

**Digital Public
Health**
Graduate Program

université
de **BORDEAUX**



Call for PhD application
Digital Public Health Graduate Program
2018
International interdisciplinary PhD thesis



**BORDEAUX
POPULATION
HEALTH** | Research
Center - U1219



CALL FOR PhD APPLICATION

Context

The **Digital Public Health Graduate Program** is a project conceived by the Bordeaux Population Health research center (BPH) and the Bordeaux School of Public Health (ISPED) and relies on numerous academic and industrial partners involved in digital health.

The Digital Public Health Graduate Program includes a Master of Science (MSc), a Doctoral Program (PhD) open to students from all disciplines, and a University Diploma (DU).

The Graduate Program will train professionals with a much-needed novel profile: the Digital Public Health experts will have a **global vision** of the issues and future of epidemiology and public health, and the research and leadership skills that will enable them to access **data chief officers** jobs and be the **future leaders** of the digital public health domain in public and private sectors. These teaching programs are built on the digital innovation brought by **big data** and **connected devices** for public health, through a modular and **multidisciplinary teaching** approach. All courses are **blended learning** and delivered in **English**.

Program

The PhD program in Digital Public Health promotes **interdisciplinary training through 3 years of full-time study, including coursework. This program offers two options, through** a “major/minor” discipline system. In the “major” option, PhD candidates receive a doctorate in public health and follow the complete coursework in digital public health. In the “minor” option, PhD candidates receive the doctorate in their “**major**”, with a “**minor**” in Digital Public Health, or a major in Digital Public Health with a minor in another discipline. The major can cover any discipline (from Technology Sciences to Letters and Humanities, from Life Sciences to Law and Economy) at the service of Digital Public Health.

The coursework is **module-based**. Modules have the form of interactive lectures, practical seminars, workshops, and Summer/Winter School classes. During the first two years, attendance to **Digital Public Health modules** is compulsory. These modules will start from the academic year 2018/2019 and will mainly focus on Epidemiology, Statistics and Informatics for population health. **Other modules** will be gradually activated and, among others, will be about Communication, Health Economics, Law, Sociology, etc. applied to Digital Health. The offer of PhD modules will be renovated each year in collaboration with the College of Doctoral Studies of the University of Bordeaux which will also offer training across different disciplines and related doctoral programs (e.g. modules on writing scientific papers, developing leadership skills, improve oral skills etc.)

PhD candidates are expected to defend their **thesis** by the end of the third year. Thesis work can be conducted in an academic research unit or a company (PhD CIFRE¹).

Through the coursework of the first two years and the writing of the thesis, this PhD program is designed to foster rigorous research and analytical skills, and transferable skills relevant for **employment in industry and the public service** (project management), and in **post-doctoral research** (grant writing, science dissemination).

Graduates from the PhD program will have:

- a comprehensive understanding of scientific methods and techniques applicable to the digital public health domain;
- self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems;
- the ability to communicate and collaborate with experts from other disciplines relevant to digital public health issues.

Candidate Profile

The PhD program is open to doctoral students² from **all fields relevant to Public Health**, irrespective of their field of study of origin. Eligible students are expected to hold a Master of Science in one “**major discipline**” (e.g. Public Health, Informatics, Epidemiology, Statistics, Mathematics, Law, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Communication, Economics, Marketing, etc.). The subject of the thesis must be in relation with Digital Public Health.

Furthermore, the PhD student is expected:

- to have a thorough training in research skills;
- to be fluent in English (both oral and written);
- to be able and willing to work in an interdisciplinary environment;
- to own abilities like planning, taking initiative, academic writing, desire to publish;
- to be flexible and open to interdisciplinary.

Cotutelle or International co-supervision

The cotutelle³ is a legal mechanism establishing a common organization of a doctorate, between a French Higher Education institution and a foreign Higher Education institution. The candidate is jointly enrolled in the two partner universities, shares his/her time equally between both institutions, and alternates between both institutions for tuitions fees. Furthermore, (s)he is jointly

¹ For more information on the CIFRE PhD, please visit <http://www.anrt.asso.fr/fr/cifre-7843>

² All applicants must hold a master or equivalent Diploma, or offer proof of registration and graduation before September 1st, 2018

³ or double-degree PhD program, leading to the award of two doctoral degrees from each university

supervised by a thesis director from each institution, and upon successful completion of the program, graduates from both universities.

