



## Mentoring program of the course BSc Biology

At the beginning of their studies, each of our students is assigned a lecturer as a mentor. With their experience in research and teaching, mentors support their mentees in making decisions during their studies and advise them on planning their careers.

Typically, university lecturers serve as mentors, but academic staff with permanent positions, junior professors, and heads of junior research groups with at least four years remaining on their contracts can also take on the role of a mentor.

### Goals of the mentoring program

Mentors use their experience to provide advice on study planning, applications for study-related stays abroad or internships, and other relevant topics. They can also help mentees navigate the academic system, access new contacts, and take advantage of opportunities for professional development. This promotes intergenerational exchange.

### Allocation of mentors

Students are randomly assigned a mentor during the introductory event at the beginning of the first semester. From that point on, this mentor typically serves as the mentee's personal contact throughout their studies. Students transferring to higher semesters are assigned a mentor immediately after enrolling.

Mentees are evenly distributed among all lecturers in the department. The allocation is intended to be arbitrary and not based on research areas or similar factors, so that a broad and potentially new spectrum of perspectives is available. Changing mentors is only possible in exceptional cases and requires an application to the Chair of the BSc Examination Board.

### Meetings as part of the mentoring program

One of the main elements of the program is the personal contact and exchange between mentors and mentees. Meetings are held to discuss current topics or issues related to the degree program.

These meetings should take place in the first and third semesters. The exact dates are set by the mentor in consultation with the mentees. The topics and outcomes of the meetings are documented by the mentors.

In addition to general discussions about the mentees' course of study, specific topics may include:

- ✓ Special features of the degree program
- ✓ Content-related questions on the topics of individual modules
- ✓ Research questions
- ✓ Examinations and tests
- ✓ Bachelor's thesis
- ✓ Stays abroad
- ✓ Occupational fields
- ✓ Scholarship programs

## **Defined tasks of the mentors**

Mentors have a special function in the "External internship" module. They advise their mentees on the selection of the company or institution and the choice of topic. After the internship is completed, the mentors review the report and issue the certificate of achievement.

Mentors also chair the examination board for the "Bachelor's Thesis" module and act as examiners for their mentees' final colloquium.