

Detailed curriculum for the course:

Research Proposal & Poster Presentation

Academic year:	2025-2026
Program:	Biotechnology for the Life Sciences (1 st year)
Course code:	BLS106
ECTS points:	3
Language of the course:	English
Teaching hours:	30 hours (5 lectures, 10 seminars, 15 practical work)
Pre-requisites for enrolment:	Completion of at least one of the "Laboratory Apprenticeships" elective courses.

Course leader and contact information:

Title and name:	Assistant Toni Todorovski
E-mail:	toni.todorovski@uniri.hr
Time period:	18 th May 2026 – 09 th June 2026
Teaching staff:	Assistant Prof. Toni Todorovski (5 hours lectures) Lucija Besednik, mag. chem. (5 hours seminars) Josip Mihalac, mag.biotech.in med. (5 hours seminars) Mentors (15 h practical work)

Required literature:

- Will be set by each individual student's mentor.
- Students are encouraged to independently search the literature on topics relevant to the course.

Course description:

The aim of the course is to allow students to develop their soft skills including experimental design, scientific writing and presentation of their research proposal for the final thesis (presumably in one of the two labs in which they did their "Laboratory Apprenticeships"). This will be done on a "Biotechnology for the Life Sciences" symposium. "Biotechnology for the Life Sciences" symposium is a half-day symposium, to which all staff and students of the Department of Biotechnology will be invited. At this symposium, first year students will present their research proposals in the form of poster presentations. This course will help students throughout the whole process that would consist of:

- 1) Choosing a mentor
- 2) Designing a research plan, in conjunction with the mentor
- 3) Designing a poster
- 4) Presenting the poster at the symposium
- 5) Finalizing the research plan based on feedback from the symposium

Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of the course program, students will be able to:

- Independently design posters
- Design the experimental plan of their research proposal
- Understand and describe the process of project proposal writing
- Prepare and present the poster related to their project
- Gain confidence in sharing their work, through written and spoken forms of communication
- Present their research proposal in the form of poster presentations in a symposium-environment
- Give and get feedback on their proposal from other students and professors

Detailed course content:

This course should help students to select the laboratory in which they will do their research project, to design a research plan and to present it at the “Biotechnology for the Life Sciences” symposium (in accordance with their future mentor). This project may be stand alone, or represent a distinct part within the wider research of the group. It will normally be in one of the two research groups in which they did their “Laboratory Apprenticeships”.

“Biotechnology for the Life Sciences” symposium will be a half-day event, to which all staff and students of the Department of Biotechnology will be invited. First year students will present their research proposals in the form of poster presentations. The poster will consist of experimental design of a research proposal. The course leader and/or future mentor will assist students during the preparation of the poster. On symposium students will also receive feedback from students and staff before they begin their project. Grading will be assigned by a panel of professors.

A. Lectures:

- L1. Presenting at research conferences (2)
- L2. How to make a poster (1)
- L3. How to write a winning research proposal (2)

B. Seminars (10 hours)

Students will perform peer reviews of other students posters. Each presentation will have a brainstorming session.

C. Practical work (15 hours)

Poster presentation design and preparation.

Requirements, methods of assessment and evaluation:**Examination deadlines:****Qualification and grades (according to *Pravilniku o studijima Sveučilišta u Rijeci*):***Assessment during the course (50%)*

Students will obtain score during the course, in the following areas:

Seminar work (25%): – Students will be graded based on work done in class and/or as homework from seminars.

Practical work (25%) – Students will be assessed based on the abilities and results demonstrated in the practical exercises.

Final exam (50%)

Eligibility to sit the final exam will be based on scores achieved during the course (out of a maximum of 50%).

- Students scoring between 0 and 34.9% will not be allowed to take the final exam
- Students scoring 35% and above will be allowed to take the final exam

Final grades

The following grades will be awarded based on the final score:

Percentage score	ECTS grade	Numerical grade
90% to 100%	A	Excellent (5)
75% to 89.9%	B	Very good (4)
60% to 74.9%	C	Good (3)
50% to 59.9%	D	Satisfactory (2)
0% to 49.9%	F	Unsatisfactory (1)

The final grade is based on the sum of percentage points accumulated during the course and on the final exam. Passing grades are excellent (5), very good (4), good (3) and satisfactory (2).

To complete the course students must attain a passing mark for the entire course (50% or higher) as well as achieving at least 25% of the 50% available on the final exam.

Schedule of classes:**Week 1-4:**

Date	Group	Time	Room*	Activity	Lecturer
18.05.26	All	10:00-11:00	O-268	L1	Toni Todorovski
18.05.26	All	12:00-14:00	O-268	L2	Lucija Besednik
19.05.26	All	12:00-14:00	O-268	L3	Toni Todorovski
20.05.26	All			Choice of mentors	
20.05.26	All	12:00-17:00	O-268	S	Lucija Besednik/ Josip Mihalac
21.05.26	All	12:00-17:00	O-268	S	Josip Mihalac/Lucija Besednik
18.05.26 - 05.06.26	All		O-268	Practical work, by arrangement with mentors	
09.06.26	All	10:00-15:00		Final exam	

Additional information:**Academic integrity**

Students are required to respect the principles of academic integrity, and refer to the documents: *Ethical rules of the University of Rijeka* and *Ethical rules for students*.