



Institution: Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Degree: Doctoral programme in Biotechnology

Curricular Unit: Optional Course(s)

Code: Not applicable

ECTS Credits: 10

Responsible teacher: Steering Committee (Cristina Silva, António Rangel, Paula Teixeira)

Objectives of the curricular unit and competences:

This curricular unit aims at offering the students an opportunity to take courses with particular relevance to their studies. In particular, this Unit will:

- complement the basic training of the student, giving him/her new skills on the scientific and professional areas of interest.
- promote the updating of knowledge in scientific fields characterized by a constant and rapid evolution.

Syllabus:

Delineated in accordance to each training course attended.

Demonstration of the syllabus coherence with the curricular unit's objectives:

Students embarking on the doctoral programme may have diverse training and educational profiles, and their thesis work may focus on a variety of specific areas of Biotechnology. Therefore, different training may be required for each student, according to their background and research plan. This Unit gives the opportunity to offer each student a "custom-based" training profile. With the Optional Course(s), the Ph.D. students will be given the opportunity to attend specific courses to fully complement their skills and competences to obtain an integral training. Given the multiplicity of training courses that may fit these requirements, these will be held at ESB or at other national or foreign institutions, if properly validated in terms of quality and number of ECTS. These actions may fall in areas related to Biotechnology or in areas of interface, for example, Economics, Sociology, Statistics, Ethics and Informatics.

Teaching methodologies (including evaluation):

Attendance of training courses with relevance to the background training of the student (e.g. learning a technique or methodological approach, acquisition of knowledge in a central area to the theme of the thesis) at the ESB-UCP or other national or international institutions. The training courses will be selected by the supervisor and the student and approved by the Steering Committee of the doctoral programme.

Before starting the training, the student must fill the creditation form with additional information.

The training actions must confer ECTS, but not necessarily a grade. The student must bring a statement confirming the number of ECTS of the course unit. The number of ECTS will be credited with or without a final grade.

Demonstration of the teaching methodologies coherence with the curricular unit's objectives:

In this model of training, students have the opportunity to fill gaps that may exist in their basic training and to strengthen and develop thematic areas relevant to their work plans. Students will have the opportunity to contact with information, techniques, and applications in the frontier of knowledge in their area of expertise, fundamental to the development of technical and scientific skills. Other professional skills may also be explored, e.g., acquisition of knowledge on conducting a business development plan.