

# Minutes to Programme Committee for Master Program in Biomedical Sciences

Time: 8th November 2024, 12:30 – 14:30 Place: Seminary room 6A132A, 6 floor, BBB

### Invitees:

Members: Mathias Ziegler, Stian Knappskog, Camilla Krakstad, Karl Johan Tronstad, Karianne Fjeld, Inari Kursula, Casper Sandvik, Sebastian Gonzalez Rodriguez, Frode Berven, Ingvild Olerud, Andrews Summers.

Observers: Kristofer Rubin.

Administrative coordinator: Toma Christako

### Agenda

1	Comments on meeting invitation
	No comments
2	Minutes from the last meeting
	Attachment 1
	No comments
2	Adminsions

### 3 Admissions

This year's master programme for Biomedical sciences accepted 20 students

 20 new students for 2024 fall from Norway (12), Great Britain (2), India, Hungary, France, Colombia, Poland and Czech Republic

Study places		1st pri	ority applicants	Diference 2023-2024		
2023	2024	2023	2024			
20	25	109	140	+28%		

International NORST			NORST	EU				Nordic		Tot
11			IP							al
1st	Off	Accept	2024	1st	Qualifi	Off	Accept	Qualifi	Accept	
priori	er	ed		priori	ed	er	ed	ed	ed	
ty				ty						
28	2	1	1	31	22	15	4	88	24	30

Size of student cohort:

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2024	20
2023	17
2022	22
2021	32
2020	19

### Internationalization

- Now 1 student writes her master thesis in Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- Last year 1 student wrote her master thesis in Freie Universitat
   Berlin

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The committee is satisfied with student numbers this year.

PIs would like more information about Erasmus+ exchange possibilities for students through emails.

4 **Censor Report** (continuation of pt 3 of previous meeting)

Please see Attachment 2 (from 2024) and 3 (from 2022).

Committee report on how censor's questions are addressed:

- 1. Updated Acceptance Requirements
- 2. Integration with the Medical Faculty and Clinical Research Groups
- 3. Resource Allocation
- 4. Coursework at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

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- 1. As noted in the 2024 document, acceptance requirements now include 10 ECTS of laboratory practice.
- 2. Achievements so far:
- 8 of 20 students shall complete their 7-week internship in Clinical sciences department.
- 9 out of 17 second year students write their master thesis under the supervision of Clinical medicine and sciences departments.
- Camilla Krakstad and Karianne Fjeld were leading students' progress presentations.
- In the spring semester was accepted new course HUIMM320 (Basic Immunology) by the Clinical Science department.

The committee censor emphasizes that to develop a strong medical profile, it is essential to bridge the gap between basic and clinical science.

- 3. Allocated resources address the issue of insufficient student placements in IBM laboratories by placing more students in clinical departments. At IBM, funds are distributed among the five Research Units and are not influenced by the number of students in the study program. According to Frode Berven with the current setup the funding for the projects should be secured.
- 4. IBM is appealing to students with a bachelor's degree in molecular biology from NT-fak. This autumn, IBM introduced a new Python course, eliminating the need for students to seek similar courses at NT-fak. To maintain a good relationship, it is important to establish a general agreement ensuring that at least five places are always reserved for IBM master students in committee-approved courses, given that NT-fak students are prioritized.

# 5 BMED380 mandatory attendance in the first semester

(continuation of pt 5 of previous meeting)

- Plan to make it a mandatory activity (OBLIG) in BMED320
- How many absent days will be accepted? Consequences?

## Report FALL 2024:

- 20 students 5 seminars
- 4 students that have one absent day from these five seminars

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It was agreed to make BMED380 a mandatory component of BMED320. Students are required to attend at least 70% of all semester seminars.

### 6 BMED320 - Methods in Biomedical research

- Supervisors for 7-week lab internships are recruited, students have started their internship. Any comments on the process from Inari?
- Prelab course report:
  - It was late in scheduling, therefore was arranged for one day instead of two (difficulties to find available laboratory and days)
  - Next fall will be two days before 7-week lab internship
- Python course report:
  - The course went well, students participated actively and submitted required material during the course
  - Students' feedback was positive, and students stayed engaged though the course



 We could take two days for the prelab course with Halad Barsnes agreement. Does the committee agree?

