

Global & Public Health Programme Reports

1 General Information	
Study programme & Degree (if applicable: undergraduate studies/degree/institution)	Master of Science in Global Health
Weblink	https://www.unige.ch/gsi/fr/formations/masters/master-in-global-health/
University	Université de Genève
City / Country	Geneva, Switzerland
Semesters / Years	4 semesters / 2 years
Study / semester abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mandatory: Mandatory Exchange Semester within Switzerland or Abroad <input type="checkbox"/> optional
Language of instruction	English

2 Preparations / Organizational Aspects	
When did you start to prepare for the study programme?	Average between 12 to 4 months prior to application deadline. Allow time for obtaining your BSc/undergraduate degree, your English proficiency test results, and reference letters
What must be considered in preparation for the study programme?	Admission form to the Master of Science in Global Health Motivation Letter University Diplomas CV A detailed official transcript of grades Bachelor or equivalent degree Proof of English Proficiency 2 Reference Letters Visit: https://www.unige.ch/gsi/fr/futurs-etudiants/inscription-master-in-global-health/

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<p>How is the application process? Is there a deadline for the application?</p>	<p>Application period is usually from January 2nd to February 28th every year. Visit: https://www.unige.ch/gsi/en/formations/masters/master-in-global-health/</p>	
<p>2a Documents</p>		
<p>Which documents were needed for the application / country entry? How/Where did you get them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> language certificate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motivational letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CV/ resumé <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recommendation letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> insurances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> visa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vaccines 	<p>A study visa is required for entry into Switzerland. Please refer to Swiss embassy in your country after obtaining admission letter from the program. Follow the procedure announced by Swiss Visa authority in your country. Required documents can be different for nationals of different countries.</p>
<p>2b Financial Aspects</p>		
<p>Are there costs related to the study programme? How much are they?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> semester contribution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> tuition fee <input type="checkbox"/> enrolment fee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others 	<p>Application fee is 65 CHF. If admitted and accepted into the program, this 65 CHF will be deducted from your first semester tuition fee. Tuition fee per semester is 500 CHF (65 in fixed fees and 435 in administrative fees), payable in a single instalment.</p>
<p>How do you finance your study programme (abroad)?</p>	<p>My own means, parents support, scholarship</p>	
<p>Do you get financial support? (e.g. scholarship, BAföG, etc.) - From which institution do you get the financial support?</p>	<p>With providing proof of financial hardship, students can be exempted from paying administrative fees for 1 year each year and thus only pay the 65 fixed fees each semester during that year. Please visit: https://www.unige.ch/dife/aides-financieres/exo-taxes</p>	

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<p>- How much do you get (optional)?</p> <p>Do you have any tips / experiences for application?</p>	<p>University of Geneva offers different types of financial assistance and scholarships through its own means or by connecting student profiles to private foundations who provide scholarship. Please visit: https://www.unige.ch/dife/aides-financieres/aides-financieres-mensuelles</p>
<p>Do you have insights into jobs for students?</p>	<p>For students outside the EU working is not possible until 6 months into the start of the studies. Students are not allowed to work full time during on-going semesters. Full time working only allowed in summer.</p>
<p>How would you rate the cost of living in your city (in comparison to specific cities in your country?)</p>	<p>Geneva is an expensive city. Expect higher than normal living expenses compared to EU countries. Depending on the cost of your accommodation and life style, minimum 1500 to 2000 CHF is expected.</p>
<p>Based on your experience, how much should someone calculate for accommodation/ food/ public transportation/ wifi?</p>	<p>Monthly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accommodation: 350 to 650 University of Geneva residences; from 600 and higher private student rentals depending on location, size, etc. - Food: 200 to 300 - Transport: 70 - Wi-Fi: Usually included in accommodation. Mobile subscriptions between 20 to 50 <p>Finding accommodation in Geneva is hard. Start early. University accommodation offers best prices. Be ware of private advertisements on Facebook etc. as they can be scam. The Graduate Institute of Geneva can also offer accommodation if available. Some links to visit: Accueil - Division des bâtiments - UNIGE Housing IHEID (graduateinstitute.ch) Housing (iun.ch) Point Commun Résidences pour jeunes en formation Bienvenue sur Cité Universitaire de Genève Cité Universitaire de Genève (cite-uni-geneve.ch)</p>
<p>Are there other costs that need to be considered? (e.g., vaccinations, insurances, visa, travel costs)</p>	<p>Mandatory health insurance: 65</p> <p>Other: as needed.</p>

