

## MASTER IN FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS AND PROTEOMICS

### Main Language of Instruction:

French  English  Arabic

Campus Where The Program Is Offered: CST

### OBJECTIVES

The Master in Functional Genomics and Proteomics provides multidisciplinary training for biologists and biochemists. It is founded on comprehensive, research-based teaching employing complementary approaches in structural and functional genomics and proteomics. The program aims to equip graduates with the skills to design and implement methodological and experimental approaches, developing innovative solutions to elucidate and address complex biological questions.

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

The program aims to acquire in-depth theoretical knowledge in various fields of biology, including: molecular and cellular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, genetics, immunology, and physiology. The program also aims to develop methodological and practical skills as well as transversal competencies required for the professional integration of graduates.

Graduates of this Master's program are capable of:

- Using scientific knowledge to solve complex situations in biology and biochemistry
- Designing and applying experimental protocols
- Managing a research project related to the fields of biology and biochemistry
- Communicating scientific information related to the fields of biology and biochemistry

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission is based on the examination of the candidate's application and following an interview with the selection committee.

- Admission to the first semester of the Master's program (M1) is open to holders of a Bachelor in Life and Earth Sciences - Biochemistry from the USJ Faculty of Science, or any other degree deemed equivalent by the USJ Equivalence Commission.
- Admission to the third semester of the Master's program (M3) is open to students who have completed the first year of a Master's program in Biology or Biochemistry considered equivalent by the USJ Equivalence Commission.

### COURSES/CREDITS GRANTED BY EQUIVALENCE

Equivalences are established based on the examination of application files and in correlation with the descriptions of the modules previously validated.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### Required Courses (120 Cr.)

Analysis of the Structure of Macromolecules (3 Cr.), Applied Genetics (3 Cr.), Applied Immunology (4 Cr.), Bioinformatics for Transcriptome Analysis (3 Cr.), Cellular Biochemistry (2 Cr.), Communication (4 Cr.), Computational Biology (2 Cr.), Culture of Animal Cells, Stem Cells, and Tissue Engineering (2 Cr.), Data Processing and Analysis (4 Cr.), DNA Metabarcoding (2 Cr.), End-of-Study Project (30 Cr.), Genetic Engineering (4 Cr.), Genome Assembly and Annotation (1 Cr.), Genome Editing and Transgenic Model Organisms (2 Cr.), Human Genetics (2 Cr.), Instrumental Analysis Methods (3 Cr.), Integrative Biology: Peptidomics, Proteomics, Lipidomics, and Metabolomics (3 Cr.), Law and Legislation (2 Cr.), Molecular Applications for Forensic Sciences (1 Cr.), Molecular Markers (2 Cr.), Microbial

Engineering (4 Cr.), Neurosciences (3 Cr.), Pharmacology (2 Cr.), Physiopathological Basis of Human Diseases (3 Cr.), Population Genetics and Phylogenetics (4 Cr.), Project Management (4 Cr.), Professional Development (4 Cr.), Protein Engineering and Proteome Analysis (2 Cr.), Python Programming for Biologists (2 Cr.), Receptors of Innate Immunity and Transduction of Immunological Signals (1 Cr.), Regulation of Gene Expression (2 Cr.), Biology Seminars (1 Cr.), Statistics for Genomics (1 Cr.), Structural Bioinformatics (3 Cr.), Structure of Macromolecules (2 Cr.), Study of the Genome, Epigenome, and Transcriptome Using High-Throughput Approaches (3 Cr.).

## SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

### Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
048ICTBM1	Applied Immunology	4
048TAMTM1	Data Processing and Analysis	4
048COMTM1	Communication	4
048GGCBM1	Genetic Engineering	4
048DRLTM1	Law and Legislation	2
048GMCBM1	Microbial Engineering	4
048MMCBM1	Molecular Markers	2
048POCBM1	Pharmacology	2
048PYCBM1	Python Programming for Biologists	2
048SMCBM1	Structure of Macromolecules	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>
048CARCM1*	Communication in the Arabic Language <b>باللغة العربية التواصل</b>	2

\* Refresher course for students joining the master's program halfway through.

### Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
048ASCBM2	Analysis of the Structure of Macromolecules	3
048GACBM2	Applied Genetics	3
048BCCBM2	Cellular Biochemistry	2
048BTCBM2	Genome Assembly and Annotation	1
048AINCM2	Instrumental Analysis Methods	3
048NECBM2	Neurosciences	3
048BMCBM2	Physiopathological Basis of Human Diseases	3
048PVPTM2	Professional Development	4
048PRMTM2	Project Management	4
048GPCBM2	Population Genetics and Phylogenetics	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
048BATCM3	Bioinformatics for Transcriptome Analysis	3
048COCBM3	Computational Biology	2
048CCCBM3	Culture of Animal Cells, Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering	2
048DNAMM3	DNA Metabarcoding	2
048MGCBM3	Genome Editing and Transgenic Model Organisms	2
048GHCBM3	Human Genetics	2
048BCCBM3	Integrative Biology: Peptidomics, Proteomics, Lipidomics et Metabolomics	3
048MFCBM3	Molecular Applications for Forensic Sciences	1
048IPCBM3	Protein Engineering and Proteome Analysis	2
048RICBM3	Receptors of Innate Immunity and Transduction of Immunological Signals	1
048RGCBM3	Regulation of Gene Expression	2
048SASBM3	Biology Seminars	1
048SGCBM3	Statistics for Genomics	1
048BSCBM3	Structural Bioinformatics	3
048NGCBM3	Study of the Genome, Epigenome, and Transcriptome Using High-Throughput Approaches	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
048PFETM4	End-of-Study Project	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### 048ICTBM1 Applied Immunology 4 Cr.

This course aims to present and discuss pathologies related to dysfunction or overactivation of the immune system. Specifically, the course covers hypersensitivity reactions, chronic inflammation, autoimmune diseases, graft rejection, immunodeficiencies, and tumor development. It also includes techniques used in immunology research and practical sessions where students learn to manipulate mice – the most commonly used animal model in preclinical research. Practical sessions cover vaccination methods, identification of primary and secondary lymphoid organs, and isolation of their cells. These sessions will be used to implement experimental protocols such as ELISA and ELISPOT assays. By the end of this course, students will be capable of analyzing and interpreting experimental results in immunology.

### 048TAMTM1 Data Processing and Analysis 4 Cr.

The course is structured around two main axes:

- The first axis, “Statistics,” aims to raise awareness among students about the importance of statistics in data analysis, study planning, and understanding scientific literature.
- The second axis, “Multivariate Analysis,” aims to equip students with the necessary skills to use statistical tools to extract information and generate new knowledge from complex databases obtained through analytical methods or other means. This involves simultaneously analyzing a set of explanatory variables and constructing multivariate models that describe, compare, classify, and predict the characteristics of sample individuals. Multivariate analysis is widely used across various fields such as science, engineering, pharmacology, medicine, economics, and sociology.

**o48COMTM1 Communication****4 Cr.****Oral Communication**

Among all modes of interpersonal exchange, communication stands out as the most frequent activity. It thus forms the foundation for effective teamwork, group collaboration, or within a company.

Knowing how to communicate means:

- a) Expressing one's ideas
- b) Listening and asking questions
- c) Maintaining relational exchange
- d) Providing feedback

**Written Communication**

The primary objective of this section is to understand the importance of effective written communication in enhancing the organization's image. This includes an introduction to various situations of written communication within the organization, such as key internal communication messages (memos, reports, summaries, letters, etc.).

The second objective of this course is to equip students with all the necessary techniques for drafting documents essential in the professional world. From resumes to cover letters, including job application emails and unsolicited applications, students will gain a clear idea of the appropriate vocabulary to use depending on the situation they encounter.

