



# Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2011-2012

## Field Training Biological Research (C000534)

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

**Credits** 5.0      **Study time** 150.0 h      **Contact hrs** 140.0 h

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2011-2012**

A (semester 2)      work placement      140.0 h

**Lecturers in academic year 2011-2012**

|                   |      |                    |
|-------------------|------|--------------------|
| Hoffmann, Maurice | WE11 | lecturer-in-charge |
| Braeckman, Bart   | WE11 | co-lecturer        |
| Vanreusel, Ann    | WE11 | co-lecturer        |
| Verleyen, Elie    | WE11 | co-lecturer        |

**Offered in the following programmes in 2011-2012**

|  | crdts | offering |
|--|-------|----------|
| <a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Biology</a> | 5     | A        |
| <a href="#">Master of Science in Biology</a>   | 5     | A        |

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

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

**Level**

introductory

**Position of the course**

The main objective is to experience field techniques, field experiments and data processing, in order to get insight in taxonomical 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 ecosystems from the terrestrial, limnetic 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. During the training weeks and working in small groups (at least 3 students/group), the students will do 3 independent, short time and small-scale research projects, including data sampling, data processing and presentation of the results (oral presentation, written report).

**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**

Experience with (field) experiments (sampling, observation techniques,...) and the processing of (multivariate) data, with taxonomical studies and/or ecologically or physiologically oriented field or laboratory experiments. 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**

Work placement

**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. The students contribute 225 Euro as cost for the internship.

**References****Course content-related study coaching**

Assistents 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**

Oral examination

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

Oral 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, with emphasis on oral presentation and/of written report
2. Once-only central examination ( Oral examination with written preparation )

**Calculation of the examination mark**

$((\text{presentation} + \text{effort, insight}) + \text{central exam}) = (10 + 10)$

**Addendum**