

Note:

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

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Complete version from 1 October 2019

Curriculum for the

Master's Programme Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology

at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Classification of the study programme

The Master's Programme in Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology belongs according to §54 para. 1 Universities Act 2002 (UG) to the study programmes in Natural Sciences.

§ 2 Qualification profile

- (1) Graduates of the Master's Programme Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology have the necessary knowledge as well as the required skills and competences to find methodologically sound answers to subject-specific questions related to research in molecular, cellular and developmental biology and to apply them.
- (2) Graduates are able to scientifically evaluate and further develop areas of molecular cell and developmental biology and to apply their acquired knowledge in an interdisciplinary way.
- (3) Graduates have the competence to independently develop and increase their knowledge and understanding in the field of research in molecular cell and developmental biology.
- (4) Graduates of the Master's Programme Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology are able to find scientifically sound solutions to problems based on theories and methods. This competence enables them to deal with pertinent problems of their respective professional fields backed by science and oriented towards practice. Possible professional fields:
 - biomolecular research and teaching in all fields of biology,
 - basic biomedical research,
 - scientific work in private businesses (e.g. in the fields of biotechnology, pharmacy, medicine, toxicology, bioanalytics),
 - scientific work in public institutions and in public administration (e.g. in the fields of medicine, health care, food control, forensic, research funding),
 - any other tasks in fields in the bordering area to other disciplines (e.g. journalism) in combination with appropriate additional qualifications.

- (5) The Master's Programme Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology provides an in-depth scientific training based on pertinent bachelor programmes. The master's programme also prepares for a doctoral study programme.

§ 3 Scope and duration

The Master's Programme Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology comprises 120 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a study duration of four semesters. One ECTS-Credit corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

§ 4 Admission

- (1) Completion of a relevant University Bachelor's Programme or a relevant Bachelor's Programme at a university of applied science, or completion of other equivalent studies at an accredited Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution is required for admission to the Master's Programme Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology.
- (2) A completed Bachelor's Programme Biology at the University of Innsbruck is in any case a relevant study programme. The rectorate decides based on the regulations specified in the Universities Act on the admission for graduates having completed other study programmes at approved Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary education institutions and on the equivalence of the achievements.
- (3) In the event that equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, supplemental examinations may be required. These examinations must be completed during the master's programme.

§ 5 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. Maximum number of participants: 300
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
 1. **Introductory seminars (PS)** introduce students interactively to scientific literature through the treatment of selected issues. They convey knowledge and methods of academic work. Maximum number of participants: 15-20
 2. **Practical courses (UE)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of participants: 8 - 16.
 3. **Seminars (SE)** provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 8 - 16
 4. **Lectures with practical elements (VU)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 8 - 16
 5. **Project studies (PJ)** promote scientific collaboration of two or more fields through the treatment of multidisciplinary topics and the use of various methods and techniques. Maximum number of participants: 10

§ 6 Procedure for the allotment of places in courses with a limited number of participants

The following criteria shall be applied for the allotment of places in courses with a limited number of participants:

1. Presence at the preliminary meeting (personal or represented by a proxy)
2. Regular students of the Master's Programme Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology are to be given priority.
3. Date of fulfilment of the necessary admission requirement(s); Students who fulfilled the admission requirement(s) at an earlier time are to be given priority;

4. Number of semesters the student has been enrolled for the Master's Programme Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology; students who have been enrolled for a longer time are to be given priority
5. By lot

§ 7 Compulsory and elective modules

(1) The following compulsory modules covering altogether 27.5 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Selected Topics in Cell Biology and Developmental Biology	h	ECTS-Credits
a	VO Selected Topics in Cell Biology	3	4.5
b.	VO Selected Topics in Developmental Biology	2	3
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are able to understand current methods, techniques and research approaches in Cell Biology and Developmental Biology. They are able to understand and evaluate the latest scientific findings.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Instruction for Scientific Working	h	ECTS-Credits
	PS Instruction for Scientific Working	1	17.5
	Total	1	17.5
	Learning Outcomes: The students are able to formulate scientific questions for their Master's Thesis based on the state of knowledge. They can then develop hypotheses, test them with suitable methods and reflect the results in scientific discourse.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral dissertation defence before an examination board.		2.5
	Total		2.5
	Learning Outcomes: Examination of the Master's Thesis in the overall context of the Master's Programme; with special focus on theoretical comprehension, methodical issues, communication of findings of the Master's Thesis and presentation skills.		
	Prerequisites: Positive completion of all other compulsory and elective modules and positive evaluation of the Master's Thesis.		

