

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

Credits	3.0	Study time	90 h	Contact hrs	82.5 h
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	English	lecture	2.5 h
		project	80.0 h
B (semester 2)	Dutch	lecture	2.5 h
		project	80.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Shawkey, Matthew	WE11	lecturer-in-charge
Braeckman, Bart	WE11	co-lecturer
Lens, Luc	WE11	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Master of Science in Biology</a>	3	B
<a href="#">Master of Science in Biology</a>	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch, English

Keywords

Scientific reporting, grant proposal, academic fund raising

Position of the course

In a preparation towards the master thesis, as well as being part of the learning outcomes to be achieved in scientific reporting and being well-prepared for grant finding on the job market, students need to work out a project proposal that relates to the topic of the master thesis. The proposal follows the format of the PhD grant proposals of the FWO ('aspirantschap FWO').

Contents

Students work out a full project proposal, in accordance with the FWO guidelines for submitting a PhD grant proposal (type 'aspirantschap'). Students orally present their project for a jury, that is composed of the lecturers of this course. Students work out a grant proposal, of which the contents is affiliated to the topic of their master thesis that they have selected. They rely on the guidelines and information that is provided during the theoretical classes, information from international literature, and feedback obtained from their thesis tutors and/or supervisors.

Initial competences

No specific learning outcomes required (other than those associated with a bachelor degree that gives access to a master in Biology).

Final competences

- 1 Students can provide a framework within which the research questions are formulated, thereby relating to the international literature and relying on an in-depth and integrated knowledge of the biological subdiscipline within which the master thesis resides.
- 2 Students select the appropriate research strategy to find the right answers to these questions, and put this in a temporal framework of four years (standard time window of a PhD study).
- 3 Students work out a realistic and feasible research proposal, that includes a critical and creative state of the art analysis of the proposed research questions, testable

hypotheses and methodological strategy, in order to translate that into quantitative and/or qualitative data.

- 4 Students use available information to report both in a written and oral format in English, with the communicative goal set to obtain research funding for their project.
- 5 Students can frame the research project within a broader scientific-societal framework (where appropriate), both for what is related to the fundamental and/or applied context of the research (this is topic dependent).
- 6 Students that aim to proceed into research can rely on these competences to work out and submit a grant proposal to obtain a PhD scholarship.

#### 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

Lecture, project

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

- **Theoretical classes (3u):** during these classes, the students are being informed how a grant proposal should be structured, and what the focus of each of the subheadings in a proposal should incorporate.
- **Project (remaining time):** students work out a grant proposal in a self-reliant manner, which is being followed-up during the process where needed (through a meeting with the tutor and/or supervisor of the master thesis). Students produce a written report in English, which involves the grant proposal following the format of an FWO PhD grant (type 'aspirantschap'). Students present/defend their project proposal orally in English, in front of a jury (composed of the lecturers).

#### Learning materials and price

Students rely on international and specialised literature, in which they are supported by their tutor and/or supervisor of their master thesis.

#### References

[www.FWO.be](http://www.fwo.be) (<http://www.fwo.be/Aspirant.aspx>)

#### Course content-related study coaching

Students can rely on the lecturers for logistic support in the preparation of the report, and on the tutor and/or supervisor of their master thesis for content-related support.

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Assignment

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

Assignment

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Oral examination

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### Extra information on the examination methods

- **Non-periodic evaluation:** students present their project orally and in English (max. 5 minutes) in front of a jury of the lecturers, and defend that during maximally 10 minutes.
- **Periodic evaluation:** students hand in a written grant proposal in English that is evaluated by one of the lecturers and the supervisor.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

The non-periodic evaluation accounts for 1/3 of the total score. Period evaluation accounts for the remaining 2/3.

Students who eschew the oral presentation are given a non-deliberative final quotation.