	5	8%
	Statistics	3	5%
	Epidemiology	3	5%
Advanced Module 1 (12%)	Communicable Diseases	2	4%
	NAPTs	5	8%
Advanced Module 2 (12%)	Environmental Determinants	3,5	6%
	Non-Communicable Diseases	3,5	6%
Advanced Module 3 (12%)	Mental Health	3,5	6%
	Migration	3,5	6%
Research Project (38%)	Research Design	3	5%
	Oral exam	3	5%
	Research Study	17	28%
	Total	60	100%

Source: Master GUH records

3 Module Overview and Timetables

3.1 Modules Overview

Core Module
Research Concepts and Methods
Description: Research methods, epidemiology/ statistics/ social sciences methods, health services, and other general issues of health and risk factors in urban settings **Convener**: Axel Kroeger

Advanced Modules
Module 1: Communicable Diseases and Quality Assured Programmes in Urban Settings
1.1 Communicable diseases and outbreaks in urban environments **Conveners:** Axel Kroeger, Hartmut Hengel
1.2 Needs assessment, planning tools and quality assurance in health systems for the urban poor **Convener:** Sonia Diaz-Monsalve

Module 2: Environmental Management and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Urban Areas
2.1 Environmental determinants of health in urban areas: magnitude, measurement and interventions **Convener**: Armin Schuster
2.2 Social Determinants and behavioural risk factors of NCDs in urban environments. **Conveners:** Eva Maintz, Gabriela Pen Nasser

Module 3: Migration, violence and mental health among the urban poor
3.1 Mental Health in urban environments. **Convener**: Nayeong Ko
3.2 Migration and violence in urban settings. **Convener:** Nayeong Ko

Research Project
Convener: Axel Kroeger

Structure of the Master's Programme			
Weeks	**Modules**		**Topic Areas**
	Core Module (3 months)	Introduction	
1		**Research Concepts & Methods (16 ECTS)** (12 weeks, Sep 22 - Dec 12, 2025)	Epidemiology
2			Statistics
3			Qualitative Studies
4			Social Science Methods
5		**Research Methods**	Economical Appraisals
6			Urbanisation
7			Health Systems
8		**Special Topics**	Urban Planning
9			Traditional Medicine
10			Social Mobilisation
11			Health Ethics
12			Excursions
	Christmas Break (Dec 13, 2025 - Jan 4, 2026)		
	Advanced Modules (6 months, including breaks)	**1. Communicable Diseases & Quality Assured Programmes (7 ECTS)**	
13		**1.1 Communicable Diseases** (2 weeks, Jan 5 - 16, 2026)	
14			
15		**1.2 Quality in Urban Health Programmes** (2 weeks, Jan 19 - 30, 2026)	
16			
17		*Revision + Assessments* (1 week, Feb 2 - 6, 2026)	
		2. Environmental Management and Control of NCDs in Urban Areas	
18		**2.1 Environmental Determinants** (2 weeks, Feb 9 - 20, 2026)	
19			
20		**2.2 Non-Communicable Diseases in Urban Environments** (2 weeks, Feb 23 – Mar 6, 2026)	
21			
22		*Revision + Assessments* (1 week, Mar 9 - 13, 2026)	
		3. Migration, Violence and Mental Health Among Urban Poor (7 ECTS)	
23		**3.1 Mental Health** **(2 weeks, Mar 16 - 27, 2026)**	
24			
		Easter Break (2 weeks: Mar 30 - Apr 10, 2026)	
25		**3.2 Migration** (2 weeks: Apr 13 - 24, 2026)	
26			
27		*Revision + Assessments* (1 week, Apr 27 - May 1, 2026)	
28		Overall Course Assessment. Core Module & Advanced Modules. **Final examination** including External examiner **(May 20 and 21, 2026)**	
		Research Project (23 ECTS) - 15 weeks, including: Protocol Development, Oral Exam, Thesis development, thesis implementation and thesis submission	

3.2 Master Thesis Timeline

Activity	Date
1. "Introduction to the Research Project"	01 October 2025
2. "The Research Protocol: Process and Pitfalls"	08 October 2025
3. "Research Objectives & Methods"	08 October 2025
4. Selection of Topics & Objectives; Identify Supervisor	End of October 2025
5. Interaction with supervisor (advice)	Continuous
6. Presentation of Research Objectives & Methods	**26 November 2025**
7. Presentation of the Draft Proposal	**02 February 2026**
8. Protocol Submission to ERC University Ethics Committee	**17 March 2026 by 7 am**
9. Oral Exam (include questions on the Master thesis and key messages for each module available on ILIAS)	20-21 May 2026
10. Implementation of the research protocol	From June 2026 onwards
11. Submission of Thesis	**03 September 2026**
12. Graduation	11 September 2026

*The Master team will provide the exact timeline details and the beginning of each cohort. Please check also the Master's Thesis Guidelines and Thesis Timeline.

3.3 General Programme timetable

22/09/2025	**Start of the Programme**
22/09/2025 – 12/12/2025	Core Module: Research Concepts and Methods
13/12/2025 – 04/01/2025	***Christmas Break***
	Advanced Modules
05/01/2026 – 16/01/2026	1.1 Communicable Diseases and Outbreaks in Urban Environments
19/01/2026 – 30/01/2026	1.2 Needs Assessment, Planning Tools and Quality Assurance in Health Systems for the Urban Poor
02/02/2026 – 06/02/2025	*Revision + Assessments of Module*
09/02/2026 – 20/02/2026	2.1 Environmental Determinants of Health in Urban Areas
23/02/2026 – 06/03/2026	2.2 Social Determinants and Behavioural Risk Factors of Non-Communicable Diseases
09/03/2026 – 13/03/2026	*Revision + Assessments of Module*
16/03/2026 – 27/03/2026	3.1 Mental Health in Urban Environments
30/03/2026 – 10/04/2026	***Easter Break***
13/04/2026 – 24/04/2026	3.2 Migration and Violence in Urban Settings
27/04/2026 – 01/05/2026	*Revision + Assessments of Module*
04/05/2026 – 22/05/2026	*Overall Course Assessment Including Oral Examination*
04/05/2026 – 03/09/2026	Research Project and Submission of Thesis
Mid-September 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)	Marking of Thesis and Overall Marking
11/09/2026	Graduation

4 Module Descriptions

4.1 Core Module - Research Concepts and Methods

Module Name: **Research Concepts and Methods**	
General Content: Research methods; Epidemiology; Statistics; Social Science Methods, Health Services, Health Ethics and other general issues of health and risk factors in urban settings.	**Duration:** 12 weeks
Module Convener: Axel Kroeger **Lecturers:** A. Al-Aghbari; M. Arndt; T. Becker; C. Boehm; M. Catherine; E. Celik; S. Diaz-Monsalve; M. Gaalova; H. Grundmann; M. Haug; K. Heanle; A. Kroeger; V. Labonte (Cochrane); Lozan; A. Marange; M. Mc Gowan; T. Rivera; D. Sassiat; G. Schiff; V. Victor; F. Wittenzellner **External Experts:** E. Alfonso-Sierra; O. Horstick; R. Korinthenberg; E. Rothfuss; J. Meyer	
Description: The Research Concepts and Methods Module has different teaching blocks: • The basic knowledge of epidemiology, statistics, research design (qualitative and quantitative studies, economic appraisals), research implementation and analysis will be taught and practiced. • Concepts of Global Health applied to cities and urban living will be explored including the rural-urban interface, the challenges of megacities, characteristics of middle-sized cities. • A better understanding of demographic, social, psychological, cultural and environmental determinants of urban health will be generated or strengthened. • Processes of urbanization will be illustrated from a historical perspective. • The role of formal and non-formal health care systems and health programs as well as health policy and governance aspects will be analysed and linked to Urban Health. • The importance of research ethics will be underlined. • The written and oral assessment of the different components of the Research Concepts and Methods Module are integrated (see coloured parts in the timetables). **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the module, participants will be able to: • Define key terminology, concepts and different perspectives of Global Health and urban health including Global Health concepts applied to the city and North-South interface. • Analyse urban health and risk factors from different perspectives: Social sciences view (historical, political, behavioural and others), biological-medical view, health systems view (governance, financing, equity, access issues and others). • Measure and analyse health, disease, risk factors, economic issues, health services and social phenomena. • Summarize major health interventions in urban areas, particularly of LMICs (Low-and Middle- Income Countries), as well as the role of international organisations. • Start writing a research protocol under the supervision of a tutor paying attention to ethical issues.	

