

Study programme: Master of Biology

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KU Leuven uses the [COBRA method](#) to work on the quality of its study programmes. In this report the programme committee reports every four years on the quality of its programme(s) and describes the identified strengths and planned actions of its programme Master of Biology.

Strengths of the study programme

— The study programme makes an all-out effort to stimulate activating teaching methods such as excursions, field work, practical sessions and exercises, and by integrating group work, article discussions, digital voting and peer teaching in the lectures.

The study programme devotes special attention to advance a critical-scientific attitude. This attitude is especially developed during article discussions, as for example explicitly implemented in the course 'Critical Discussions in Molecular Biology and Physiology'.

The students have several options to develop professional skills. These include elective courses on entrepreneurship and a job event.

— The master's thesis is strongly developed and activating; it has considerable added value to guarantee the achievement of the learning objectives of the study programme. The high quality of this graduation project frequently results in the obtained data and insights leading to scientific publications.

Planned actions

The programme aims at further improving the scientific writing skills by means of a novel course 'Research grant writing'.

A special effort is planned to link in existing courses to basic knowledge on environmental regulations and law.

This COBRA report is a result of the past four-year COBRA cycle (2015-2019). Each study programme that participated in the COBRA cycle has drawn up this document, which specifies the strengths and planned actions of the study programme. These strengths and actions result from the dialogue between the programme and its stakeholders (primary actors, alumni, professional field and international experts from the discipline). This report aims to give a comprehensive indication of the study programme's realised quality. The COBRA report will be made available in the programme guide, so it will be accessible to the public.

