

International Seminars in Life Sciences (ISLS) – 10 ECTS

E.T.S. d'Enginyeria Agronòmica i del Medi Natural (ETSEAMN)

Objectives

The general objective of the ISLS course is to introduce students to current research developments and the latest in technology in a variety of domains related to Biosciences, including Agriculture, Forestry, Food Science and Bioengineering. Through lectures designed from an engineering point of view, students will be encouraged to take active part in seminars and class discussions as well as to report on selected topics before the class. Problem solving, teamwork, debate and oral communication skills will be reinforced. At the end of the course, students should be able to readily follow the scientific and technical focus adopted in the class, thereby improving their understanding of the English language and academic discourse required for research and study within and beyond the European Union.

Teaching staff

Professors visiting the UPV through academic and research exchange programs.

Methodology

As for the class structure and procedure, the ISLS sessions are designed to facilitate students' understanding of current research as well as to allow for class discussions of the given topic. To this end, the visiting professor is asked to prepare a 2 hour lecture about his/her area of research. Students must take notes to foster their understanding of the topic and acquisition of the vocabulary and structures specific to the field. Obviously, not all students will initially be interested in all the topics discussed; however, students are encouraged to consider each session as an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the distinct research fields within the realm of biosciences (agriculture, forestry, food sciences and biotechnology) as well as their comprehension of the language commonly used in academic and professional discourse. Likewise, lecturers must bear in mind that not all students will have the full background knowledge or vocabulary to readily follow the lecture. Therefore, we suggest that lecturers send their materials as soon as possible and that the presentations be designed for undergraduates of different study programs. Once the lecturer concludes his/her presentation, the host ETSEAMN faculty members open the floor for a more in-depth discussion of the research issue and facilitate student participation through inquiry, debate or related activities.

Evaluation

Student evaluation will take into account weekly attendance and active participation in the seminars as well as the formal, written reports from each seminar using the template provided for that purpose. In general, reports should include an introductory description of the topic presented, a structured development of the main points discussed, and individual comments reflecting the student's own position regarding the aspects addressed in the seminar.