- Describe the main aspects for responding effectively to global and urban health challenges through improved health governance, international agreements (SDGs and others) and other forms of international technical and financial cooperation.

Contents:

1) Concepts and challenges in Global Urban Health:
   - Key terminology and conceptual frameworks
   - Theory of the city and urban society
   - Determinants of health
2) Research Methods and Evidence Base for Global Urban Health:
   - Principles of epidemiological study designs (details on the next page) *
   - Basic statistical and epidemiological concepts
   - Qualitative research and other social sciences research tools
   - Critical appraisal skills
   - Systematic literature reviews
   - Translating research into policy
   - Principles and rules of research ethics
3) Governance in Global Urban Health:
   - History (from rural to urban; from Primary Health Care to SDGs)
   - Key stakeholders in the Global Urban Health Arena
   - Issues of governance
4) Health Systems in Global Urban Health:
   - Key elements of health systems
   - Economic appraisals. Performance based funding
   - Policy responses for promoting equity, quality and sustainability
   - Health systems research

Learning Methods:

The following learning methods are applied in this module:

- Formal lectures, interactive lectures with discussions
- Group exercises
- Outdoor practical exercises
- Home assignments and/or self-directed studies

* The module includes field trips as well as study tours to the World Health Organization (WHO), The Global Fund, GAVI and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Geneva, Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel.

Module Assessment:

Main assessment tool is written exams, lasting 1,5 to 2h each and oral presentation on the Research Protocol.
This module's final grade encompasses of the average of the following **4 marks**:

1. Combined **mean mark** (overall weight 16%) of the following written examinations: In-class written examination on **quality research methodologies** (week 5) and in-class written examination (short answer questions) on **economic appraisals** (Week 10)
2. Mark of the in-class written examination on **statistical tools** (short answer questions/ calculations related to terminology, concepts) – overall weight 5%
3. Mark of the in-class written examination on **epidemiological methods** (including sampling) – overall weight 5%

The total weight for the **Core Module is 26%**.
This means that the mark of the core module contributes 26% to the total mark of the MSc.

The **Research Protocol** and its Presentation will take place in January/February and the mark will be attached to the Master Module (see details section 4.3 below – date to be confirmed) –overall weight 5%.

Recommended Reading for Urban Health:
- Kraemer A, Hossain Khan M, Kraas F (eds). (2011). Health in Megacities and Urban Areas. Heidelberg, London, New York. doi 10.1007/978-3-7908-2733-0.
- W. H. Baumgartner, E. (2016). Creative Inequality in the Mid- Sized University City – Socio-spatial Reflections on the Brazilian Rural-urban Interface.
- International Council for Science (ICSU) (2011). Report of the ICSU Planning Group on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment: A Systems Analysis Approach. Paris[www.icsu.org].

Recommended reading for Epidemiology and Statistics:
- Kirkwood BR, Sterne JAC. (2003). Essential Medical Statistics. 2nd edition, Blackwell Science.
- Porta M. (2008). A Dictionary of Epidemiology. 5th edition.
- Leon Gordis (2008), Epidemiology. Saunders-Elsevier.
- Hennekens CH, Buring J, Mayrent SL (ed.) (1987). Epidemiology in Medicine. Boston/Toronto.
- WHO-TDR Implementation Research Toolkit. Workbook. TDR-WHO, Geneva 2018.

Compulsory reading for Qualitative Studies:
- Bernard, H. Russell (2011). Research Methods in Anthropology. Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. 5th edition, Lanham. Chapter 12: “Participant Observation”, pp. 256-290.
- Gobo, G. (2008). Doing Ethnography. Los Angeles. Chapter 11: “Ethnographic Interviewing,” pp.190-200.
- O’Reilly, K. (2005). Ethnographic Methods. London, New York, Routledge. Chapter 3: “Ethical ethnography,” pp. 59-69.

General structure of the epidemiology sessions

The sessions will be structured into 4-hour units, separated by two breaks of about 15 minutes each. Usually, the first part will be lecture-based and the two following parts will be practical exercises. Session 8 will not have a lecture but a presentation of all student groups of their study design.
Additionally, in week 7 and 8 there will be complementary sessions in the second half of the week with practical indoor and outdoor exercises on sampling, household surveys and questionnaire design. Also, the lectures and exercises on demographic health and health

services indicators in week 3 will be complementary to the epidemiological and statistical sessions.

Learning objectives

After this module, students will be able to:

- Understand the difference between association and causation.
- Use and calculate measures of disease frequency, of effect, and of population impact.
- Differentiate systematic errors and where they come from in epidemiological studies.
- Explain bias in epidemiological studies and suggest measures to minimize its impact.
- Apply the concept of effect modification and indicate examples.
- Use the basic epidemiological study types.
- Understand what type of systematic error each study type is prone to and how to avoid it.
- Design an epidemiological study and for which problem which design is most appropriate.
- Identify the merits and limitations of a scientific paper.
- Apply ethical issues when developing research proposals.

Content:

1. Introduction to Epidemiology, Measures of Disease Frequency
    - Basic concepts: Outcome, Exposure, Intervention
    - Association and Causation
    - Prevalence and Incidence
    - Risk Rate and Odds Rate
2. Measures of effect and Population Impact
    - Risk Ratio and Odds Ratio
    - Population Attributable Risk, Population Attributable Risk Ratio
    - Number needed to treat, Number needed to harm
3. Confounding/Interaction
    - Bias (Selection Bias, Information Bias)
4. Disease Dynamics
    - Study Designs 1 (Cross Sectional/ Surveys, Ecological Study, Sampling)
    - Study Designs 2 (Case Control Study, Cohort Study)
    - Study Designs 3 (Intervention study)
5. Practical Study Design
    - Introduction to Statistical Software

Week 1					
	Mon – 22/09/25	**Tue – 23/09/25**	**Wed – 24/09/25**	**Thurs – 25/09/25**	**Fri – 26/09/25**
Morning 09:00 – 11:00	Introduction to Freiburg and the course (Kroeger, Diaz, Boatca, Haug)	Introduction to Student Life (Catherine)	Introduction to ILIAS (Sassiat)	10th Anniversary Celebration High Level Symposium	10th Anniversary Celebration High Level Symposium
11:00 – 13:00	Administrative Coordination (Gaalova)	Life in Freiburg/Germany (Gaalova)	Introduction to the Core Module: Concept of Global Health and Introduction to Urban Health (Kroeger)		
Afternoon 14:00 - 16:00	Poster Preparation				
Week 2					
	Mon – 29/09/25	**Tue – 30/09/25**	**Wed –01/10/25**	**Thurs – 02/10/25**	**Fri – 03/10/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Epidemiology (1) (Marange)	Statistics (1) (Catherine)	The Research Project (Kroeger) Art of PowerPoint Presentations (Diaz)	Informal Economy, Urbanisation and Health (Celik)	**Public Holiday**
Afternoon 14:00 - 16:00	Poster Presentations (students)	Global health: Principles and Ethical values (Victor)	Self-Study	Gardening Excursion (Schiff)	

Week 3					
	Mon – 06/10/25	**Tue 07/10/25**	**Wed – 08/10/25**	**Thurs – 09/10/25**	**Fri – 10/10/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	**09:00 – 10:45** Alternative medical systems (Kroeger) Statistics (2) (Catherine)	Epidemiology (2) (Marange)	Research Objectives & Methods (Kroeger) The Research Protocol: Process and Pitfalls (Diaz)	Qualitative Research (Haug)	**10:00-13:00** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Horstick)
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	**14:00 - 17:00** Qualitative Research (Haug)	**17:00** Inaugural Ceremony Uniseum
Week 4					
	Mon – 13/10/25	**Tue – 14/10/25**	**Wed – 15/10/25**	**Thurs – 16/10/25**	**Fri – 17/10/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Statistics (3) (Catherine)	Epidemiology (3) (Marange)	Introduction to Indicators (Diaz) Qualitative Research (Haug)	**09:00 - 11:00** Issues regarding the Research proposal (Kroeger/ Diaz) **11:00 – 13:00** Gender and SRHR in international negotiation (Boehm)	**10:00 – 13:00** Human Rights (McGowan)
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study

