

Systematic Reviews and Evidence Synthesis

Facilitators

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Description

A systematic review (SR) is a review of the scientific literature on a specific research question that adopts explicit and standardized methods to minimize potential biases and thus provide more reliable findings to support decision-making and to guide future research. It is a key element for evidence-based medicine and public health (EBM&PH). Our course is designed for PhD students and researchers who want to know how SRs can be used within healthcare and public health to inform decisions making within an EBM&PH framework.

The participants will learn how to conduct a SR and synthesize evidence and the process from the initial research question to best practice reporting results. They will apply statistical methods and tools to conduct SR and meta-analysis (MA) (risk of bias tool to assess the methodological quality of studies; meta-analytic methods to quantitatively summarize evidence; GRADE framework to assess the confidence in the results). Examples will be taken from experimental and observational research.

Objectives

To know the principles of EBM&PH and how to conduct a SR and MA. In particular, able to:

- Understand what is EBM&PH and why it matters for healthcare provision and public health decision making
- Recognize the different types of review and know their strengths and limitations for decision making

- Describe the key steps in undertaking a SR and evidence synthesis, including development of a review protocol
- Formulate a clear research question that can be addressed by a SR
- Identify the relevant literature
- Appraise the methodological quality of studies included in a SR
- Conduct basic MA and interpret the results
- Assess the confidence in the evidence using the GRADE framework

Dates 12-15 February 2024

Eligibility SSPH+ PhD students. External participants are welcome to apply.

Course Structure Lectures and group work

Assessment In-class assignments and presentations

Credits 2 ECTS

Preliminary Work: 10h; Contact time: 30h; Assignment: 10h

(1 ECTS corresponds to appr. 25-30 hours workload)

Location University of Fribourg, room TBA

Course Fees

	2 ECTS
SSPH+IGC Students	30 CHF
Postdocs from SSPH+ partner institutes	30 CHF
External PhD students and MD students	600 CHF
Others	1'600 CHF

Registration www.conftool.com/ssph-phd-courses2024

Deadline for registration 12 January 2024