

2022

Jungle Book



A survival Guide from LSM
Doctoral candidates

Welcome!

Dear new LSM students,

Congratulations and welcome to the LSM! You have made a great choice to join the exceptional research cluster located here in Munich. We are sure that you have a lot of questions on how to start earning ECTS points and proceed with various LSM courses.

Here in the Jungle Book, your LSM student council has put together a small guide to help you better navigate through the LSM Curriculum as well as extra-curriculum LSM activities. However, if you notice any missing information or would like to add information you feel would be helpful please let us know by sending an email to [Anastasia Kitashova](mailto:Anastasia.Kitashova@campus.lmu.de) or [Nupur Sharma](mailto:Nupur.Sharma@campus.lmu.de).

We look forward to meeting you at our next LSM social event!

Sincerely,

Your LSM Student Council

Contact

In case of any questions or uncertainties please do not hesitate to contact us:

LSM coordinator Korbinian Dischinger lsm@biologie.uni-muenchen.de

Student council president Anastasia Kitashova a.kitashova@campus.lmu.de

Student council vice president Nupur Sharma sharma@bio.lmu.de

*The LSM Graduate School is not liable for the content within the Jungle Book. All information provided is from students for students and is to be used only as a reference to help with questions new students may have upon starting with their studies.

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Summary

Please find below the table summarizing the LSM curriculum.

Course	Details	ECTS point
Orientation course: Successful application	LSM application / Interview days	2
Retreats	1 st Retreat	2
	2 nd Retreat	2
	Retreat Organisation	1
Lecture Series	Internal	2
	External	2
Workshops	Method course 1	3
	Method course 2	3
	Transferable skills course 1	1
	Transferable skills course 2	1
	Transferable skills course 3	1
Group seminar	Lab meetings / progress report / journal clubs throughout your doctoral studies	4
Advanced / Teaching course	Supervision of Bachelor / Master students, supervision of practical courses	2
Conference	International conference with poster or talk presentation	4
TAC Meetings	1 st TAC (6 months after beginning of studies)	3
	2 nd TAC (1 year after the 1st TAC)	3
	3 rd TAC (1 year after the 2nd TAC)	3
Total		39

Generally: 1 ECTS = 30h of effort (incl. attendance, preparation, etc.)

LSM Curriculum

How to start

As soon as you are accepted to LSM and after submitting your matriculation to the LSM coordinator, you are a part of LSM. **There is no official starting date for start of the studies.** Therefore, students can consider the moment they submit their matriculation to the LSM office as their personal starting day and are welcome to start registering for the courses and attending the lectures.

The overview of the curriculum can be found on LSM webpage:

<https://www.lsm.bio.lmu.de/curriculum1/index.html>.

In brief, students have to acquire 180 ECTS points during their doctoral studies: (i) 141 ECTS points by accomplishing a doctoral project; (ii) 39 ECTS points by completing LSM courses, summarized in the following table:

Total ECTS	180
Doctoral Project	141
LSM Courses	39

There is a lot of supporting material at “Useful links and Downloads” section on the LSM webpage: <https://www.lsm.bio.lmu.de/downloads/index.html>

Check for “How do I accumulate ECTS points for the LSM curriculum?” – there you can find a checklist with all courses you have to do.

If you don't find information on LSM website or in this document, please feel free to contact us.

LSM Lecture Series

During their studies, students have to attend internal and external lectures, which account for **4 ECTS points**. **Internal lectures**, which are organized by LSM, take place on Wednesdays at 17:00 during the semester time and are announced in advance by the LSM coordinator. The LSM coordinator takes notes on attendance, so students do not have to worry about extra confirmation. Students are strongly encouraged to attend these lectures from the beginning of their studies.

External lectures are any talks you attend outside of LSM lecture series. In this case, students have to confirm their attendance by signature of the speaker or host:

https://www.lsm.bio.lmu.de/0_assets/external-lecture-attendance.pdf

The minimal number of either types of lectures is 15, and in total students have to listen to 40 lectures (see the table below):

Total Lectures	40
LSM Lectures (Internal)	15
External Lectures	15
Other Lectures (Internal and/or External)	10

Once a semester, LSM also organizes an **Elevator Talk Session**, where students are welcome to share their ideas and research with peers in a friendly environment. This includes 5 min presentation *without* PowerPoint, figures or preparation.

