



MASTER DEGREE
**BIOPHARMACEUTICAL
SCIENCES**

2018·19

FACULTY OF PHARMACY · UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA

Presentation

This Course enlarges the classical concept of biopharmaceutical sciences by providing scientific, multidisciplinary background on the discovery phase of the drug development process, at advanced level. The program includes the study of molecular mechanisms of disease, potential therapeutic targets and therapeutic strategies, while motivating students to equate and solve problems, in close collaboration with the FCT R&D unit, Research Institute for Medicines (iMed.Ulisboa).

Coordinator:

Cecília M.P. Rodrigues

Scientific Committee:

Cecília M.P. Rodrigues

José Moniz-Pereira

Dora Brites

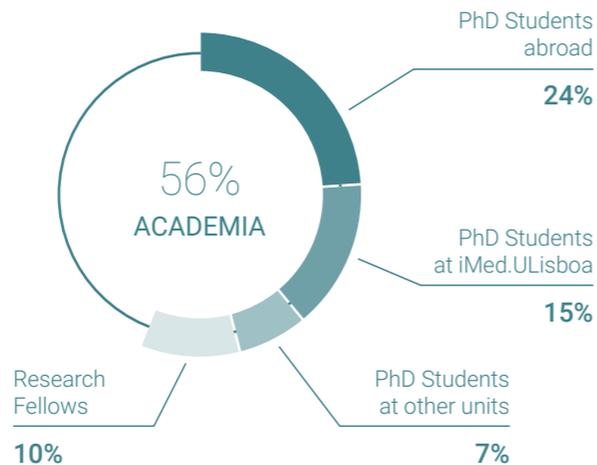
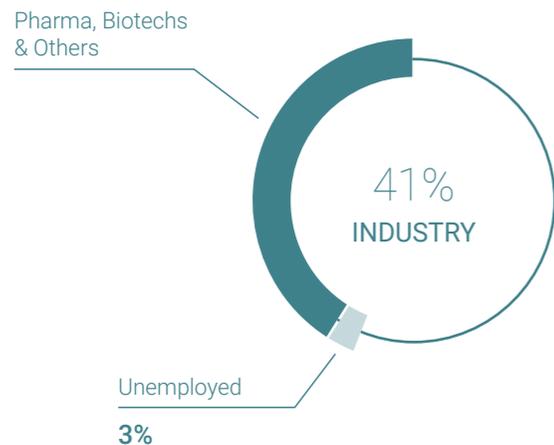
Graça Soveral

Objectives

The MSc Course in Biopharmaceutical Sciences will train graduates to discover innovative targets and drugs to treat and cure human diseases. Top academic and industry experts will deliver key courses and topics, in line with the preconized research-innovation-education triangle in Europe. This MSc Course has been designed for those targeting a career in research universities and institutes, pharmaceutical industry and biotechs, often providing advanced training towards a PhD degree or a career in pharma and biotechs.

Employability

2013+2015



REQUIREMENTS

BSc in areas of Health Sciences, Life Sciences or Biotechnologies, or with adequate curriculum vitae.

SELECTION

1) classification of the academic degree, and adequateness to the program; 2) curriculum vitae; 3) interview, if needed. Maximum 32 students will be selected.

APPLICATIONS

1st call | Application period: June 1 to July 20, 2018
Publication of results: July 31, 2018

2nd call | Application period: July 21 to September 5, 2018
Publication of results: September 10, 2018

REGISTRATION

September 17-21, 2018

CALENDAR

From September 24, 2018
Monday through Friday, 17:00 - 20:00 h

TUITION

National students: 3.250 € (year 1: 1.500 €; year 2: 1.750 €)
International students: 7.000 € (year 1: 3.250 €; year 2: 3.750 €)
Application: 75 € | Registration: 75 €
Insurance