- (2) Elective modules corresponding to 67.5 ECTS-Credits must be passed, whereby a maximum of two of the elective modules of 32, 33 and 34 may be passed:

1.	Elective Module: Histology and Cytology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Methods in Histology and Microscopy	2	3
b.	VU Methods of Histology and Scanning Electron Microscopy	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are able to employ histological and immunohistological methods in biological research and diagnostics. They also know about the theoretical and practical aspects of microscopy including fluorescence and contrast microscopy and are able to use them in practice.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Elective Module: Bioinformatics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Bioinformatics	2	3
b.	UE Bioinformatics	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with the basics of computer-assisted data evaluation and database searches in Molecular Biology and can use these methods in practice.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Elective Module: Genomics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Functional Genomics	1	1.5
b.	SE Genomics	1	1.5
c.	UE Genomics	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Students have an in-depth knowledge of theoretical and practical aspects of Genomics.		
	Prerequisites: none		

4.	Elective Module: RNomics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO RNomics	1	1.5
b.	SE RNomics	1	1.5
c.	UE RNomics	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Students have an in-depth knowledge of theoretical and practical aspects of RNomics.		
	Prerequisites: none		

5.	Elective Module: Biochemistry of Cellular Macromolecules	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Biochemistry of Cellular Macromolecules	1	1.5
b.	SE Biochemistry of Cellular Macromolecules	1	1.5
c.	UE Biochemistry of Cellular Macromolecules	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students understand the relationships of structure and function of cellular macromolecules. They know and can practically use the methods for analyzing them.			
Prerequisites: none			

6.	Elective Module: Fundamentals of Cell Culture	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Basic Knowledge on Cell Biology/Cell Culture	1	1.5
b.	SE Recent Developments in Cell Biology/Cell Culture	1	1.5
c.	UE Cell Culture Techniques - Course	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with the principles and standards of cell culture. They are able to independently plan and make cell culture experiments.			
Prerequisites: none			

7.	Elective Module: Live Cell Imaging	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Live Cell Imaging	2	3
b.	UE Live Cell Imaging	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with the principles of laser scanning microscopy and are able to independently choose the best settings for a specific experiment. Students know about cell culture, microfluidics, sensor proteins and different bleaching methods in live cells and are able to demonstrate their knowledge.			
Prerequisites: none			

8.	Elective Module: Cell Biology I: Proliferation and Programmed Cell Death	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Proliferation and Programmed Cell Death	1	1.5
b.	SE Proliferation and Programmed Cell Death	1	1.5
c.	UE Methods for Detecting Cell Death and Cell Proliferation	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5

	<p>Learning Outcomes: The students have an understanding of the molecular basics of cell proliferation and cell death and the relevance of cell proliferation and cell death for development and tissue homeostasis and are able to apply their knowledge practically.</p>
	<p>Prerequisites: none</p>

9.	Elective Module: Cell Biology II: Cell Homeostasis	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Cell Homeostasis	2	3
b.	UE Cell Homeostasis	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
	<p>Learning Outcomes: Students have basic theoretical and practical knowledge on cellular homeostasis and on methods for getting evidence on cell response in experiments under modified conditions.</p>		
	<p>Prerequisites: none</p>		

10.	Elective Module: Cell Biology III: Signal Transduction	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Signal Transduction	1	1.5
b.	SE Signal Transduction	1	1.5
c.	UE Signal Transduction	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
	<p>Learning Outcomes: Students know the principles of signal transduction and have a command of methods for getting evidence of the molecular cell response under modified conditions.</p>		
	<p>Prerequisites: none</p>		