Method Courses

Method courses are offered by LSM every semester. Students have to complete 2 method courses in total, each of them lasting for 5 days and giving 3 ECTS points. Quite often 5 days of method courses are split between two weeks, for example, 3 days on the first week and 2 days on the second week. Thus, **in total students have to earn 6 ECTS points by accomplishing 10 days of method courses.**

There is a possibility to do an external method course. In case the external method course has a different duration, it is possible to re-calculate ECTS points and combine this course with another. This is done upon submission of the certificate of attendance to the LSM office to count it in the curriculum.

Lab rotations can be also counted as method courses. The rules are the same as for external method courses. Students should provide a proof of their lab rotation with the details and duration (for example, a written confirmation by the supervisor) to the LSM office.

Transferable Skills Courses

Transferable skills, or soft skills, courses are offered by LSM every semester. Throughout the studies, LSM students have to complete 3 courses (each course is 2 -day long), each enabling them to acquire 1 ECTS point. So, in the end, **students can earn 3 ECTS points by accomplishing 6 days of transferable skills courses.**

Students can also do these courses outside of LSM. For example, the **GraduateCenter-LMU** also offers free courses to LSM students in German and English:

<https://www.en.graduatecenter.uni-muenchen.de/events/workshops/index.html>

The registration for the courses is done on the GraduateCenter portal. Upon successful completion of a course, students get a certificate of attendance to submit to LSM that counts towards the curriculum.

It may happen that external transferable courses take longer than 2 days, in this case it is possible to re-calculate ECTS points to better fit the curriculum. For this, students can just submit the certificate of attendance to the LSM office.

Retreats

Students have to participate in 2 LSM retreats and organize at least one. By participating in one retreat students earn 2 ECTS points and by organizing a retreat they earn 1 ECTS point. So, in the end, students have to acquire **5 ECTS points.**

LSM retreats usually take place in September and last for 3 days. Students present their research, participate in workshops and enjoy social events. Students have to at least once present a poster and give a talk.

Organization of the retreat is done “by students for students”. Usually, LSM coordinator asks students to volunteer for different activities. Several groups of organization committees are made, for example, those responsible for scheduling the retreat, creating a booklet or coming up with social activities.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other, have some fun and improve your scientific and soft skills.

For the **students who are part of SFB**, it is possible to replace one LSM retreat with two SFB retreats. Students should submit confirmation of participation with the details (for example, whether student presented a poster or gave a talk) to the LSM office to fit to curriculum.

German Language Course

Students voluntarily can take German Language Courses offered by the International Universitätsclub München (<https://www.begleitkurs-deutsch.de/en/>). **LSM covers it completely** if students pass the final exam.

Courses take place in the evening, twice a week. Beginning with Winter Semester 2022/23 students can choose the course location between Campus City Center or Campus Martinsried.

TAC Meetings

Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings take place **once a year** and exist to control students' progress and help them. There are three TAC Meetings in total. The TAC members include one's supervisor and 2 to 3 extra scientists, usually professors. Once student start their doctoral studies, is it obligatory to submit the information on the TAC members to both LSM office and Dekanat (part of Bestätigung / Confirmation form)

Find more information on applying for permission for your doctoral study (= Promotionsberechtigung) at Dekanat here:

<https://www.en.biologie.uni-muenchen.de/organisation/dekanat/promotion-and-habilitation/index.html>

It is students' responsibility to contact the TAC members and organize the meeting. Prior to the event, students have to submit **a progress report** (around 5 pages) to all the participants. After the meeting students have to write **a report** highlighting the key points discussed at the meeting, fill in **the TAC form** and again submit it to the TAC members to acquire their signatures. After it all done, all three documents have to be submitted to the LSM office.

FAQ section

1. After registration, can I directly start signing up for courses and lectures?

Yes, after your admission is confirmed to the LSM, you can refer to the [LSM website](#) and start signing up for your courses. There is no deadline or window in which you have to sign up for a specific course, unless otherwise specified.

