

Annual Report 2012

(November 2011- November 2012)

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At last count (end of November 2012), 75 PhD students were registered in the doctoral program. This year 14 PhD students received their doctoral degree. The average duration of their doctoral thesis was 4 years and 2 months.

Eighteen courses or workshops were offered (see Table), which were attended by a total of 337 participants (77% PhD students, 20% post-docs or researchers, 3% master students). Of the participants 35% were from the University of Neuchâtel, 26% from Bern and Fribourg, 18% from Geneva and Lausanne, and 21% from the other partner institutions (University of Zürich, ETH Zürich, Agroscope, etc.) and foreign institutions. 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 will be used for the selection and improvement of future courses.

Activities 2012	Dates (2012)	Duration [days]	Speakers	Participants [nr]	Credit points	Appreciation [min 1, max 4]
Communication activities						
Write a review, write now!	21.02	0.5	Ph. Mayer, science-textflow, Winterthur	13	0.5	3.1
Writing grant proposals	13.03	0.5	Ph. Mayer, science-textflow, Winterthur	12	0.5	3.4
Planning a career strategy - Part 2 - <i>Joint course with CUSO</i>	22-23.05	2	P. Kraus (aht' intermediation)	16	1.0	3.9
Patenting in life sciences: a hand on workshops - <i>Organized by ScNat, Forum for genetic research</i>	11-12.06	2	Heinz Müller(Uni Basel & IPI, Berne) Stefan Emler (SmartGene, Zug) Daniel Kraus (Uni Neuchatel & Umbricht Attorneys at Law, Zurich) Raluca Flükiger (Uni Genève) André Roland (Swiss Federal Patent Court & André Roland SA, Lausanne) Samia Hurst (Uni Genève)	40	1.0	-
Effective public speaking	9.10	1	M.L. Goldschmid (consultant))	10	1.0	3.4
Scientific writing clinic	9,16,30.11	3	Marc Matter (Uni Bern) J. Regan, (Uni Fribourg & Uni Bern)	13	2	3.9
Writing grant proposals	13.12	0.5	Ph. Mayer, science-textflow, Winterthur	13	0.5	3.5
Research tools						
Introduction to plant metabolomics	26-27.01	2	Jean-Luc Wolfender (Uni Genève) Serge Rudaz (Uni Genève) Gaëtan Glauser (Uni Neuchâtel)	31	1.0	3.6
Next generation SNP data: experimental design and analysis - <i>Joint course with CUSO</i>	26-29.03	4	Daniel Berner (University of Basel) Julien Catchen (University Oregon, USA) Bill Cresko (University Oregon, USA)	26	2	-
Field course in geomicrobiology - <i>Joint activity with CUSO</i>	26.08-1.09	7	Rizlan Bernier-Latmani (EPF-Lausanne) Guillaume Cailleau (Uni Lausanne) Kurt Hanselmann (ETH-Zürich) Pilar Junier (Uni Neuchâtel) Jasquelin Peña (Uni Lausanne)	9	2.0	-
Systematic reviews and meta-analyses in ecology: building on scientific evidence for environmental management - <i>Joint course with CUSO</i>	11-14.09	4	Jaqui Eales (Bangor University, UK) Rebecca Mant (Bangor University, UK) Elena Kulinskaya (Uni East Anglia, UK)	17	2.0	4.0
An introduction to the practice of statistics using R - <i>Joint course with CUSO</i>	27.09,4&18.10, 1&15.11	5	Jacques Zuber (HEIG-Vaud & Statoo Consulting, Berne)	24	3.0	2.8
Introduction to chromatography and mass spectrometry for biologists	22-23.10	2	Gaëtan Glauser (SPSW, Uni Neuchâtel) Armelle Vallat (Uni Neuchâtel)	10	1.0	3.7
Scanning electronic microscopy (SEM)	3 & 5.12	1.5	M. Vlimant & Alexandre Gurba(Univ. Neuchâtel)	6	1.0	3.8

