



PhD Program in Plant Sciences: Responsible Conduct in Research

Lecturer: Prof. Nina Buchmann & Dr. Melanie Paschke

Location: ETH Zürich, LFW, D 12

Dates: March 10 and May 5, 2017, 14:15 – 18:00

Credit Points: 1 ECTS

Course Content

When studying at a University, Master's and PhD students are joining the scientific community and, therefore, have to learn the codes of professional and responsible conduct in research. In this course, we provide information about specific rules, regulations and guidelines for research integrity and responsible conduct as well as a tool kit for moral reasoning. The course will raise awareness for potential conflicts of interest and will discuss real life examples, e.g., about questions of authorship and giving credits, data treatment and interpretation, communication and responsibility in the public. Students will discuss case studies with a typical conflict potential or a dilemma. They will work together in teams, discuss the codes of conduct and values established in science, and apply them to their case studies. The teams have to agree on actions to be taken for each case and present a consensus view.

A special focus is on practising and applying the process of ethical inquiry/moral reasoning as a tool to analyze ethical issues and reach a well-reflected decision in ethical ambiguous situations.

Learning Objectives:

- Students know the questions, conflicts and ethically ambiguous situations that may arise in research.
- Students can apply codes of responsible conduct in research, i.e., they understand and can apply the professional values and ethical norms of their profession.
- Students know how to deal with and communicate in ambiguous situations.
- Students will develop a professional attitude towards responsible conduct in research.

Prior Knowledge: none

Number of Participants: Participation is limited to 20 people.

Individual Performance and Assessment:

You will need to hand in a group case study journal and individual case study journal that will be individually assessed by the lecturers. A group presentation of the respective case study is also part of the overall assessment.