

Environmental Toxicogenomics (C004231)

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

Credits 4.0

Study time 100 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Cancio, Ibon

LEIOA01

lecturer-in-charge

Bilbao, Eider

LEIOA01

co-lecturer

Diaz de Cerio, Oihane

LEIOA01

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources](#)

crdts

4

offering

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

molluscs, crustaceans, fish, genomics, transcriptomics, pollution, health assessment

Position of the course

Environmental genomics, with emphasis on transcriptomic studies in environmentally relevant nonmodel organisms; application of genomic technology to environmental resources management and ecosystem health assessment.

Aims at providing basic notions, with the use of practical examples, that will explain the principal techniques used in marine and environmental genomics and toxicogenomics.

At the end of the Unit the student should master the technology, tools and information required for the planning, development and interpretation of high throughput genomic and transcriptomic studies; and know how to design a research project based upon the study of gene transcription profiles diagnostic of exposure to and/or effect of chemical compounds in laboratory and real field/environmental conditions: selection of sentinel species, sequence information retrieval; traditional and massively parallel sequencing techniques; gene expression analysis techniques; and analysis of gene pathways.

Contents

- 1 Environmental metagenomics and gene discovery
- 2 Genomic services for aquaculture, fisheries research, study of fish stock dynamics, agriculture, food supply, comparative physiology...
- 3 Genomics and environmental model organisms.
- 4 Marine genomics and patents.
- 5 Basic concepts in toxicogenomics: ecotoxicogenomics, functional genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, analysis of gene expression, and gene ontology.
- 6 Molecular mechanisms in cell toxicity: effects on gene transcription levels. Gene families with predictive capacity in toxicology: inflammation; peroxisome proliferation; mutagenesis; carcinogenesis; teratogenesis; agonists of AhR and other nuclear receptors; metal scavengers; detoxification metabolism; cytotoxicity; apoptosis; and immunosuppression...
- 7 How to address the lack of basic gene sequence information about the species of

interest. Cloning, "expressed sequence tags" (ESTs). "Suppression subtractive hybridisation-PCR". Gene sequencing, Genome vs transcriptome sequencing. Massively parallel sequencing techniques. Sequence/Gene annotation (Gene ontology).

- 8 Basic techniques for the qualitative and quantitative study of differential gene expression (effects of chemical compounds). Toxicological fingerprinting. RT-PCR, Q-RT-PCR. Northern-blot, dot-blot, in situ hybridisation. Differential display PCR. Suppression subtractive hybridisation-PCR. Microarrays (microchips) and transcriptomics
- 9 Toxicogenomics vs proteomics vs metabolomics. Systems biology.
- 10 Knock-down and transgenic technology and the gene dissection of relevant molecular pathways.
- 11 Practicals: Navigating through the web in search of gene/genome/metagenome data bases. Gene sequence repositories, Genome sequence repositories (NCBI, ENSEMBL, GOLD). Gene expression repositories (GEO, Arrayexpress). Pathway analysis based on Gene ontology (GoFact, KEGG pathways). Microarray data interpretation and analysis tools.

Initial competences

Basis of bioscience or animal science and environmental sciences.

Final competences

- 1 Detect/interpret molecularly and mechanistically the adaptation events that living organisms trigger to obtain homeostasis in disease; reproduction; toxicity, feeding regimes and in a changing environment.
- 2 Determine the action mechanisms of different chemical compounds, on different cell functional pathways and structures.
- 3 Understand the usefulness of using transcriptional profiles in the evaluation of the quality of the environment and its application in pollution biomonitoring programs.
- 4 Learn the diagnostic usefulness of the ecotoxicogenomic approach in the determination of the ethiology of diverse pathologies and toxicopathies, in animals.

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

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures 24
- Practicals 2
- Computer class 8

Study material

None

References

to be provided during the course

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Assignment

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

Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

Personal report (100%), attendance and Notebook of practicals may be used to apply correction factors.