Scientific topics						
Adaptative landscape genetics - <i>Joint workshop with CUSO</i>	7-8.02	2	Aur�lie Bonin (Uni Grenoble, France) Sylvain Ursenbacher (Uni Basel) Christian Lexer (Uni Fribourg) David Neale (UC Davis, USA) Juan Galarza (Uni. Jyvaskyla, Finland) Malika Ainouche (Uni Rennes, France) A. McGaughran (Max Planck T�bingen) C. Cullingham (Uni Alberta, Canada) Christian Rellstab (WSL Birmensdorf) Martin C. Fischer (ETH Z�rich) Pierre Taberlet (CNRS Grenoble, France)	54	0.5 1.0 1.5	3.9
Big questions in behavioural biology	26-27.04	1.0	Judith Burkart (Uni Z�rich) Laurent Keller (Uni Lausanne) Manfred Milinski , Max-Planck Pl�n, D) Tom Sherratt (Uni Carleton, Canada) Nina Wedell (University of Exeter, UK) Klaus Zuberb�hler (Uni Neuch�tel)	18	1.0	3.3
Fungi-Bacteria interactions - <i>Joint symposium with CUSO</i>	18.06	0.5	S. Bindschedler (Helmholtz Centre, D) Jan Dirk van Elsas (Uni Groningen, NL) Lukas Y. Wick (Helmholtz Centre, D)	16	0.5	3.7
Rapid evolution during biological invasions - <i>Joint symposium with CUSO</i>	6-7.09	2	Scott P. Carroll (Uni California, USA) Robert I. Colautti (Duke Univ. USA) Carol E. Lee (Univ. Wisconsin, USA) Arne Nolte (Max-Planck Pl�n, Germany) George Roderick (Univ. California, USA)	49	1.0 1.5	-

Table: Activities of the doctoral program 2012

Annual PhD students meeting 2012

The annual meeting of the doctoral program is organised by the PhD students themselves. This year the organizers were Sarah Rottet and Livia Atauri Miranda (Univ. Neuch tel). The meeting took place on 15 May in Neuch tel. Olivier Dessibourg (Le Temps, Gen ve), Redouan Bshary, Igor Chlebny, Christophe Praz, and Katarina Stanoevska-Slabeva (Uni Neuch tel) were invited to give a talk. A total of 42 PhD students attended the meeting. They presented the results of their research to their peers (6 oral presentations and 16 posters). The oral presentation prize was attributed to Elvira de Lange and the poster prizes to Nathalie Veyrat (1st) and Vincent Trunz (2nd).

Mobility grants

Six congress travel grants (total CHF 6300) were awarded, which gave the awardees an opportunity to present their results (poster or oral presentation) to an international audience. In addition, 3 requests for mobility grants were received and all were partially granted (total CHF 2700), allowing the students to visit other laboratories to conduct experiments, learn research techniques and/or discuss research results with experts in the field.

The overall feedback from the students indicates that they evaluate the program very positively and the students are happy with the quality of the courses and the way they are organized. The emphasis on communication continues to be appreciated. At the request of the students we have increased the number of tools courses and specifically complied to their request to add courses on R-statistics and in the field of molecular biology.

Global evaluation of the year 2012

The graph in the annexe provides a summary of the global evaluation made by the participants. The global questionnaire was sent to all registered Ph.D. students and those who ended their Ph.D. this year. It was completed by 34% of the students.

Overall the evaluation by the students was good, with an overall positive impression by more than 80% of the participants (first line). This is very consistent with the evaluations of previous years. The additional comments made by the students (not shown) reflect their personal preferences and their respective domains. As always they would like to have more courses offered in their specific domain. The remarks will be used for the planning of the next curriculum and by collaborating more with other programs we aim to broaden the spectrum of courses that we can offer.

Graph: Results of the global evaluation of the courses 2012

First line shows the overall impression.

The lines below detail the answers to the specific questions.