### Plan for funds:

- We have 1 laptop for Python course for next fall (2025), will be ready to use for programming in case students do not have computer that could run properly
- Inari making a list of materials that could be bought for lab (SDS-PAGE, BioRender etc.)
- Salary for student/s for the next fall

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The committee will discuss whether it is acceptable to use two days from the Python course for the prelab course next year.

### Feedback from students:

- They appreciated using real data.
- The beginning was slow, which students felt was beneficial.
- The second week progressed faster.
- Overall, it was a good introduction to Python, and students feel motivated to continue using it.

# Overlap of Neuroscience courses at NT-fak (new MATNAT) MOL214 and IBM - BMED340

New course offered for the first time at NT-fak now in fall 2024 (MOL214)

Margaret Veruki's (course coordinator of BMED340) comments:

"This has potential negative consequences for the number of students taking BMED340 at MED

A targeted student group for both courses is MSc students interested in Neuroscience, and both courses will be taught in the Spring semester starting in 2025. That the courses will be taught in the same semester is probably the most problematic and unfortunate.

In the past years, we have had several students from MATNAT taking BMED340 (maybe 20-30%). These students may fall out.

The overlap is enough that MATNAT decided on a 5 credit reduction if both course are taken. Given that both courses will be taught in the same semester, it is unlikely that students will take both courses at the same time.

However, my concern is that there are many BSc students at MATNAT that apply to the MSc program at MED/IBM, and if these students have already taken MOL214, they are unlikely to take our neuroscience course that will only give them 5 credits.

However, we do not yet indicate on the web pages that there will be a point reduction for MOL214 - and this must be addressed

And now I have been contacted by a student that might want to take BMED340, that is currently taking MOL214, so we need to decide on the point reduction and if there is a point reduction, what does this mean in terms of the exam and the (mandatory) workshops"

## Suggested action:

- Make a point reduction?
- Change the course content?

See Attachment 4 for more details

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BMED340 is an advanced course designed for master's students, whereas MOL214 is at the bachelor level. The committee therefore concludes that BMED340 will most likely be largely unaffected by MOL214 and will follow up on this in due course.

## 8 Annual evaluation report

- BMED365
- ELMED219
- BMED331

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- Planned Changes for Spring 2025:
  - o BMED365 will be conducted exclusively in English.
  - o ELMED219 will continue to be conducted in Norwegian.
- BMED331 experienced issues with consistency, including several lecture reschedulings.

## 9 Progress presentations 16 – 17 October 2024

- 15 students participated, 2 students will have it later
- Short feedback from Camilla or Karianne (Chairs of event)

## ! Recommendations to set a standard for presentations

 Students represent university therefore should learn to use university's templates for presenting their work (<u>link to templates</u>). **Does the** committee agree?

## ! Progress presentations for 2025 week 12 (second)

• Who would be willing to take chair positions?

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It was noted that during the master progress presentations, there were very few supervisors present to support the students.

Students will be encouraged to use the university's templates or at least include the UiB logo to create more uniform presentations and build a cohesive brand.

The presentation schedule, which ran from 9:00 to 13:00 over two days, was well-received and should be maintained. However, the histology rooms are not suitable for progress presentations due to limited and locked access.

Alternative venues are recommended. For the spring, the conference room on the 3rd floor of BBB has been booked.

A separate email will be sent to the committee regarding the next chair positions for the spring.

#### 10 Orientations

- New course BMED326 "Protein structure determination, validation, and analysis" is published. Overview at <u>Protein structure determination</u>, validation, and analysis | University of Bergen (uib.no)
- Revised mandate for program committee 19.06.2024, link: <u>Mandat for Programutvalgene | Det medisinske fakultet | UiB</u>
  - Minimum 2 meetings every semester
- ! Study program pages should be reviewed annually <u>Biomedisin</u>, <u>master</u>,
   2 år | <u>Universitetet i Bergen</u>

#### 11 | From the students?

- Questions about the BMED320 exam.
- Suggested to plan for master ceremony for the spring if second year students are interested in having celebration.

## 12 Next meeting

7<sup>th</sup> February

23<sup>rd</sup> May

