

# Master in Life Sciences

A cooperation between  
BFH, FHNW, HES-SO, ZHAW

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Tissue Engineering for Drug Discovery</b>
<b>Code</b>	BP6
<b>Degree Programme</b>	Master of Science in Life Sciences
<b>Group</b>	Bio/Pharma
<b>Workload</b>	3 ECTS (90 student working hours: 42 lessons contact = 32 h; 58 h self-study)
<b>Module Coordinator</b>	<p><b>Name:</b> Dr. Markus Rimann  <b>Phone:</b> +41 (0)58 934 55 12  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rimm@zhaw.ch">rimm@zhaw.ch</a>  <b>Address:</b> ZHAW Life Sciences and Facility Management, Einsiedlerstrasse 31, 8820 Wädenswil</p>
<b>Lecturers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Markus Rimann, ZHAW</li> <li>• Dr. Laura Suter-Dick, FHNW</li> <li>• Guest lecturers from industry</li> </ul>
<b>Entry requirements</b>	<p>Bachelor's degree in Life Sciences (Biotechnology, Bioanalytics, Pharmatechnology, Chemistry with specialization in Cell Biology or Tissue Engineering, Biomaterials)  Key words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cell surface receptors, signal transduction,</li> <li>• Extracellular matrix and cell-matrix interactions</li> <li>• Biomaterials, assembly of (bio)polymers</li> <li>• Three dimensional cell culture, stem cell differentiation</li> <li>• Current tissue engineering strategies such as organ tissue engineering and macromolecular crowding</li> <li>• Tissue engineering, screening, drug development</li> </ul> <p>Basics are covered by the indicated literature (see below) provided on Moodle</p>
<b>Learning outcomes and competences</b>	<p>After completing the module, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critically assess tissue engineering (TE) strategies including bioprinting vis-à-vis clinical viability, industrial value</li> <li>• Identify current bottlenecks in TE in general and for drug development in particular</li> <li>• explain differences between TE for regenerative medicine, academia and drug development</li> <li>• differentiate between 2D, ultraflat 3D and thicker 3D tissue constructs</li> <li>• develop concepts of industrial applications of TE depending on tissue type and question to be answered</li> <li>• delineate rationale for TE design to address questions in disease modelling and cosmetics</li> <li>• improve presentation technique and defend view points</li> </ul>
<b>Module contents</b>	<p>“Tissue Engineering for Drug Discovery” is an advanced course for graduate students to critically interrogate current approaches and methods of tissue engineering and how they can be harnessed for the generation of in vitro tissue models for drug and substance testing. In order to build a tissue its microarchitecture (histology) and its physiology must be understood. As a perfect tissue will not arise in vitro, a selection must be made as to which functional features of this particular tissue should be preserved to be testable and which are relevant for the drug or cosmetic substance to</p>

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	<p>be tested. We will discuss this using skin and liver as an example. Skin is one of the oldest and most successful tissue engineering feats in both clinical and in vitro settings, yet full physiology has not been reached. Liver is a central organ relevant to pharmaco-toxicity but also fulfill a myriad of synthetic functions. Therefore, every tissue model needs to fulfill different needs for different purposes.</p> <p>The topics span stem cell as tools for tissue differentiation and as a focus for personalized medicine and the newest 3D approaches to generate living tissue models. This will set the stage for the group presentations that will tackle to build a suitable organ model and to emulate the necessary physiological functions. Selected organs and tissues are set for problem-based groups.</p>
<b>Teaching / learning methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures, self-study, company presentation</li> <li>• Team based learning (groups to extract information from the internet)</li> <li>• Interactive discussions, presentation clinic</li> <li>• Final group presentations (problem-based learning) with detailed-feedback on form and content</li> <li>• Overview of teaching hours (27-30 lectures by M. Rimann, 6 by L. Suter-Dick, 3-9 by guest speakers, as available).</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment of learning outcome</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One group presentation on selected topics (6-8 students) (40%)</li> <li>2. Final exam, closed book (60%)</li> </ol>
<b>Format</b>	7-weeks
<b>Timing of the module</b>	Spring semester CW 16-22
<b>Venue</b>	Blended learning format. Presence sequences take place in Olten.
<b>Bibliography</b>	<p><u>Pre course work</u></p> <p>“Molecular Biology of the Cell”, Bruce Alberts, Alexander Johnson, Julian Lewis, David Morgan, Martin Raff, Keith Roberts, Peter Walter, 6th edition, “Garland Science, Taylor &amp; Francis, 2014, ISBN-13: 978-0815345244; Chapters 19 (Cell junctions and the extracellular matrix), 22 (Stem Cells and Tissue Renewal)</p> <p>“Principles of Tissue Engineering”, Lanza, Langer &amp; Vacanti, 4th edition, 2014, Academic Press, Chapters 1-4 (Introduction to TE); Chapters 13-17 (In vitro Control of Tissue Development)</p> <p><u>Course Material (Moodle)</u></p> <p>Relevant publications will be uploaded along with lecture notes. Further Material for problem-based learning presentation groups is posted on Moodle.</p>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Links to other modules</b>	BP5 “Physiology and Immunotherapies”
<b>Comments</b>	-
<b>Last Update</b>	26.09.2025