Introduction to supervisors

The purpose of this small text is to guide the supervisors on what is expected to provide an introductory course (Fagprojekt)

See the general course description and learning objectives on the Course database (see link below).

- Project:

The project can be defined by the supervisor or by the students with the assistance of the supervisor.

The proposed project should include some literature searches, and some research (experimental or computer based). It should be enough work for 4 people for 13 weeks + 3 weeks. The experimental work should be limited if in the wet lab, e.g. to one or two days (it is largely up to the supervisor and the students to decide how much – but remember: the purpose of the course is to learn “The scientific method”, not to do research). In the following Week 1 refers to the first week of the autumn semester, and so on.

- Meeting:

Each supervisor should meet with the group as early as possible, from week 4, to initiate the project. The supervisors are free to plan when they prefer to meet with the students. We suggest once a week (or at least 3-4 times during the semester). Wednesday is a good day as it is supposed to be the ‘Fagprojekt’ day.

- Time:

We expect the supervisor to meet with the project group on a regular basis, one hour. If the project includes experiments it often needs more time. More time can also be necessary in January according to the project.

- Report:

Each supervisor should read a project outline delivered by the group at Oct. 19. The outline should include: a clear definition of the purpose of the project, a work plan, and list expectations of the outcome of the project (half a page of text total).

Each supervisor should read part of the draft report handed in week 1 of the 3 January week period. If there is experimental work planned for January this can be included as “dummy text” in the preliminary report (i.e. a space to place results after completing the experiments)
The supervisor is not supposed to read the complete report before the final version. He or she is not supposed to correct language issues. More attention should be on the format of the report ('publication like' figures, tables, references).

- Feedback:

The supervisor should give oral feedback after consulting the report at week 9, and early January.

- Exam:

The group must hand in a completed report before an oral examination. It is up to the supervisor to set the dates for the report and for the exam. The grades have to be submitted to Claus (cst@bio.dtu.dk) no later than the first Monday after the 3-week period.

The group can present the project/report together or individually.

Each student must give a one minute “pitch” describing the project, the background (the reason why it is interesting), the methodology, results (if any), problems (if any) and conclusions. This has to be done one person at a time.

The examination in the report can be done either individually or as a group. If the group examination is chosen it is important to make sure every member of the group answers some questions. To aid the supervisors each repost must include a “Co-author declaration” stating who has done what in the project.

Each student should receive an individual grade (7-scale)

Time for the exam:
Joint presentation 10-15 min.
Pitch: 1 minute per person
Examination: about 10 min per person (the supervisor should determine when enough time has been spent)

- Trouble…

Should problematic issues arise during the project period, the supervisor should try to sort out the problems. The course facilitators, Claus and Mogens are available for consultations, and if necessary, intervention.

- Links:

Course database:

Wiki-page:
http://wiki.bio.dtu.dk/teaching/index.php/Course_27015
- Course facilitators:

Mogens Kilstrup, mki@bio.dtu.dk
Claus Sternberg, cst@bio.dtu.dk