Courses and Contents

Study Plan

4 Semesters | 120 ECTS

Year 1

1st Semester

<i>Optional: *</i>	ECTS
Metabolic Biochemistry	4
Membrane Transport	4
Molecular Genetics of Bacteria	4
Cellular Microbiology	4
Development and Organization of the Nervous System	4
Brain Barriers in Drug Development	4
Eukaryotic Gene Regulation and Functional Genomics	4
Cell Signalling	4
Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics	4
Free Curricular Unit I **	4
<i>Mandatory:</i>	
Scientific Writing and Communication	6

2nd Semester

<i>Optional: *</i>	ECTS
Oncobiology and Stem Cell Biology	4
Pharmacogenetics	4
Proteostasis Network in Health and Disease	4
Neuropathology and Neuropharmacology	4
Pathophysiology of Neuroinflammation	4
Human Molecular Genetics	4
HIV/AIDS and Associated Infections	4
Research and Development of Biopharmaceuticals	4
Methodologies of Data Analysis	4
Free Curricular Unit II **	4
<i>Mandatory:</i>	
Experimental Design in Research and Innovation	6

Year 2

3rd and 4th Semester

	ECTS
Dissertation	60

*Optional curricular units - select 24 credits. The 6 curricular units/ semester selected by more students will be given in each year.

**Curricular unit within related scientific areas offered by the University of Lisbon.

Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics

Maria Rosário Brito Correia Lobato (coordinator)

Nuno Miguel Elvas Neves Silva, Paulo Jorge Pereira Alves Paixão

Description and quantitation of factors affecting the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) of drugs. Development of appropriate dosage regimens and graphical analysis of drug concentration data sets. Bioequivalence and drug product testing. Application of biopharmaceutical and pharmacokinetic theory to clinical problems involved in optimizing and monitoring drug use in patients.

Brain Barriers in Drug Development

Maria Alexandra de Oliveira Silva Braga Pedreira de Brito, Dora Maria Tuna de Oliveira Brites (coordinators)

Ana Rita Mendonça Vaz Botelho, Rui Fernando Marques da Silva

Brain barriers are complex and dynamic structures that protect the nervous tissue against the entrance of toxic substances. However, the restricted permeability and selectively limits entry of drugs into the central nervous system (CNS), which constitutes an obstacle to therapy. This course presents the current state of knowledge regarding the following aspects: blood brain barrier (BBB) as a protective interface, its constitution and properties; functional interaction between cells and molecules of the nervous tissue and concept of neurovascular unit; structural and functional changes of the BBB in pathological situations and role of the BBB as a cause or consequence of neurological damage; in silico, in vitro, ex vivo and in vivo models to study BBB; in silico evaluation of the BBB transposition by drugs; development of drugs for the treatment of CNS disorders and therapeutic strategies to overcome the BBB; other barriers: blood-retinal barrier and blood-cerebro-spinal fluid barrier.

Cell Signalling

Cecília Maria Pereira Rodrigues (coordinator)

Joana Dias Amaral, Rui Eduardo Mota Castro, Susana Zeferino Solá da Cruz

The cells of our body integrate signals from multiple stimuli to mount appropriate physiological responses. These signals are transmitted to specific targets within the cell by intracellular signalling pathways. The fidelity of signal transmission by these pathways and the cross-talk between them are tightly controlled. This unit will cover how key signalling pathways in cells transduce extracellular signals to regulate gene expression and cellular processes such as growth and apoptosis. It will also provide an understanding of how disruption of these pathways can lead to diseases such as cancer and neurodegenerative disorders, and may inspire target and biomarker discovery in drug discovery and diagnosis programmes. The aims are to: 1) provide an understanding of the mechanisms by which cells communicate; 2) illustrate the commonalities and differences between mechanisms, using examples of key signalling molecules and pathways; 3) provide a basis for understanding disease processes in which signal transduction is compromised; 4) give insight into experimental methods used for studying cell signalling. Students will be able to understand the relevance of cell signalling in a variety of physiological and pathological situations, discuss relevant scientific literature, and develop their critical thinking skills.

