

# COBRA REPORT

## Study programme: Master of Biology (Leuven)

Drawn up on: December 22, 2022

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 and describes the identified strengths and planned actions of its programme(s) Master of biology (Leuven).

### Strengths of the study programme(s)

— The programme is build around two different tracks, but leaves sufficient room for interdisciplinarity and, through a common core, further strengthens the increasingly important computational and data-analysis skills of all students.

The study programme also pays special attention to the development of a critical-scientific attitude, for example using debate sessions or article discussions in diverse courses and most explicitly implemented in the 'Critical Discussions in Molecular Biology and Physiology' course.

The increasingly international study programme more generally uses activating teaching methods (supported by a dedicated team of teaching assistants), such as excursions, field work, practical sessions and exercises, integrating group work, digital voting and peer teaching.

— Finally, the Master's thesis in one of the Biology department's research groups (30 credits) enables students to take their first steps towards becoming independent scientists. It is the capstone of the programme, guaranteeing achievement of its learning objectives. The high quality of this graduation project frequently results in the obtained data and insights being used in scientific publications.

### Planned actions

The programme will further strengthen important soft skills relevant for all fields, including critical thinking and problem solving, project management, debating effectively and constructively, working in team as well as independently, and taking responsibility and initiative.

The programme will also further strengthen contacts with biologists' broader working field (in and outside academia), for example through guest lectures and network events, and further facilitate international (outgoing) exchange.

This COBRA report is a result of the past four-year COBRA cycle (2019-2023). 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.



More information on COBRA: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/quality/cobra-english/quality-assurance-method>  
 More information on the quality of education: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/quality>  
 KU Leuven educational terminology: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/educational-glossary/educational-glossary>