Week 5					
	Mon – 20/10/25	**Tue – 21/10/25**	**Wed – 22/10/25**	**Thurs – 23/10/25**	**Fri –24/10/25**
Morning **09:00 – 13:00**	Evidence Based Health Care, systematic reviews; literature search (Labonté)	Epidemiology (4) (Marange)	Statistics (4) (Catherine)		**08:30 – 10:00** Assessment Qualitative Research **11:00 – 13:00** Referencing (Rivera)
Afternoon **14:00-16:00**	**18:00** Planetary Health Lecture (Haug)	Self-Study	Self-Study	Research Ethics: Principles and Rules (Korinthenberg)	Self-Study
Week 6					
	Mon – 27/10/25	**Tue – 28/10/25**	**Wed – 29/10/25**	**Thurs – 30/10/25**	**Fri – 31/10/25**
Morning **09:00 – 13:00**	Statistics (5) (Catherine)	Epidemiology (5) (Marange)	**09:00 - 12:00** ***ONLINE*** Urban Financing: urban development (Meyer)	Urban History/ Urbanization and demographic change (Arndt)	History of Epidemic Infections & Origin of SARS-CoV-2 (Grundmann)
Afternoon **14:00-16:00**	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study

Week 7					
	Mon – 03/11/25	**Tue – 04/11/25**	**Wed – 05/11/25**	**Thurs – 06/11/25**	**Fri – 07/11/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Statistics (6) (Catherine)	Sampling; sampling exercises (Kroeger)	Household interview surveys (Kroeger) Mensa Survey	Epidemiology (6) (Marange)	Overcoming difficulties by Humor (Haenle)
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	**18:00** Planetary Health Lecture (Kollman)	Outdoor practical exercise	Group analysis of exercises	Self-Study	Self-Study
Week 8					
	Mon – 10/11/25	**Tue –11/11/25**	**Wed – 12/11/25**	**Thurs – 13/11/25**	**Fri – 14/11/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Statistics (7) (Catherine) **12:00-13:00** Household interview surveys (Kroeger)	Epidemiology (7) (Marange)	**09:00-11:00** Gender and Diversity (Wittenzellner) 11:00-13:00 Questionnaire analysis (by group) (supported by Catherine)	Group presentation: **assessment of sampling exercise & survey analysis** (Kroeger) (Course work)	City and global South, a social-science view (Rothfuß)
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Self-Study	**14:00-16:00** Questionnaire analysis (by group; support by Catherine)	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study

Week 9					
	Mon – 17/11/25	**Tue – 18/11/25**	**Wed – 19/11/25**	**Thurs – 20/11/25**	**Fri – 21/11/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Statistics (8) (Catherine)	Epidemiology (8) (Marange)	Economic appraisal (Alfonso)	Economic appraisal (Alfonso)	***ONLINE*** 10.00 to 12.30 Infodemic management (Al-Aghbari) 13.00 - 15.00 Urban financing, urban development (Meyer)
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	**18:00** Planetary Health Lecture (Rytkönen)	Self-Study	Economic appraisal (Alfonso)	Self-Study	Self-Study
Week 10					
	Mon – 24/11/25	**Tue – 25/11/25**	**Wed – 26/11/25**	**Thurs – 27/11/25**	**Fri – 28/11/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Statistics (9) (Catherine)	Epidemiology (9) (Marange)	Students' Presentations of Research Objectives & Methods	Assessment Economic appraisal	BASEL excursion
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Self-Study	Self-Study	Students' Presentations of Research Objectives & Methods (Cont.)	Self-Study	Self-Study

Week 11					
	Mon – 01/12/25	**Tue – 02/12/25**	**Wed –03/12/25**	**Thurs –04/12/25**	**Fri – 05/12/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Statistics (10) Review Statistics (Catherine)	Self- Study	**10:00 – 13:00** Caring for the homeless: The Freiburg experience (Becker)	**09:00 – 12:00** Epidemiology (10) Review Epidemiology (Marange) Review sampling, household surveys (Kroeger)	Self-Study
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	**18:00** Planetary Health Lecture (Fuhrimann)	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study
Week 12					
	Mon – 08/12/25	**Tue – 09/12/25**	**Wed – 10/12/25**	**Thurs – 11/12/25**	**Fri – 12/12/25**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Self-Study	**Assessment Statistics**	Self-Study	Self-Study	**Assessment Epidemiology**
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study

4.2 Advanced Modules 1-3

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Advanced Module 1: Communicable Diseases and Quality Assured Programmes in Urban Settings</th></tr>
<tr><td>General Description:
This first advanced module consists of two sub-modules:
The first sub-module focuses on pathogens, transmission dynamics and early outbreak detection of communicable diseases as well as disease control strategies and epidemic responses including social mobilization and inter-sectoral approaches for vaccination programmes, antimicrobial resistance management and special challenges like sanitation systems in urban areas.
The second cross-cutting submodule provides technical skills for designing, implementing, evaluating and promoting the quality of health systems in urban contexts as well as assuring, monitoring and evaluating quality using concrete examples, indicators and case studies. Current challenges such as the unequal distribution of health care professionals result from a lack of delivery of quality health services and care to under-served regions of the world. These critical shortages, inadequate skills, and uneven geographic distribution of health professionals pose major barriers to achieving the preferred state (i.e. quality) of the global health care system.
Together the two sub-modules will link crucial basic knowledge of endemic/epidemic disease control with knowledge about practical strategies to improve health services with the existing resources in low-and middle-income countries. It will help participants to apply tools and models for quality improvement through teamwork and creative approaches.</td><td>Duration:
4 weeks total</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Assessment

Main assessment tools for both sub-modules are: Oral presentation with 10 minutes duration; and written exam (3 hours duration)

The module’s assessment mark consists of the marks of both sub-modules together:
1. Oral presentation after the CDs module - at the end of module 1.1, you will have randomly selected a communicable disease in a city of your choice; you will describe the characteristic of the pathogen, the transmission route and the disease as far as this understanding is important for the prevention and control of the disease. You will do a PowerPoint presentation of a max. of 10 minutes – Overall Weight 4%.
2. Written exam – after completing Module 1.2 on quality assurance, you will have a written exam (3 hours) which includes a critical review of a scientific article and questions.

(NB. Total weight for Advanced Module 1 = 12 (4%+8%). This means that the mark of the module contributes 12% to the total mark of the MSc)</td></tr>
</table>

Sub-Module 1.1: **Communicable Diseases and Outbreaks in Urban Environment**	
Module conveners: Hartmut Hengel, Axel Kroeger **Lecturers:** H. Grundmann; G. Häcker; H. Hengel; W.V.Kern; A. Kroeger; M.Panning; S. Rieg; K. Stete; O. Wegehaupt **External Experts:** T. Callejas (WHO); B. Lange (Hannover); Hetzel (Basel)	**Duration:** 2 weeks

Learning Objectives:
At the end of the module participants will be able to:

- Recognize the magnitude and transmission dynamics of communicable diseases in urban environments.
- Explain principles of early identification, management and control of communicable diseases in urban environments.
- Interpret key indicators related to the control of communicable diseases in urban environments.
- Develop a proactive and creative approach in controlling infectious diseases.
- Implement in their work environment epidemiological investigations and formulate strategies for effective control of communicable diseases with community involvement.
- Understand the role of different national and international institutions as well as of different professionals and apply the concept of inter-sectoral collaboration in their work environment.

Learning Methods:
The following learning methods are applied in this sub-module:

- Formal lectures, interactive lectures with discussions
- Group exercises
- Home assignments and/or self-directed studies
- Field trip to Diagnostic Laboratory

Contents:

1) Understanding communicable diseases in urban environments
   - Pathogens and transmission routes
2) Transmission dynamics and outbreak detection
   - Disease surveillance and burden
   - Vector surveillance
   - Dengue fever: transmission dynamics and interventions
   - Tuberculosis: transmission risk in crowded environments and vulnerable populations
   - Urban malaria: determining the magnitude and interventions
   - HIV-AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections
   - Covid-19
3) Establishing disease control and epidemic response
   - Social mobilization
   - Vaccination programs
   - Resistance management

Assessment: Oral presentation: at the end of module 1.1, you will have randomly selected a communicable disease. You will choose a context (city or country), describe the characteristic of the pathogen, the transmission route and the disease as far as this understanding is important for

the prevention and control of the disease. The oral PowerPoint presentation has a duration of 10 minutes – Overall Weight 4%
Recommended Reading: - Connolly MA (ed.). 2005. Communicable Disease Control in Emergencies. A Field Manual. WHO Geneva. - Detels R, Gulliford M, Abdool Karim Q, Tan CC (eds). 2015. Oxford Textbook of Global Public Health. London. - Heymann DL (ed.). 2015. Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. Washington D.C. - Gould IM, van der Meer JWM (eds.). 2008. Antibiotic Policies: Fighting Resistance. New York, London. - WHO/TDR 2016. Technical handbook for dengue surveillance, dengue outbreak prediction/detection and outbreak response (Model contingency plan), http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/year/2016/tech_handbook_dengue/en/
*An online learning course on Pandemics is offered to students later in the year, within the topics of the History of pandemics, surveillance and preparedness as well as epidemiology and transmission.

