

Field Training Biological Research (C000534)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 140.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	Dutch, English	excursion	15.0 h
		fieldwork	100.0 h
		guided self-study	25.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Vanthournout, Bram	WE11	lecturer-in-charge
Braeckman, Bart	WE11	co-lecturer
Hoffmann, Maurice	WE11	co-lecturer
Van der Meeren, Thijs	WE11	co-lecturer
Vanreusel, Ann	WE11	co-lecturer
Verleyen, Elie	WE11	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Biology	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Biology	4	A

Teaching languages

Dutch, English

Keywords

Biodiversity, ecology, physiology, research project conceptualisation, field and laboratory techniques, data sampling and processing, presentation

Position of the course

The main objective is to experience field techniques, field experiments and data processing, in order to get insight in functional groups, ecological interactions and/or physiological processes.

Contents

In total three independent field trainings (6+5+6 consecutive days) are organised. These field trainings will focus on the biodiversity of the three global "ecosystems", i. e. the terrestrial, fresh water and marine environment, respectively. For each ecosystem, an introduction is given on the environmental characteristics, including exploration and measurements in the field in order to identify habitat diversity and biodiversity at the field locations.

Working in small groups (at least 3 students/group), the students will do three independent, short time and small-scale research projects, including data sampling, data processing and presentation of the results (oral presentation).

Initial competences

All courses on biodiversity, ecology, physiology and statistics given during the Bachelor programme in biology, field knowledge of fauna and flora and aspects of biodiversity, lectured in the course on field biology (BA2).

Final competences

- 1 Experience with field and/or laboratory experiments (sampling, observation techniques,....).
- 2 Experience with the processing of (multivariate) data, with a taxonomical (functional groups), ecological and/or physiologically orientation.

- 3 The knowledge on some particular habitats associated with terrestrial, limnetic and marine ecosystems is improved, including the insight in the dominant spatial and temporal gradients, key species, faunistic and floristic characteristics, ecological interactions, community structure.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, excursion, fieldwork

Extra information on the teaching methods

Field excursions, individual research projects on biodiversity, ecology and/or physiology, data processing with standard computer programmes, oral presentation of research results

Learning materials and price

Field guides, a restricted syllabus on the involved ecosystems; scientific literature, that will be put available in function of the research project. These projects are to be performed in small groups and are chosen by the students at the beginning of the semester. This documentation is studied by the student preceding every field training period.

The students contribute **360 Euro** to the total cost of the three field training periods together. Costs are primarily caused by the field training periods which are organised outside the university (transport, lodging).

References

Literature references are given for every single research subject and made available as much as possible through the minerva website

Course content-related study coaching

Academic training assistants, PhD and postdoc students and ZAP guide the field excursions, laboratory work and data processing.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment, report

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

1. Permanent (NPE), with emphasis on oral presentation of the research results and participation during the field work;
2. Closing examination (written exam with open questions), during which species recognition (based on the entire bachelor period) is also tested.

Calculation of the examination mark

NPE: presentation, insight and commitment during field trainings: 8

PE: closing exam: 12, of which species recognition: 4