Academic Coordinator: Dr. Dermot Walls

Overview

BioTranslate is the School of Biotechnology’s structured PhD programme. It is research-focused, flexible and student-centered. Graduate students registered on the BioTranslate programme will conduct a major laboratory research project, over a period of 3 - 4 years, in laboratories in the School of Biotechnology and/or associated Research Centres. In addition to acquiring discipline-specific research knowledge over the period, BioTranslate students will partake in a range of generic and scientific support modules across multiple subject areas and will thus experience an individualised programme that is tailored to their specific needs.

Programme structure

Upon completion of the BioTranslate programme, the student’s original research work presented as a written thesis, is the sole means of assessment for the award of PhD. Graduates of the BioTranslate programme will also have accumulated a total of 30 - 90 ECTS credits to be awarded following the successful completion of core and elective Graduate Training Element (GTE) modules, the latter chosen in conjunction with the student’s supervisory panel.

Module BE550 (5 credits), which concerns Induction/Laboratory Safety and Practice, is compulsory and is to be taken in year 1. It is also the policy of the School of Biotechnology that all students who are assigned teaching-related responsibilities must complete GS607FSH/Laboratory Tutoring, a 10 credit module to be taken over at least two years. There is an expectation that module loads be evenly distributed across the first three years, with a minimum of 10 credits being taken in any one year. A typical overall balance consists of 1-3 generic (transferable skills) modules and 2-3 discipline-specific modules over the first three years, with year 4 focussed exclusively on research. Progress regarding GTE elements will be monitored on an annual basis as part of the DCU annual postgraduate progress review system, however there will be no compulsory minimum number of modules required to be completed in order to progress to the next year. In addition, students will be encouraged to engage with centrally offered workshops & seminars on academic, software or transferable skills which align with their development needs.

Students should register for these modules via their Portal page through their Faculty’s GTE programme. All other registration issues / queries should be directed to the Postgraduate Enrolment Officer: Jennifer Yore: jennifer.yore@dcu.ie.
Induction & Laboratory Safety
- BE550: Biosafety and Laboratory Procedures in Biotechnology (5 ECTS)

Teaching & Learning Skills
- GS607BT: Laboratory Tutoring (10 ECTS)

Research Skills & Integrity
- BD1504: Professional Skills for Scientists (10 ECTS)
- GS604: Research Ethics (5 ECTS)
- CS507A: Advanced Experimental Data Processing (5 ECTS)

Communication Skills
- GS608: Strategies for Academic Writing (5 ECTS)
- GS609: Strategies for Getting Published (5 ECTS)
- LC600: English for Academic Purposes (5 ECTS)

Business/Management
- GS601: Intellectual Property & Commercialisation (5 ECTS)
- HR601: Leadership in the Research Environment (5 ECTS)

Discipline-Specific Research Techniques
- BE517: Recombinant DNA Technology (5 ECTS)
- BE533: Gene Cloning & Expression 2 (5 ECTS)
- BE525: Introduction to Animal Cell Culture Theory (2.5 ECTS)
- BE532: Introduction to Proteomics & Mass Spectrometry (2.5 ECTS)
- BD1502: Principles of Diagnostic Technology 1 (7.5 ECTS)
- BE513: Principles of Diagnostic Technology 2 (7.5 ECTS)
- BD1503: Advances in Diagnostics and Nanobiotechnology (7.5 ECTS)
- BE580: Introduction to Bioprocess Engineering (5 ECTS)
- BE584: Bioreactor Design, Modelling and Monitoring (5 ECTS)
- BE581: Bioprocess Scale Up and Technology Transfer (5 ECTS)
- BE515: Fundamentals of Bioreaction Engineering (5 ECTS)
- BE516: Bioseparations (5 ECTS)
- BE583: Biopharmaceutical Industry Regulations and Management (5 ECTS)
- PS522: Microfluidics 2 (5 ECTS)
- CS551A: Advanced Analytical Techniques (10 ECTS)