2. What are LSM lecture series?

[LSM Lecture Series](#) are seminars/ talks organized by the LSM by speakers from all around, that the students of LSM can attend. You don't need to register for these talks, just show up! The information about a lecture is shared in advance by Korbinian (LSM coordinator) or you can look them up anytime on Campus Martinsried Seminars page (<https://campusmartinsried.de/en/seminars/>).

3. What is the difference between internal and external lectures?

Internal lectures include the lectures hosted via the [LSM Lecture Series](#). External lectures are all the other lectures hosted in the campus or elsewhere, which have to be 45 min long followed by Q&A session. The students have to attend 15 internal lectures, 15 external lectures and 15 open (internal or external) lectures, throughout the duration of their doctoral studies.

4. How do we get signatures for the lectures?

Generally, the host of the lecture signs every attendee's attendance sheet. On Zoom, however, different hosts employ different methods to confirm attendance. One should either contact the organizer of the respective lecture for the details, or ask the supervisor to sign the form. For LSM lecture series, screenshots are taken for individual lectures and attendance is confirmed for all those who are attend the whole duration of the lecture.

5. How do we sign up for different courses?

You can sign up anytime for [Method Courses](#) or [Transferable Skills](#), by sending an email to lsm@bio.lmu.de. You will receive a confirmation once your name is in the list of attendees. In case of externally organized lectures, a confirmation of participation submitted to the LSM can fetch you the ECTS points.

6. Does LSM offer German Language Courses?

Yes! LSM offers [German Language Course](#) every semester, under the IUCM program. The details for the same can be found under https://www.begleitkurs-deutsch.de/en/content/BK_Home. You need to pay for these courses, but the entire money is refunded once you pass the exam.

7. How many retreats do I need to attend? What do I have to present?

During the course of your doctoral studies, you have to attend 2 [Retreats](#), and organize at least one of them. In terms of presenting, you have to present a poster and a talk in total, but only one of them at a time.

8. I want to go to an international conference. Can LSM provide me financial support for the same?

Yes, LSM can provide the funds for attending a conference to you. Contact the coordinator for more details.

9. I just joined the LSM Graduate school, and just started my Ph.D. I am new to Munich, can LSM provide me accommodation till I find a place of my own? Or can I be assisted with accommodation via the LSM?

Unfortunately, LSM cannot provide an accommodation to you. But we can advise you to start looking for places to live in Munich as soon as you are accepted to the program. For renting private apartments, we suggest applying to portals like <https://www.immobilienscout24.de/> or <https://www.wg-gesucht.de/>. If you are looking for a cheap student accommodation in dormitories, apply via the [Studentenwerk Munich](#) and sign up for a room. There are always long waiting times in the dorms so we suggest you start looking for them as soon as possible.

10. I am admitted to the LSM program, am I eligible for obtaining the student semester ticket for the MVG public transport system?

Yes, as soon as you are a part of LSM, you can reap the 'student status' benefits in Munich. One major benefit is being able to buy a student semester ticket for public transport. This ticket can be bought at any MVG ticket booth, and is called the '*ISARCard_semester ticket*' and costs around 200€ (it covers the whole MVG network, 24X7).

Moreover, students that paid a mandatory solidarity fee (included in your semester fee) can use public transport without a ticket, with a student ID featuring the MVV logo from 6 pm to 6 am on weekdays, and whole weekend. Read more [here](#).

11. I am having troubles with my PI in terms of communication, and would like external interference to sort out our differences. Can LSM help with that?

Yes, if you are having troubles with your PI in the workplace, and you need an external communicator, LSM offers an Ombudsperson to help you.

12. Does LSM offer support for mental health guidance?

LSM offers support for doctoral students who are mentally distressed in their personal and professional lives. This support involves, Mentoring and Career Guidance, Cultural and social change, and Lack of work-life balance. This support is achieved via our 2 volunteers, Dr. Annabel Dischinger and Dr. Mauricio Toro-Nahuelpan, who may be able to guide and nudge you in the right direction, and direct you to a professional, if required. Please find more information [here](#).

13. How can I join the LSM student council?

You can email either the LSM coordinator Korbinian (lsm@bio.lmu.de) or the president of the LSM student council, Anastasia (a.kitashova@campus.lmu.de) to sign up to be in the council.