

Information Sheet for Master Students

Prerequisite for a master thesis in the *Molecular Targets Group* are the exams for the master modules **M1, M2 and M4**. Moreover, the student should be interested in molecular/cell-biological topics and practices.

The first 2-4 weeks are used for learning and training. During this time, the working techniques and the handling of machines/instruments are explained. After this introduction phase, the master student should be able to work independently, although there is always help if questions or problems occur.

The minimum duration of the master thesis is **4-6 months**. During this time, holiday can only be taken in consultation with the supervisor(s) or mentor(s). The duration of the holiday will be added to the duration of the master thesis. For conducting the master thesis, the following course will be earned: “**VU Selected Chapters of Pharmacognostical Research - M13**”.

General working hours are from 9 – 17. If working outside these hours is required, the supervisor(s) or mentor(s) must be consulted **in advance**. It is **not permitted** to work alone (without anyone else being present) in the lab! If there is no practical work to be done, time should be used for literature research, data analysis in Excel/Graph Pad etc.

Attendance of the **lab meeting** on Friday morning is mandatory. If attendance is not possible (doctor's appointment etc.), the supervisor(s) or mentor(s) must be informed. Attendance of the **Friday project discussions** with the mentor(s) every 3-4 weeks is mandatory. The master student will be informed about the exact dates of these discussions at the beginning of the master thesis. For these discussions, PowerPoint presentations should be prepared in English and forwarded to the people participating.

Attendance of the **Wednesday seminar for master students** is mandatory. At the end of this seminar, the master thesis will be presented.

Attendance of the **Journal Club on Fridays** (currently at 13:00) is mandatory. Presentation of a different topics related to scientific publishing and working in academia is encouraged and will earn the student the course “SE Academic Journey Club”.

The master's thesis involves relatively strict working hours and a fixed schedule that should be taken into consideration when planning other commitments. Cell and molecular biological laboratory work requires careful planning and regular attendance at specific times, leaving limited flexibility during the working day. Similarly, students who wish to attend additional courses or practical classes should take into account their attendance requirements and the associated time commitment when planning their thesis. If necessary, however, we recommend discussing your individual situation with your supervisor(s) or mentor(s) to explore whether a suitable arrangement can be found.