

Advancing Health Equity in Learning Health Systems

2025 Course Details

Description

Advancing Health Equity in Learning Health Systems is a course co-created by a diverse group of learners, educators, researchers, professionals in health, social services and policy, and patients. Rooted in collaborative and community-informed practice, this course introduces learners to the foundational concepts of health equity and tools necessary for driving equity within Learning Health Systems (LHS).

The course begins by exploring the LHS framework and the historical, social, and economic factors that contribute to health inequities. The LHS framework is dynamic, integrating continuous learning into health system decision-making. This approach uniquely supports addressing inequities by embedding diverse members of the health system—from healthcare providers to researchers to patients—in every phase. It fosters a collaborative environment that aims to ensure the health system evolves based on research evidence and lived experiences, delivering real-time, actionable insights. Later discussions include capturing and measuring inequities as well as implementation science approaches and dissemination strategies.

Key learning outcomes include:

- Gain a foundational understanding of the LHS framework, its role in continuous health improvement, and how community partners are actively involved in every phase.
- Explore historical, social, and economic factors that shape health inequities.
- Learn to perform subgroup analysis for tailoring health solutions to diverse populations.
- Familiarize yourself with measurement tools that assess health equity at various levels.
- Engage with community-centered approaches in implementation science, focusing on human-centered, equity-centered, and liberatory design thinking.
- Acquire insights into knowledge translation practices, focusing on creating usable knowledge products and selecting appropriate dissemination channels to inform policy and practice across diverse target groups.

Interactive sessions with community partners and the integration of patient narratives seek to enrich the learning experience, connecting theoretical knowledge with practical exercises. Throughout the course, learners will have the opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge in a critical design challenge, using different approaches to address real-world health equity challenges.

Facilitators

Prof. Delphine Courvoisier, PhD (*Université de Genève et Hôpital universitaire de Genève*)

Asst. Prof. Sandra Bärnreuther, PhD (*Universität Luzern*)

Asst. Prof. Cory Bradley, PhD (*Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine*)

Asst. Prof. Faith Summersett Williams, PhD (*Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago*)

Bianca Albers, PhD (*Universität Zürich*)

Alessandro Cassini, MD, PhD (*Etat de Genève*)

Kathryn Dawson-Townsend, PhD (*Universität Luzern*)

Andrea Farnham, PhD (*Universität Zürich*)

Igor Francetic, PhD (*Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana*)

Sarah Mantwill, PhD (*Universität Luzern*)

Natalie Messerli, MPH (*Universität Luzern*)

Anna Romanova, MSc (*Universität Luzern*)

Torsten Schwalbach, MSc (*Universität Zürich*)

Session Dates

Monday, September 15th to Friday, September 19th, 2025

Location

University of Lucerne & Online

Credits

3 ECTS Credits

Eligibility

Open to:

- Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers at the University of Lucerne
- Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers at the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) Inter-graduate Campus (IGC)
- Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers at the University of Bern
- External doctoral and postdoctoral researchers interested in public health

Assessment

At least 80% participation in sessions, and a group work critical design challenge.

Course Structure

The course will have a series of lectures, exercises, embedded group work sessions and community narrative podcast series.

Course Fees

UNILU researchers	None
SSPH+ IGC researchers	CHF 30
UNIBE researchers	CHF 30
All other external participants	CHF 300

Registration

Please email slhs@unilu.ch to register for the course no later than August 18th, 2025