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3 Studying	
<p>Why did you decide to study at that university?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What appealed to you most? - What does it offer what others don't? 	<p>The University of Geneva Global Health program is unique as it is well positioned within the international Geneva, home to the biggest and most key actors of global health. It is one of the few programs that prioritizes interdisciplinary approach and flexibility in choosing your path while studying. Students come from variety of backgrounds and nationalities and there are multiple opportunities for internships.</p>
<p>Which modules did you take? (brief overview)</p> <p>Which modules did you like/ were special at that university?</p>	<p>Global Health diplomacy, policy and governance Health at human, animal, ecosystem interface Quantitative methods and epidemiology Qualitative methods Population and development Innovation in global health Humanitarian action Environmental health Systems thinking Global Health law Global Health challenges Health economics Introduction to law</p> <p>Plus, the opportunity to do a semester exchange study with variety of courses depending on the host university</p>
<p>How would you rate the workload/ amount of self-studying/ group work, etc.?</p> <p>How were the lecturers/ teaching style? What was new for you? What did you have to get used to?</p>	<p>Workload is designed for full-time studying specially during the first year of the program. Expect a lot of group activities as it is an integral part of many courses. Regular self-studying is needed for obtaining good grades.</p> <p>Depending on the course, the classes are usually lectures by professors or guest/experts followed by class discussion and class activity. Usually at least one evaluated group exercise of each course. Some courses with additional class time dedicated to seminar style teaching. Sources from variety of types, including slides, scholarly article readings, MOOCs, videos and documentaries.</p>

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<p>Are there any specialisation areas in your programme? Which did you choose?</p>	<p>No specific designated specialization within the program. Students create their own track of specialization by choosing their courses in the second semester and their exchange university during the 3rd semester.</p>
<p>To which extent were international and global topics discussed/ part of the study programme? Which topics were the most interesting/ you liked most?</p>	<p>Since this is a global health program and not a public health degree, global issues are integral to the curriculum and study plans of all courses. The positioning within Geneva also helps capitalize on global aspects of health. Emphasis on local action exists but with a view from all regions of the world, ultimately building the case for global perspective.</p>
<p>Where is the campus located? Is the campus spread throughout the city? Is it easy to arrive?</p>	<p>Geneva is a comparably safe and green city. Walking is certainly an option as everything in Geneva is within an hour walking distance. The public transport works very well and is always on time. Biking around is also possible. The MSs of Global Health program is hosted within the Institute of Global Health which is located at Campus Biotech, an innovation park/building created by University of Geneva and Ecole Polytechnic Federal Lausanne, hosting many science-based start-ups, research labs, and international organization. Almost all classes are held inside Campus Biotech. Other university campuses are spread around in city in close proximity. Traveling inside Switzerland is also easy due to nation-wide high quality rail transport. Geneva has also its own international airport.</p>

4 Living

Briefly describe your daily life. How is your study-work-life-balance?

During weekdays, usually expect classes running from 9 AM to 4 PM depending on your classes, leaving enough time for an afternoon par-time job or leisure activity. There are usually no classes scheduled on Fridays. During the semester, expect 15 hours course related work outside class time in total which will increase by the exam session. A healthy work-life-study balanced can be easily achieved with good programming as class requirements are reasonable and traveling in the city is usually without traffic and fast.

