Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

PhD Course: Ethics and Scientific Integrity for Doctoral Students (701-5001-00L)

Instructors: Dr. Melanie Paschke & Prof. Nina Buchmann
Location: tbd
Dates: 06.03.2025 (14:15-18:00) & 10.04. 2025 (14:15-18:00)
Credit Points: 1 ECTS

Course Content
This course raises awareness of doctoral students to ethical issues that may arise during their doctorate. After an introduction to ethics and good scientific practice, students use resources that can assist them with ethical decision-making. Students are given the opportunity to apply their knowledge and train their newly acquired skills in an interactive, discipline specific context.

Learning Objectives:

- Doctoral students learn how to identify, analyze and address ethical issues in their own scientific research. Furthermore, they are encouraged to reflect on their professional role as scientific researchers.
- A special focus is on practising and applying the process of ethical inquiry/moral reasoning as a tool to analyze ethical issues and reach a well-reflected decision in ethical ambiguous situations.

Cases will integrate research integrity questions for example: authorship practices, data ownership, reproducibility, privacy but also many cases around the important field of responsible use of generative AI for research, e.g. originality and IPR in AI, scientific authorship and AI, confidentiality and privacy, transparency about the use of gen AI, bias and fairness, sustainability, accountability and the human in the loop principle.

Prior Knowledge: none
Number of Participants: 20. All doctoral students: Please register via myStudies.

Individual Performance and Assessment:
Part of the course is finishing the online course: https://moodle-app2.let.ethz.ch/course/view.php?id=18841 (Please log in via AAI login). The modules need to be finished before the start of the course.
During the course, you will solve two cases: Case 1 to be worked individually on and finished by filling and handing in the Ethical Assessment Canvas. Case 2 – group case to be finished by a group presentation.