

PhD programs in Plant Sciences and Science & Policy: Alpine Plant Ecology - International Summer School

Lecturers: Dr. Erika Hiltbrunner (Univ. Basel), Prof. Christian Körner (Univ. Basel),
Prof. Sabine Rumpf (Univ. Basel)
Location: ALPFOR research station, Furka Pass 2440 m asl
<http://www.alpfor.ch/general.shtml>
Dates: July, 14 - 20, 2024
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Course objectives and program:

It's a comprehensive graduate course on alpine plant life in the Swiss central Alps, jointly organized by the University of Basel and the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC) for graduate students (PhD level) with basic training in plant science. The course covers microclimatology, vegetation ecology, reproduction biology, aspects of biodiversity, soil science, ecophysiology and ecosystem ecology. Morning and evening lectures, field excursions and teamwork on small projects will make this week, in a truly alpine environment, a lifetime experience. The ALPFOR research station is surrounded by a great variety of typical alpine vegetation, covering glacier forfields and late successional alpine grasslands.

Prior knowledge/reading: Basic knowledge in plant science. For participants without training in functional ecology, work through the literature (C. Körner (2021) Alpine Plant Life (3rd ed.) Springer, Berlin) and the (free) electronic course ALPANDINO:
<http://www.alpandino.org>.

Number of Participants: Participation is limited to 24 students

Registration: Please pre-register by sending, your name, affiliation, PhD program and a motivation letter to franziska.grob@unibas.ch until 28 February 2024. Acceptance information: 3 April 2024, confirmed registration after paying the fee by the end of May 2024.

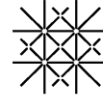
PhD-students in the PSC programs enroll via <https://ethz.ch/staffnet/en/service/courses-continuing-education.html>. University of Basel graduates register through their spring term enlisting procedure (MOnA). Participation for Master students is limited (decision based on graduate degree).

Costs: Participants travel on their own means and organization to the Furka Pass. The full board costs for the 6-day course are CHF 400 all-inclusive. For PhD students enrolled with the PSC PhD Program in „Plant Sciences“ or „Science and Policy“ the course costs will largely be paid by the PSC on a first come first serve basis (up to 6 graduates). Once accepted for the course, fees are due by **29 May 2024**. Once paid, participation is confirmed.



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Individual performance and assessment: Credits will be given on a pass/fail basis (active participation, design and presentation of mini-project).

Logistics: Participants will stay at the research station at the Furka Pass at 2440 m, arrive on Sunday afternoon (latest for dinner and welcome at 19:00) and depart on Saturday (c. 14:00). Accommodation and full board meals will be in the youth hostel style. The post bus station is 'Hotel Furkablick' and buses start from either Andermatt or Oberwald. There is a good mobile phone connection, but limited WLAN.

What to bring: Bring your laptop, notebook for field notes and lecture notes, waterproof mountain boots (NO sports shoes please), slippers for indoors, sun hat, sun cream, good weatherproof cloth, and towel. Small bag (rucksack), drinking bottle and reusable lunch box for outdoor activities. There are wool blankets, duvets, bed linen and pillow covers. Sleeping bags are welcome. Self-organized group arrangements for room sharing of the 3-5 Bed-Rooms are welcome. We use commonly 4-bed rooms for 3 people as long as space permits.