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<p>How do you experience the city/country and people/ fellow students? How is the atmosphere?</p>	<p>The program gathers around some of the best students from different disciplines from all around the world which creates an interdisciplinary atmosphere within the cohort of students and the chance to be familiarized with different cultures and experiences.</p> <p>Aside from its international aspect, Geneva is a safe and beautiful city, with historical places to visit, fascinating parks, walking routes and great hiking trails in nearby bordering France or up north in the Jura national park of Switzerland. The city also has its famous lake which makes it even lovelier. People usually understand English and many daily errands can be done via automated means, i.e., self-checkout at shops. However, knowing the local language in Switzerland, is a great advantage as it makes it easier for you to engage with people and communities. Switzerland has 4 official languages, German, French, Italian, Romand. The canton of Geneva is a French speaking canton.</p> <p>Traveling around Switzerland as easy as public transport goes literally everywhere, even to the smallest village in the Swiss alps. The Swiss scenery and hike trails are deservedly famous for hikes during spring and summer and skiing and sledging during winter. However tickets can be quite expensive for student costs so always plan ahead and look for special sales that usually happen in Switzerland.</p>
<p>What did you learn for yourself personally and culturally?</p> <p>[e.g. an event / situation which was eye-opening / insightful / enlightening]</p>	<p>I focused on strengthening my academic background during my stay. The universities in Switzerland are well connected and doing exchanges is easier than anywhere else. University of Geneva also has relationships with world universities allowing for international exchanges during semesters and summer. Getting to know the international community and organizations is easy in Geneva, as almost all of the International Organization campuses are within walking distance to each other. Getting to know Swiss culture and governing policies is also fascinating. The Swiss cuisine can be identified by amazing variety of cheese, dairy and top quality chocolate.</p>

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<p>Do you have any tips for leisure activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does someone have to see? - Are there college sports at university? - Are there any student events to connect (e.g. coffee break, etc.)? - Are there any (regional) cultural events? 	<p>Swiss scenery is a must see. A quick google search will bring numerous beautiful skiing or hiking routes in Switzerland all worth seeing. In any major city, like Geneva, Zurich, Bern, Basel, etc. be sure to check the main street leading to main train station, the main church or cathedral of the city and if applicable, lake or riverside. More expensive sports like paragliding, canoeing etc. is also possible depending on your budget. Free beach volleyball and basketball courses can also be found in cities.</p> <p>The university of Geneva offers access to a myriad of sports all year round with student prices. Please visit: Sports - Vie de campus - UNIGE</p> <p>Yes. The university has a lot of student-run initiatives who invite you to different event via email. The umbrella university association is CUAE – Fautière de l'Université de Genève</p> <p>You can also check social activities at: CUAE – Fautière de l'Université de Genève</p> <p>The Global Health program will usually organizes meet and greet events with students from previous cohorts for experience exchange.</p> <p>There are many regional events specific to each canton or the whole country. Geneva is famous for its museum nights, film festival, music festival, weekly Bazaars and so many others. Be sure to follow the local news and don't get surprised if you see your professor playing the cello in the music festival! You can visit: Fête de la musique 2022 / Département de la culture et du sport / Ville de Genève (ville-ge.ch) Nuit des musées Genève - Nuit des Musées Genève (nuitdesmusees-geneve.ch)</p>
<p>What do you have to consider about public transport? What is important? What is different?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most used transportation? 	<p>You have to have a valid ticket before getting on any public transport in Switzerland. The auditors randomly board buses and trains and check tickets. The fines are extremely heavy (starting from 100 CHF first time and up) and will remain on your record.</p> <p>In Geneva, the main transportation means are buses and trams.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there semester/ student tickets? 	<p>There may be discounts for people under 25 for monthly and yearly passes in Geneva. You can always check offers in the relevant shops or online. You can also use mobile app for checking routes, destination, and purchasing tickets.</p> <p>Be sure to have coins upon arrival in Geneva as bus station ticket machines don't accept bills. This is until you decide to buy the monthly or yearly Geneva pass which gives you access to everything through a membership card.</p> <p>Switzerland public transport: The SBB online portal for trains and public transport SBB</p> <p>Canton of Geneva public transport: La vie mobile tpg transports publics genevois</p>
<p>What do you need (not) to pack/ prepare?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is life-saving in the host city/ country? - What do you regret (not) bringing? - Do you have any tips for preparation? 	<p>Have the originals, and if applicable, official translations of all your university and high school degrees as it can be asked from you upon applying to some scholarships/academic programs. Bring all documents requested by University of Geneva if any communicated to you.</p> <p>Pack for your life essentials, clothes and warm clothes, basic personal hygiene tools. At least 2 pairs of shoes, all your IT essentials (Laptop etc.) and research what kind of adaptor you require for Swiss electricity outlets. Have google translate installed on your phone with French and German packages for camera translation downloaded. Some regular over the counter medicine like paracetamol until you become familiar with your neighbourhood. If possible, have a contact in Switzerland or Geneva to help you if necessary. Have some cash and coins in Swiss frank with you. Of course, double check all your travel documents and documents requested by the Migration Office in Geneva. Take note of your embassy's location and number in Switzerland. Some dry emergency food items like chocolate bars if you happen to arrive on weekend when shops are closed. Check for COVID specific restrictions with Swiss embassy in your country. Most importantly apply ASAP for Visa and university accommodation upon confirming your offer of admission.</p>

