

## PhD programs in Plant Sciences and Science & Policy: Alpine Plant Ecology - International Summer School

**Lecturers:** Dr. Erika Hiltbrunner (Univ. Basel), Prof. Christian Körner (Univ. Basel),  
Dr. Patrick Möhl (Univ. Manchester), Dr. Lars Dietrich (Univ. Bonn)

**Location:** ALPFOR research station, Furka Pass 2440 m asl  
<http://www.alpfor.ch/general.shtml>

**Dates:** July, 13 - 19, 2025

**Credit Points:** 3 ECTS

### Course objectives and program:

It's a comprehensive graduate course on alpine plant life in the Swiss central Alps, jointly organized by the University of Basel and the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC) for graduate students (PhD level) with basic training in plant science. The course covers microclimatology, vegetation ecology, reproduction biology, aspects of biodiversity, soil science, ecophysiology and ecosystem ecology. Morning and evening lectures, field excursions and teamwork on small projects will make this week, in a truly alpine environment, a lifetime experience. The ALPFOR research station is surrounded by a great variety of typical alpine vegetation, covering glacier forfields and late successional alpine grasslands.

**Prior knowledge/reading:** Basic knowledge in plant science. For participants without training in functional ecology, work through the literature (C. Körner (2021) Alpine Plant Life (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) Springer, Berlin) and the (free) electronic course ALPANDINO:  
<http://www.alpandino.org>.

**Number of Participants:** Participation is limited to 24 students

**Registration:** Please pre-register by sending, your name, affiliation, PhD program and a motivation letter to [franziska.grob@unibas.ch](mailto:franziska.grob@unibas.ch) until 27 February 2025. Acceptance information: 2 April 2025, confirmed registration after paying the fee by the end of May 2025.

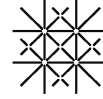
PhD-students in the PSC programs enroll via <https://ethz.ch/staffnet/en/service/courses-continuing-education.html>. University of Basel students register via Unibas Services (MOnA). Participation for Master students is very limited (decision based on graduate degree).

**Costs:** Participants travel on their own means and organization to the Furka Pass. The full board costs for the 6-day course are CHF 400 all-inclusive. For PhD students enrolled with the PSC PhD Program in „Plant Sciences“ or „Science and Policy“ the course costs will largely be paid by the PSC on a first come first serve basis (up to 6 graduates). Once accepted for the course, fees are due by **28 May 2025**. Once paid, participation is confirmed.



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**ETH** zürich



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Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

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**Individual performance and assessment:** Credits will be given on a pass/fail basis (active participation, design and presentation of mini-project).

**Logistics:** Participants will stay at the research station at the Furka Pass at 2440 m, arrive on Sunday afternoon (latest for dinner and welcome at 19:00) and depart on Saturday (c. 14:00). Accommodation and full board meals will be in the youth hostel style. The post bus station is 'Hotel Furkablick' and buses start from either Andermatt or Oberwald. There is a good mobile phone connection, but limited WLAN.

**What to bring:** Bring your laptop, notebook for field notes and lecture notes, waterproof mountain boots (NO sports shoes please), slippers for indoors, sun hat, sun cream, good weatherproof clothes, towel, small bag (rucksack), drinking bottle and reusable lunch box for outdoor activities. There are woolen blankets, duvets, bed linen and pillow covers. Sleeping bags are welcome. We commonly use 4-bed rooms for 3 people as long as space permits.