

Consolidation Work (7 ECTS credits)

The Consolidation Work normally takes place during the second half of the 2. semester. It is an elective subject in the MSc Pharmaceutical Sciences programme and is typically taken by students that have opted for the “Theoretical Track”. The Consolidation Work consists of a literature work and provides an opportunity for the students to deeply investigate and consolidate their knowledge in a scientific or technical field of relevance to pharmaceutical sciences/the pharmaceutical industry. Students work alone on a topic of their choice over a time period of maximally 12 weeks and elaborate a written review article. Over this time students are loosely supervised by a lecturer of the master study programme. The work is mainly based on literature search/review, but may also involve conducting interviews or site visits, if appropriate. The final review is handed in to the supervisor and subsequently discussed with her/him during a final meeting.

The main objectives of this course are:

- Students develop their scientific reflection (“Critical Thinking”) and independent working skills on a topic relevant to pharmaceutical sciences/the pharmaceutical industry,
- Students gain in-depth knowledge of the topic investigated,
- Students train their scientific writing skills.

1) Choosing a topic / finding a supervisor

Students are encouraged to propose their own topic, based on their special interests and knowledge. Students with a specific topic idea should contact a lecturer from the MSc Pharmaceutical Sciences programme (or any other lecturer from within the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences) with presumed expertise in the field of interest and discuss their topic proposal with him/her. 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 supervision (i.e. has free time capacities).

Alternatively, students may contact lecturers without having any specific topics in mind and ask them to suggest a suitable topic in their field of expertise.

2) Registration in myStudies

Students need to register for the Consolidation Work (511-0006-00) via myStudies and select their supervisor. Ideally, the topic should also have been defined by then.

3) Working phase

It is the duty of the student to present a work plan (e.g. structure of the review, selection of topics for subchapters, time line for writing) to the supervisor and to take initiative for contacting the supervisor should difficulties arise during the working phase. At least two contacts with the supervisor should take place during the working phase to discuss the student's progress and give feedback on the work performed so far. Since the agendas of lecturers fill up fast, we recommend that students fix the dates for these meetings/ phone calls with their supervisor as soon as possible.

4) Output: report/review

Students will need to submit a review, which should typically consist of 4000 – 6000 words, excluding references. The review typically consists of: title page, table of contents, abstract, main text (divided into subchapters), figures and tables (if applicable), list of references, declaration of originality.

The final review needs to be submitted to the supervisor at the latest 12 weeks after starting the work. During this time period, students are expected to have spent 175 – 210 working hours (i.e. the workload equivalent to 7 ECTS credits) on their Consolidation Work.

5) Final meeting and discussion

The supervisor will assess the final version of the review submitted by the student prior to the final discussion meeting. He/she may request revisions of the review before awarding the credits.