ENG-647

Interdisciplinary seminar series

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
EDOC General and external courses		Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	1
Session	
Exam	Multiple
Workload	30h
Hours	**28**
Courses	23
Exercises	5
Number of positions	**16**

Frequency

Every 2 years

Remark

Not given in 2026-27

Summary

This course focuses on interdisciplinary research communication through dynamic presentations, feedback, and collaboration with diverse audiences.

Content

In the context of increasingly complex scientific and societal challenges, research questions often extend beyond the boundaries of a single discipline. This course is designed for early-career researchers who want to strengthen the communication, collaboration, and critical reflection skills required to work effectively across disciplines.
Through a sequence of seminar presentations, peer feedback, and guided reflection, doctoral candidates learn how to present their research clearly to a non-specialist academic audience and how to meaningfully engage in constructive interdisciplinary dialogue with peers from other fields.

The course includes the following sessions:

- 1 introductory session - Introduction to the course objectives and structure, examples of interdisciplinary seminars, and familiarisation with the feedback framework used throughout the course
- 2 sessions of 1st round seminar presentations - Participants present their research and receive initial feedback from peers, mentors, and teachers. These sessions provide concrete guidance on how to improve both content and delivery ahead of the second round. (In-person attendance is mandatory for those presenting their seminar)
- 1 workshop session on storytelling and body language - An interactive, in-person workshop focusing on how storytelling, structure, and body language contribute to effective and engaging academic presentations (In-person attendance is mandatory)
- 3 sessions of 2nd round seminar presentations - Participants present an improved version of their seminar, integrating feedback and newly acquired communication skills, and receive final feedback from peers and teachers. (In-person attendance is mandatory for those presenting their seminar)
- 1 final public speaking and social networking session - A session focused on applying presentation skills to broader academic contexts outside of the classroom.

Optional: one-to-one online coaching session - Upon request, each doctoral candidate may book a personalised 30-minute coaching session to fine-tune their seminar before the final presentation.

Through active participation in all seminars, doctoral candidates will:

- Become familiar with current research topics in other disciplines
- Learn how to provide structured, constructive feedback to peers

Through preparation of your own seminar, doctoral candidates will:

- Learn how to explain the core elements of their research to a diverse academic audience
- Clearly present the scientific question, methodology, and initial findings of a research project
- Practice storytelling, slide design, and visual communication

Through reflection on the experience, doctoral candidates will:

- Learn how to give, receive, and integrate feedback to improve their presentation skills
- Reflect on the peer-learning process and the role of feedback in scientific practice

The exam will be composed of:

- 2 seminar presentations (recorded for personal use)
- At least 2 written peer feedback reports for other doctoral candidates
- 2 self-reflection reports based on individual appreciation of performance
- Active participation in seminar sessions (preferably in person; online participation is possible)

Note

The course is accessible to doctoral candidates located at associated campuses. Attendance in Lausanne is required only for the sessions in which the doctoral candidate presents their research and for the workshop session (4 sessions in total). All other sessions can be attended online.
Each seminar is recorded, allowing participants to review their own presentation, compare it with the feedback received, and reflect on their progress over time.

This course is particularly suited to doctoral candidates who wish to:

- Sharpen their research communication skills
- Prepare for interdisciplinary collaboration, conferences, and seminars
- Gain confidence presenting to broad academic audiences
- Receive structured feedback early and regularly during their doctoral journey

Keywords

Presentation skills
Research presentation
Storytelling
Interdisciplinary collaboration
Peer feedback
Self-reflection

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Express clearly the scientific question, methodology, and initial findings of a research project
- Explain Explain the fundamentals of their research to a diverse academic audience
- Discuss research with audiences from different academic backgrounds
- Propose and receive constructive feedback
- Describe current research topics in other disciplines
- Discuss the interdisciplinary nature of research and advantages of interdisciplinary collaboration

Resources

Moodle Link

- https://go.epfl.ch/ENG-647