The international co-supervision PhD program is based on a joint supervision from two partner universities: the PhD student is enrolled at the University of Bordeaux, with two supervisors, one from the University of Bordeaux and the other from a foreign institution. Upon successful completion of the program, the candidate graduates only from the University of Bordeaux.

The Digital Public Health Graduate Program will **prioritize applications from international students⁴ and projects developed within the framework of a cotutelle or co-supervision scheme. Do not hesitate to contact us (dph@u-bordeaux.fr) to explore any possibility of co-supervision of your PhD thesis⁵.**

Tuition Fees

Successful applicants will be expected to register at the University of Bordeaux.

Acceptance into the program implies the payment of the University of Bordeaux tuition fees. Fees for one academic year include:

- a maximum amount of 400 € for university fees at the University of Bordeaux
- 90 € for the mandatory contribution to student life facilities.

Selection

Selection Criteria:

- Quality of the proposal (scientific environment, research field and project originality, international recognition of the participating research teams...)
- International outlook of the thesis (international profile, cotutelle or cosupervision is encouraged)
- Excellence of the selected candidate (academic background, motivation, consistency of the candidate's profile with the research project...)

⁴ Are considered to be international students all master graduates from a University or higher education organization outside of France, regardless of their nationality.

⁵ **Kindly consider the requirements for the implementation of this mechanism and contact prior the submission of your project the partner institution** in order to check the conditions to award the double degree having regard to the partner country legal framework.

The following points must be checked with the partner institution :

- **Conditions for the partner co-supervisor to be authorized by the partner institution to supervise a thesis project**
- **Admission** requirements to enroll in a doctoral program
- Registration process, **principle of shared payment of the fees (rotation)**, amount
- **Pedagogical and scientific requirements** (validation of credits, publication-s, ...)
- **Principle of joint assessment** of the thesis: single thesis report, single defense, composition of the evaluation committee
- **Mobility requirements**

How to apply

Completed application must be submitted electronically to the Graduate Program of Digital Public Health (contact: dph@u-bordeaux.fr) **by 15/10/2018**. *Please note that inadmissible or incomplete applications will not be transmitted to the selection committee.*

The application must include the following documents:

| document | size | must include/ comments | name of the file |
|--|-------------|--|--|
| Application Form | | <i>The file must be renamed with the applicant's name and converted in pdf format. Incomplete applications will not be considered</i> | <i>UB_DPH2018_NAME Surname_Application</i> |
| Curriculum Vitae incl. photo | 1-2 pages | university education, professional experience, main scientific achievements <i>in English</i> | <i>UB_DPH2018_NAME Surname_CV</i> |
| Copy of passport or ID card | | copy of original + official translation <i>in English or in French</i> | <i>UB_DPH2018_NAME Surname_ID</i> |
| Cover Letter | 1 page max. | choice of preferred PhD project(s), motivations, skills, experience, knowledge <i>in English</i> | <i>UB_DPH2018_NAME Surname_CoverLetter</i> |
| Copy of Master or of equivalent Diploma or proof of enrolment in final year of Master/equiv. degree | | Official master transcript (marks) honours, ranking - copy of original + <i>certified translation from an official translator in English</i> | <i>UB_DPH2018_NAME Surname_Degree</i> |
| OPTIONNAL Proof of good level of French or English language proficiency | | English Test: <u>TOEFL</u> PbT (min 550), or TOEFL (ibT min 79) or <u>IELTS</u> (min 6.5) or <u>TOEIC</u> (min 685) or proof of CEFR level B2 in English (http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr) | <i>UB_DPH2018_NAME Surname_Lang</i> |

Calendar:

- Submission of the application **before October 15th, 2018**

CONTACT

dph@u-bordeaux.fr