

Involvement framework

(As of September 25, 2018)

Note: This is a short, translated version of the document “Cadre de participation,” which is available on the webpage of the SMS PhD program [<https://www.unine.ch/ids/programme-doctoral>]. It is also the French version that shall be the only authoritative text governing the conditions of participation to the PhD program Santé, Médecine et Société.

1. Target audience and participation terms

1.1. Participants background

The PhD program “Health, Medicine and Society” “Santé, Médecine et Société” (SMS) is open to PhD students in social sciences and humanities tackling questions related to health and medicine in their research, as well as doctoral students in medicine, nursing sciences or public health. It is open to PhD students enrolled in a Swiss or foreign university.

1.2. Cohorts and Enrollments

Each year, a new cohort is open to up to 20 PhD students. Priority is given to PhD students of the University of Neuchâtel (a), to PhD students enrolled in a university that is affiliated to the CUSO (b), and to PhD students enrolled in a program that is supervised by the SSPH+ [<https://ssphplus.ch>] (c). As far as possible, candidates are required to enroll in the SMS program at the beginning of their doctoral research. It is also possible (1) to enroll for a specific seminar only upon payment of applicable fees (see section 1.5.), or (2) to enroll for the entire program retroactively, that is, after having taken part in a specific seminar.

Regarding enrollments, the First-come, First-served rule applies, with a sovereign decision of the SMS Steering Board. Registrations will be accepted and validated in the following order:

1. PhD students of the a, b and c categories as defined above who enroll for the entire program;
2. PhD students that do not belong to any of the above mentioned categories, but who enroll for the entire program;
3. PhD students as well as postdocs of the University of Neuchâtel or of any other university who wish to follow only one specific seminar.

1.3. Conditions and Criteria for Admission

Applicants are required to join an abstract (250 words) of the PhD research project to their application, and to receive prior acceptance for participation to the program from their PhD adviser.

1.4. Admission

It is the sovereign decision of the SMS Steering Board to decide on the admission of candidates. The Steering Board is also responsible to designate one of its members to follow-up on the curriculum of each candidate.

1.5. Participation fees

Participation to the program is free of charge for candidates of the a, b, c categories as defined in section 1.2, as well as PhD students of the University of Neuchâtel or of any university that is affiliated to the CUSO.

Participants who do not belong to any category described in the above paragraph are required to pay fees to take part in the seminars.

These fees are set as follows: CHF 200.- per day for PhD students and CHF 300.- per day for postdocs. This means a total of CHF 1000.- for PhD students and CHF 1500.- for postdocs for the week-long introductory seminar, and a total of CHF 400.- for PhD students and CHF 600.- for postdocs for the two-day long thematic seminars.

It is up to the PhD students and postdocs of this last category to clarify to what extent their parent institutions can cover these fees.

2. Curriculum

In order to receive a participation certificate that validates successful completion of the program, candidates must validate each of the following milestones:

1. During the first year, participation in the introductory seminar, which implies personal, preparatory work, attendance of the classes and group work sessions.
2. During the second and third year, participation to the thematic seminars; under the same conditions as set for the introductory seminar.
3. Along the course of the program, achievement of a personal project that puts in perspective the candidate's PhD research project and the questions addressed by the seminars. This personal project can take one of the following forms: 1) presentation or poster at a thematic seminar of the program; 2) presentation or poster at a national or international conference (for example the annual Swiss Public Health Conference).

3. Teaching languages

The teaching languages are both English and French.

4. Participation certificate

Participants who completed all of the milestones as defined above receive a participation certificate issued by the SMS Steering Board. For participation to punctual seminars, specific participation certificate can be issued.

Work load is considered equivalent to

- 4 ECTS credits for the participation to the week-long introductory seminar
- 2 ECTS credits for the participation to one of the two-day long seminars
- 2 ECTS credits for the personal project.

Approved by the steering board on November 6, 2018