

Biological Excursions (C003021)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

practical
excursion

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Van Uytvanck, Jan

WE11

lecturer-in-charge

Batsleer, Femke

WE11

co-lecturer

Bonte, Dries

WE11

co-lecturer

Chatrou, Lars

WE11

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Bachelor of Science in Biology](#)

crdts

4

offering

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Biodiversity, biogeography, ecology

Position of the course

The aim of this course is to teach students practical field knowledge and identification skills, so that they can recognize species from various taxa and explain their occurrence in relation to their habitat and their biogeographic distribution.

Contents

Excursions focusing on certain taxonomic groups (e.g. fungi, invertebrates, vertebrates, indigenous and exotic tree species, pteridophytes and angiosperms, ...), with additional microscopy in the laboratory depending on the taxonomic group. Excursions to different biogeographic regions in Belgium with emphasis on landscape, habitats, ecological conditions, interactions, and the biogeographically or ecologically characteristic species of the regions, with attention to nature conservation and management. Labs aimed at learning how to identify plant families and species, with applications in characterizing vegetation types.

Initial competences

You can download the list of prerequisites on [oasis.ugent.be?cursuscode=C003021&taal=en](https://oasis.ugent.be/cursuscode=C003021&taal=en).

The course forms an intensive, practical builder of field experience and field knowledge, illustrating aspects of the courses Biodiversity of invertebrates, Biodiversity of plants, Geology: System Earth and Ecology in BSc 1 and Mycology, Biodiversity of vertebrates, Arthropoda, Population Ecology, and Biogeography in BSc 2. The theoretical basis given in these courses forms the background for the course Biological Excursions, and will be considered as acquired knowledge.

Final competences

- 1 To have insight into identification methods for different types of organisms (fungi, plants, invertebrates,...) and to be able to apply these methods.
- 2 To be able to recognize the most characteristic species of the different geographical regions of Belgium in the field and in a photograph.
- 3 To be able to compare the abiotic habitat conditions between the different geographical regions of Belgium, and to explain how these differences arose.
- 4 To be able to link the occurrence of organisms and plant communities to the abiotic habitat

conditions.

5 To be aware of the diversity of organisms in the different regions of Belgium, and to be able to judge the rarity of organisms.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Excursion, Practical

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Excursion bundles, species lists and background information

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Lab Material

Name: Flora's en identificatiesleutels

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Additional information: De boeken met florabewerkingen en identificatiesleutels zijn aanwezig in de UGent bibliotheek, en worden door de docenten ter beschikking gesteld tijdens het practicum voor het identificeren van materiaal dat ingezameld is in Arboretum Tervuren. Flora's worden regelmatig gebruikt in het veld tijdens de excursies; een eigen flora is hierbij nuttig.

Type: Excursion

Name: Excursion

Indicative price: € 90

Optional: no

Type: Excursion

Name: Excursion materials

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: yes

Additional information: Own (optional) excursion materials: such as field guides, loupe, note material, etc. To be provided by the student and/or provided in earlier courses.

References

Course content-related study coaching

The lecturer-in-charge, assistants, and postdocs guide excursions and lab work. Questions can be asked during the excursions or labs, via e-mail, or by appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Participation in the excursions and labs is mandatory.

Knowledge acquired during the excursions and labs is tested during the written exam (species, ecological relationships, and general knowledge about ecoregions). The evaluation of lab work and lab reports is integrated into the calculation of the total grade.

Students legitimately absent from excursions or labs can take the exam in the first exam period, provided that a replacement task has been completed: excursion on own initiative (following ufora guidelines) or replacement lab including a report of said task submitted in due time. Students illegitimately absent from excursions or labs cannot take the exam in the first exam period, but taking the exam in the second exam period is possible, provided that a replacement task (excursion on own initiative or replacement lab) has been completed and a report of said task submitted in due time.

Each replacement task should be planned in consultation with the responsible lecturer.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical evaluation: written examination with open questions (/20). The evaluation of presence at excursions/practica and reports is included in the final grade.