11.	Elective Module: Cell Biology IV: Cell Regulation by Molecular Machines	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Cell Regulation by Molecular Machines	1	1.5
b.	SE Cell Regulation by Molecular Machines	1	1.5
c.	UE Function of Molecular Machines	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
	<p>Learning Outcomes: Students understand how molecular machines regulate cell functions and are able to apply their knowledge in practice.</p>		
	<p>Prerequisites: none</p>		

12.	Elective Module: Cell Biology V: Cellular Senescence	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Molecular Aspects of Cellular Senescence	1	1.5
b.	SE Recent Developments in Research on Cellular Senescence	1	1.5
c.	UE New Techniques in Studies on Cellular Senescence - Course	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students know the theoretical basics of cellular senescence and are able to apply their knowledge in practice.			
Prerequisites: none			

13.	Elective Module: Cell Biology VI: Cell Differentiation	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Molecular Biology of Cell Differentiation	1	1.5
b.	SE Recent Developments in Research on Cell Differentiation	1	1.5
c.	UE New Techniques in Studies on Cell Differentiation - Course	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students have a command of the theoretical basics of the molecular biology of cell differentiation as well as tissue homeostasis and are able to apply their knowledge in practice.			
Prerequisites: none			

14.	Elective Module: Stem Cell Biology I: Fundamentals	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Stem Cell Biology	1	1.5
b.	SE Current Aspects of Stem Cell Research	1	1.5
c.	UE Methods in Stem Cell Biology	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students understand the principles of cloning, the properties and the detection of stem cells and can apply their knowledge in practice.			
Prerequisites: none			

15.	Elective Module: Stem Cell Biology II: Cell Reprogramming	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Cell Reprogramming and Regeneration	1	1.5
b.	SE Current Aspects of Regeneration	1	1.5
c.	UE Methods of Cell Reprogramming	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students understand the theoretical fundamentals of reprogramming somatic cells in induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS-cells) and can apply their knowledge in practice.			

	Prerequisites: none
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16.	Elective Module: Model Organisms I: Platyhelminthes	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Cell and Developmental Biology of Platyhelminthes	1	1.5
b.	SE Current Aspects of Platyhelminthes Research	1	1.5
c.	UE Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology of Platyhelminthes	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students have a theoretical knowledge of the developmental biology of Platyhelminthes and can apply it in practice.			
Prerequisites: none			

17.	Elective Module: Model Organisms II: <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Molecular Ageing Research on Model Organisms	1	1.5
b.	SE Biology of Ageing	1	1.5
c.	UE Ageing Research on <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> - Course	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with the theoretical fundamentals of working with the model organism of <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> and can apply their knowledge in practice.			
Prerequisites: none			

18.	Elective Module III: Tunicata/Cnidaria	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Molecular Developmental Biology of Invertebrates	1	1.5
b.	SE Current Aspects of Molecular Developmental Biology of Invertebrates	1	1.5
c.	UE Methods of Developmental Biology of Invertebrates	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students have a theoretical knowledge of the developmental biology and genetic regulation of selected invertebrates and can apply this knowledge in practice.			
Prerequisites: none			

19.	Elective Module: Model Organisms IV: Zebrafish	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Molecular Cell Biology of the Development of Vertebrates	1	1.5
b.	SE Current Aspects of Molecular Development of Vertebrates	1	1.5
c.	UE Practical Work on the Model Zebrafish	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5

	Learning Outcomes: Students have a theoretical knowledge of developmental biology of selected invertebrates' models and can apply this knowledge in practice.
	Prerequisites: none

20.	Elective Module: Model Organisms V: Mouse	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Molecular Mouse Embryology	1	1.5
b.	SE Molecular Mouse Embryology	1	1.5
c.	UE Molecular Mouse Embryology	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with applications of the mouse model for analyzing genetic modifications and can apply this knowledge in practice.		
	Prerequisites: none		

