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what is a tutorial and why?

information for phd students

introduction

In your first year as a PhD student, you are required to take part and succeed in two tutorials. Please find below some information summarizing why tutorials are important to your PhD training & what their main objectives are.

what is a tutorial & why?

You are an advanced student & junior researcher who needs to gain expertise in critical thinking & problem solving.

A tutorial consists of a small-group teaching (3 to 20 students), which aims to:

- Encourage **participative learning** (share ideas & debate)
- Develop **critical thinking**
- Integrate you into a **larger research network** inside our Faculty

Tutorials are short in duration (4-5 sessions of 2-3 hours each) and are **followed by an evaluation**.

The topic discussed during the tutorial does not need to be related to your thesis research. The main idea is to encourage you to explore other research fields at our Faculty and help you develop your critical thinking skills on scientific topics in addition to your thesis work.

www.unil.ch/ecoledoctoralefbm/phdlifesciences

Regulatory texts are authentic. All titles and functions may apply to both men and women.

a tutorial may include:

- Seminars & oral presentations
- Problem-solving sessions
- Case studies
- Project work & essays

There are usually scientific articles to read, oral presentations to prepare, homework & suggestions for books and other material to consult.

what is the role of the tutor?

- Introduce a **new scientific field** and **assess** your ability to read, understand & analyze related scientific articles and apply critical thinking.
- **Encourage** you to communicate, be active & argue about scientific matters.
- **Provide constructive feedback** and advice on your needs related to your scientific development.

attendance: required to all the sessions.

assessment:

- The tutor assesses your performance & the Doctoral School informs you about the outcome.
- The tutor cannot be your thesis director (unless two tutors are responsible for the tutorial).
- For PhD students who need to strengthen their skills, the tutorial will be followed by a meeting with the tutor, the thesis director and, in some cases, the thesis committee.