



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

Course syllabus for

## **Global Health, 7.5 credits**

Global Hälsa, 7.5 hp

This course syllabus is valid from spring 2018.

Please note that the course syllabus is available in the following versions:

[Spring2015](#) , [Spring2017](#) , [Spring2018](#) , [Spring2020](#) , [Autumn2021](#) , [Spring2022](#)

Course code	2XX066
Course name	Global Health
Credits	7.5 credits
Form of Education	Higher Education, study regulation 2007
Main field of study	Global Health
Level	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Grading scale	Pass, Fail
Department	Department of Global Public Health
Decided by	Board of Higher Education
Decision date	2014-11-26
Revised by	Education committee PHS
Last revision	2017-10-17
Course syllabus valid from	Spring 2018

### **Specific entry requirements**

120 credits in health care or medicine.

To participate in the second part of the course the student must have fulfilled the course requirements for part one.

### **Objectives**

The aim of the course is for the students to achieve an understanding of the concept global health, more specifically to understand how the income level of a country affects health status and health indicator as well as critically reflect on differences in health determinants and health systems between and within countries.

After the course the student should be able to:

- Describe how health and illness, mortality and morbidity are measured in a population and how they change over time, but also between data sources
- Analyze the health of a population using health indicators in order to identify an essential health challenge and generate an intervention to improve the identified problem

- Discuss how economic and social factors as well as environmental factors determine the health and access to health-care services among individuals and in a population
- Compare the variation in the availability, and type of care and quality of care within and between countries over time and compare this to the Swedish health care system
- Know how different professions collaborate and share tasks in health care in weak health systems with resource scarcity and compare it to high income countries
- Discuss how the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and human rights can affect health in a population

## Content

During the first part of the course the growing amount of information in global health will be discussed. The second part gives the opportunity to experience-based understanding for the conditions for health care in low- and lower middle-income countries, as well as an understanding for the roles of different professions within a healthcare system that has another structure and another resource level than our own. Meeting health care staff in both urban and rural settings gives new perspectives to the work with health care in weak health care systems with high burden of disease. The mix of learning to understand and interpret global health in theory with the personal experience of another reality abroad is an important incentive to leave old ideas about the world and adopt an evidence-based, modern view of the world.

**Global Health, theoretical part, 4.5 hp** The first part of the course is offered at the university in Sweden. Lectures and literature will cover:

- Health indicators and health determinants
- Demographic indicators and basic concepts about population issues
- Economic theories of development and an overview of the current economic trends in the world
- Priorities for prevention and treatment of the most important global health problems
- Shortages in human resources and other important building blocks in the health system and how these affect health care capacity and quality in weak health systems
- Variations in sexual and reproductive health worldwide
- Health and pharmaceutical policies, and the organization and financing of health care in different countries
- Swedish aid policy
- The changing disease panorama with non-communicable disease becoming more prominent as countries grow richer
- An overview of the most common infectious diseases globally
- Child health and nutrition
- Actions in catastrophes
- Human rights from a health perspective
- The work of international and humanitarian organisations

### **Global Health, practice in low-income country, 3 hp**

The student has to pass part 1, to be allowed to participate in part 2.

The theoretical first part gives a background and prepares the student for part 2. Students are only exempt from participating in part 2 in case of unforeseen and exceptional circumstances related to health or family situations. For students who cannot participate in part 2, due to such circumstances, alternative solutions can be found, for instance to do part 2 together with a later course.

The second part of the course is implemented in cooperation with universities in low- and lower middle-income countries. Teachers at these universities are responsible, together with staff of the health care system, for teaching in the different countries. Course content includes (differences between the

countries visited occur) lectures, study visits to different parts of the health system, as well as assignments followed by seminars.

**Global Health, practical part in a low-income country, 3 hp** The student has to pass part 1, to be allowed to participate in part 2.