**o48CARCM1 Communication in the Arabic Language****2 Cr.****Oral Communication**

Among all modes of interpersonal exchange, communication stands out as the most frequent activity. It thus forms the foundation for effective teamwork, group collaboration, or within a company.

Knowing how to communicate means:

- a) Expressing one's ideas
- b) Listening and asking questions
- c) Maintaining relational exchange
- d) Providing feedback

**o48GGCBM1 Genetic Engineering****4 Cr.**

This course aims to present various techniques developed for the manipulation of nucleic acids. Specifically, it details tools and methods for nucleic acid isolation, cloning, sequencing, directed gene mutation, as well as gene expression in heterologous hosts, and production and purification of recombinant proteins. By the end of this course, students will master molecular biology techniques essential for understanding and utilizing gene function, along with their practical applications.

**o48DRLTM1 Law and Legislation****2 Cr.**

The first part of this course aims to define intellectual property, which encompasses all exclusive rights granted for intellectual creations: legal rights to an idea, invention, or creation in industrial, scientific, literary, and artistic domains. The objective is to present the interests and advantages of such a concept before detailing the procedures for registering inventions or products.

The second part of this course aims to provide students with the set of rules governing interactions with citizens. It covers consumer law, business law, social law, labor law, as well as environmental law. These rules are codified, and students must be able to identify texts related to each domain to navigate them. It will include:

1. International environmental law and its application in Lebanon
2. Labor law
3. Social security law
4. Commercial law
5. Company law and industrial law.

<b>048GMCBM1</b>	<b>Microbial Engineering</b>	<b>4 Cr.</b>
------------------	------------------------------	--------------

The course introduces the rapid evolution and plasticity of bacterial genomes and their implications in bacterial virulence. Topics covered include bacterial conjugation and transformation, bacteriophage genetics, mechanisms of homologous and non-homologous recombination, transposable genetic elements, quorum sensing and its role in bacterial pathogenicity, two-component systems, methods for studying bacterial metabolism (isolation of auxotrophic mutants and syntrophy tests), mutagenesis in bacteria, methods for culture and preservation of microbial strains, and various applications of microbial genetics such as industrial production of enzymes, vitamins, amino acids, and biopesticides. This course includes both lectures and practical sessions in the laboratory.

<b>048MMCBM1</b>	<b>Molecular Markers</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	--------------------------	--------------

This course is dedicated to the exploration and utilization of DNA sequences as fundamental tools to uncover genetic diversity. Specifically, students will compare various techniques used for the detection and characterization of these markers, evaluating their advantages and limitations. The advancements in these techniques and their applications will be discussed in various contexts, including the characterization of genetic resources, forensic sciences, phylogenetics, and evolutionary biology.

<b>048POCBM1</b>	<b>Pharmacology</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	---------------------	--------------

This course aims to provide students with a rational understanding of the fundamentals of drug therapy. Specifically, it aims to :

- Present the various stages of drug development in the pharmaceutical industry.
- Provide essential knowledge regarding the main classes, formulations, and routes of administration of drugs.
- Develop a reasoned approach to drug pharmacology, encompassing pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacovigilance.

<b>048PYCBM1</b>	<b>Python Programming for Biologists</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	--	--------------

This course is designed to equip students with the essential tools for program development, recognizing the relevance of programming across various scientific fields. It is particularly crucial for students aspiring to pursue careers or engage in research in bioinformatics. The primary focus is on Python, a high-level general-purpose programming language. By the end of this course, students should be proficient in utilizing Python for programming tasks, demonstrating real-world application skills, and preparing for advanced topics.

