

DIDACTIC REGULATIONS OF THE MASTER COURSE (LM7) PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR FOOD AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Article 1

Subject matter

These regulations govern the objectives, organization and operation of the master's programme in Plant Biotechnology for Food and Global Health (PlantBiotech) (hereinafter referred to as the programme), in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Statutes, the University General Regulations and the University Teaching Regulations.

Article 2

Name and class

The International master's degree in Plant Biotechnology for Food and Global Health (PlantBiotech), class LM7 - Agricultural Biotechnology, is activated at the Department of Agriculture and Forest Sciences (DAFNE).

Article 3

The organization of the study programme

1. The following are parts of the Course organization:
 - a) the Council of the Course;
 - b) the President of the Course.
2. The Course Council is composed by the Lecturers of the Course Board and a representation of the students enrolled in the Course, as indicated in the Departmental Regulations. The student representatives are elected in accordance with the procedures laid in the General Regulations of the University.
3. The President may appoint a Vice-President from among the eligible lecturers as Course President. The Vice-President shall replace the President in all his functions in the event of his incapacity or absence.
4. Upon President invitation, all lecturers of the course can attend the meetings of the Course Council without the right to vote, except in those cases in which the Course Council deals with matters relating to the didactic system of the course, the allocation of substitutes, contracts and assignments.

5. As for the convocation of the Course Council, the discipline established by the Statute and the General Regulations of the University defines the validity of the meetings, the voting procedures, as well as the meeting minutes. The Vice-President shall replace the President of the Course Council. The Vice-President replaces the President in all his functions in case of impediment or absence.

6. In urgent cases, in which it is not possible to convene a meeting of the Council, or when determination of general resolutions adopted by the Council is necessary, the President may convene a telematic meeting of the Board, in accordance with art. 4, paragraph 2, of the General Regulations of the University and its implementing decisions. In this case, the convocation shall clearly indicate:

- a) the subject of the decision to be taken by the Council;
- b) the time limit within which the members may express their opinion and vote;
- c) the time limit, which may not exceed three days from the date established for the end of the meeting, within which the President shall record, also by electronic means, the results of the deliberations held.

7. The Governing Board have the following functions:

- a) submit proposals to the Departmental Council on any matter of specific interest of the programme, such as the organization of courses, tutorials, work placements, orientation, the distribution of teaching loads among the members of the Course Council, and the allocation of teaching assignments;
- b) carry out the tasks delegated by the Departmental Council in the field of education, in accordance with the criteria established by the Departmental Council for the exercise of the delegated powers and in compliance with the coordination and control exercised by the Departmental Council;
- c) consider the establishment of commissions of enquiry on specific subjects and for specific purposes; the composition and attributions of the commissions shall be determined by the establishing resolution;
- d) exercise any other attribution provided by the legislation in force, the University Statute, the University Teaching Regulations and the Departmental Regulations.

8. The President of the Course is elected among professors at the University of Tuscia, components of the Course Council (as per art. 4, paragraph 2 of these Regulations) for a three-year term, renewable only once.

9. The President of the Degree Course represents the Degree Course, convenes and presides over the Degree Course Board, carries out its decisions and exercises all the other attributions provided by the regulations in force;

10. The President shall appoint a Technical Committee with investigative and support functions for the administration of the Course of Study.

Art. 4

Admission Conditions

1. Students must submit the pre-enrolment application to obtain the acceptance. Those who have obtained their bachelor's degree at UNITUS must apply for the authorization through the Student Portal. Those who have obtained their undergraduate degree at other universities must register *ex novo* in the GOMP portal, by creating their own profile, and send the admission request through the same portal.
2. The student who has sent the admission request will receive an invitation to the interview, in accordance with the regulations. The student will be informed of the result of the admission test by e-mail.
3. Enrolment in the PlantBiotech Master's Degree is open to all holders of a three-year (or five-year) degree from an Italian university or an equivalent degree obtained abroad and considered suitable based on the regulations in force and in accordance with the University's Teaching Regulations, with particular, but not exclusive, reference to graduates of classes L2, L13, L25, L26. Admission is subject to fulfilment of the following requirements:
 - a) The acquisition of a basic knowledge of at least 20 CFU (credits) among the following scientific disciplines or related areas: Mathematics (MAT/01 to MAT/09), Physics (FIS/01 to FIS/07), General Chemistry (CHIM/03), Organic Chemistry (CHIM/06), Genetics (AGR/07, BIO/18), Plant Biology (BIO/04, BIO/15) and Biochemistry (BIO/10). In the case of examinations taken abroad, membership of the specific DSSs will be determined by the Technical Committee based on documentation provided by the applicant;
 - b) have a basic knowledge on Informatic tools;
 - c) have a certified English B2 level.
4. The Technical Committee of the programme will evaluate the candidates' curricula and assess the presence or absence of gaps in the requirements. Based on the candidates' curricular situation, the Committee may propose to the candidates the activation of training activities in preparation of the examination.
5. The adequacy of the candidates' personal preparation is determined through an assessment (colloquium) by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will assess the knowledge of basic principles in plant biology (BIO/01-BIO/04), genetics (BIO/18 or AGR/07) and microbiology (BIO/19 or AGR/16). The above assessment methods also apply to students transferring from other master's degree courses.

