



Module	Relational Databases
Code	V5_10
Degree Program	Master of Science in Life Sciences (MSLS)
ECTS Credits	2
Workload	60: 30h Lectures and Exercises, 30h Self-Study
Module Coordinator	<p>Name Dr. Robert Vorburger</p> <p>Phone +41 (0)58 934 57 44</p> <p>Email robert.vorburger@zhaw.ch</p> <p>Address ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences Life Sciences and Facility Management Schloss 1 CH-8820 Wädenswil</p>
Lecturers	Dr. Robert Vorburger, Adrian Busin
Entry Requirements	<p>The course requires basic knowledge in the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming in Python • Statistical programming in R <p>The scripting language Python as well as the statistical computing environment R are used in this module to create and process relational databases using SQL (structured query language). Prior knowledge of SQL is not required.</p>
Learning Outcomes and Competences	<p>While knowledge is usually engineered using statistical methods, the basis is always a well-structured set of data. This module covers the techniques and structures used to efficiently create, read, update, and delete (CRUD) data in a relational databases.</p> <p>By completing the module, students will specifically acquire knowledge and skills in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminology and general basics of relational databases • Writing database queries using SQL • Using SQL in Python and R
Module Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic principles and concepts of relational databases including entity integrity and referential integrity • Entity-Relationship Model and Database Schema • Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) • Relational Database Management Systems such as MySQL • Embedded databases such as SQLite • Introduction to the Structured Query Language (SQL) • Python and SQL (hands-on in a life science scenario) R and SQL (hands-on in a life science scenario)
Teaching / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures : ~40% classical teaching / ~30% guided exercises • Self-Study : ~20% exercises / ~10% literature studying



Assessment of Learning Outcome	Written exam (100%) pass/fail
Bibliography	Important additional literature will be provided on Moodle.
Language	English
Comments	Data ['deɪtə]: Borrowing from Latin <i>data</i> , nominative plural of <i>datum</i> (“that is given”), neuter past participle of <i>dō</i> (“I give”).
Last Update	24.02.2025