

## Structure of the PhD course at the department

The department of *Cell Biology and Plant Biochemistry* belongs to the *Institute of Plant Sciences* and the *Regensburg Center of Biochemistry and Biophysics* (RZB). We offer a well-structured PhD program via the *Regensburg International Graduate School of Life Sciences* (RIGeL; [www.rigel-regensburg.de](http://www.rigel-regensburg.de)) and/or the *Graduate Research Academy RNA Biology* ([graduate-academy.sfb960.de](http://graduate-academy.sfb960.de)).

Our PhD students have to be admitted and registered within 3 months after the start of the PhD project to the CBB-branch (*Cellular Biochemistry and Biophysics*) of RIGeL. An overdue fine of 400 € has to be paid by the supervisor to RIGeL, if PhD students do not register in time.

The progress of the PhD project is regularly discussed with the mentors (see RIGeL regulations for details). Initially PhD students have to **(A)** elaborate a PhD Project, in which the research topic is defined and methodological procedures are described (3-4 pages). The project description shall also include a work chronogram. Together with the mentors consisting of the direct supervisor, another professor of the faculty as well as an external expert in the field the progress of the PhD course will be critically evaluated after **(B)** about 12 and **(C)** 24 months, respectively.

Moreover, the PhD students of the department are expected to **(D)** attend weekly seminars such as:

1. *Journal Club*: once per year each PhD student presents a recent scientific paper published in a top journal. The paper should be related to her/his research topic and the PhD student shall lead a scientific discussion after the presentation.
2. *Progress Report Seminar*: once to twice per year each researcher including master students, PhD students and postdocs present a progress report about their project(s). The achievements will be critically analyzed and suggestions are made to improve the methodological part of the project.
3. *RZB/SFB Colloquium*: top researchers are invited regularly during the semester to present and discuss cutting edge research data in the fields of cellular biochemistry, microbiology, genetics, RNA biology, plant biology and biophysics. PhD students are welcome to discuss their research with invited guest speakers.
4. *Lab Meetings*: all members of the individual working groups of the department meet once per week to discuss their progress made during the past few weeks.

Moreover, PhD students **(E)** are expected to participate in the organization and supervision of practical courses in plant physiology, molecular and cellular biochemistry as well as plant biotechnology. Every PhD student is additionally expected to supervise at least one lab student for a period of up to three months.

Finally, PhD students are encouraged to **(F)** participate once per year at PhD Schools, Summer Schools, Workshops, Method Courses and/or International Conferences. Two active participations during the course of the PhD at RIGeL Summer Schools is obligatory and PhD students are expected to discuss their achievements either via a poster or oral presentation.