21.	Elective Module: Organogenesis I: Endodermal Organs	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Organ Formation and Regeneration	1	1.5
b.	SE Current Topics in Molecular Organogenesis	1	1.5
c.	UE Methods in Molecular Organogenesis	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with the theoretical fundamentals of molecular and cellular mechanisms of organogenesis and can apply this knowledge in practice.		
	Prerequisites: none		

22.	Elective Module: Organogenesis II: Cardiovascular System	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Development of the Cardiovascular System	1	1.5
b.	SE Development of the Cardiovascular System	1	1.5
c.	UE Development and Functioning of the Cardiovascular System	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with the fundamentals of the development of the cardiovascular system. They are able to apply non-invasive methods for characterizing processes of the cardiovascular system relating to the developmental biology.		
	Prerequisites: none		

23.	Elective Module: Neurobiology: Development of the Nervous System	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Molecular Neurodevelopment	1	1.5
b.	SE Molecular Neurodevelopment	1	1.5
c.	UE Molecular Neurodevelopment	3	4,5
	Total	5	7.5
Objec Learning Outcomes tive: Students are familiar with the basic aspects, problems and methods of molecular neurodevelopment and can apply their knowledge in practice.			
Prerequisites: none			

24.	Elective Module: Circadian Rhythm and Gene Activation	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Circadian Rhythm and Gene Activation	2	3
b.	UE Circadian Rhythm and Gene Activation	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students get familiar with quantification methods of mRNA by means of realtime polymerase chain reaction and get an insight into the functioning of gene regulation with special focus of circadian rhythm. Students are able to put the results gained in the context of current research.			
Prerequisites: none			

25.	Elective Module: Overview of the Immune System	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Overview of the Immune System	1	1.5
b.	SE Overview of the Immune System - Seminar	1	1.5
c.	UE Immunobiological Methods for Beginners - Course	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with the theoretical fundamental of the functioning of the immune system and can apply their knowledge in practice..			
Prerequisites: none			

26.	Elective Module: Special Aspects of the Immune System	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Immunobiology for Advanced Learners	1	1.5
b.	SE Special Aspects of the Immune System for Advanced Learners	1	1.5
c.	UE Recent Developments in Research on Immunobiological Methods for Advanced Learners - Course	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with the theoretical fundamental of selected aspects of the immune system and are able to apply their knowledge in practice.			

	Prerequisites: positive evaluation for elective module 25 (Overview of the Immune System).
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27.	Elective Module: Selected Chapters of Cell and Developmental Biology I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Selected Chapters of Cell and Developmental Biology I	1	1.5
b.	UE Selected Chapters of Cell and Developmental Biology I	4	6
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: With the courses offered in this module (partly held by guest lecturers) students get an insight into selected chapters of cell or developmental biology that are not covered by the elective modules 1-26.		
	Prerequisites: none		

28.	Elective Module: Selected Chapters of Cell and Developmental Biology II	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Selected Chapters of Cell and Developmental Biology II	1	1.5
b.	UE Selected Chapters of Cell and Developmental Biology II	4	6
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: With the courses offered in this module (partly held by guest lecturers) students get an advanced insight into selected chapters of cell or developmental biology that are not covered by the elective modules 1-27.		
	Prerequisites: none		

29.	Elective Module: Philosophy of Science and Gender Research	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Nature as a Political Subject	2	3
b.	VO Philosophy of Science and Ethics	2	3
c.	SE Philosophy of Science, Ethics and Gender Research	1	1.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: In consideration of gender aspects, students are able to understand the peculiarities of biology in relation to the philosophy of science, its relationship with other disciplines and its history. Moreover, the students have a command of basic ethic terms and approaches, which enables them to independently reflect on ethical questions of research in biology and its application.		
	Prerequisites: none		

30.	Elective Module: Module from other Master Programmes of the Faculty of Biology	h	ECTS-Credits
	A module from another master programme of the Faculty of Biology of the University of Innsbruck can be passed.		7.5
	Total		7.5

	Learning Outcomes: The objectives defined by the respective module give the students insights into another field of biology.
	Prerequisites: the prerequisites of the respective curricula do apply.