Timetable Module 1.1: Communicable diseases in urban environments					
Week 1					
	Mon – 05/01/26	**Tue – 06/01/26**	**Wed – 07/01/26**	**Thu – 08/01/26**	**Fri – 09/01/26**
Morning **9:00-10:45** **11:00-13:00**	Introduction to the Module (Kroeger) Transmission routes (Kroeger) Comprehensive surveillance (Kroeger) Important pathogens and infections for urban planning: Salmonella and other water/food-borne pathogens (Häcker)	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Important pathogens and infections for urban planning: air-borne & infections other than influenza (Kern) Important pathogens and infections for urban planning: Influenza and other viruses (Hengel)	Vaccination strategies (Hengel) Important pathogens & infections: miscellaneous vector-borne infections (Kern)	10:00-13:00 Malaria (Hetzel)
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Self-Study		14.00 – 15.30 The Covid pandemic: super spreading and over dispersion (Wegehaupt)	Special infectious diseases: STIs other than HIV (Rieg)	Visit to diagnostic lab (Panning & Häcker)
Week 2					
	Mon – 12/01/26	**Tue – 13/01/26**	**Wed – 14/01/26**	**Thu – 15/01/26**	**Fri – 16/01/26**
Morning 9:00-13:00	HIV/AIDS pandemic (Callejas, WHO)	Antimicrobial resistance as a global threat (Stete) Urban epidemics: Outbreak prediction, alarm signals and response Water & Sanitation (Kroeger)	More on emerging viral diseases & Special infectious diseases: Rabies (Panning)	***ONLINE*** Important pathogens and infections for urban planning: Tuberculosis (Lange)	**Assessment: PowerPoint presentations**
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	14:00-16:00 Group Work on HIV/AIDS (Callejas, WHO) 18:00 Planetary Health Lecture (Fischer)	Self-Study	Preparation for ppt	Preparation for ppt	

Sub-Module 1.2: **Needs assessment, planning tools and quality assurance in health systems for the urban poor**	
Module convener: Sonia Diaz-Monsalve **Lecturers:** S. Diaz-Monsalve; A. Kroeger; A. Maun **External Experts:** V. Doyle (Liverpool); M. Otmani (WHO TDR)	**Duration:** 2 weeks

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the module, participants will be able to:

- Apply the elements of planning and quality assurance in health programs taking notice of social and gender planning.
- Initiate the process of monitoring through defined indicators for their own institutions, including data collection, data analysis, interpretation and dissemination.
- Use the information as a quality assurance tool to aid local decision making.
- Encourage an interdisciplinary approach and teamwork in solving problems related to quality of health service delivery.
- Create a "culture of quality", sensitive to clients' needs (urban poor/displaced).

Contents:

1) Concepts, QA models and management tools:
- Key terminology and conceptual frameworks and models
- QA cycle
- Management tools

2) Applying tools at local urban level;
- Nine epidemiological questions
- Risk approach
- Causal Models

3) Identifying areas for quality improvement and measuring progress at urban level:
- Developing and monitoring defined indicators
- Information sources, how to analyse, present and disseminate data & information to different actors
- Barriers and enabling factors when establishing QA systems

4) Digital Medicine
5) Primary Health Care
6) Social Planning recognizing gender aspects

Learning Methods:

The following learning methods are applied in this sub-module:

- Formal lectures, interactive lectures with open discussions
- Group exercises
- Home assignments and/or self-directed studies
- Review of scientific articles

Module Assessment:

Written exam – after completing Module 1.2 on quality assurance, you will have a written exam (3 hours) which includes a critical review of a scientific article.

Recommended Readings:

- Diaz S., Kroeger A. Needs Assessment and Planning Tools. A Workbook. (will be provided on ILIAS)
- Green A. 2009. An Introduction to Health Planning for Developing Health Systems. 4th edition. Oxford.
- Massound M R et al (2016). How do we learn about improving health care: a call for a new epistemological paradigm. International Journal for Quality in Health Care, 2016, 1–5 doi: 10.1093/intqhc/mzw03
- Tulloch O. (2015) What does 'adaptive programming' mean in the health sector, ODI, UK. https://www.odi.org/publications/10228-adaptive-programming-health-sector
- Donabedian, A. (1992) The Lichfield Lecture. Quality assurance in health care: consumers' role. Quality & Safety in Health Care, 1, pp. 247-251. http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/1/4/247.full.pdf+html
- Further reading materials to be presented at the beginning of the module.

Timetable Module 1.2**: Needs assessment, Planning Tools and Quality Assurance in Health Systems**

Week 1					
	Monday 19.01.26	**Tuesday 20.01.26**	**Wednesday 21.01.26**	**Thursday 22.01.26**	**Friday 23.01.26**
Morning 09:00-13:00	Introduction to the NAPTs module Needs assessment and planning tools (1) (Diaz, Kroeger)	Needs assessment and planning tools (2) (Diaz, Kroeger)	Needs assessment and planning tools (3) (Diaz, Kroeger)	Self-study	Improvement Science and Team work (Maun)
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Continued (Diaz, Kroeger) **18:00** Planetary Health Lecture	Self-study	Continued (Diaz, Kroeger)	***14:30-17:30** Primary Health Care (Maun)	Self-Study
Week 2					
	Monday 26.01.26	**Tuesday 27.01.26**	**Wednesday 28.01.26**	**Thursday 29.01.26**	**Friday 30.01.26**
Morning 09:00-13:00	Core concepts & models for QA and improvement Defining the role of the client in QA (Doyle)	Case study: embedding quality in community health services in Kenya (Doyle)	Summary of SQALE Programme Communication approaches for QA (Doyle) Challenges of institutionalising QA (Doyle)	Social Planning & Qualitative research (Otmani)	Recognition of gender issues in planning (Otmani)
Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Continued (Doyle)	Continued (Doyle)	Self-study	Continued (Otmani)	Q+A session Research topics (Otmani)
	18:00 Planetary Health Lecture (Barteit)				
**** Assessment for Module 1.2 Needs assessment, planning tools on Thursday 05 February 2026 at 10:00 am***					

Advanced Module 2: **Environmental Management and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in urban areas**	
General Description: The first part of the module focuses on the assessment and measurement of environmental risk factors and health impact. These are: air and water pollution, noise exposure, heat (in relation to climate change), environmental modifications within urban development and local legislations, building plans as a threat or as a positive determinant to health. The second part of the module addresses the impact of climate change, unhealthy environments and unhealthy behaviour (eating, physical inactivity) on health dealing with the complexity and interrelations of NCDs´ factors and shows possible mitigation and solution strategies from healthy city programmes.	**Duration:** 4 weeks total
Assessment Advanced Module 2: Main assessment tool for both sub-modules is Oral Presentation of 10 min duration. The modules' assessment mark will be an average mark of two oral presentations, of each submodule (descriptions below). Total weight of Module 2 assessment = **12% (6% for each sub-module)** This means that the mark of the module contributes 12% to the total mark of the MSc. *One combined mark – average (50%)	
Sub-Module 2.1: **Environmental determinants of health in urban areas**	
Module convener: Armin Schuster **Lecturers**: K. Brundiers; A. Christen; D. Filas; I. Nazarenko; A. Schuster; Reis **External Experts**: G. Alabaster (UN Habitat, Geneva); PD Dr. Norbert Becker (Ex-Director of KABS); N. Weydmann; W. Zacher (Bonn)	Duration: 2 weeks
Learning Objectives: At the end of the module, participants will be able to: • Define major types, sources and spatial distribution of environmental agents and stressors. • Recognize and use environmental indicators. • Describe how the agents and environmental conditions (e.g. heat) interact with systems and describe the mechanisms by which they exert adverse effects. • Use models for predicting the magnitude of adverse effects in biological systems. • Identify gaps in current knowledge concerning health effects of environmental agents. • Describe current legislation and regulation regarding environmental issues in different settings. • Formulate practical interventions to improve environmental problems in the risk-assessment process.	
Contents: 1) Concepts and challenges in environment and urban health: • Key terminology and conceptual frameworks and models • Sustainable development • Current debates in environment and human health • Regional concepts of environmental protection	

- Urban Geography

2) Key environmental and human challenges in urban health:
- Environmental pollution (air, water and soil)
- Noise
- Housing conditions
- Microclimate in urban environments and climate change
- Biodiversity, climate change and resilience
- Climate change and health
- Human health policies

3) Measuring environmental factors and health effects:
- Environmental pollution (air, water): Measurement and health effects
- Noise: Measurement and health effects
- Environment-related syndromes (MCS, IEI, SBS, CFS, CS, BS)

4) Interventions at micro and macro level:
- Healthy housing
- Indicators for healthy housing
- Fauna and Flora in urban environments
- Recycling

Learning Methods:
The following learning methods are applied in this sub-module:
- Formal lectures, interactive lectures with discussions
- Group exercises
- Home assignments and/or self-directed studies

* The module includes field trips to Forchheim (Water purification plant), Vauban and St. Peter

Recommended Reading:
- WHO. 2012. Measuring Health Gains from Sustainable Development. Public Health and Environment Department (PHE), WHO. Geneva. http:www.who.int/hia/green_economy/en/index.html
- WHO. 2011. Health in the Green Economy: Health Co-benefits of Climate Change Mitigation-housing Sector. PEH, WHO. Geneva.
- Rothenberg R, Stauber C, Weaver S, Dai D, Prasad A and Kano M. 2015. Urban Health Indicators and Indices
- Current Status. *BMC Public Health,* 15, 494.
- Schwela D. 2000. Air Pollution and Health in Urban Areas. *Rev Environ Health*, 15 (1-2), 13-42.

