

EMNERAPPORT – INSTITUTT FOR BIOMEDISIN

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICINE

Emnekode: <i>COURSE CODE:</i>	BMED908	Semester / år: <i>SEMESTER / YEAR:</i>	Fall 2022
Emnenavn: <i>COURSE NAME:</i>	<i>Early Stage Researcher Seminars in Biomedicine</i>		
Emneansvarlig: <i>COURSE COORDINATOR:</i>	Harald Barsnes	Godkjent: <i>APPROVED: (admin.)</i>	Utdanningsleder IBM 22.12.2022
Rapporteringsdato: <i>DATE OF REPORT:</i>	December 21st 2022		

INNLEDNING / INTRODUCTION:

Kort beskrivelse av emnet, inkl. studieprogramtilhørighet. Kommentarer om evt. oppfølging av tidligere evalueringer.

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING WHICH STUDENTS/CANDIDATES MAY ATTEND. COMMENTS TO CHANGES BASED ON PRIOR EVALUATIONS.

BMED908 - Early Stage Researcher Seminars in Biomedicine (1 ECTS) is a course for PhD students at the Department of Biomedicine, where the participants present and discuss their own research projects. The main objective of the course is to reflect on, and critically discuss on-going research projects in the field of biomedicine, and nurture scientific interactions among PhD-candidates at the department.

The course communicates an understanding for open academic discussions amongst peer scientists. It supports and strengthens critical thinking and scientific curiosity and provides a forum for sharing ideas and testing hypotheses. By excluding senior researchers, the forum should function as a safe environment where early-stage researchers can act more independently and practice their discussion skills. Students attending the course must give one oral presentation about their own research and attend a minimum of ten seminars. This can occur over two or more semesters.

For the full description of the course, please see: <https://www.uib.no/emne/BMED908>

Comments on the history of the course

The course was created in the fall 2020. However, largely due to the pandemic, there is no record of any students yet completing the course and receiving the 1 ECTS. When the current course coordinator took over the course in late 2021, as part becoming the head of the Bergen Biomedical Research School, the still ongoing pandemic initially made it difficult to restart the seminar series. But when the restrictions were gradually lifted during the spring of 2022, both the research school and the early-stage researcher seminars where rebooted.

STATISTIKK / STATISTICS (admin.):

Antall vurderingsmeldte studenter: <i>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES REGISTERED FOR EXAMINATION:</i>	2	Antall studenter møtt til eksamen: <i>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ATTENDED EXAMINATION:</i>	-		
Karakter-skala <i>GRADING SCALE</i>	«Bestått/Ikke bestått» «PASS/FAIL»	Bestått / PASS:	-	Ikke bestått / FAIL:	-

KOMMENTARER TIL KARAKTERFORDELINGEN / COMMENTS TO THE STATISTICS:

Emnerapporten utarbeides når sensuren etter ordinær eksamen i emnet er klar. For muntlige eksamener er da resultatfordelingen endelig, men for skriftlige eksamener kan endelig resultatfordeling avvike noe om evt. klagebehandling ikke er fullført.

THIS REPORT IS PREPARED AFTER ORDINARY EXAMINATION. FOR ORAL EXAMS, THE RESULTS ARE FINAL, FOR WRITTEN EXAMS, THE FINAL GRADING DISTRIBUTION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY IF CANDIDATE COMPLAINTS/APPEALS HAVE NOT BEEN PROCESSED.

Given that it took some time for the PhD students to return to the campus and become active in the research school, and the seminar series in particular, it was at first a struggle to get the students to present their work in the form of a seminar for the other students. A total of five students have presented their work since the spring of 2022. Of these, only two had registered for the course, as many of the students did not become aware of the course until the middle of the year. Due to the low number of seminars, it was therefore not possible for any of the students to complete the course in 2022 and it was decided that the two students having signed up for the exam should be moved to the following semester.

SAMMENDRAG AV STUDENTENE SINE TILBAKEMELDINGER / SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS GIVEN BY THE STUDENTS

Spørreundersøkelse via Mitt UiB, annen evaluering, tilbakemelding fra tillitsvalgte og/eller andre.

COURSE EVALUATION ON MITT UIB, OTHER EVALUATIONS, RESPONSES FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR OTHERS.

With only five students giving seminars so far, and only two students officially registering for the course, it was decided to not yet carry out a student evaluation. However, the students have overall reacted favourably to the seminar series as can be seen from the steadily growing attendance. A student evaluation is planned for the end of the next semester when at least four students should have completed the course.

EMNEANSVARLIG SIN EVALUERING OG VURDERING / EVALUATION AND COMMENTS BY COURSE COORDINATOR:

Faglæreres vurderinger av emnet. *TEACHER COMMENTS.*

Eksempel: Kommentarer om praktisk gjennomføring, undervisnings- og vurderingsformer, evt. endringer underveis, studieinformasjon på nett og Mitt UiB, litteraturtilgang, samt lokaler og utstyr.

EXAMPLE: COMMENTS ABOUT PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS, IF NECESSARY. FUTURE CHANGES/CHANGES IN PROGRESS, STUDY INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET AND MITT UIB, LITERATURE ACCESS, LOCALES AND EQUIPMENT.

As mentioned above, the main challenge so far has been the rebooting of the course (and research school) after the pandemic and obtaining the general interest of the PhD students. By combining the seminars with additional relevant information for the students, such as information about the mandatory midterm evaluation or details on how to obtain and use their own travel grants, we have managed to attract more students to the seminar series with around ten students showing up at each meeting.

A separate MittUiB page for the research school has also been created to further spread the word about all research school activities, with all of the PhDs and postdocs at the department invited to join. This will hopefully in turn make more people aware of the early-stage researcher seminars and attract a larger audience.

The seminars are always organized in the same room, the meeting room at the 7th floor at BBB, with pizza or similar being served, which seems to ensure that more students show up. Combined with the meet-the-speaker lunches, organized three times per semester for invited speakers at the [BBB Seminars](#), this has resulted in there being at least one gathering of the PhD students per month, even in months when there were no student seminars.

MÅL FOR NESTE UNDERVISNINGSPERIODE – FORBEDRINGSTILTAK / PLANNED CHANGES FOR THE NEXT TEACHING PERIOD – HOW TO BE BETTER:

The main goal for 2023 will be to get even more of our PhD students to attend the research school, and in turn the seminar series, and ultimately get more of the students to present their own work in the form of a seminar. We have already made a shortlist of the students currently active in the research school that have not yet presented and the PhD coordinator will approach each of them in person to see if they could be willing to present.

We are also considering whether the format of the feedback/discussions after each seminar ought to be changed to increase the amount of interaction between the students. We are currently looking into if presentation technique and slide quality could be added to the list of items to talk about. This will however have to be discussed with the students first to see if this is something they would welcome. The hope is that such feedback could increase their willingness to give a seminar by seeing that they get something more out of it, as at the moment the common feedback is that if they do not need the 1 credit they do not see the reason for presenting.