6. The proportion of credits awarded to a student transferring from another programme will be assessed by the Technical Committee.
7. Students, including those who come from other universities, can fill any gap by enrolling, through Student Secretariat, in individual courses related to the scientific-disciplinary fields in which they must improve and must take the corresponding examinations before the admission test.
8. Students who do not have a bachelor's degree can also take the admission exam for master's degree courses, according to the necessary curricular requirements.
9. Students who fulfil the curricular requirements and pass the personal preparation test may enroll in the first year of the master's programme within the timeframe indicated in the student portal.

Article 5

Organization of didactic activities

1. The organization of teaching activities are divided into semesters and based on quality criteria, principles of efficiency and good administration.
2. The didactic organization is included in the database of the educational offer of the Education, University and Research Ministry, according to the art. 9 - c. 3 in the Ministerial Decree No. 270 22nd of October 2004 and on the Ministry website; it represents integral part of these Regulations.

Article 6

Educational Activities Chosen Independently by the Student (AFS)

1. Students may propose their own self-directed learning activities. The AFS correspond to a total of 12CFU, 50% of which may be acquired through training or examinations which have an eligible evaluation (no votes, only passed/failed). Other activities may be proposed by the student. The programme Board will verify the coherence of the educational activities proposed by the student with the educational objectives of the course, considering the motivations given by the student. The remaining 50% of the university credits required to complete the AFS (6CFU) must be obtained through graded examinations, which can be taken from courses belonging to the student's own degree level (first level, bachelor's degree; second level, Master's degree), from all the courses activated in DAFNE, DIBAF and DEB departments. In particular, if a student wishes to consider examinations belonging to a different programme as AFS (e.g. included in a three-year course and a Master's course), the student must submit the same request described above. Examinations with a substantial repetition of teaching activities in the relevant curricula or activity plans will not be accepted.

2. To obtain the credits from the chosen teaching activities, it is required to pass the examination, or other form of performance assessment, as established by this Regulation or by the University Teaching Regulations.

Article 7

Other training activities

1. The other training activities are activities other than examinations which allow the acquisition of several credits as described in the training plan. These credits are part of the 120 credits required to complete the PlantBiotech course.
2. The other training activities are defined by the Board of the programme and include, among others, internships in public and private institutions, external and internal activities recognized by the Department, thesis writing, acquisition of transversal skills (e.g. elements of safety, scientific communication, project writing), didactic visits and English learning.
3. Professional and training activities outside the University of Tuscia can also be considered as other training activities, if duly documented, consistent with the student's study plan and useful in providing additional knowledge compared to the exams included in the study plan. Credits assessment is always subsequent to the experience carried out and concludes the procedure started by a prior documented request from the student.

Article 8

Credit recognition

1. Students who transfer to the PlantBiotech Master's Degree from other degree courses of the University of Tuscia or other universities, belonging to the same LM7 class or to other classes, including those *ex lege* Ministerial Decree n. 509/1999, can request the recognition of the credits acquired during the origin course.
2. The Departmental Council, after evaluating the objectives achieved and the work carried out, decides on the proposal of the programme Board, on the total or partial recognition of the credits acquired by a student coming from another course at the University of Tuscia or other universities, indicating the year of the course in which the student is enrolled and any educational debt to be fulfilled. In exercising this power, the Departmental Council ensure the recognition of the maximum number of credits already acquired by the student, as proposed by the Board.
3. Non-recognition of credits must be duly justified and communicated to the applicant.

