

## SYLLABUS

### ETHICS AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University year 2026-2027

#### 1. Information regarding the programme

|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.1. Higher education institution  | Babeş-Bolyai University             |
| 1.2. Faculty                       | Faculty of Biology and Geology      |
| 1.3. Department                    | Integrative Biology Doctoral School |
| 1.4. Field of study                | Biology                             |
| 1.5. Study cycle                   | Doctorate                           |
| 1.6. Study programme/Qualification | Doctoral training / PhD in Biology  |
| 1.7. Form of education             |                                     |

#### 2. Information regarding the discipline

|                             |  |               |   |                         |                |                        |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|---|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| 2.1. Name of the discipline | <b>Ethics and academic integrity</b>           |               |   | Discipline code         | <b>BDR1108</b> |                        |   |
| 2.2. Course coordinator     | <b>Dr. Eszter Ruprecht associate professor</b> |               |   |                         |                |                        |   |
| 2.3. Seminar coordinator    | <b>Dr. Eszter Ruprecht associate professor</b> |               |   |                         |                |                        |   |
| 2.4. Year of study          | 1  | 2.5. Semester | 1 | 2.6. Type of evaluation | E              | 2.7. Discipline regime | M |

#### 3. Total estimated time (hours/semester of didactic activities)

|  |          |                      |          |                        |              |
|--|----------|----------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------|
| 3.1. Hours per week  | <b>4</b> | of which: 3.2 course | <b>2</b> | 3.3 seminar/laboratory | <b>2</b>     |
| 3.4. Total hours in the curriculum   | 48       | of which: 3.5 course | 24       | 3.6 seminar/laborator  | 24           |
| <b>Time allotment for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)</b>               |          |                      |          |                        | <b>hours</b> |
| 3.5.1. Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes (SA)                |          |                      |          |                        | 64           |
| 3.5.2. Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation) |          |                      |          |                        | 64           |
| 3.5.3. Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays                |          |                      |          |                        | 38           |
| 3.5.4. Tutorship   |          |                      |          |                        | 34           |
| 3.5.5. Evaluations   |          |                      |          |                        | 4            |
| 3.5.6. Other activities  |          |                      |          |                        | 0            |
| <b>3.7. Total individual study hours</b>   |          |                      |          |                        | <b>204</b>   |
| <b>3.8. Total hours per semester</b>   |          |                      |          |                        | <b>252</b>   |
| <b>3.9. Number of ECTS credits</b>   |          |                      |          |                        | <b>9</b>     |

#### 4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 4.1. curriculum   | No preconditions.   |
| 4.2. competencies | Using Ms Word;<br>Speaking and writing skills in English. |

#### 5. Conditions (if necessary)

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 5.1. for the course                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecture room with projector, Power Point softwear</li> <li>Online communication platforms (MS Teams/Zoom).</li> </ul>                  |
| 5.2. for the seminar /lab activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecture room with projector, Power Point softwear, internet access</li> <li>Online communication platforms (MS Teams/Zoom).</li> </ul> |

#### 6.1. Specific competencies acquired

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Professional/<br/>essential<br/>competencies</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning how to plan and accomplish research projects;</li> <li>Learning the ethical standards of scientific research and publication;</li> <li>Developing skills for scientific writing in Biology and Ecology.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Transversal competencies</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the critical thinking, which is a very important component of the whole scientific process: planning and conducting research projects and publishing results;</li> <li>• Involving and using the theoretical background of research practices and ethics for solving practical problems.</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------------|---|

## 6.2. Learning outcomes

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Knowledge</b>                    | The student knows:                                     |
| <b>Skills</b>                       | The student is able to:                                |
| <b>Responsibility and autonomy:</b> | The student has the ability to work independently for: |

## 7. Objectives of the discipline (outcome of the acquired competencies)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>7.1 General objective of the discipline</b>  | Developing skills for scientific research and publishing.  |
| <b>7.2 Specific objective of the discipline</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning general skills for conducting scientific research projects and the application of ethical considerations during the whole scientific process;</li> <li>• Developing critical thinking;</li> <li>• Developing skills in scientific writing (e.g. writing research articles or the Ph.D. thesis).</li> </ul> |

## 8. Content

| 8.1 Course  | Teaching methods                                  | Remarks |
|---|---|---------|
| Publication ethics in biology   | Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises | 2 hours |
| Research ethics in biology  |   | 2 hours |
| Research article structure; The Introduction  |   | 2 hours |
| Material and methods section  |   | 2 hours |
| Results section   |   | 2 hours |
| Designing figures and tables  |   | 2 hours |
| The Discussion and Conclusions sections   |   | 2 hours |
| The Abstract and the title  |   | 2 hours |
| References: editing the list of references and searching for scientific literature  |   | 2 hours |
| The publication process: selecting the target journal, submitting a manuscript, the peer-review process, roles or persons during the review process |   | 2 hours |

|   |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Corresponding with the editor and the reviewers   |   | 2 hours           |
| Developing publication skills   |   | 2 hours           |
| Bibliography<br>Cargill, M. & O'Connor, P. (2009). <i>Writing scientific research articles: Strategy and steps</i> . 1st edition, Blackwell Publishing.<br>Loehle, C. (2010). <i>Becoming a successful scientist. Strategic thinking for scientific discovery</i> . Cambridge University Press, New York.<br>Fraser, H., Parker, T., Nakagawa, S., Barnett, A. & Fidler, F. (2018). Questionable research practices in ecology and evolution. <i>PLoS ONE</i> 13(7): e0200303.<br>Matthews, J.R. & Matthews, R.W. (2012). <i>Successful scientific writing. A step-by-step guide for biological and medical sciences</i> . 3rd edition, Cambridge University Press. |   |                   |
| 8.2 Seminar / laboratory  | Teaching methods  | Remarks           |
| Analysing research articles published in high impact international journals in biology and ecology. Solving exercises.  | Presentation, exercises, discussion                         | 20 hours in total |
| Exam  | Evaluation of skills in scientific research and publication | 4 hours           |
| Bibliography<br>Scientific papers from public databases (PubMed Central, SpringerLink etc.) accessed by our university library (BCU) and ANELIS.<br>Cargill, M. & O'Connor, P. (2009). <i>Writing scientific research articles: Strategy and steps</i> . 1st edition, Blackwell Publishing.   |   |                   |

### 9. Corroborating the content of the discipline with the expectations of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers within the field of the program

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The courses have a similar content with courses at other European universities, and it takes into account the abilities of Ph.D. students;</li> <li>This discipline is fundamental for the implementation of scientific research activities, respecting ethical standards and developing skills in scientific writing (e.g. writing research articles or the Ph.D. thesis).</li> </ul> |
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### 10. Evaluation

| Activity type  | 10.1 Evaluation criteria | 10.2 Evaluation methods                                     | 10.3 Percentage of final grade |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 10.4 Course  | Assessment of knowledge  | Ongoing tests   | 50%                            |
| 10.5 Seminar/laboratory  | Activity during seminars | Writing tasks, exercises, discussions, answers to questions | 50%                            |
| 10.6 Minimum standard of performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of 50% of the content presented during the courses;</li> <li>Fulfilling 50% of the exercises and writing tasks during the seminars.</li> </ul> |                          |   |                                |

### 11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | General label for Sustainable Development |
|---|---|

Date:

Signature of course coordinator

Signature of seminar coordinator

19.02.2026

Conf. Dr. RUPRECHT Eszter

Conf. Dr. RUPRECHT Eszter

Date of approval:

Signature of the head of department

23.02.2026

CS I. Dr. COJOCARU Vlad