<b>048SMCBM1</b>	<b>Structure of Macromolecules</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	------------------------------------	--------------

This course aims to introduce students to structural biology and bioenergetics. Within this framework, students will identify and characterize the four classes of macromolecules, especially proteins, and understand their structure, function, and engineering. This enables them to better assimilate the science of proteomics and to study the interactions between proteins and DNA, as well as proteins and other ligands. This knowledge will facilitate a deeper exploration of molecular architecture and the understanding of various diseases related to protein dysfunction, with the aim of developing or discovering new therapies.

<b>048ASCBM2</b>	<b>Analysis of the Structure of Macromolecules</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	--	--------------

This course aims to introduce students to techniques in structural biology, primarily spectroscopic methods, which enable exploration of macromolecular structures, particularly proteins. Understanding the principles of these techniques and interpreting the resulting data allow students to grasp macromolecular conformations, design their functions, analyze protein-ligand interactions, and evaluate their biological significance. This knowledge is valuable for various applications in molecular biology and biochemistry.

<b>048GACBM2</b>	<b>Applied Genetics</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	-------------------------	--------------

This course aims to develop the competencies required for implementing genetic-based research strategies. Using *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model, the course covers various strategies used for characterizing gene function. Specifically, this course addresses methodologies for generating mutant and transgenic lines, mapping mutations and silencing genes through RNA interference (RNAi).

<b>048BCCBM2</b>	<b>Cellular Biochemistry</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	------------------------------	--------------

This course provides students with important information on the general structure of proteins and cell membranes, with specific aspects concerning glycoproteins, membrane-associated proteins, and protein structure predictions. The translocation of proteins within various cellular compartments, the biochemistry of cellular communications, and their regulation are also discussed. Protein denaturation, renaturation, and their impacts on cellular functionality are examined. The affinity and specificity of molecular interactions are analyzed within the context of studying the structure-function relationship of biological macromolecules. Biochemical and spectroscopic approaches to studying molecular interactions are highlighted. Finally, protein splicing is addressed as a novel tool in applied biotechnology.

<b>048PRMTM2</b>	<b>Genome Assembly and Annotation</b>	<b>1 Cr.</b>
------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------

This course aims to introduce students to various genome analysis tools and applications, with a focus on genome assembly and annotation. Students will be invited to a hands-on application of, first, *de novo* genome assembly using Galaxy Tools, and second, genome annotation. Students will apply bioinformatic tools to annotate DNA sequences, interpret the resulting GenBank format, and analyze the detected proteins through database similarity searches, alignments and phylogenetic tree inference.

<b>048AINCM2</b>	<b>Instrumental Analysis Methods</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------

This course provides theoretical and practical knowledge that, when supplemented with appropriate internships, enables students to use Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy (NMR), Mass Spectrometry (MS), Infrared Spectroscopy (IR), UV/VIS spectroscopy, Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy, and separation techniques to address problems at the interface of chemistry and biology. These are powerful analytical techniques for elucidating molecular structures and conformations. Various applications, particularly focusing on protein characterization, will be discussed to familiarize students with these techniques and underscore their importance. Practical sessions focus on refining experimental skills for samples analysis.

<b>048NECBM2</b>	<b>Neurosciences</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	----------------------	--------------

This course builds upon molecular and cellular biology to explore how genes, signaling molecules, and different cell types influence the function of the nervous system. This integrative approach enhances understanding of the processes underlying behaviors, emotions, and cognition in both animals and humans.

The introduction presents various animal models and experimental techniques used in neuroscience, reviewing basic anatomical and physiological concepts at the level of neurons, synapses, and glial cells. A second part focuses on electrophysiology, detailing ion channels involved in membrane potentials and the electrophysiological characteristics of synaptic transmission.

Regarding complex brain functions, the course primarily addresses nociceptive sensation, sexual development, as well as learning and memory. Throughout, the course maintains an integrative perspective, linking genes to behavior. Finally, the last part of the course delves into common neurodegenerative diseases, touching upon neuro-inflammatory responses, neuronal repair, neurogenesis, and current therapeutic advances in neuronal stem cells.

