

Hannover School for Biomolecular Drug Research (HSBDR), PhD program

Ethical, Legal and Social Issues (ELSI) in the Life Sciences

Thursdays, 14:15–17:45h

BMWZ lecture room, Zentrum für Biomolekulare Wirkstoffe, Schneiderberg 38

Course contents

This course provides an introduction to the various ethical, legal, and social issues that can arise with respect to research in the life sciences. Topics will include good scientific practice and scientific misconduct, legal and regulatory issues in the biomedical sciences, risk and precaution, intellectual property, etc. The overarching aims of the course are to provide participants with a first orientation in the diverse ways in which scientific research is embedded in a societal context, and with some tools for reflection on how scientific research can be conducted in a responsible manner.

The course consists of six separate teaching units of four contact hours each, which will take place on Thursday afternoons. The entire course extends over two semesters: normally three units are taught in the winter semester and three units in the summer semester. It is recommended to participate in the units in the order in which they are listed below, as later units to some extent build on the contents of earlier units. However, students are free to select individual units according to their own interests, and there are no strict admission requirements for individual units. The working language is English.

Course directors are two members of the Centre of Ethics and Law in the Life Sciences (<http://cells-hannover.de>), Professors Nils Hoppe and Thomas Reydon, who will co-teach the course. For any questions, please send an email to nils.hoppe@cells.uni-hannover.de or thomas.reydon@cells.uni-hannover.de.

Program

- Unit 1 (04.06.2015): Introduction to the course program; general introduction to regulation in the life sciences and medical law
- Unit 2 (18.06.2015): General introduction to ethics of science, good scientific practice, and the responsibility of scientists
- Unit 3 (date to be announced): Medical products and pharmaceutical law
- Unit 4 (date to be announced): Dual use issues, the precautionary principle, and technology/risk assessment
- Unit 5 (date to be announced): Intellectual property law
- Unit 6 (date to be announced): Philosophical issues relating to synthetic biology and the patenting of life

Audience

This course is part of the educational program of the HSBDR graduate school. PhD students in the HSBDR graduate school are required to participate in at least 3 course units (1 SWS), but of course are welcome to take all six units. Participation is also open to non-members of the HSBDR graduate school, in particular PhD students in the GRANAT graduate school, as well Master's students in the following programs: MSc Analytik, MSc Biologie der Pflanzen, MSc Gartenbauwissenschaften, MSc Pflanzenbiotechnologie, MSc Wirk- und Naturstoffchemie, MA Wissenschaftsphilosophie. (Students in other programs who would like to participate are asked to contact one of the course directors.) Students in these Master's programs can take the entire course as a 2 SWS seminar (6 units, 2 semesters, 3-5 ECTS credits depending on the amount of independent research that is done), but are welcome to take individual units out of interest.

Registration

Registration is mandatory! To register for the course or for single units, please send an email to either of the course directors