4. In the case of transfer between courses belonging to the same class, the proportion of credits relating to the same scientific discipline directly recognized for the student cannot be less than 50% of the credits already accumulated.

Article 9

Forms of profit verification and assessment

1. For each course and other training activities, there will be a final examination, in person and in English, the successful completion of which will enable the student to obtain the allocated credits.
2. Examinations are held as established by the University Teaching Regulations and according to the Departmental calendar.
3. The final examinations may consist of:
 - a) proficiency tests.
 - b) aptitude tests: internship, transversal skills.
4. Students can take examinations of the subjects scheduled for the year in which they are enrolled and in which they have completed their studies, as well as the examinations of the subjects of the years preceding the year in which they are enrolled.
5. All courses include an oral assessment of preparation, with a number of questions ranging from 3 to 5, and some also offer the possibility of a written exam. Some courses include integrative methods such as project work, problem solving and the writing of a dissertation on case studies, also with the consultation of one or more technical-scientific articles and, in some cases, with related presentation.
6. The examination will be held as prescribed by art. 26 of the University Teaching Regulations. A special report on the course of the examination will be drawn up and signed by the President and the members of the Commission and by the candidate.
7. The grade is expressed up to 30/30, with possible distinction. Passing the examination, and the achievement of the corresponding credits, requires a grade of at least 18/30.
8. In addition to the programme of study, each "syllabus" indicates the method by which the student's actual preparation will be assessed.
9. Appropriate differentiated methods are provided for students who have a DSA certificate, in accordance with the Law n. 170/2010.



Article 10

Orientation and guidance

1. The Course of Study, in harmony with the initiatives of the Faculties and the University, may organize orientation activities for the courses of study. The aim of such activities is to present the characteristics of the programme, to provide information to potentially interested students and to establish a positive relationship between the bachelor's and master's programmes.
2. The tutorial activity, carried out by lecturers of the programme, guides and assists students throughout their studies, with the aim of making them active subjects in the educational process, promoting their attendance at courses, and encouraging their participation.

Article 11

Staff and student mobility

The programme encourages the mobility of teachers and students. In accordance with the teaching and training needs of the programme, it participates in national, European, and international mobility programmes, facilitate the lecturer and student mobility, and uses available organizational and teaching resources to accommodate visiting lecturers and students. The Course Council pursues the activation of teaching cooperation agreements with foreign universities, e.g. double degrees, according to methods communicated on the departmental website and in the SUA-CdS course form.

Article 12

Final examination

1. To take the final examination, the student must have obtained the number of credits provided in the curriculum, excluding the number of credits allocated for the final examination, regardless of the number of years of enrolment in the programme.
2. The number of credits assigned for the final examination is indicated in the curriculum. Who obtains the degree are nominated Doctor in Plant Biotechnology for Food and Global Health.
3. The final examination consists of the preparation of an experimental thesis under the guidance of a supervisor and its defense in front of a committee during a public session. The experimental activities must be related to the topics of the degree programme and may be carried out in a departmental research laboratory or, alternatively, in R&D departments of external institutions or companies, or adequately equipped to support the planned experiments. In the latter case, an external supervisor belonging to the host organization or company must be indicated. The methods of

assigning, writing, presenting, and discussing the dissertation, as well as its characteristics, are evaluated by the Board of the Faculty and the Programme Board.

4. The final grade is expressed up to 110/110, with the possibility of achieving the maximum grade (110/110 *cum laude*) with distinction. The Commission assigns the vote based on criteria derived from the University and Faculty regulations in force.

Article 13

Quality

1. The programme contributes to the University's self-evaluation system in the forms and methods provided for by current legislation.

2. The Quality Assurance Working Group of the programme monitors the regularity of the programme quality assurance procedures, in accordance with the timetables and cadences laid down in current legislation on the subject, verifies the continuous updating of the information on the SUA_CdS form and assists the Programme President in the preparation of the Annual Monitoring Form and the Evaluation Report.

It also ensures the correct flow of information between the Joint Commissions and Quality Control. The QA Working Group is made up of the President of the Board of Directors, the members of the Technical Committee, the head of the teaching secretariat of the department and the student representatives.

3. The CdS Quality Group works in a collegial manner and keeps the Council informed.

Article 14

Final provisions

1. Anything not provided for in this regulation is governed by the University Teaching Regulations and the General Regulations of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry.

2. Amendments to these Regulations are proposed by the President or at least one third of the members of the Programme Council and approved by the Department Council and the Academic Senate.