The theoretical first part gives a background and prepares the student for part 2. Students are only exempt from participating in part 2 in case of unforeseen and exceptional circumstances related to health or family situations. For students who cannot participate in part 2, due to such circumstances, alternative solutions can be found, for instance to do part 2 together with a later course,

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## Teaching methods

Lectures by faculty, including many different professions with extensive international experience. Individual and group studies on health development and specific health problems in the country the student will be going to, in relation to both regional and global development. Individual work with statistical data using computer programs, web-based information and discussions with resource persons at KI in seminars.

Mandatory requirements: During the first part of the course, the introductory and final lectures are mandatory to attend as they cover specific information that prepares the students for their stay in the host country. These lectures are mandatory, as learning about social norms, values and expected behavior is difficult to achieve in an alternative manner.

During the second part of the course, all visits, lectures and meetings are mandatory as assessment is done continuously. Attending these visits, lectures and meetings contributes to all students' understanding of health in the specific country and context, such as the possibilities to offer health services in rural versus urban settings.

Code of Conduct: All students are required to sign a code of conduct before they leave. According to the Code of Conduct, the student must:

- follow the advice and instructions given in terms of personal safety, and hence avoid exposing themselves, fellow travelers or hosts to risks.
- follow the instructions given before travelling and while staying abroad, as well as the rules that apply at the educational institution, hospital, place of work or equivalent.
- show respect for the host country's culture and traditions, social structure and religion, and respect the dress codes and codes of conduct that apply in the country in question.
- show respect for other students, teaching staff, patients, families and health-care staff.
- provide a good example for other students, and not jeopardise KI's relationships with its partners.
- follow the agreed course programme and respect the host institution's pedagogical tradition and teaching methods.
- take personal responsibility for his/her own learning and follow the agreed course programme and safety instructions.

Should a student fail to comply with the code of conduct, it may result in a failure to pass the second part of the course. Should the student fail the second part of the course, s/he will be required to complete a written assignment or an oral exam with a member of faculty. Should a student be found to have major knowledge gaps due to, for example, missing multiple learning opportunities, it will be necessary to fulfil the second part of the course through completing a longer written assignment. The examiner can also immediately interrupt a student's stay abroad if the student shows such serious shortcomings in

knowledge, skills or attitudes that the safety or trust of other students, the reputation of Karolinska Institutet and the collaboration with our local partners is deemed to be at risk. Should the second part of the course be interrupted in this way, it will result in the student failing this part of the course. Should the second part of the course be interrupted, the student's study programme will be informed and the student may be forced to return home at his or her own expense.

## Examination

The assessment of the students for part 1 is based on "Daily questions", where students are to analyse and discuss an issue related to the lectures given that same day and answer through the KI student web system within a given time. To pass, the students are to attend actively at all seminars, given during the course at KI. If a student fails to pass the Daily questions, there will be a written or oral re-examination. If a student fails to pass a seminar there will be a written assignment or an individual oral exam with a member of faculty.

The assessment of the students for part 2 is based on active participation of the students during the study visits and seminars, organised in collaboration with the partner university responsible for the two course weeks abroad. If a student fails a seminar it must be compensated through a written assignment or through an oral exam with a faculty member. of

## Transitional provisions

After cancellation or major renewal of the course, examination will be provided at least twice (not counting the original examination) during a time of one year after the date when the change was made.

## Other directives

The course is evaluated in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board of Education

The official language of the course is English, but if all attending are speaking Swedish, Swedish may be used.

## Literature and other teaching aids

### Mandatory course literature

#### **Global Health : An Introductory textbook**

*Lindstrand, Ann; Bergström, Staffan; Rosling, Hans; Rubenson, Birgitta; Stenson, Bo*

Studentlitteratur AB, 2006 - 326

ISBN:9144021984

[Library search](#)

### Recommended literature

Gives a good overview of the status of Global health today and onwards

*Jamison et al.*

#### **Global health 2035: a world converging within a generation**

2013

URL: [Länk](#)

Ingår i:

**The Lancet.**

London : 1823-

ISSN:0140-6736 LIBRIS-ID:8259627

URL: [tidskriftens hemsida](#)

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