31.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses corresponding to 7.5 ECTS-Credits and providing to availability of places can be freely chosen from the curricula of the master and/or diploma programmes at the University of Innsbruck.		7.5
	Total		7.5
	Learning Outcomes: This module serves to expand the study programme and to acquire additional qualifications.		
	Prerequisites: the prerequisites of the respective curricula do apply.		

32.	Elective Module: Project Study – Cell Biology	h	ECTS-Credits
	PJ Project Study – Cell Biology	10	15
	Total	10	15
	Learning Outcomes: Students command cell biologic methods and can apply them for studying current research problems. Own research results in this area are reviewed and presented.		
	Prerequisites: none		

33.	Elective Module: Project Study – Developmental Biology	h	ECTS-Credits
	PJ Project Study – Developmental Biology	10	15
	Total	10	15
	Learning Outcomes: Students have a command of methods of developmental biology and can apply them for studying current research problems. Own research results in this area are reviewed and presented.		
	Prerequisites: none		

34.	Elective Module: Project Study – Biology of Ageing	h	ECTS-Credits
	PJ Lab Rotations – Biology of Ageing	10	15
	Total	10	15
	Learning Outcomes: Students have a command of methods related to the biology of ageing and can apply them for studying current research problems. Own research results in this area are reviewed and presented.		
	Prerequisites: none		

§ 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) In the Master's Programme in Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology a Master's Thesis corresponding 25 ECTS-Credits must be written. The Master's Thesis is a scientific paper that serves as proof of the ability to deal with a scientific topic independently and appropriately with regards to content and methodology.
- (2) Possible topics include all questions related to increasing knowledge in modern research in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology.
- (3) Students are entitled to write their Master's Thesis in English if their supervisor agrees to it.
- (4) It is possible for several students to work on one topic, if it is possible to separately evaluate the achievements of the individual students.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) Modules are evaluated by module examinations. Module examinations are examinations that serve to prove the knowledge and skills acquired in a module. If all parts of a module examination have been positively evaluated, the respective module is passed.
- (2) The courses of the modules are evaluated by means of course examinations. Course examinations are
 1. examinations that serve to demonstrate the knowledge and skills gained in a single course and where the performance is assessed with a single exam at the end of the course. The course lecturer must communicate the examination method (written and/or oral) and the evaluation criteria before the start of the course.
 2. examinations on courses with continuous performance assessment, where the evaluation is based on the student's regular, written and/or oral contributions. The course lecturer must communicate the examination method (written and/or oral) and the evaluation criteria before the start of the course.
- (3) Assessment of compulsory module 3 (Master's Thesis Defence) is based on an oral exam before an examination board consisting of at least three examiners.

§ 10 Academic degree

Graduates of the Master's Programme Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology are awarded the academic degree of "Master of Science", abbreviated as "MSc".

§ 11 Coming into Force

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2008.
- (2) The modification of the curriculum in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 23 June 2014, Issue 42, No. 329 comes into effect on 1 October 2010 and is to be applied to all students.
- (3) The modification of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 6 May 2015, Issue 27, No. 387 comes into effect on 1 October 2015 and is to be applied to all students.
- (4) The changes of the curriculum acc. to the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 65, No. 575 come into effect on 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.

§ 12 Transitional provisions:

- (1) Positively passed elective modules according to the regulations of the curriculum for the Master's Programme Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 29 April 2008, Issue 38, No. 267 with the modifications as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 23 June 2010, Issue 42, No. 329 (in the following referred to as curriculum of 2008) count as elective modules for the curriculum in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 6 May 2015, Issue 27, No. 387 (in the following referred to as curriculum of 2015).

- (2) Elective modules of the curriculum of 2015 that have the same contents as a passed elective module of the curriculum 2008 may not be passed. A list of courses that may not be taken is published on the homepage of the Faculty of Biology.
- (3) An equivalence list for compulsory modules and their courses as well as for individual passed courses of elective modules is to be published by the Director of Studies.