

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

PhD Programme in Drug Discovery and Development

Activity	Type of activity	DCs	Hours of teaching	Final Assessment	Period	PhD year	Training objectives
Introduction to the Peer Review Process and Ethics	Soft skills	1	15	Grades	Jan-Feb 2026	I	By the end of the course, the PhD students will learn: (i) basics of the peer review process; (ii) what editors look for when reviewing submissions; (iii) tips for responding to reviewer reports; (iii) qualifications to become a reviewer and strategies to evaluate a manuscript; (iv) principles of scientific integrity and ethical judgements in research; (v) how to write and submit a cover letter.
Critical discussion of scientific literature - Journal Club	Soft skills	2 at I 1 at II 1 at III	15	Eligibility	Jan-Apr 2026	I, II, III	By the end of the course, the PhD students: (i) will improve their scientific literature reading habits and gain practice in critiquing and appraising research; (ii) will polish their presentation and oral communication skills and overcome the English language barrier; (iii) know how to network and dialogue with peers and supervisors; (iv) can appreciate how the best research can advance evidence-based science. He/she knows and is able to search the literature and find scientific articles, to critically evaluate scientific articles, to lead and participate to a Journal Club.
Drug discovery and development Course	Disciplinary and multidisciplinary training	3	25	Eligibility	Mar-Apr 2026	I	PhD students will learn from drug discovery researchers from academia. By the end of the course, the PhD students will: (i) know the basic principles of the drug discovery & development process; (ii) understand the role of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology and pharmaceuticals in the drug discovery & development process.
Module 1: The contribution of Medicinal Chemistry in Drug Discovery & Development			4				
Module 2: The contribution of Biochemistry in Drug Discovery & Development			4				
Module 3: The contribution of Pharmacology in Drug Discovery & Development			4				
Module 4: The contribution of Pharmaceuticals in Drug Discovery & Development			4				
Module 5: The contribution of Bioinformatics in Drug Discovery & Development			5				
Module 6: Discussion of case studies			4				
Industrial Drug discovery and	Seminars	1	15	Eligibility	Jun-Sep 2026	I	PhD students will learn from and interact with leading researchers from established national/international pharmaceutical companies.

development							The industrial teachers are Alumni. By the end of the course, the PhD students will: (i) know and critically evaluate the drug discovery & development process in the industry; (ii) understand industrial working conditions and career choices and development, and (iii) build national/international industrial networks.
Scientific Retreat and Seminar series	Soft skills	0.5 at I 1.5 at II 0.5 at III	12	Eligibility/Grades	Mar-Sep 2026	I, II, III	
Module 1: Annual B2F2-PhD Programme Scientific Retreat			7				This is a conference-type event where second-year students will present their result and have their half-time evaluations by an external committee. It is open to all PhD students, who will participate to the Q&A session. By the end of the course, (i) the 2 nd -year PhD students will receive an external feed-back on the research performed; (ii) all the students will refine their ability to communicate the results of their research in a clear and effective manner, in dialogue with the scientific community
Module 2: PhD seminar series - “meet-the-speakers”			5				This is a series of seminars that are highly interactive and include “meet-the-speakers” sessions. PhD students will interact and network with inspiring scientists who conduct top-quality research in the bio-pharmaceutical field. By the end of the course the student will (i) gain current specialist knowledge in a particular aspect of the bio-pharmaceutical field; (ii) learn how to talk about high-level science; (iii) have a deeper insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society, work-life balance and other matters.