<b>048BMCBM2</b>	<b>Physiopathological Basis of Human Diseases</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	---	--------------

The aim of this course is to describe and analyze, at the cellular and molecular levels, both the mechanisms involved in the dysregulation of homeostasis and those involved in the various responses of the body to stress of organic origin, with a particular emphasis on the cardiovascular, nervous, renal, and muscular systems.

<b>048PVPTM2</b>	<b>Professional Development</b>	<b>4 Cr.</b>
------------------	---------------------------------	--------------

This course offers students a first experience in a research laboratory. During a short-term internship, students actively participate in a research project under the supervision of an experienced researcher. They conduct comprehensive literature reviews related to their project, plan and execute at least one experiment, and analyze and interpret the obtained results. At the end of the internship, students prepare a comprehensive report detailing their work, and deliver an oral presentation to a panel of faculty researchers, discussing their findings and future perspectives.



This course enhances skills in problem-solving, critical analysis, and scientific communication, which are essential for a successful career in scientific research.

<b>048PRMTM2</b>	<b>Project Management</b>	<b>4 Cr.</b>
------------------	---------------------------	--------------

This course is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively plan, execute, and manage projects across various disciplines. Through a combination of theoretical concepts and practical applications, students will learn how to navigate the complexities of project management, from start to finish.

<b>048GPPCM2</b>	<b>Population Genetics and Phylogenetics</b>	<b>4 Cr.</b>
------------------	--	--------------

Population genetics is a discipline aimed at identifying and quantifying the various processes that influence genetic variability and differentiation within populations, forming the foundation of evolution. Understanding these processes is essential for interpreting biological phenomena in an evolutionary context. After acquiring the principles of basic genetics, students are introduced to calculating allele, genotype, and phenotype frequencies within populations. They also study the effects of mutations, migrations, deviations from panmixia, genetic drift, and selection on these frequency variations.

By the end of the course, students should be able to understand the various processes impacting population variability and to apply key models and estimators.

Phylogenetics focuses on studying relationships among related species. By the end of the course, students will grasp the concept of species, the general principles of phylogenetic reconstruction, and the ability to interpret a phylogeny. They will also understand the relationship between evolutionary history, ecology, biogeography, biodiversity, and speciation.

<b>048BATCM3</b>	<b>Bioinformatics for Transcriptome Analysis</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	--	--------------

Spatial and bulk transcriptomics approaches - Genome structure and analysis - Gene expression and transcriptional regulation - Programming with R - Development of workflows with Galaxy.

<b>048COCBM3</b>	<b>Computational Biology</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	------------------------------	--------------

Computational analysis of cis-regulatory regions using the RSAT software suite - Impact of DNA methylation on transcriptional regulation networks with software demonstrations - Logical modeling of cellular regulatory networks using the GINsim software suite - Transitioning from molecular data to models for personalized cancer treatments.

<b>048CCCBM3</b>	<b>Culture of Animal Cells, Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	---	--------------

This course explores the theory and various techniques of cell culture, covering the culture of normal cells, cell lines, spontaneously immortalized cells, and genetically engineered immortalized cells, as well as addressing different types of stem cells. It also discusses best practices for isolation and culture of animal cells, along with specific culture requirements for each cell type. Additionally, it examines the co-culture of different cell types, 3D cultures, and their applications in various medical settings.

<b>048DNAMM3</b>	<b>DNA Metabarcoding</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	--------------------------	--------------

Metabarcoding is a rapid method for assessing biodiversity that combines two technologies: DNA-based identification and high-throughput DNA sequencing. It aids in biodiversity assessment using environmental DNA (eDNA) obtained from sediments, soils, water, etc. Metabarcoding has a wide range of applications including biodiversity monitoring, diet analysis of animals, reconstruction of paleocommunities, and more.