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5 Reflection	
<p>What is your personal experience about your study programme? Would you recommend the study programme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What did you especially like? - What did you not like? 	<p>Aside from its inherent advantages stated before, I specifically enjoyed the program for its flexibility for personalizing the curriculum and also its vast verity of academic and professional experiences. So far, I personally have studied in 5 different universities outside of the university of Geneva and completed 2 internships.</p> <p>I recommend the program to those who want to either start with the field of global health, or expand their previous studies. The design of the program is such that it lends itself well to interdisciplinarity and pursuing career or academia is possible equally after program.</p>
<p>How did you experience the organisation and support at your university?</p> <p>Is there any special support for international students?</p>	<p>The university has comparably good student support systems in place. The program coordinator and student advisor are reachable and support students constantly through their studies when requested.</p> <p>There different kinds of support available for all students at the university in terms of scholarships and financial assistance, but non are specific to international students to my knowledge.</p>
<p>What are your personal experiences about living in the host city/ country?</p> <p>What broadened your mind? Have you left your comfort zone? Have you changed your mindset? If yes, in which way?</p>	<p>Living alone has made me a better planner and more punctual person. Running personal errands that was previously taken care of for me by my parents now have become something I need to plan for and do myself. Being in Switzerland forces you to be on time and aware of future programs to plan accordingly as everything works on a carefully detailed schedule here and your expected to perform the same way. Generally living in Geneva has made me more sensitive and aware of global issues. There is always an event or a seminar happening in a corner of the city. There are always room for social activism here as many global policies shape just next to where you are studying. Geneva is also a very international city. It gives you an unparalleled chance to know and understand different culture and values and re-shape your self and your beliefs.</p>

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6 Recommendation	
Do you have other tips for studying the programme & living in the host city/ country?	The program at the University of Geneva is a more flexible program than other conventional programs in other universities. If you are someone who prefers a very tight detailed planned curriculum to follow for the 2 years of your study, maybe consider other programs. If you are a person with good self-management skills, willing to research and create opportunities, then you can capitalize on the flexibility option of the program, to do internships and academic exchanges, and engage in a variety of activities that are not necessarily planned inside the curriculum.
Do you have contact persons or information for support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - student supports - international office - accommodation service - etc. 	<p>Some links already mentioned before</p> <p>Accommodation: Accueil - Division des bâtiments - UNIGE</p> <p>International office: Accueil - Division des bâtiments - UNIGE</p> <p>Student support: Campus Life - Vie de campus - UNIGE</p> <p>For program: https://www.unige.ch/gsi/fr/formations/masters/master-in-global-health/</p>
Your name, contact information (highly appreciated, but not mandatory)	Seyed-Moeen Hosseinalipour Moeen Hosseinalipour LinkedIn

All information, data and statements are my personal experience as a student at UNIGE as of March 2022. All information here are subject to change.