Specific Methods in Protein Biochemistry and Cell Biology

Module coordinator
holder of the Chair of Cell Biology and Developmental Biology

Module offered by
Faculty of Biology

ECTS
5

Method of grading
numerical grade

Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
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Duration
1 semester

Module level
undergraduate

Other prerequisites
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Contents
Fundamental principles, theory and application of modern methods in cell biology. Since many of these methods are based on molecular biology and protein chemistry approaches, we will also discuss these techniques. Using practical examples, this course will acquaint students with the following methods: - cell fractionation - protein separation by one- and two-dimensional gel electrophoresis - identification of proteins and protein complexes with immunoblots - immunoprecipitation - overlay techniques or pull-down experiment - intracellular localisation of proteins by immunofluorescence microscopy - preparing cultivated cells and tissues for immunofluorescence microscopy - whole-mount immunolocalisation for the analysis of the expression pattern of a protein in the Xenopus embryo - whole-mount in situ hybridisation for the analysis of the expression pattern of an mRNA in the Xenopus embryo - investigation of the dynamic behaviour of proteins in living cells: expression of a fluorescent (GFP) fusion protein in human cells after transfection with a DNA vector - determination of the subclass of antibodies by immunodiffusion (Ouchterlony test). Basic experiments in molecular biology.

Intended learning outcomes
Students will be familiar with the methods discussed in class and will know what problems in cell biology may be addressed with these methods.

Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)
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Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)
a) written examination (approx. 45 to 60 minutes) or b) log (approx. 10 to 20 pages) or c) oral examination of one candidate each (approx. 30 minutes) or d) oral examination in groups of up to 3 candidates (approx. 20 minutes per candidate) or e) presentation (approx. 20 to 30 minutes) or f) practical examination (on average approx. 2 hours; time to complete will vary according to subject area but will not exceed a maximum of 4 hours). Students will be informed about the method and length of the assessment prior to the course. Creditable for bonus

Allocation of places
20 places. Should the number of applications exceed the number of available places, places will be allocated as follows: Students of the Bachelor’s degree subject Biologie (Biology) with 180 ECTS credits will be given preferential consideration. Should the module be used in other subjects, there will be two quotas: 95% of places will be allocated to students of the Bachelor’s degree subject Biologie (Biology) with 180 ECTS credits and 5% of places (a minimum of one place in total) will be allocated to students of the Bachelor’s degree subject Biologie (Biology) with 60 ECTS credits and to students of the Bachelor’s degree subjects Computational Mathematics and Mathematik (Mathematics), each with 180 ECTS credits, as part of the application-oriented subject Biology (as well as potentially to students of other ‘importing’ subjects). Should the number of places available in one quota exceed the number of applications, the remaining places will be allocated to applicants from the other quota. Should there be, within one module component, several courses with a restricted number of places, there will be a uniform regulation for the courses of one module component. In this case, places on all courses of a module component that are concerned will be allocated in the same procedure. In this procedure, applicants who already have successfully completed at least one other module component of the respective module will be given preferential consideration.
A waiting list will be maintained and places re-allocated as they become available.

Selection process group 1 (95%): Places will primarily be allocated according to the applicants’ previous academic achievements. For this purpose, applicants will be ranked according to the number of ECTS credits they have achieved and their average grade of all assessments taken during their studies or of all module components in the subject of Biologie (Biology) (excluding Chemie (Chemistry), Physik (Physics), Mathematik (Mathematics)) at the time of application. This will be done as follows: First, applicants will be ranked, firstly, according to their average grade weighted according to the number of ECTS credits (qualitative ranking) and, secondly, according to their total number of ECTS credits achieved (quantitative ranking). The applicants' position in a third ranking will be calculated as the sum of these two rankings, and places will be allocated according to this third ranking. Among applicants with the same ranking, places will be allocated according to the qualitative ranking or otherwise by lot.

Selection process group 2 (5%): Places will be allocated according to the following quotas: Quota 1 (50 % of places): total number of ECTS credits already achieved in modules/module components of the Faculty of Biology; among applicants with the same number of ECTS credits achieved, places will be allocated by lot. Quota 2 (25 % of places): number of subject semesters of the respective applicant; among applicants with the same number of subject semesters, places will be allocated by lot. Quota 3 (25 % of places): lottery.

Should the module be used only in the Bachelor's degree subject Biologie (Biology) with 180 ECTS credits, places will be allocated according to the selection process of group 1.

**Additional information**

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**Referred to in LPO I** (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)

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**Module appears in**

- Bachelor' degree (1 major) Biology (2015)
- Bachelor' degree (1 major) Mathematics (2015)
- Bachelor' degree (1 major) Biology (2017)