DNA Metabarcoding requires skills in bioinformatics and biostatistics to analyze sequencing results. This course provides students with fundamental knowledge and skills to apply metabarcoding to eDNA. It covers field sampling techniques and laboratory experiments, focusing on applications such as sedimentary DNA, diet analysis, paleo-DNA studies, and metagenomics of microbial communities.

Additionally, the course offers insights into current technology and various platforms used in metabarcoding. Lectures and data analyses will deepen students' understanding of eDNA applications in molecular ecology.

<b>048PFETM4</b>	<b>End-of-Study Project</b>	<b>30 Cr.</b>
------------------	-----------------------------	---------------

The end-of-study year project is based on a 4 to 7-month internship in industry or a research laboratory. At the end of this internship students prepare a comprehensive report detailing their work, and deliver an oral presentation to a panel of faculty researchers and representatives from the professional sectors, discussing their findings and future perspectives.

<b>048MGCBM3</b>	<b>Genome Editing</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	-----------------------	--------------

The aim of this course is to provide an overview of the genome editing techniques with a special focus on the CRISPR Cas9 method that is revolutionizing our way of modifying the genome. There will be a hands-on session so that students will be able to design their own experiments using different web tools.

<b>048GHCBM3</b>	<b>Human Genetics</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	-----------------------	--------------

This course covers the fundamental basics of human genetics, drawing on various examples of human pathologies.

<b>048BCCBM3</b>	<b>Integrative Biology: Peptidomics, Proteomics, Lipidomics and Metabolomics</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	--	--------------

This course aims to apply biology knowledge to solve problems in human pathophysiology. It builds on fundamental concepts of cell biology, biochemistry, and physiology, focusing on the eukaryotic cell and its environment from a “geopolitical” perspective – analyzing the choices available to a cell or cell population in a hostile environment. This approach revisits theoretical concepts learned in previous studies in a dynamic and applied manner, addressing them in the context of pathophysiological issues.

The course also explores various “-omics” approaches used complementarily to gain a holistic understanding of biological processes. The objective is to enable students to grasp how these approaches contribute to biomedical research, personalized medicine, and understanding diseases.

<b>048MFCBM3</b>	<b>Molecular Applications for Forensic Sciences</b>	<b>1 Cr.</b>
------------------	---	--------------

This course highlights the importance of genetic testing using DNA and its wide applicability to the forensic field. It tackles using DNA for: identifying suspects and confirmation of guilt, exculpation of innocent parties; linking crimes and helping in uncovering serial killers; researching biological filiation, establishing consanguinity in more complex cases, identification of victims of terrorist attacks or natural catastrophes, etc.

<b>048IPCBM3</b>	<b>Protein Engineering and Proteome Analysis</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	--	--------------

The course aims to address modern concepts of the “druggable genome/proteome” and emphasizes enzymatic examples of drug targets. It specifically tackles two examples involving the discovery and development of drugs targeting enzymes (ACE and PDE5).

On the scale of the human genome, a limited number of genes encode enzymatic systems for metabolizing xenobiotics. Describing phases 1, 2, and 3 of xenobiotic metabolism and their function helps understand how these systems cope with the vast chemical diversity of molecules comprising the exposome.

These elements provide insights into factors impacting the toxicity of xenobiotics and/or the efficacy of drug treatments on individual bases. Concepts of pharmacogenomics of xenobiotic metabolism enzymes (XMEs) linked to genetic polymorphisms or mechanisms regulating the expression or activity of these systems is explored. These mechanisms include describing various transcription factors involved in regulating these genes in response to environmental factors, enabling an adaptive response to such exposures.

Inverted teaching methods allow students to present recent examples of enzymatic therapeutic targets in seminar-discussion format. These seminars enable students, among others, to become familiar with scientific communication and exchange.

