

Drug Seminar

The course **Drug Seminar** takes place during the first 7 weeks of the first master semester. It is a compulsory course of the MSc Pharmacy curriculum and an elective course in the MSc PharmSciences. The course provides a platform for the investigation, presentation and discussion of a topic with relevance to the field of pharmaceutical sciences. During the course, students work in small teams on a topic of their choice and elaborate an oral presentation. Each team is tutored by a lecturer of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The work is mainly based on literature search/review, but may also involve conducting interviews or site visits, if appropriate. The final presentations of all groups take place in the framework of a dedicated Symposium held in the middle of the semester.

The main objectives of this course are:

- students develop their scientific reflection (“Critical Thinking”) and working skills by working independently on a relevant pharmaceutical topic
- students gain in-depth knowledge of the topic investigated
- students train their scientific writing and presentation skills
- students train their ability to plan a project and work in a team

DRUG SEMINAR WORKFLOW AND TIMELINE

Beginning of the semester:

1) Meeting of all participants

A compulsory information session with all participating students will take place on Thursday or Friday of the first semester week. Students will be informed about the learning objectives, assessment and general expectations (*“rules of the game”*) of the Drug Seminar course. Moreover, a brief session to reflect on general rules for scientific writing and presentation, team work and project planning will be held.

Students need to be registered for the Drug Seminar (535-0010-00L) via myStudies.

2) Team formation

A team working on one topic consists of 3-4 students. It is up to the students to assemble their team. In exceptional cases teams can also consist of 2 students.

3) Choosing a topic / finding a tutor

A) Propose your own topic

Students are encouraged to propose their own topic, based on their special interests and knowledge. The subject must belong to the field pharmaceutical sciences (a list of topics from previous years can be found on the respective page of the [programme website](#)). If you would like to propose a topic, please contact a lecturer at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences with presumed expertise in the field of interest and discuss your topic proposal with him/her. A list of possible lecturers can be found on the programme website. The lecturer will judge whether the topic is suitable (if not, he/she may suggest related alternatives) and will inform the students whether he/she can take over the tutorship (i.e. has free time capacities).

B) Choose a topic proposed by a lecturer

Additionally, lecturers from the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences will in advance propose several potential topics that they would be willing to supervise. These topics will be published on the programme website.

Once a lecturer agrees to supervise a team on a particular topic, he/she will confirm this in writing (by e-mail) to the team. *Of note:* Lecturers are not obliged to supervise all the topics they propose (which are on the list of topics) or that the students propose, but will accept tutorship based on their time capacities. Topics and tutorship consent will be given away on a first come-first serve basis.

4) Deadline for team formation / topic identification & tutor consent

The official deadline for defining the team and the topic is **one week after the kickoff-meeting (noon)**. Each team needs to fill in their information (topic, tutor, name of the team members) on an online Google-Doc (the link will be provided by the responsible lecturer).

5) Tutoring phase

During the working period (i.e. first half of the semester), 2 – 3 meetings with the tutor should take place. Since the agendas of lecturers fill up fast, we recommend that students fix the meeting dates with their tutor as soon as possible (if possible before the start of the semester).

6) Symposium

The Symposium will take place at ETH at the end of the first half of the autumn semester (typically on Thursday/Friday of the 7th week of the semester). In addition to students and lecturers, also interested members of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences may attend the Symposium. For students, participation of the entire event is compulsory. Each team will be allocated a slot of 25 min; 15 minutes for presentation (max. 15 slides in total – ideally 4-5 min presentation time per team member) and 10 min for discussion.

7) Assessment

The tutor assesses the work of each student. Based on group work and oral presentation, the semester performance is passed or failed.

