Module title	Abbreviation
Electron microscopy and image processing in structural biology	08-MBC-EMV-172-m01

Module coordinator	Module offered by
holder of the Chair of Biochemistry	Chair of Biochemistry

ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
5	numerical grade	--

Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--

Contents

The module "Electron Microscopy and Image Processing in Structural Biology" contains a lecture part which explains the basics of electron microscopy and image processing. First, the components of the electron microscope, beam path, image formation and contrast transmission are explained. Subsequently, different methods of sample preparation for electron microscopy in structural biology will be discussed as well as strategies for instrument alignment and data acquisition. The second part of the lecture concentrates on the processing of image data. The focus is on the principles of single image analysis. This includes the alignment of image data, their classification and three-dimensional image reconstruction. DeNovo and iterative methods of 3D image reconstruction are discussed. The learned principles are then applied to the special cases of 2D crystal analysis and tomography. Finally, micro electron diffraction is presented as an alternative to X-ray structure analysis. In the seminar part of the module some aspects of the lecture are deepened on the basis of case studies from the literature. The students will read these case studies in advance. In this work they are guided through a catalogue of questions. Some of the questions will be addressed independently in a written homework in advance. Most case studies will be presented by one student each. All case studies will be explained in a discussion. The participants develop a critical understanding of the advantages and limitations of the method. Some selected topics will be further deepened by arithmetic exercises.

Intended learning outcomes

The participants will learn the theoretical basics of electron microscopy and image processing in structural biology on a broad basis. They will get an overview of key strategies of the method, which are essential for structure elucidation. These can be applied and deepened in a practical course. In the end, all participants will be able to understand, communicate and critically evaluate primary literature on this method.

Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)

V (1) + S (1)
Module taught in: German or English

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 90 minutes) or
b) log (20 to 30 pages) or
c) oral examination of one candidate each (20 to 30 minutes) or
d) oral examination in groups of up to 3 candidates (15 to 30 minutes per candidate) or
e) presentation (20 to 40 minutes)
Language of assessment: German and/or English

Allocation of places

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Additional information

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Workload

150 h

Teaching cycle

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

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Module appears in

Master's degree (1 major) Biomedicine (2015)
Master's degree (1 major) Biochemistry (2017)
Master's degree (1 major) Biomedicine (2018)
Master's degree (1 major) Biochemistry (2019)
Master's degree (1 major) Biochemistry (2026)