

# Health policy in Switzerland

Monday, 8 September 2025

09:15-17:00

Location: Bern (BFH, GDK, and Federal Palace)

Instructor: Ass.-Prof. Dr. David Weisstanner ([david.weisstanner@unilu.ch](mailto:david.weisstanner@unilu.ch)),  
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in collaboration with the Swiss Learning Health System ([slhs.ch](https://slhs.ch)) ([slhs@unilu.ch](mailto:slhs@unilu.ch))

## Course description

This course offers an introduction to Swiss health policy. It covers the foundations of the Swiss health system, its historical development, and the main actors and conflict lines in current policy debates. Participants learn how the political process works in Switzerland, from agenda-setting to implementation, under the specific context of federalism and direct democracy. The day includes discussions on current health policy challenges, a visit to the Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health (GDK/CDS), and a visit to the Federal Palace to observe a parliamentary debate and speak with a member of the National Council.

## Schedule

09:15-12:00	<b>Introduction to Swiss health policy</b> 📍 Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH, Murtenstrasse 10, room 123 ( <a href="#">map</a> )
12:00-13:00	Lunch 📍 <a href="#">SITEM Flavour Kitchen</a> , Freiburgstrasse 3, Bern
13:30-14:00	<b>Visit to the Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health GDK-CDS</b> 📍 Haus der Kantone, Speichergasse 6, Bern
15:00-17:00	<b>Visit to the parliamentary debate in the National Council Chamber during the Autumn Session</b> <b>Conversation with Barbara Gysi, Member of the National Council and president of the Social Security and Health Committee (SGK-N)</b> (Canton of St. Gallen, SP, <a href="#">website</a> ) <b>Guided tour in the parliament building</b> 📍 Federal Palace, Bern

**Recommended reading:** Trein, Philipp, Christian Rüefli, Adrian Vatter. 2023. "Health Policy." In *Handbook of Swiss Politics*, eds. Yannis Papadopoulos, Pascal Sciarini, Adrian Vatter, Silja Häusermann, Patrick Emmenegger, Flavia Fossati. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 714–732.

**Credits:** PhD students can receive 1 ECTS for actively participating during the course day, reading the required literature in advance, and writing a short essay/policy brief on a current policy challenge in Swiss health policy (2-3 A4 pages, grade: pass or fail, deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025).