

Integrated Biodiversity research Project (C003312)

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

Credits	5.0	Study time	150 h	Contact hrs	106.200
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	English	lecture	1.25 h
		project	105.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

De Clerck, Olivier	WE11	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Biology	5	A
Exchange Programme in Biology (master's level)	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Taxonomy, systematics, phylogeny, evolution

Position of the course

The Integrated Research Project allows the student to obtain direct research experience in the field of systematics (*sensu lato*) and evolutionary biology. The individual research project creates a framework in which students, guided by one or several supervisors, conduct a research project which integrates skills and knowledge from other courses in the Major Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology. The specific content is partially dependent on the project.

Contents

Research groups, which participate in the Master Biology, propose topics for the Integrated Research Project. The specific content may differ depending on the topic, but typically involves a study of the diversity of a specific group of organisms and the mechanisms that shape the diversification process. Supervisors guarantee that the necessary literature and infrastructure is available, and that the project can be completed within the allocated period (106 h). Students are expected to hand in a portfolio of their results and present/defend these in public.

Initial competences

The course requires a bachelor Biology. The courses Phylogenetics and Practical Taxonomy need to be completed with success prior to the start of the project.

Final competences

- 1 Students are capable to define a scientific question in the domain of evolutionary biology or systematics, based on existing scientific literature.
- 2 Making use of existing theories and models, the student is capable to translate a biological problems to an experimental design.
- 3 The student can adapt scientific literature and apply its own research project.
- 4 The student has the capacity to obtain and manage data, analyse these making use of adequate statistical techniques and synthesize the results in relation to recent scientific literature.
- 5 The student can communicate the obtained results in Dutch and English, in a written and oral form.

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

The course should be regarded as an individual research project, the general concept of which is detailed in a number of introductory lectures.

Learning materials and price

Scientific literature

References

NVT

Course content-related study coaching

A supervisor guides the students on a daily basis during the course of the research project. In addition, progress or potential problems can be discussed with the supervisor and lecturer-in-charge.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Portfolio

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The student is evaluated based on a combination of motivation during the project, the oral presentation and the submitted report.

Calculation of the examination mark

The end score is determined by the oral presentation and evaluation by a commission consisting of the supervisor and the lecturer-in-charge. The distribution of the score is: scientific content (15 pts), oral presentation (10 pts), motivation (5 pts).