

1st Latin American Course in Pharmacoepidemiology

Lima, Peru – November 9–13, 2026

Phase 2 – Abstract Submission Guidelines

1. Purpose

Applicants pre-selected in Phase 1 are invited to take part in Phase 2 of the selection process. In this phase, applicants must submit a structured abstract describing either a research proposal or the protocol of an ongoing research project in Drug Utilization Research (DUR) or Pharmacoepidemiology.

The abstract serves two purposes:

- It allows the Scientific Committee to assess the applicant's ability to formulate a relevant research question that meets standard quality requirements and to outline a coherent methodological approach.
- It will be the applicant's personal working material during the Course. The mentoring activities in Lima are hands-on: each participant will work on, refine, and develop their own project or dataset with the support of the faculty.

For this reason, applicants should submit a project in which they are personally and substantively involved and which they genuinely intend to continue developing during and after the Course.

Applicants are not expected to be experienced researchers or to master every methodological element of a full protocol; researchers who are just starting their projects are also welcome.

Submission of an abstract does not guarantee final acceptance into the Course.

Abstracts must be submitted using the template provided in **Annex A** and sent to ispe.rig.latam@gmail.com by **September 13, 2026**.

2. Abstract Requirements

The abstract must:

- be written in English;
- be between 250 and 350 words in length, excluding the title and author information;
- have a concise and informative title that clearly reflects the topic of the research;
- be structured under the following headings:
 - Background
 - **Research question** – a single, well-defined primary question identifying the population, exposure/medicines, outcome or utilization measure, and setting; specific objectives may be listed after it
 - Methods (country and setting, study population, data source, methods and content of data collection, estimated time frame of the study, etc.)
 - Expected results
 - Expected contribution to scientific knowledge in the targeted research field and to health care in the applicant's country

3. Scientific Evaluation

Each abstract will be independently reviewed by at least two members of the Scientific Committee, who will score the following seven criteria:

#	Criterion	Description
1	Relevance to Course scope	Clearly within pharmacoepidemiology, DUR, real-world evidence (RWE), or related areas; addresses a meaningful problem in medicines use or policy.
2	Clarity of the research question	A single, well-defined primary question that identifies the population, exposure/medicines, outcome or utilization measure, and setting.
3	Appropriateness of design and methods	The design fits the question; population, period, exposures, and outcomes are coherently defined.
4	Understanding of the data source	The applicant explains where the data come from, why they were collected, what they cover, and their main limitations and validity issues.
5	Feasibility	The study can realistically be conducted (or continued) with the data, time, and resources described.
6	Expected results and scientific contribution	The expected results and contributions are concrete and plausible.
7	Clarity and coherence of the abstract	Well organized, follows the template, within the word limit, and understandable to a non-specialist reviewer.

Each criterion is scored on a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), giving a total score between 7 and 35 points. The minimum acceptance score is 21/35, with no criterion scored 1.

4. ISPE Travel Scholarship

All pre-selected applicants are eligible to apply for an ISPE travel scholarship. The scholarship amount will range from a minimum equivalent to the Course registration fee (**USD 30**) to a maximum of **USD 600**. As this initiative aims to strengthen regional capacity, preference in scholarship allocation will be given to applicants from Latin American countries.

Scholarship applications must be submitted through the online form at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8967685/2026-LATAM-Summer-Course-Scholarship> by **September 13, 2026** – the same deadline as the abstract submission.

Scholarship evaluation is deliberately separated from the scientific ranking, so that equity considerations operate on their own terms rather than only after a scientific cut-off:

- **Quality threshold:** to be considered for a scholarship, the abstract must meet the minimum acceptance score defined in Section 3. Above this threshold, the scientific score is not used to rank scholarship applicants.
- **Equity-based ranking:** among applicants who meet the threshold, scholarships are ranked according to criteria that prioritize financial need, applicants from countries and institutions with limited pharmacoepidemiology capacity, early-career stage, and the potential multiplier effect in the applicant's home institution.

This two-step structure ensures that scholarships reach the applicants for whom they are decisive, while maintaining a common scientific quality standard for all participants.

5. Final Selection

The scientific evaluation of the abstract will contribute to the final selection of participants. Applicants selected at the end of Phase 2 will receive formal notification and instructions for final registration. Feedback from the scientific evaluation may be shared with selected applicants so that it can be used during the mentoring activities of the Course.

6. Important Dates

Activity	Dates
Abstract submission and scholarship application (single deadline)	August 24 – September 13, 2026
Scientific Committee evaluation	September 14–19, 2026
Communication of final selection and scholarship results	September 21–30, 2026
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Annex A – Abstract Template

1st Latin American Course in Pharmacoepidemiology – Phase 2

Complete all fields below in English and send this document to **ispe.rig.latam@gmail.com** by **September 13, 2026**. The structured abstract (Background to Expected contribution) must contain between 250 and 350 words; the title and author information are not counted.

Title	<i>(concise and informative; clearly reflects the topic of the research)</i>
Applicant (name and surname)	
Institution	
Country	
E-mail	
Co-authors and affiliations (if any)	
Type of submission	☐ Research proposal ☐ Protocol of an ongoing research project

Background

Briefly describe the problem in medicines use or policy that motivates the study and what is already known.

Research question

State a single, well-defined primary research question, identifying the population, exposure/medicines, outcome or utilization measure, and setting. Specific objectives may be listed after the question.

Methods

Country and setting; study design; study population and period; data source (where the data come from, why they were collected, what they cover, main limitations); methods and content of data collection; estimated time frame of the study.

Expected results

Describe the main results you expect to obtain.

Expected contribution

Expected contribution to scientific knowledge in the targeted research field and to health care in your country.

Word count (Background to Expected contribution): _____