Cellular Microbiology

Elsa Maria Ribeiro dos Santos Anes (coordinator)

Jorge Manuel Barreto Vítor, José Miguel Azevedo Pereira

This course details the host-pathogen cell biology. Cell cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix, cell-cell junctions, cell signalling, endocytosis and cell trafficking and mechanisms of programmed cell death. Mechanisms of bacterial adhesion. Adherence and tropism. Signalling. Mechanisms of bacterial invasion into host. Avoidance of intracellular killing. Interaction of bacteria with the endocytic pathway, membrane trafficking and phagocytosis. Interaction of pathogens with the innate and adaptive Immune system. Manipulation of programmed cell death by pathogens. Bacterial toxins as tools in cell biology. This program will present the tools and methodologies to follow cellular components and study phenomena of host interaction with microorganisms, as well as potential therapeutic targets to control infection and inflammatory processes.

Development and Organization of the Nervous System

Rui Fernando Marques da Silva, Maria Alexandra de Oliveira Silva Braga Pedreira de Brito (coordinators)

Adelaide Maria Afonso Fernandes Borralho, Ana Rita Mendonça Vaz Botelho, Dora Maria Tuna de Oliveira Brites

Neurogenesis: neurulation, formation of the neural tube, differentiation and cell diversity, cell lineages and genetic dependence, neuronal migration. Neural stem cells: embryonic and adult. Anatomy of the Central Nervous System (CNS): divisions and subdivisions; general structure of the brain and spinal cord; meninges and brain ventricles. Histology of the CNS: cell types, their structure and functionality. Neurons: structure and function; cell body and neurites; morphological and functional classification; compartments and functional domains, protein synthesis. Cytoskeleton, neuropeptides, classical and unconventional neurotransmitters; axonal transport, motor proteins. Structure and function of glial cells: astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, microglia and ependymal cells. Organization of the central nervous tissues.

Eukaryotic Gene Regulation and Functional Genomics

Maria João Carlos da Silva Gama (coordinator)

Elsa Margarida Teixeira Rodrigues

Studies the molecular mechanisms that regulate eukaryotic gene expression, and whole-genome and global eukaryotic gene expression analyses. Emphasis will be put on transcription/transcription factors as suitable targets for therapeutic drugs. The important interplay between the transcription machinery and chromatin will be addressed in line with the basic principles of epigenetics as an additional layer of transcriptional control. The role of epigenetic mechanisms in normal development and human disease will be explored. Gene regulation by noncoding RNAs will also be addressed. Functional genomics constitutes the second main theme, including analytical experimental methodology used in transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics. Finally the sophisticated tools used for generation of genetically modified mice will be presented and the use of novel mouse models humanized for genes in drug metabolism and safety studies will be discussed.

Experimental Design in Research and Innovation

Cecília Maria Pereira Rodrigues (coordinator)

All teaching staff members

This unit consists of a period of direct contact of the student with scientific areas of interest, within the scope of the program contents of the Master Course in Biopharmaceutical Sciences. This is followed by the design of an experimental research essay, under the supervision of the tutor. The programme includes the study of: 1) principles and methods of selection of research topics, as well as research processes based on critical and creative thinking; 2) planning and implementation of research and innovation design; ethics in experimental design; 3) approaches to collection, analysis and validation of experimental data; and 4) dissemination and presentation of the experimental design; content organization; standards for writing and editing. It includes theoretical and practical knowledge on how to write a piece of work with emphasis on experimental research, how to apply concepts of experimental design, how to recognise and use advanced research methodologies, always prioritizing the key component of motivating students to equate and solve problems.

