

Course analysis (course evaluation)

Course code 4BI097	Course title Frontiers in Biomedicine: Individual Research project	Credits 16 ECTS
Semester (spring/autumn) Autumn	Period HT2021 (10 weeks)	

Course coordinator Velmurugesan Arulampalam	Examiner Ute Römling
Teacher in charge of component 36 Principal Investigators working in different research areas in KI took on the role as project supervisors.	Other participating teachers 26 Examining teachers who are experts in the research area within the project conducted by the students.

Number of registered students during the three week check 40	Number approved on the last course date 37	Response frequency course valuation survey 45 %
Other methods for student influence (in addition to concluding course valuation) Some students provided feedback during the duration of the project. No regular course meeting was held during this time as the course is based on individual research projects in different labs.		
Feedback reporting of the course valuation results to the students Yes		

Note that...

The analysis should (together with a summarising quantitative summary of the students' course valuation) be communicated to the education committee at the department responsible for the course and for programme courses also the programme coordinating committee.

The analysis was communicated to the education committee on the following date: **Feb 28 2022**
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1. Description of any conducted changes since the previous course occasion based on the views of former students

Information about the organization, course content and expectations was communicated to the students. Examination was done on site at Biomedicum, with some examining teachers joining online via zoom. Some concerns about COVID was raised by a one or two students. Masks were provided and distancing was strongly encouraged. No event of COVID transmission was reported after the examination.

2. Brief summary of the students' evaluations of the course

(Based on the students' quantitative responses to the course valuation and key views from free text responses. Quantitative summary and any graphs are attached.)

Of the 40 students enrolled, 37 completed the course, but one student's report will have to be re-examined. Of the 3 students who have not completed the course, two will be examined at a later date. One student did not pass and will have to do the Project Course again.

Student participation in the evaluation could have been much better (only 18 students participated)

Students generally thought that the course fulfilled the ILO and they developed expertise and skill during the course. Many students also thought that being able to take part in the lab's routine, meetings, journal clubs etc was very educational. The workload was also considered to reflect the credits obtained, and the grading system was generally considered fair.

Communication from the organisers, especially regarding the mini-conference, as regards Covid restrictions, could have been better and clearer. Nevertheless, the pandemic seemed to have had a minimum effect on the progress of the project course itself.

The full response and comments from the students may be obtained from the attached course evaluation (appendix).

3. The course coordinator's reflections on the implementation and results of the course

Strengths of the course:

The students had the chance to pick individual research projects of their own choice.

The hosting labs were on the whole extremely engaged and a large number of projects were of very high quality.

Student presentations during the poster session was also very commendable. This is reflected in the number of passes with distinction obtained, and ad hoc discussions with examining teachers during the poster session.

The mini-conference (poster session) was highly appreciated by the students and teachers, with excellent question and answer sessions, by fellow students and teachers alike.

Weaknesses of the course:

The project course ran in parallel with other courses, and this was not ideal.

Very little opportunity to meet the students regularly during the course of 10 weeks.

The disruption of communication between students and supervisors during the Christmas period was highlighted by the students.

The organisers will strive to improve communications with the students.

2. Other views

With respect to grades, students were best

According to supervisors: theoretical knowledge, followed by experimental research skills

According to examining teachers: oral presentation skills, followed by discussion

With respect to grades, students received lowest grades for

According to supervisors: autonomy, followed by (data interpretation and laboratory report)

According to examining teachers: laboratory report, scientific content: efficacy and argumentation

4. Course coordinator's conclusions and any suggestions for changes

(If changes are suggested, state who is responsible for implementing them and provide a schedule.)

The SARS-CoV2 pandemic did not prevent the course from taking place. A few delays in finding labs were experienced, but in all but one case (1/36), students managed to do the required work to present a report and poster for the examination. The examination was held as

a hybrid mini-conference, which was appreciated by a majority of the students and the teachers who were present on site.

One student tested positive for Covid after reporting feeling ill during the examination. In follow ups, no other participant, student or examining teachers reported illness due to COVID. Otherwise, no SARS-CoV2 transmissions was reported during the practical period. The transmission route for the positive student has not been followed up and was most likely not gained during the laboratory work (as this work was mainly concluded before the end of the year already).

Appendices:

Course Evaluation 4BI097 Frontiers in Biomedicine: Individual Research project