# PAB4106

# AgriBiosciences

Coordinator: Sara Farrona

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## Module Description:

This module provides students with training and state-of-the art knowledge on a range of current topics in plant and agribiosciences. Through a combination of essay writing assignments, attendance at seminarseries, career & entrepreneurship development training and didactic interaction with visiting plant researchers and scientists, students will gain exposure and training in plant and agribioscience topics of direct relevance to real life issues and applications.

## Learning Outcomes:

- LO1 Demonstrate a keen interest and understanding of current topics in plant and agricultural biosciences.
- LO2 Research and write scientific essays on a range of assigned topics.
- LO3 Demonstrate attendance and engagement in research seminars throughout the Honours year of their degree.
- LO4 Describe the differences between scientific and non-scientific knowledge sources.
- LO5 Show a capability to read, interpret and discuss the evidence presented in reviews and primary research literature relating to current topics in plant and agri-biosciences, and accounts of the experimental techniques which support them.
- LO6 Have gained an understanding of career pathways and opportunities in Ireland and worldwide for students with a training in plant and agri-biosciences.

## Lecture Topics

1. How to read and look up papers?
2. How to present a good talk?
3. The peer review process
4. Plant & agricultural biodiversity
5. Flexibility of plant metabolism to the environment

## Who are the lecturers?

**Sara Farrona**

Interests: plant development and adaptation, epigenetics, chromatin.

http://www.farronalab.org/

**Ronan Sulpice**

Interests: plant systems biology, algae, biomass, plant breeding, metabolism.

https://sulpice-lab.com/

**Anne Mullen**

Interests: nutrition, food security, food systems, sustainable food production

https://foodsystemslab.org/

## Module Assessment:

The assessment of this modules is exclusively based on continuous assessment (CA). The components of the CA are:

Essays – Students will write two essays about the topics 'Plant & Agricultural biodiversity' and 'Flexibility of plant metabolism to the environment'. Weight: 40% of the final mark.

Talks – Students will present three short talks to explain a recently published paper to their peers. Weight: 40% of the final mark.

Engagement – Students will contribute to discuss the presented papers with questions to the speakers. Weight: 20% of the final mark.

## Feedback:

Students will get feedback of their writing and presentation skills from the lecturers and their peers.

## Students' Testimonials

There was a great opportunity to develop our presentation and essay-writing skills. Good feedback was given which meant we could improve and learn.

The feedback from the writing essays was really helpful, particularly when writing my thesis. I referred back to the feedback notes, particularly on the writing style and relevance.

We learned so many different topics and it was cool, it made me have a better appreciation for all the PAB modules