Timetable Module 2.1: Environmental determinants of health in urban areas					
Week 1					
	Mon – 09/02/26	**Tue – 10/02/26**	**Wed – 11/02/26**	**Thu – 12/02/26**	**Fri – 13/02/26**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Introduction to the Module Environmental determinants of health in urban areas Introduction to students presentations for the following week (Schuster)	Urban climate & micro-climate (Christen)	Water & sanitation in urban LMICs (Alabaster)	Planetary Health (Weydmann)	Sustainability rediscovered (Brundiers)
Afternoon 14.00-16.00	Rosenmontag and Self-Study	Indoor and ambient air pollution Introduction to Waste Water Treatment Plant Excursion (Schuster)	14:00–16:00 Urban planning in Freiburg: Excursion to Vauban (Ries)	13.15–15.00 Climate change and health (Zacher)	Self-Study
Week 2					
	Mon – 16/02/26	**Tue – 17/02/26**	**Wed – 18/02/26**	**Thu – 19/02/26**	**Fri – 20/02/26**
Morning 09:00 – 13:00	Q&As for Students Presentations on Friday (Schuster) Contribution of environmental factors to cancer risk (Nazarenko)	Geography of Global Change (Fuenfgeld)	Urban development and planning (Fuenfgeld)	9.00–11.00 at Breisacher Str. 115b Measuring environmental determinants of health: practical aspects (Schuster)	**Assessment: PowerPoint presentations** (Schuster, Kroeger)
Afternoon 14.00-16.00	Self-Study	14:00–16:00 Waste Water Treatment Plants: Excursion to AZV-Plant in Forchheim (Schuster)	Self-Study	Self-Study	

Sub-Module 2.2: **Social Determinants and Behavioural Risk Factors of Non-Communicable Diseases**	
Module convener: Eva Maintz and Gabriela Pen **Lecturers:** P. Henneke; P. Gelius; U. E. Lamy; M. Müller; D. Radicke; K.O. Schwab; E. Maintz; G. Pen; C. Klinger **External Experts:** J. Alvarado; P. Philipsborn (Münich); Steiger Stiftung	**Duration:** 2 weeks
Learning Objectives: At the end of the module, participants will be able to:	

- Describe main health conditions & risk factors of diseases defined as Non-Communicable Disease (NCDs).
- Critically assess the relationship between the burden of NCDs and inequalities existing in urban and rural areas - including political, social, environmental and economic inequalities.
- Use different research methods and sources of information (including epidemiological data) when assessing, designing and implementing NCDs prevention projects/programmes and/or research.
- Practice an interdisciplinary approach (political science, public health, environmental health and marketing) when implementing NCDs prevention projects/programmes and/or research.
- Understand different prevention approaches (environmental change or behavioural change) in different target audiences and at different levels.
- Assess different aspects that influence policy and response strategies a global and local levels to tackle the burden of NCDs.

Contents:

1) Concepts of NCDs in Global Urban Health:
   - Key terminology
   - Burden of NCDs
2) Determinants of NCDs:
   - Social inequalities & Risk factors
   - Political, economic challenges of NCD management
   - The global food system and healthy diets
   - Environmental factors
3) Prevention and control measures of NCDs:
   - Healthy and sustainable diets
   - Enhancing physical activity
   - Surveillance of child growth and development, detecting growth and developmental disorders
   - Treatment measures of NDCs in a public health perspective
   - Psychological frameworks in social marketing to promote behaviour change
   - Concepts of emergency rescue services
4) Political frameworks and action plans
   - Global strategies & national programs
   - Intersectoral approach
   - Community based initiatives

Recommended Reading:

- Magnusson, R. (2007) Non-Communicable diseases and global health governance: enhancing global processes to improve health development. *Globalization and Health*, 3:2.
- Swinburn et al. (2019) The Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition and Climate Change: The Lancet Commission report. *Lancet*, 393: 791-846.
- Willett W, Rockström J, Loken B, et al.: Food in the Anthropocene: The EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems. The Lancet 2019; 393(10170): 447–92.
- World Health Organization. (2013). Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013-2020. World Health Organization. https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/94384

Timetable Module 2.2: Non-Communicable Diseases and Risk Factors					
First Week	**Mon 23.02.2026**	**Tue 24.02.2026**	**Wed 25.02.2026**	**Thu 26.02.2026**	**Fri 27.02.2026**
Morning 9:00 – 13:00	**9:00 – 9:20** Introduction to the Module (Maintz; Pen) **9:30 – 13:00** Cardiovascular Disease (Radicke) Lifelong Treatment and its Ethical and Environmental Implications (Müller)	Chronic Non-Transmissible Lung Disease and Tobacco Control: What we know, where are we now and what is next? (Alvarado)	Public Health Nutrition (Philipsborn)	Enhancing Healthy Environments for Healthy Behaviours (Philipsborn) Physical Activity and Health (Gelius)	Increasing daily movement by providing walkable environments - a Freiburg Case Study (Jehle)
Afternoon 14.00 – 16.00	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	
Second Week	**Mon 02.03.2026**	**Tue 03.03.2026**	**Wed 04.03.2026**	**Thur 05.03.2026**	**Fri 06.03.2026**
Morning 9:00 – 13:00	Diabetes - Obesity from a paediatric perspective (Schwab)	Diet, secondary plant compounds and cancer prevention (Lamy)	Pre- and Perinatal Risk Factors and Importance of Family Planning for Public Health (Henneke/Alam)	Global Aspects of Emergency Rescue Services (Steiger Stiftung day)	**Assessment: PowerPoint presentations**
Afternoon 14.00 – 16.00	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-study	Self-Study	

Advanced Module 3: **Migration, Violence and Mental Health Issues among the Urban Poor**	
General Description: The first part describes and discusses; the global burden of mental illnesses, awareness- raising interventions at community level, diagnosis at primary healthcare level and the management of treatment and care of affected patients in resource poor settings. Particular attention is given to psychosomatic problems due to factors such as rural-urban migration, disintegration of families, increasing population density and other phenomena of urbanization. The second part of the module focusses on different aspects and influencing factors of migration illustrated with practical examples from Freiburg and beyond. Strategies for managing and preventing of specific problems such as children without parents, adolescents and intercultural conflicts and violence among heterogeneous groups will be discussed.	**Duration:** 4 weeks total
Assessment Advanced Module 3: The modules' assessment tools consist of a **poster presentation** (10-minute oral presentation) and a **concept paper** (written assignment). The final mark for the module will be considered with the average mark of the two assessments (50% of the mark for the Concept Paper and 50% of the mark for the Poster). Students will develop a concept paper for seed money as a written assignment. The student has to write a short proposal for a one-year pilot project on community mental health for a migrant population. A poster will be prepared on the same topic as the concept paper. Further details on the concept paper and the poster will be given during the module. Total weight of Module 3 **= 12%**. This means that the mark of the module contributes 12% to the overall mark of the MSc.	
Sub-Module 3.1: Mental health in urban environments	
Module convener: Nayeong Ko **Lecturers**: N. Ko; P. Scheib; S. Schmidt; Z. Temesvary **External Experts**: J. Hillebrecht; P.König; Menne; Schneider; E. Steisslinger; A. Pinel; A. Whittal; L. Wolski; M. Mc Gowan	**Duration:** 2 weeks
Learning Objectives: At the end of the module, participants will be able to: • Describe the burden of disease related to mental health. • Recognize bio-psycho-social factors of urban health across the lifespan and in different cultural contexts. • Identify psychosomatic problems and practice professional communication techniques. • Use an interdisciplinary approach when designing and implementing mental health projects/programmes. • Develop and implement mental health programmes in urban settings particularly for vulnerable populations such as displaced populations and migrants.	