<b>048RICBM3</b>	<b>Receptors of Innate Immunity and Transduction of Immunological Signals</b>	<b>1 Cr.</b>
------------------	---	--------------

The course focuses on the mechanisms of activation of the innate immune system, which in turn enables the activation and orientation of the ensuing adaptive immune response in vertebrates. It covers the various families of receptors and their respective ligands, the signaling pathways they activate, and the effector mechanisms they induce. The involvement of these sensing and signaling mechanisms in human pathologies, as well as in the development of new therapeutic strategies, is also discussed.



<b>048RGCBM3</b>	<b>Regulation of Gene Expression</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------

With this course, students will acquire extensive knowledge in the field of regulation of gene expression and will essentially discuss the mechanisms underlying epigenetics, transcriptional and post-transcriptional modes of regulation. This course also allows students to become familiar with the key elements of protein-protein interactions. These play a key role in regulating the activity of several cellular proteins. This course illustrates the different motifs of protein-protein interactions with a special focus on the methods used for their identification. HIV integrase that catalyzes the integration of viral DNA into the genome of the infected cell will be used as a model to explain these molecular interactions.

<b>048SASBM3</b>	<b>Biology Seminars</b>	<b>1 Cr.</b>
------------------	-------------------------	--------------

The GPF Master's program aims to provide comprehensive training focused on scientific research. Seminars on current research in biology are pivotal for developing the skills emphasized in the curriculum. These seminars facilitate direct interaction between students and researchers from diverse areas of biology and biochemistry, where researchers present their projects and discuss their findings. Following these presentations, interactive discussion sessions encourage students to question and gain insights into the challenges encountered during research.

Exposure to a variety of research strategies and discussions on different technologies equips students with the critical skills needed to effectively conceive and execute research projects. These sessions not only deepen their understanding of contemporary research methods but also prepare them to adeptly maneuver through the complexities of scientific inquiry with confidence and proficiency

<b>048SGCBM3</b>	<b>Statistics for Genomics</b>	<b>1 Cr.</b>
------------------	--------------------------------	--------------

This course offers an introduction to continuous probability distributions and their use in the context of genomics. After reviewing the fundamental concepts of probability and statistics, students will learn to use statistical tests such as the Student's T-test and one-way ANOVA, as well as two-way ANOVA if time permits. The course concludes with a practical session, where students will analyze proteomic data from cancers (breast and glioblastoma) available in the TCGA database.

<b>048BSCBM3</b>	<b>Structural Bioinformatics</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	----------------------------------	--------------

Due to new high-throughput sequencing approaches, the number of protein sequences available in databases currently exceeds a staggering  $10^9$  sequences. These sequences, involved in diverse biological functions, are typically annotated by analogy and thus often poorly characterized.

During this course, we will first explore the importance of understanding primary sequences and accessing major databases. We will emphasize the distinction between bioinformatics and computational biology, and provide examples of sequence alignments and analysis tools.

Protein function is directly influenced by their three-dimensional structures, which elucidate the mechanisms underlying these functions. Unfortunately, due to high costs and technical challenges, the number of available 3D structures (<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/home/home.do>) is limited, standing at only 175,602 as of October 2, 2020. Therefore, bioinformatics enables the transition from amino acid sequences to 3D structural models, advancing both fundamental and applied research.

Secondly, we will address available structural data and discuss approaches such as (i) comparative modeling (homology), (ii) machine learning techniques, (iii) ab initio methods, and (iv) de novo or meta-server approaches, depending on the complexity of the research.

Throughout the course, these topics will be illustrated with examples from literature and the instructor's research. Students will engage in two practical sessions, where they will learn (i) how to search for sequences with sequence similarities, and (ii) how to use online tools for proposing high-quality structural models and evaluating them.

<b>048NGCBM3</b>	<b>Study of the Genome, Epigenome, and Transcriptome Using High-Throughput Approaches</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
------------------	---	--------------

High-throughput sequencing approaches - Single-cell approaches - Genome and epigenome structure and analysis - Gene expression and transcriptional regulation.