­­­**call for PhD applications 2025**

International PhD Program in

Digital Public Health

Call for applications 2025

*Digital Public Health Graduate Program*

# Context

The Digital Public Health Graduate Program (DPH) has been conceived in the context of the Bordeaux Population Health research centre (BPH) and the Bordeaux School of Public Health (ISPED) and funded by the third French Investment for the Future program (Program Investissement d’Avenir PIA3). The project relies on numerous academic and industrial partners involved in digital public health.

# Program

The PhD program in Digital Public Health promotes interdisciplinary training including module-based-coursework. These modules have the form of interactive lectures, practical seminars, workshops and Summer/Winter School classes. They are organized by the Doctoral Schools or specifically by the Digital Public Health Program or in other contexts. Specific modules will mainly focus on epidemiology, statistics and informatics for population health. Other modules will be about any areas such as communication, health economics, law, sociology, etc. applied to digital health. The offer of PhD modules will be renewed each year which will also offer training across different subject areas and related doctoral programm (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 CIFRE[[1]](#footnote-1)).

# Candidate profile for the co-funding of a PhD allocation (maximum 28 months of DPH funding)

**The international PhD Program in Digital Public Health** is open to Master students from all nationalities and fields relevant to public health for the 2025/2026 academic year. Eligible students are expected to hold a Master of Science in one major discipline (e.g., public health, epidemiology, statistics, data sciences -or mathematics- and informatics,). The subject of their thesis must be in relation with digital public health. Graduates from partner universities are encouraged to apply.

**As the DPH program will end in December 2027,** the program will fund a maximum PhD allocation of 28 months (for a thesis beginning in September 2025). Thus, all applications should justify a co-funding for a total of 36 months (or a cotutelle, see below).

**If your subject allows it, you can also apply for a grant co-funded by EUR-DPH/IHU VBHI (Vascular Brain Health Institute)[[2]](#footnote-2).**

Furthermore, the PhD student is expected to:

* Hold a Master’s degree or equivalent diploma in a relevant discipline (epidemiology, biostatistics, informatics, public health)
* Have a thorough training in research skills
* Prove an excellent academic and scientific level
* Be fluent in English, both oral and written
* Be able and willing to work in an interdisciplinary environment
* Be flexible and open to interdisciplinary

# Candidate profile for 3 to 12 months funding (thesis extension)

PhD students who are already included in the DPH program and not funded by the DPH, can apply to this call for a 3-12 months extension of their PhD grant to finalise their work until the thesis defense. The application should clearly describe the work already done including published/submitted papers and presentation in conferences. A precise agenda of the work to be done in the extended period should also be provided.

# Cotutelle or international co-direction

The Cotutelle[[3]](#footnote-3) 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 partners universities, shares his/her time equally between both institutions, alternates between both institutions for tuition fees and **is co-funded by both universities**. Furthermore, (s)he is jointly supervised by a thesis director from each institution, and upon successful completion of the program, graduates from both universities.

The international co-direction PhD program is based on a joint supervision from two partners’ 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 in the co-direction frame, the candidate graduates only from the University of Bordeaux.

# How to apply

Complete applications to this call must be submitted electronically to the Digital Public Health Graduate Program (contact: [dph@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:dph@u-bordeaux.fr)) by **the 4th of June 2025.**

*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 |  | The file must be renamed with the applicant’s name and converted in pdf format. Incomplete applications  will not be considered | UB\_DPH2025\_NAME.Surname\_Application |
| Curriculum Vitae incl. photo | 1-2 pages | University education, professional experience, main scientific achievements (in English) | UB\_DPH2025\_NAME.Surname\_CV |
| Copy of passport  or ID card |  | Copy of original + official translation in English or in French | UB\_DPH2025\_NAME.Surname\_ID |
| Cover letter | 1 page max | Choice of preferred PhD project(s), motivations, skills, experience, knowledge | UB\_DPH2025\_NAME.Surname\_CoverLetter |
| Grade transcripts |  | Official master transcript (grades, names of the courses, information about the grading scale) | UB\_DPH2025\_NAME.Surname\_Grades |
| Co-funding or cotutelle program |  | If you are applying to the EUR-DPH / IHU VBHI grant, please tick the corresponding box in the application form.  If not, the co-funding for the entire 36 months period must be detailed: expected number of months to be funded by DPH + secured and detailed other co-funding source. | UB\_DPH2025\_NAME.Surname\_FundingPlan |
| OPTIONAL  Copy of Master or equivalent diploma |  | Mandatory for the administrative admission process | UB\_DPH2025\_NAME.Surname\_Diploma |
| OPTIONAL  Proof of good level of French or English language proficiency |  | English test TOEFL or TOEIC  or proof of CEFR level B2 in English | UB\_DPH2025\_NAME.Surname\_Lang |

# Selection criteria

Preselected applications will pass through an oral presentation next 16th of June 2025 in order to expose their research project (15 minutes of personal and thesis presentation / 15 minutes-discussion). Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

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

# Notification of selection

The final official notification of acceptance will be sent by e-mail between the 17th and the 20th of June 2025. This document is essential for the recruitment dossier to be compiled by the HR departments. **Please note that the start date of the PhD contract must be between September and November of the year of selection.**

# Tuition fees

Successful applicants will be expected to register at the University of Bordeaux. Acceptance into the program implies the payment of the university tuition fees.

Fees for an academic year include:

* Around 400€ for university fees at the University of Bordeaux
* 100€ for the mandatory contribution to student life facilities



Digital Public Health Graduate Program

dph@u-bordeaux.fr

**CONTACT**

1. For more information on the CIFRE PhD, please visit <https://www.anrt.asso.fr/fr/le-dispositif-cifre-7844> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://vbhi-institute.org/en/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en/during-phd/international-mobility/cotutelle-cosupervision-label [↑](#footnote-ref-3)