HIV/AIDS and Associated Infections

José Moniz-Pereira (coordinator)

Maria Isabel Portugal, José Miguel Azevedo Pereira, Maria Manuel Pereira Lopes

HIV/AIDS infection: structure and biology of HIV1 and HIV2; mechanisms of variability and its implications; viral pathogenesis; restraint systems to HIV replication; antivirals; resistance mechanisms; epidemiology and prevention; laboratory diagnosis; treatment; and vaccine strategies. Tuberculosis new challenges: latent tuberculosis and its implications for the epidemic; new forms of tuberculosis associated with HIV infection; multi and extensive drug-resistant tuberculosis; susceptibility and drug resistance. Relevant aspects of opportunistic mycoses associated with HIV/AIDS; factors favouring mycoses; diagnosis of fungal infection; antifungal mode of action and resistance mechanisms; monitoring of prophylaxis and antifungal therapy. Biosafety concepts. Isolation and characterization of microbial pathogens. Methods of susceptibility to antimicrobial agents; methods for microbial typing; laboratory diagnosis: serological, cultural and molecular methods; detection of mutations that confer resistance to antibiotics.

Human Molecular Genetics

Isabel Maria Antolin Martins de Carvalho (coordinator)

Jorge Manuel Barreto Vítor

Theoretical lessons include topics such as the human genome: structure, organization and control of gene expression; origin of genetic variation: mechanisms underlying genome alteration and their consequences; patterns of inheritance: mendelian and complex; molecular pathology and genotype-phenotype correlation; molecular diagnosis: genetic tests in individuals and populations; new approaches to treating genetic diseases. Practical classes include analytical strategies for studying different types of pathology; evaluation of gene expression at transcriptional and translational levels; identification of mutations and characterization by sequence analysis; use of bioinformatics tools for experimental design and data interpretation. Laboratory classes will train on isolation and purification of nucleic acids from different types of biological samples; methods for mutation screening; methods for targeted mutation search.

Membrane Transport

Maria da Graça Tavares Rebelo de Soveral Rodrigues (coordinator)

Biologic membranes are essential to cell function. Disorders of membrane structure, dysfunction of membrane proteins and cell compartmentalization may have serious consequences for living cells and have been related with several diseases. Knowledge on structure and function of biological membranes and transport systems is essential for developing new methods for diagnostic, drug design and novel therapeutic approaches.

Subjects to be discussed include: biomembranes, structure and composition; biophysical bases of membrane transport; chemio-osmotic transduction and transport systems – transporters (symport and antiport transport systems), channels and active transport systems (pumps); ABC transporters and multiple drug resistance; transepithelial transport, the kidney as an osmoregulatory organ; intestinal nutrient and drug uptake.

Metabolic Biochemistry

Margarida Maria Fernandes Baptista e Silva (coordinator)

Maria Rita Mouzinho de Albuquerque Azevedo e Castro

Human metabolism as the basis for the advanced study of disease mechanisms and drug actions. Biochemical processes and homeostasis: fluxes through catabolic and anabolic pathways. Mechanisms of activation/inhibition and enzyme catalysis. Nexus with regulation of gene expression and epigenetics. Metabolic pathways underlying the study of pathogenesis, from rare to common diseases. The inherited metabolic disorders involving amino acid and nitrogen metabolism, fatty acids and carbohydrates. Function and dysfunction of mitochondrial fatty acid beta-oxidation and oxidative phosphorylation in cellular energy metabolism. Mitochondrial alterations in cancer cells. Metabolic interactions and cross-links with xenobiotics and pharmacological or toxicological mechanisms. Therapeutic targets, drug metabolism and drug metabolizing enzymes. Laboratory course content is focused on the application of mass spectrometry-based analytical techniques to specific problems in metabolomics and proteomics. Characterization of biomarkers for the diagnosis and research in health and disease.

Methodologies of Data Analysis

Maria Isabel Calisto Frade Barão (ccordinator)

Random variables and probability models. Preliminary data analysis. Parametric statistical inference. Analysis of variance and design of experiments. Nonparametric statistics. Regression analysis. Statistical quality control. Special topics: sampling, multivariate data analysis.