Contents:

1) Global Burden of Mental Health:
   - Prevalence of disorders across the lifespan
   - Treatment gap
   - Criticism and challenges in Global Mental Health
2) Factors underlying mental wellbeing and mental disorders ("Bio-Psycho-Social Systems Model"):
   - Physical factors
   - Psychological factors
   - Social Factors (i.e. the critical role of families, migration)
3) Factors impacting mental wellbeing, mental distress and response to mental health problems
   - Life phase specific tasks and factors
   - Lifestyle choices (eating habits, physical exercise, sleep, social network)
   - Culture
   - Trauma
   - Aging societies
4) Interventions at micro and macro levels
   - Community- based mental health interventions
   - Professional communication to aid recognition and treatment of psychosomatic problems
   - Anti-stigma activism and public engagement
   - Digital mental health interventions
   - Key elements to consider when preparing a community mental health care plan/ project

Learning Methods:

The following learning methods are applied in this sub-module:
- Interactive lectures with discussions
- Group exercises
- Home assignments and/or self-directed studies

* The module includes field trips to Glotterbad Rehabilitation Centre in the Black Forest.

Recommended Reading:

- Patel, V., Saxena, S., Lund, C., Thornicroft, G., Baingana, F., Bolton, P., ... & UnÜtzer, J. (2018). The Lancet Commission on global mental health and sustainable development. The Lancet, 392(10157), 1553-1598.
- Patel V, Prince M. 2010. Global Mental Health. A New Global Health Field Comes of Age. JAMA, 303(19), 1976-1977. doi:10.1001/jama.2010.616.
- World Health Organization. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, 2021. Mental health atlas 2020. World Health Organization
- APA. (2013). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders; DSM-5. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.

Timetable Module3.1: Mental Health in Urban Environments					
Week 1	**Mon 16.03.26**	**Tue 17.03.26**	**Wed 18.03.26**	**Thu 19.03.26**	**Fri 20.03.26**
Morning 9:00 – 13:00	Introduction to the Module & Explanation on the Assessment Project Poster (Ko)	Mental Disorder, Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy (Scheib)	Mental Health in Modern Jobmarket (Whittal)	Mindfulness Based Programs in Mental Health – The Power of Doing Less (Schmidt)	**Excursion to Glotterbad Clinic** (Menne)
Afternoon 14.00 – 16.00	Self-study	15:00-17:00 Mental Health & Sports (Steisslinger) Location: Sandfangweg 4	**(Online)** Mental Health Promotion in Schools (Harsch)	**(Online)** Urbanization and Mental Health in Southeast Asia	Self-study
Week 2	**Mon 23.03.26**	**Tue 24.03.26**	**Wed 25.03.26**	**Thu 26.03.26**	**Fri 27.03.26**
Morning 9:00 – 13:00	Mental Health in Adolescence (Ko) Eating Disorders in Asia (Ko)	Mental Health among the poor in Dominican Republic (König)	Trauma, PTSD and Psychological First-Aid for people facing Humanitarian Crisis (Schneider)	Aging Cities and Mental Health (Wolski)	Migration and Mental Health (Temesvary)
Afternoon 14.00 – 16.00	Self-study	**(Online)** Mental Health in Africa	(Online) Mental health and the elderly new approaches (Pinel)	Self-study	Self-study

Sub-Module 3.2: Migration and violence in urban settings	
Module convener: Nayeong Ko **Lecturers:** P. Jung; R. Hofman; A. Scherr; T. Epkenhans **External Experts:** Ekerdt; Jogho; M. Maclaren; M.Massaro; F.Regina; N.Schirilla; H. Serra; J. Wägerle, L. Wall; Wiedenbrüg; M. Wirsching	**Duration:** 2 weeks

Learning Objectives:

- At the end of the module, participants will be able to:
- Understand the key aspects of the relationship between migration, politics, inequalities and health related issues at global, regional, national and local levels.
- Differentiate the terms of migration in terms of motives and dynamics.
- Recognize the interplay of migration with social mobility, poverty, violence, identity, gender, urban space and health.
- Apply relevant interdisciplinary interventions to deal with migration and mental health challenges in countries.

Contents:

1) Concepts, history and challenges of global migration:
   - Key terminology, definition of “migrants”, “forced migration “, “refugee “, displace populations.
   - Migration flows and processes (including economic, demographic, ideological and ethnographic approaches)
   - Brain drain and migration in the public health arena
2) Institutional frameworks: Models for primary mental care in urban settings:
   - State Policy, legal and institutional framework
   - International frameworks for migrant / refugee care and Violence Protection- Trauma therapy for migrants
   - Structures for addressing Trauma in migrant and refugee populations
3) The effects of migration:
   - Change in fertility, mortality and other health indicators
   - Culture and Identity
   - Mental health and well-being
   - Violence and its determinants
4) Interventions at macro and micro level:
   - Options for intervention
   - Raising public awareness
   - Addressing irregular/forced migration
   - Challenges on health (particularly mental health) problems of migrant and refugee populations

Recommended Reading:

- Bommes M, Thränhardt D. 2010. National Paradigms of Migration Research. 1st edition. (IMIS-Schriften Bd. 13). Osnabrück. Introduction pp. 9-38.
- Caglar A, Glick Schiller N (eds). 2010. Locating Migration: Rescaling Cities and Migrants. Ithaca.
- Düvell F, Triandafyllidou A, Vollmer B. 2009. Ethical Issues in Irregular Migration Research in Europe. *Population Space and Place* 16.3, 227–239.
- Genova, N de. 2009. Conflicts of Mobility, and the Mobility of Conflict: Rightlessness, Presence, Subjectivity, Freedom. *Subjectivity,* 29.1, 445–466.
- Lipphardt A, Schwarz I. 2015. Follow the People! Examining Migration Regimes through Emerging Trajectories of Unauthorized Migrants. In: Andreas Pott et al. (ed.) *Migration Regimes. Approaches to a Key Concept*, pp... Wiesbaden.
- Zetter R. 2014. Protection in Crisis: Forced Migration and Protection in a Global Era. Download: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/protection-crisis-forced-migration-and-protection-global-era
- Castles S. 2017. Towards a Sociology of Forced Migration and Social Transformation. (will be provided at Online-Platform ILIAS). Betts A. What History Can Teach Us About the Worst Refugee Crisis Since WWII. September 2015 (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/alexander-betts-refugees-wwii_55f30f7ce4b077ca094edaec).

Timetable Module 3.2: Migration in Urban Environments					
Week 1	**Mon 13.04.26**	**Tue 14.04.26**	**Wed 15.04.26**	**Thur 16.04.26**	**Fri 17.04.26**
Morning 9:00 – 13:00	Introduction to the Module (Ko) Terminology and Theoretical Frameworks in Migration	Causes, reasons and forms of forced migration (Scherr)	Migration: National and International Policy Frameworks (Maclaren)	Religion, Migration and Health (Epkenhans)	Climate Change and Migrant Health (Hofmann)
Afternoon 14.00 – 16.00	Self-Study	Self-Study	**(Online)** Migration and Non-Communicable Diseases (Gyawali)	Refugees from War and Conflict: Refugium in Freiburg (Wirsching & Jogho)	Self-Study
Week 2	**Mon 20.04.26**	**Tue 21.04.26**	**Wed 22.04.26**	**Thur 23.04.26**	**Fri 24.04.26**
Morning 9:00 – 13:00	Primary Health Care for Migrants: A Life Course Perspective (Jung)	Asylum and Violence Protection Standards in German refugee camps (Ekerdt & Wall) *Lunch in the Camp 13:00-14:00	Female reproductive health of migrants in Germany (contraception, abortion, STDs) (Wägerle)	Migration and Human Trafficking- A best practice example: Supporting female victims of sexual exploitation (Fuchs– FreiJa)	Global Alliances in Migration
Afternoon 14.00 – 16.00	Self-Study	The Refugee Experience (Wall)	Self-Study	Migration and Sex Work, Factsand Fiction (Wiedenbrüg)	Effective Communication (Arstipendy)

Submission of poster and of concept papers on **Tuesday, 28/04/26 at 8 am, poster presentation on Wednesday, 29/04/26**

4.3 Research Project

The Research Project - Overview	
Convener: Axel Kroeger	**Duration: 4 months**

Description:
The research project offers the opportunity to apply the methods and skills acquired during the programme to a concrete Research project. First information and possible topics of the research project will be introduced during the core module at the beginning of the course (possible topics, arrangements, requirements, marking) and will be followed throughout the whole course. By this way, the participants have sufficient time to choose a theme and to become familiar with the field. The students also get the opportunity to propose own topics and research ideas, for example questions from their individual professional background. Each student will be guided by a personal supervisor who will determine or help to define the research question and accompany and support the project throughout the whole process. The students will have three months for the preparation, data collection, analysis and writing. The format and the regulations for subsequent marking of the Master's thesis are described in the Master Thesis guidelines.
The supervisors come mainly from the Faculty of Humanities (for social sciences subjects), Faculty of Medicine (for subjects with a focus on health) and Economics and Behavioural Sciences (cost analysis, economic analysis and behavioural change). There are also external supervisors from other countries and Universities, such as Bonn, Berlin Charite, Stade and Munich (Germany), Penn State University (USA); Gothenburg (Sweden); Basel and St. Galen (Switzerland) and WHO senior officers.

