

EMNERAPPORT – INSTITUTT FOR BIOMEDISIN

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICINE

Emnekode: <i>COURSE CODE:</i>	BMED380	Semester / år: <i>SEMESTER / YEAR:</i>	Spring – Autumn 2023
Emnenavn: <i>COURSE NAME:</i>	<i>Seminar Series</i>		
Emneansvarlig: <i>COURSE COORDINATOR:</i>	Harald Barsnes	Godkjent: <i>APPROVED: (admin.)</i>	Utdanningsleder IBM 05.01.2024
Rapporteringsdato: <i>DATE OF REPORT:</i>	January 4th, 2024		

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.

BMED380 - Seminar Series (5 ECTS) is a course open for students fulfilling the pre-requirement of, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree in biology or molecular biology, or equivalent. In the Master's Programme in Biomedical Sciences it is listed as an approved optional course.

The goal of the course is to provide the participants with an overview of different disciplines in bioscience and to give them training in listening to scientific presentations in English, as well as in interpreting, reflecting over, writing and discussing scientific information using the English language.

In the course the students follow the bi-weekly seminars held at the Department of Biomedicine. In addition, there is a mandatory module on research dissemination at MittUiB that must be completed. The course lasts for two consecutive semesters, starting in the spring semester. Only one of the many attendees this semester followed the seminar series as a student and was registered for an exam.

For the full description of the course, please see: <http://uib.no/course/BMED380>

For previous evaluation reports, please see: <https://kvalitetsbasen.app.uib.no/popup.php?kode=BMED380>

The previous evaluation report listed the following planned changes:

The main challenge for the next period of the course will be the reduced budget, as the success of the course highly depends on the quality of the invited speakers. How to make do with less funding and still provide one seminar per week is a question that is currently up for debate at the department level, especially if also trying to maintain a high number of international speakers. Relying on more online seminars via Zoom is of course possible, but should, in the course coordinator's opinion, be avoided. Reducing the number of seminars is also an option but would require a larger reformatting of the course content and should not be done without careful consideration of the consequences.

For the next period, we will also strive to improve the response rate for the student feedback. One option would be to add the general course feedback as part of the mandatory written assignments, or to have a joint in person discussion with all of the students towards the end of the semester. The drawback is of course that the feedback will then no longer be anonymous, hence it can perhaps be used in combination with the existing survey.

Finally, an attempt to attract more students to the course should also be considered. This however highly depends on the future format of the course which therefore first ought to be addressed properly.

Comments to this:

Due to the budget challenges mentioned above, it was in the end decided to reduce the number of seminars in the BBB Seminar series to twice per month. In order to account for the reduction in available seminars a new mandatory module

on research dissemination was created at MittUiB. This allowed us to retain the same number of credits for the course and enabled us to continue more or less as before with regards to the rest of the course.

When it comes to efforts to increase the response rate to the survey, this had to be delayed as there was only one student registered for the exam.

Finally, the goal of attracting more students also was postponed as the uncertain financial situation did not allow us to pursue this further until it was clear that the course would continue and in which format.

STATISTIKK / STATISTICS (admin.):

Antall vurderingsmeldte studenter: <i>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES REGISTERED FOR EXAMINATION:</i>		1	Antall studenter møtt til eksamen: <i>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ATTENDED EXAMINATION:</i>		1
Karakter- skala GRADING SCALE	«Bestått/ikke bestått»	Bestått / PASS:	1	Ikke bestått / FAIL:	-
	«PASS/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.

(No comments, as there was only one student taking the exam.)

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 very few students attending the course this year, it was obvious that a survey could not guarantee anonymity. Therefore, no survey was distributed this semester.

The single attendee however gave some positive feedback directly to the course leader during the two semesters and overall seemed to enjoy the current format of the course, including the new mandatory module on research dissemination.

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.

The new format of the course, with bi-weekly seminars instead of weekly, seems to work well. However, with fewer seminars, and thus a higher percentage of these having to be attended by the students (in order to retain the same number of credits) there is also an increased risk when seminars have to be cancelled due a planned speaker not being able to attend. Thankfully we only had two such cases in 2023, but only for one of these did we fail to find a last minute replacement.

The new mandatory module on research dissemination also seems to work well and was well received. It adds a new element to the course that pushes the students to think more about what makes a good research presentation, thus hopefully improving their own future presentations. However, more experience with this module is required before it can be properly evaluated.

Besides the occasional technical issue, the use of Auditorium 4 seems to be a good fit for the course. Its size is also suitable for the current average number of attendants. We did however notice an issue with the room sometimes being booked by others until right before the seminar was supposed to start. As this can potentially result in a delayed start of the seminar, given that an external speaker will need time to get used to the equipment and get ready for the talk, we have now made sure that the room is always booked from 15 minutes before the start of the seminar.

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

The main goal for the next teaching period will be to work on how to better advertise the course, especially to the master students at the Department of Biomedicine. Besides being on the list of approved optional courses (for master students at the Department of Biomedicine) there does not seem to be much publicity for the course. Perhaps a short introduction of BMED380 as part of the mandatory BMED320 course should be considered?

While this report is focused on the students attending BMED380, a related goal is to also attract a larger crowd in general to the seminar series. This should make for more interesting discussions after each seminar which ultimately also benefit the students. To achieve this, the currently used ways of advertising the seminars (posters, emails, etc.) will be extended to also include adding the seminars to the Outlook calendar for the employees at the Department of Biomedicine.

With regards to the practical execution of the seminar series that BMED380 is relying on we will also work towards making the administration processes more robust, i.e., booking of hotel rooms and reimbursement of travel expenses for the speakers, thus hopefully also reducing the time spent on such activities. This work has already been started and will continue in the current year.