Molecular Genetics of Bacteria

José Moniz-Pereira, Madalena Maria Pimentel (coordinators)

Carlos Jorge Sousa de São-José

Lectures provide a historical perspective of bacterial molecular genetics; relevance of mobile genetic elements in horizontal genetic transfer; bacteriophages plasmids, transposons, its structure and properties; recombinant DNA technology; cloning and gene expression vectors; recombineering; control of transcription in bacteria; bacterial genomics; bioinformatic tools to forecast genes identification and function; development and analysis of bacterial mutant libraries by mutagenic transposition; identification, structure and function of genes; examples of molecular genetic analyses; virulence factors; biogenesis of bacterial cell wall; bacterial resistance to antibiotics; application in the search of new therapeutic targets. Laboratorial teaching includes thematic classes. Study models are chosen from among ongoing research topics, such as solation and analysis of mutants, cloning and gene expression; recombineering; gene functional analysis.

Neuropathology and Neuropharmacology

Maria Alexandra Brito, Dora Maria Tuna de Oliveira Brites (coordinators)

Adelaide Maria Afonso Fernandes Borralho, Ana Rita Mendonça Vaz Botelho, Rui Fernando Marques da Silva

Neurological impairment and neurodegeneration. Neurodegeneration mechanisms: role of oxidative stress, excitotoxicity, and cell death pathways. Neuritic development and synaptic plasticity alterations. Susceptibility of various cell types to neurodegeneration induced by various insults. Brain pathology: neurodegenerative diseases and tumours. Behavioural toxicology. Neuromodulation by pharmacological agents. Computational drug design.

Oncobiology and Stem Cell Biology

Cecília Maria Pereira Rodrigues, Rui Eduardo Mota Castro (coordinators)

Joana São José Dias Amaral, Susana Zeferino Solá da Cruz

Cell specification, migration, proliferation and death are key cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying cancer onset and development, while also influencing therapy response. Convergence of information from omics technologies, such as genomics, proteomics and metabolomics, and bioinformatics, together with translational state of the art research are shedding light into mechanisms of tumour cell development, evasion, and therapeutic targeting. Based on active research in these areas, this unit will cover functional aspects of oncogenes, tumour suppressors, apoptotic genes, miRNAs and other relevant players in cancer, involved in gain and loss of function, and principles of therapeutic targeting in cancer. The aims are to: 1) provide an understanding of the multistep mechanism of cancer cell growth, from cytokines and receptors to multidrug resistance; 2) explore principles of cancer treatment, from chemotherapy, gene therapy, humoral and cellular immunotherapy to tumour vaccination; and 3) give insight into experimental methods for diagnosis of cancer. Students will be able to understand the biology of cancer and the relevance of emerging areas of drug development and systems biology towards precision oncology.

Pathophysiology of Neuroinflammation

Dora Maria Tuna de Oliveira Brites, Adelaide Maria Afonso Fernandes Borralho (coordinators)

Ana Rita Mendonça Vaz Botelho

One of the most recent advances in neuroscience research relies on the understanding of the existing communication between the immune peripheral system and the central nervous system (CNS). Neuroimmune interactions and inflammatory responses are considered central players in brain function and dysfunction. Their relevance in several brain disorders led to the development of tools to study these processes. Neuroinflammation research relies on the identification of cellular and molecular mechanisms, and on the elucidation of cell-to-cell trafficking mediated by extracellular vesicles and their cargo in miRNAs, by using an array of different techniques. This course covers from causes, signs, symptoms and diagnosis of CNS inflammation to the recruitment and brain infiltration of leucocytes. Microglia activation and astrocyte reactivity to insults and infections, contribution of macrophages and changes in myelination/demyelination processes are dissected. The course offers hands-on experience in up-to-date methodologies to study microglial cells and cellular inflammatory responses, using *in vitro* and *ex vivo* approaches. This represents an exciting opportunity to develop and/or assay potential medicines to treat neurodegenerative diseases.

