

PhD Course

Introduction into international health care systems analysis

Block course:

20 May 2019: 09:00am-05:00pm

21 May 2019: 09:00am-05:00pm

22 May 2019: 09:00am-05:00pm

Course Instructor: Professor Luigi Siciliani

Course Value: 2 SWS or 4 LP

Course Overview: Health systems increasingly face a number of challenges due to the ageing population and growing demand due to technological development. They strive to improve quality and efficiency. This module identifies health policy questions and shows how to address them in a coherent way through the published literature.

The module has an international focus and illustrates how European and OECD countries can learn from each other experience and identify best practice. The module will introduce key features and international statistics of health systems, including measures of health system performance, and focus on specific topics as exemplars of a more general approach. Although the questions will be addressed in a qualitative fashion, it will draw on published literature including both quantitative and qualitative studies.

By the end of the module you should be able to: discuss pros and cons of different funding models (e.g. social insurance, National Health Service), including the scope for patient copayment, and different payments arrangements for healthcare providers (fee for service, capitation, DRG payment, cost reimbursement etc); identify policy options to address specific issues (long waiting times, low vaccination coverage); the scope for market-oriented reforms, such as the expansion of involvement of private providers, patient choice and competition policies; assess the relative benefits of emerging and evolving policies such as pay for performance; compare countries based on key performance measure and being aware of their strengths and limitations. More broadly, by the end of the module you will be able to independently identify policy options from an international perspective to address a specific health policy question.

Topics:

- Healthcare financing
- Payment of healthcare providers
- Health system performance and statistics
- Waiting times
- Hospital competition and patient choice
- Pay for performance
- Public-private mix in provision
- How to improve vaccination coverage



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General literature: A reading list will be provided for each topic. Amongst others, it will include several articles published in the journal Health Policy, and will make use of international figures such as those published in OECD Health at a Glance. It will draw on literature published in health economics journals.

Assessment: Oral presentation during the course, plus a written policy essay after the course on one of the topics or one suggested by the student (report of 2000 words max).

Teaching language: English