Weight of the Research Project:
The mark for the research project includes:

- The mark of the **Final Oral examination** done in May – Oral PowerPoint presentation and questions regarding the thesis and the course content with maximum duration of 30 minutes with questions – Overall weight 5%;
- **Research Design** – Overall weight 5% – This is the research protocol presented to ERC and includes also a PowerPoint presentation in January or February.
- Final mark of the **Master Thesis** – Overall weight 28%.

The total weight of the research project is 38. This means that the marks of the research project (including thesis, oral exam and research design) contributes 38% to the total mark of the MSc.

- The oral exam in May has a weighting factor of 5. The marking of the research proposal submitted to the ethics committee has a weighting factor of 5 and the Master`s Thesis Overall weight 28%.

Regarding the assessment of the master thesis:
Check the Master Thesis guideline for the MSc GUH Programme and Thesis timeline on pg. 18.

Recommended Reading:

Reading materials will be discussed with the thesis tutor of each individual student.
*More information available in the Master Thesis Guidelines (Version October 2025).

5 Contact information

Function	Name	Contact
Master Programme Coordinator	Dr. Sonia Diaz-Monsalve	sonia.diaz.monsalve@mail.medizin.uni-freiburg.de Phone: +49 761 203 67382
Administrative / Financial Officer	Monika Gaalova	monika.gaalova@mail.medizin.uni-freiburg.de Phone: +49 761 203 69269
Technical Officer	Molly Catherine	molly.catherine@mail.medizin.uni-freiburg.de Phone: +49 761 203 67382

Annex

Lecturers and external experts of the Master of Science Global Urban Health

1. **UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG / CPH**

Prof. Dr. Axel Kroeger
Master Scientific Advisor
Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR/WHO)
Centre for Planetary Health, University of Freiburg
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK
axel.kroeger@uniklinik-freiburg.de and kroeger43@gmail.com

Dr. Sonia Diaz-Monsalve
Centre for Planetary Health (CPH)
Hermann-Herder-Straße 5
79104 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
sonia.diaz.monsalve@mail.medizin.uni-freiburg.de

Monika Gaalova
Centre for Planetary Health (CPH)
Hermann-Herder-Straße 5
79104 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
monika.gaalova@mail.medizin.uni-freiburg.de

Molly Catherine
Centre for Planetary Health (CPH)
Hermann-Herder-Straße 5
79104 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
molly.catherine@mail.medizin.uni-freiburg.de

2. FACULTY OF MEDICINE, University of Freiburg

Dr. biol. Tjibbe Donker
Institute for Infection Prevention and Hospital Epidemiology
Uniklinik Freiburg
tjibbe.donker@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. med. Georg Häcker
Department of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene
Hermann-Herder-Str. 11, 79104 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
georg.haecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Dr. med. Anna Hansel
Fachärztin für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie
Hugstetter Str. 55 · 79106 Freiburg
anna.hansel@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Hengel
Institute of Virology, Department of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene
Hermann-Herder-Straße 11, 79104 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
hartmut.hengel@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Philipp Henneke
Institute for Infection Prevention and Hospital Hygiene
Breisacher Straße 115b, 79106 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
philipp.henneke@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Em. Dr. Rudolf Korinthenberg
Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Engelbergerstr. 21, 79106 Freiburg
rudolf.korinthenberg@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Dr. Valerie Labonte
Cochrane Germany Universitätsklinikum Freiburg
Breisacher Straße 153 79110 Freiburg
labonte@cochrane.de

Dr. Eva-Maria Maintz
Medical doctor, paediatrician and Public Health specialist
Cadiz, Spain
eva.maintz@gmail.com

Prof. Dr. Andy Maun
Director, Institute for Primary Care (Lehrbereich Allgemeinmedizin)
Elsaesserstr. 2m, 79100 Freiburg
andy.maun@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Irina Nazarenko
Institute for Infection Prevention and Hospital Hygiene
Department of Environmental Health Sciences
Breisacher Straße 115b, 79106 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
irina.nazarenko@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. med. Marcus Panning
Department for Medical Microbiology & Hygiene
Institute for Virology
Hermann-Herder-Str. 11 · 79104 Freiburg
marcus.panning@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Dr.med. Dirk Radicke
Specialist in internal medicine and cardiology
Bismarckallee 9, 79098 Freiburg im Breisgau
radicke@360-cardio-freiburg.de

Daniel Sassiat
E-Learning Coordinator for Continuing Education
University IT Services, E-Learning Service Centre
Hermann-Herder-Str. 10, 79104 Freiburg, Germany
daniel.sassiat@rz.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. med. Siegbert Rieg
Division of Infectious Diseases, Clinic for Internal Medicine II
Hugstetter Strasse 55, 79106 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
siegbert.rieg@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Dr. Katarina Stete
Department of Internal Medicine II
Department of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital Freiburg
Hugstetter Strasse 55, 79106 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
katarina.stete@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Tatiana Rivera
PhD Candidate University of Freiburg
tatiana.rivera@zmg.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. phil. Stefan Schmidt, Dipl.-Psych.
Department of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy
Hauptstr. 8, 79104 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
stefan.schmidt@uniklinik-freiburg.de
www.prof-stefan-schmidt.info/

Dipl.-Biol. Armin Schuster
Institute for Infection Prevention and Hospital Hygiene
Department of Environmental Health Sciences

Breisacher Straße 115b, 79106 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
armin.schuster@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Karl Otfried Schwab
Head of Paediatric Endocrinology, Diabetology and Lipidology
Medical Centre – University of Freiburg
Centre for Paediatrics – Department of Paediatrics, Adolescent and Neonatology
Mathildenstraße 1, 79106 Freiburg
karl.otfried.schwab@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Dirk Wagner
Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine II
University of Freiburg - Medical Center
Hugstetter Straße 55, 79106 Freiburg
Dirk.Wagner@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Dr.Oliver Wegehaupt
Centrum für chronische Immundefizienz (CCI)
Breisacher Str. 115 · 79106 Freiburg
oliver.wegehaupt@uniklinik-freiburg.de

3. FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG

Prof. Dr. Melanie Arndt
Economic, Social and Environmental History
Historical Seminar
Rempartstr. 15 – College Building IV, 79085 Freiburg
melanie.arndt@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Manuela Boatca
Institute for Sociology
Rempartstr. 15 (office 4512), D-79085 Freiburg
Manuela.boatca@soziologie.uni-freiburg.de

Dr. Katja Brundiers
Co-Head of the research group Transformational Sustainability Science
Friedrichstr. 39, 79098 Freiburg
katja.brundiers@asu.edu

PD. Dr. Ercüment Celik
Institute for Sociology
Rempartstr. 15 (office 4523)
D-79085 Freiburg
ercuement.celik@soziologie.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Sabine Dabringhaus
Department of History, East Asian History

Rempartstr. 15-KGIV, 79085 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
Sabine.dabringhaus@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Tim Epkenhans
Orientalisches Seminar (Oriental Studies)
Platz der Universität 3, 79085 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
tim.epkenhans@orient.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Michaela Haug
Institute for Ethnology
Werthmannstraße 10, 79085 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
michaela.Haug@ethno.uni-freiburg.de

Felix Wittenzellner
Stellv. Bereichsleitung Gender & Diversity
Hebelstr. 10, 79104 Freiburg
felix.wittenzellner@zv.uni-freiburg.de

