

Annual Report 2017

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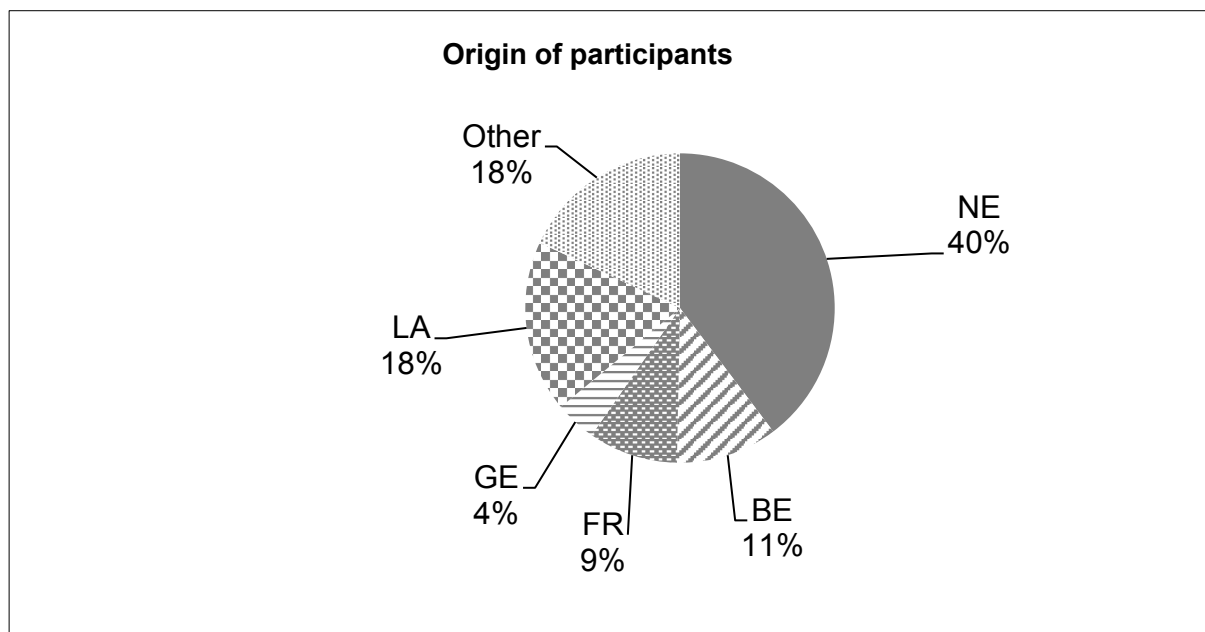
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At the last count (December 6), 86 PhD students were registered in the doctoral program. This year 26 PhD students received their doctoral degree. The average duration of their doctoral thesis was 4 years and 4 months.

16 courses or workshops were offered (see Table), which were attended by a total of 397 participants (80 % PhD students, 15 % post-docs or researchers, 5 % master students). Of the participants 40 % were from the University of Neuchâtel, 20 % from Bern and Fribourg, 22 % from Geneva and Lausanne, and 18 % from the other partner institutions (University of Zürich, ETH Zürich, Agroscope, etc.) and foreign institutions (see Graph).

Graph: Origin of participants to the courses



Most of the courses were evaluated by the students, as indicated in the last column of the below table (highest possible note is 4.0). The results from the evaluations were sent to the course instructors and the information is used for the selection and improvement of future courses.

Table: Activities of the doctoral program year

Activities	Dates (2017)	Duration [days]	Speakers	*Participants [nr]	Credit points	Appreciation [min.1 max.4]
Communication activities						
How to make scientific presentations and posters interesting	2-3.3	2	J. N. McNeil (Western Ontario, Canada)	12	1.5	3.6
Planning a career strategy - Part 2	14-15.3	2	P. Kraus (AHT' intermediation, Pfäffikon)	16	1.0	3.6
How to obtain your first post-doctoral fellowship	18.4	1	M. Erb (University of Bern)	6	0.5	4.0
Scientific writing clinic	14.6 & 4.7	2	M. Matter (HEG Fribourg), J. Regan (ZUW University of Bern)	12	1.0	4.0
Write a review, write now!	8.11	0.5	Ph. Mayer (Science-textflow, Winterthur)	15	0.5	3.5