Pharmacogenetics

Elsa Margarida Teixeira Rodrigues (coordinator)

Filipa Duarte Ramos, Hélder Mota-Filipe, Maria João Carlos da Silva Gama

This course provides students with an overview of the current knowledge in pharmacogenetics. Key areas covered by this course are: 1) Basic principles of human genetics; 2) Human genome and web accessible databases; 3) Methods to identify mutations and to study their functionality; 4) Basis of molecular epidemiology; 5) Genetic polymorphism of drug metabolizing enzymes and drug transporters (characterization and clinical importance); 6) Genetic polymorphism of genes responsible for the drug mechanism of action (characterization and clinical importance); 7) Importance of Pharmacogenetics for therapy of different types of diseases; 8) Association between certain HLA alleles and adverse drug reactions; 9) Useful pharmacogenetic biomarkers for prediction of adverse reactions/efficacy; 10) Personalized medicine in the future.

Proteostasis Network in Health and Disease

Ana Paula Peralta Leandro (coordinator)

Maria de Fátima Vieira Ventura

This unit includes theoretical and practical topics covering cellular events occurring in disturbed protein homeostasis as well as methods for the discovery of compounds aiming to restore the protein balance. Topics include: biologically assisted protein folding; the proteostasis network; conformational diseases and the proteostasis boundary; pharmacological modulation of proteostasis (pharmacologic chaperones, proteostasis regulators and synergistic effects); *in cellulo* and *in vitro* approaches to identify proteostasis checkpoints and modulators of protein folding; identified lead compounds as orphan drugs (Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products and Regulation on Orphan Medicinal Products). Hands-on classes will cover: expression and purification of an eukaryotic enzyme (wild-type and misfolded mutant); protein structural and functional characterization; identification of potential chemical/pharmacological chaperones. The students will also be trained for the use of bioinformatics tools for *in silico* analysis of proteins.

Research and Development of Biopharmaceuticals

João Braz Gonçalves (coordinator)

Traditional biopharmaceuticals obtained by molecular engineering; strategies of biopharmaceutical discovery using molecular methods like proteomics, genomics and metabolomics; strategies of developing biopharmaceuticals using biomolecular technologies of bacterial and mammalian manipulation; methods of discovering and developing therapeutic proteins by direct evolution; direct mutagenesis aiming to improve interaction and stability of therapeutic proteins; development strategies of therapeutic antibodies; patent procedures and international protection; strategies of biopharmaceutical production using microbiological processes and mammalian cell culture; quality control of biopharmaceuticals. Case studies will be covered in several aspects of biopharmaceutical R&D: interferons, interleukins and tumour necrosis factor; growth factors; hormones with therapeutic interest; monoclonal and recombinant antibodies; vaccines; gene therapy and siRNA.

Scientific Writing and Communication

Cecília Maria Pereira Rodrigues (coordinator)

All teaching staff members

This unit consists of a period of direct contact of the student with a scientific area of interest, within the scope of the programme contents of the Master Course in Biopharmaceutical Sciences. This period is followed by the preparation of a review article, under the supervision of the tutor. Included in the programme is the study of: 1) principles and methods of selection of review topics, according to their current relevance and general interest, based on critical and creative thinking; 2) planning and implementation of the literature review; tools and methodologies of bibliographic search; information sources; 3) critical analysis of related literature; 4) dissemination and presentation of results and conclusions from the literature review; content organization; standards for writing and editing a review article; ethics in literature review; dissemination sites, rules and norms associated with dissemination. It includes theoretical and practical knowledge about how to start a literature review; how to analyse and better select themes and sources of information; how to frame, interpret and critically evaluate available information; and how to present and disseminate results and conclusions of the review.

MASTER DEGREE IN BIOPHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

2018/20 · 9th EDITION

*Accredited by Agência de Avaliação e Acreditação do
Ensino Superior (A3ES)*

INFORMATION AND SECRETARIAT

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