4. FACULTY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG

Prof. Dr. Andreas Christen
Institute of Forest Sciences/Institute of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Environmental Meteorology
Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources
Werthmannstraße 10, 79098 Freiburg
andreas.christen@meteo.uni-freiburg.de

Dr. Dennis Fila
Institute of Environmental Social Sciences and Geography
Schreiberstr. 29, 79085 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
dennis.fila@geographie.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Michael Scherer-Lorenzen
Faculty of Biology - Geobotany
Schaenzlestr. 1, Room A 210, D-79104 Freiburg
michael.scherer@biologie.uni-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Andreas Matzarakis
Environmental Meteorology
Werthmannstrasse 10, 79085 Freiburg
andreas.matzarakis@meteo.uni-freiburg.de

5. OTHER UNIVERSITIES

Dr. Karin Geffert, MD
Institute for Public Health and Healthcare, IBE, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Marchioninistr. 17, 81377 München, Germany
kgeffert@ibe.med.uni-muenchen.de

Prof. Manuel Hetzel
Head of Health Interventions Unit
Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute (Basel)
Kreuzstrasse 2, 4123 Allschwil (BL), Switzerland
manuel.hetzel@swisstph.ch

Prof. Dr. Olaf R. Horstick
Director of Teaching
Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg
In Neuenheimer Feld 672, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany
olaf.horstick@uni-heidelberg.de

Prof. Dr. Winfried V. Kern
Division of Infectious Diseases,
Clinic for Internal Medicine II
Hugstetter Strasse 55, 79106 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
winfried.kern@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Berit Lange
Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research
Inhoffenstraße 7, 38124 Braunschweig, Germany
berit.lange@helmholtz-hzi.de

PD. Dr. Malcolm MacLaren
Faculty of Law, University of Zurich
Rämistrasse 74/2, CH-8001 Zurich, Switzerland
ml.maclaren@utoronto.ca

Maureen McGowan
Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg
In Neuenheimer Feld 672, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany
Maureen.mcgowanni-heidelberg.de

Prof. Dr. Michael Müller
Institut für Pharmazeutische Wissenschaften
Lehrstuhl für Pharmazeutische und Medizinische Chemie, Universität Freiburg
Albertstrasse 25´, 79104 Freiburg
michael.mueller@pharmazie.uni-freiburg.de

Dr. Debora Niermann
Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich
Lagerstrasse 2, LAA H032, CH 8090 Zürich, Switzerland
debora.niermann@phzh.ch

Dr. John Nyirenda
Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research
Inhoffenstraße 7, 38124 Braunschweig, Germany
john.nyirenda@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Prof. Dr. Eberhard Rothfuß
Professur für Sozial- und Bevölkerungsgeographie, Universität Bayreuth
Universitätsstraße 30, 95447 Bayreuth, Germany
eberhard.rothfuss@uni-bayreuth.de

Prof. Dr. Albert Scherr
Migration research, Freiburg University of Education
Institute of Sociology
Kunzenweg 21, 79117 Freiburg
scherr@ph-freiburg.de

Estella Tambini Stollwerck
In Neuenheimer Feld 672
69120 Heidelberg, Germany
Estella.TambiniStollwerck@med.uni-heidelberg.de

Priv. Doz. Dr. Jennifer Wägerle
Migration research, Freiburg University of Education
Institute of Sociology
Kunzenweg 21, 79117 Freiburg
Jennifer.waegele@gmx.net

Prof. Dr. Nicole Weydmann
Hochschule Furtwangen
Fakultät Gesundheit Sicherheit Gesellschaft
Luisenstr. 17, 78120 Furtwangen
nicole.weydmann@hs-furtwangen.de

Priv. Doz. Lucas Wolski
Centre for Cognitive Disorders
Technical University of Münich, Faculty of Medicine
Ismaninger Str. 22, 81675 München
Lucas.Wolfski@gmx.de

UN Organisations in GENEVA (WHO; TDR; UN HABITAT)

Dr. Graham Alabaster
Chief Waste Management & Sanitation
Urban Basic Services Branch, United Nations Human Settlements Program,
UN HABITAT Geneva Office
graham.alabaster@un.org or galabaster@gmail.com

Dr. Txema Callejas
Former HIV-AIDS Department
WHO, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
txemacallejaj@gmail.com

Dr. Mariam Otmani del Barrio
The Special Programme for Research & Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) WHO
Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
otmanidelbarriom@who.int

EXPERTS and NGOs in FREIBURG

Dr. Jennifer Hillebrecht
Head of Psychosocial Support Centre, Psychotherapist
Refugium Freiburg
Adelhauser Straße 8, 79098 Freiburg
jennifer.hillebrecht@caritas-freiburg.de

Beate Huschka
Koordinatorin und Beraterin
Diakonisches Werk Freiburg
Schwarzwaldstr. 24, 79102 Freiburg
huschka@diakonie-freiburg.de

Dr. Gerlind Leininger
Rehaklinik Glotterbad
Gehrenstraße 10, 79286 Glottertal, Germany
G.Leininger@rehaklinik-glotterbad.de

Heide Serre
NGO for Children with Cancer in Freiburg
Elternhaus, Mathildenstraße 3, 79106 Freiburg
serra@helfen-hilft.de

EXTERNAL EXPERTS

Dr. Jaime Andreas Alvarado
Pulmonologist and TB Expert, Clinic for Pneumology
Killianstraße 5, 79106 Freiburg

jaimeaalvarado@gmail.com

PD Dr. Norbert Becker
Ex-Director of KABS
Kommunale AG zur Bekämpfung der Stechmücken
Speyer
norbertfbecker@web.de

Thomas Becker
Ombudsstelle für wohnungslose Menschen
Schwabentorring 2, 79098 Freiburg
becker.stupferich@gmail.com

Ann-Cathrin Beermann
Forum Ökologisch-Soziale Marktwirtschaft (FÖS) e.V.
Schwedenstraße 15a, 13357 Berlin
ann-cathrin.beermann@foes.de

Dr. Annette Christ
Healthy cities Network Coordinator
Department 2 Environment and Hygiene
Secretariat of the Healthy Cities Network
Breite Gasse 28, 60313 Frankfurt am Main
anette.christ(at)stadt-frankfurt.de

Dr. Vicki Doyle
Independent Consultant
International Health/ Quality Assurance in Health Care
School of Tropical Medicine-Liverpool University, Liverpool, UK
vdoyle@capacity-development.com

Kirsten Heanle
Trainer, Humour Impulse
79280 Au bei Freiburg
hello@humor-impulse.de

Maren Heldberg
Mental Health Officer, Doctors Without Borders/ Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF)
heldberg.maren@gmail.com

Dr. Petra Jung
Specialist in General Medicine
Freiburg
p.jung309@gmail.com

Dr. Nayeong Ko
Independent Mental Health Consultant

nayeongko.kr@gmail.com

Dr. med. Annette Linz
Im Zwinger 13, 75365 Calw
annettelinz@gmx.de

Massaro Mahita Eva
Schwarzwaldstr 24, 79102, Freiburg
massaro@diakonie-freiburg.de

Anna Marange
IMTT Hochschule Furtwangen
Fakultät Gesundheit Sicherheit Gesellschaft
Luisenstr. 17, 78120 Furtwangen
anna.tapiwa.marange@hfu.eu

Dr. Britte Menne
Medical Director,Rehaklinik Glotterbad
Gehrenstraße 10, 79286 Glottertal
B.Menne@rehaklinik-glotterbad.de

Jörn Meyer
Health Systems Strengthening, GIZ
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36, 53113 Bonn
joern.meyer@giz.de

Dr. Arletty Pinel
CEO, Genos Global Consulting, Panama
arletty@gmail.com

Fuchs Regina
Schwarzwaldstr 24, 79102 Freiburg
fuchs@diakonie-freiburg.de

Gerhard Schiff
Freiburg
G.Schiff@gmx.de

Eduardo A. Alfonso Sierra
Health Economist
München, Germany
edalfon@gmail.com

Eva Steisslinger
Allgemeiner Hochschulsport
PausenExpress
Shwarzwaldstr 175, 79117 Freiburg

eva.steisslinger@sport.uni-freiburg.de

Laura Wall, M.A.
B.A in Psychology and M.A in Expressive Arts therapy
Project Director and Coordinators for Violence Protection in Refugee Camps
Im Merzental 3, 79280 Au Germany
wall@diakonie-freiburg.de

Dr.med. Winfried Zacher
Facharzt f. Allgemeinmedizin, Tropenkrankheiten, MPH
Steubenring 8, D 53175 Bonn
Winfried.Zacher@t-online.de