Research tools						
Biostatistics for non-statisticians: good practices, misuse and pitfalls	11-12.1	2	R.-D. Gosselin (Biotelligences LLC, Lausanne)	17	1.0	3.8
Data management for ecologists and evolutionary biologists - <i>in coll. with CUSO Ecology and Evolution</i>	16-17.3	2	R. van Klink (University of Bern)	20	1.0	-
Identification of entomopathogenic fungi	1-2.6	2	J. Enkerli (Agroscope Zurich), S. Keller (Agroscope Zurich), M. Kirchmair (Innsbruck, Austria)	12	1.0	3.5
Introduction to liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS)	20.6	1	G. Glauser (University of Neuchâtel)	19	0.5	3.4
Introduction to R - <i>in coll. with CUSO Ecology and Evolution</i>	29.8-1.9	4	J. Goudet (University of Lausanne)	30	2.0	3.8
Bayesian statistics for genetics - Module 1 - <i>in coll. with CUSO Ecology and Evolution</i>	4-6.9	2.5	J. Wakefield (University of Washington, USA), K. Rice (University of Washington, USA)	27	1.5	3.4
Population genetic data analysis - Module 2 - <i>in coll. with CUSO Ecology and Evolution</i>	6-8.9	2.5	J. Goudet (University of Lausanne & Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics), B. Weir (University of Washington, USA)	23	1.5	3.7
Quantitative genetics - Module 3 - <i>in coll. with CUSO Ecology and Evolution</i>	11-13.9	2.5	B. Walsh (University of Arizona, USA), G. J. M. Rosa (University of Wisconsin, USA)	26	1.5	3.6
Mixed models in quantitative genetics - Module 4 - <i>in coll. with CUSO Ecology and Evolution</i>	13-15.9	2.5	B. Walsh (University of Arizona, USA), G. J. M. Rosa (University of Wisconsin, USA)	20	1.5	3.5
Introduction to plant metabolomics - <i>in coll. with CUSO Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	28-29.9	2	J.-L. Wolfender (University of Geneva), S. Rudaz (University of Geneva), J. Boccard (University of Geneva), G. Glauser (University of Neuchâtel)	21	1.0	3.5

Scientific topics						
Symposium in biotechnologies for the preservation of art and built heritage - <i>a joint course with CUSO</i>	24.3	1	K. Sterflinger (Natural Resources and Life Science Vienna, Austria), A. R. Sprocati (ENEA, Italy), M. Albini (University of Neuchâtel)	7	0.5	-
Visions for a sustainable agriculture - <i>a joint course with CUSO Doctoral Program E&E and MPS</i>	2-4.5	3	R. De Vivo (Syngenta), C. Harvey (Conservation International, USA), U. Kuhlmann (CABI), J. Pickett (Rothamsted, UK), L. Tamm (FibL), S. Bindschedler & P. Junier (Neuchâtel)	37	1.5	3.4

Chloroplast Metabolism and Photosynthesis	28-28.6	3	S. Baginsky (Martin Luther, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany), B. Engel (Max-Planck, Munich, Germany), M. Nakai (Laboratory of Organelle Biology, Osaka, Japan), N. Frankenberg-Dinkel (Kaiserslautern, Germany), B. Grimm (Humboldt, Berlin, Germany), R. Sobotka (Algatech, Trebon, Czech Republic), A. Tanaka (Hokkaido, Sapporo, Japan), M. Jonikas (Princeton, USA), A. McCormick (Edinburgh, UK), P. Trost (Bologna, Italy), T. Lawson (Essex, UK), J. Lunn (Max Planck, Golm, Germany), S. von Caemmerer (National University, Canberra, Australia), R. Croce (VU, Amsterdam, The Netherlands), D. Kirilovsky (I2BC Paris-Sud, France), N. Nelson (Tel Aviv, Israel), B. Rutherford (Imperial College, London, UK), R. Bassi (Verona, Italy), G. Finazzi (CEA Grenoble, France), A. Krieger-Liszkay (CNRS Gif Sur Yvette, France), T. Shikanai (Kyoto, Japan)	54	1.5 / 2.0	3.6
Biological invasions: challenges for science and society – a CUSO workshop	14-15.9	2	D. Sax (Brown, USA), J. Jeschke (Humboldt, Berlin, Germany), P. Pysek (Academy of Sciences, Pruhonice, Czech Republic), J. Levine (ETH Zurich), S. Kumschick (Center of Invasion Biology, Stellenbosch, South Africa), C. Kueffer (HSR Rapperswil), F. Essl, (Vienna, Austria)	23	1.0 / 1.5	3.6

* most courses have a limited number of participants

Supported travel expenses at courses

Introductory course in laboratory animal science - Module 1, Lausanne	16-20.1	5	F. Chabaud (Chuv, Lausanne & University of Lausanne)	2	2.0	-
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Annual PhD students meeting 2017 - Career outlook for PhD graduates in Life & Natural Sciences

The annual meeting of the doctoral program is organised by the PhD students themselves. For 2017, the organizers were Sonia Accossato and Mojtaba Bakhtiari (University of Neuchâtel). The meeting took place on 29 March in Neuchâtel. Two external speakers (Dr Dirk Balmer, Syngenta, Switzerland and Dr Michael Ilegems, Shire, Neuchâtel) were invited to give a talk. A total of 38 PhD students attended the meeting. They presented the results of their research to their peers (16 posters presented and 6 fifteen-minute oral presentations).

The 1st oral presentation prize was attributed to Mélissa Berthet (University of Neuchâtel), the 2nd oral presentation prize to Magdalena Albelda Berenguer (University of Neuchâtel), the 1st poster prize to Pamela Bruno (University of Neuchâtel), and the 2nd poster prize to Clément Duckert (University of Neuchâtel).

Mobility grants

12 congress travel grants (total CHF **7'418.95**) were awarded to students enrolled into the doctoral program, which gave the awardees an opportunity to present their results (poster or oral presentation) to an international audience. In addition, 7 requests for mobility grants were received and all were partially granted (total CHF **8'109.07**), allowing the students to visit other laboratories to conduct experiments, learn research techniques and/or discuss research results with experts in the field.