



PhD Program in Plant Sciences, Ecology and Evolution: Teaching Science at University

Lecturers: Dr. Sara Petchey
Location: Blended in-person and online course
Dates: 01.02.2024 9-12:00 (in person); 5 weeks online
16.05.2024; 9:00-17:00 (in person)
Credit Points: 2 ECTS

Course Description

Your first teaching experience should be effective, enjoyable, and personally beneficial. This course gives you the basic knowledge, tools, and practice to have such an experience. You will learn to make your scientific expertise accessible to your students and build a repertoire of evidence-based strategies for teaching abstract science topics to your students and making them active and successful learners. We will show you how to communicate science to novices as well as advanced students in science. The course blends in-person and online learning which allows you to learn as a cohort of peers while maintaining the flexibility to learn at convenient times. We start with an in-person, half-day course followed by a 5 week online course involving videos and a weekly assignment (average of 3 hours of work per week). We meet in-person again for one day at the end of the course.

Course learning objectives: You will learn how to

- implement evidence-based strategies into your own teaching,
- use students everyday-conceptions for the development of courses,
- prepare analogies and models to teach in your field,
- implement problem-based teaching,
- set up for experiments and teach the nature of science.

Prior Knowledge:

No prior knowledge is required. Important is that students have teaching responsibilities in the semester in which they take the course.

Individual Performance and Assessment:

In order to obtain the credit points, active participation on all course days is required. The online portion of the course is offered on OpenEdX.

Special Notes:

This course is organized for PhD students of the Life Science Zurich Graduate School. Priority will be given to students registered in the PhD Program in Ecology, Evolution and Plant Sciences. Other PhD students Master students and Postdocs if places available. MSc students will not be awarded ECTS credits unless agreed with the lecturer and the program coordinator prior to the course.

! For registration please mail phdecology@ieu.uzh.ch, include your PhD program and your student number. !