

# Guidelines for the free study option

Customize your study program – in agreement with your thesis director – to enrich your thesis experience

## STEPS

## SCIENTIFIC SKILLS

## TRANSVERSAL SKILLS

1<sup>st</sup> year

Launch your thesis research & be part of the UNIL network

2-4 ECTS

- Develop your critical thinking skills & get to know your peers
- Tutorials IUFRS
- Gain knowledge in your field:
- Seminars
  - PhD courses
  - [Thematic study programs](#)
  - [CUSO courses](#)

Get specific knowledge & skills useful for your thesis:

- [Getting your PhD off to a good start! And other UNIL courses](#), section *Thesis from A to Z*
- [CUSO transversal program](#)
- [Plagiarism & Scientific Integrity](#)
- Data management & Open data

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year

Develop your scientific knowledge, transversal skills & expand your scientific network

6-8 ECTS

- Expose your work to experts & the lay public:
- Oral or poster presentation during national or international conferences
  - Oral presentation outside the department about the thesis results (public: researchers)
  - [SPINE Doctoral Day - Discover what your neighbours are working on!](#)
  - Seminars/meetings/workshops
  - ADAS Three Minute Thesis / Ma thèse en 180 secondes UNIL
- Get knowledge in your field:
- PhD courses
  - [Thematic study programs](#)
  - [CUSO courses](#)

Get specific knowledge & skills useful for your thesis:

- [Plagiarism & scientific integrity](#)
- [Ethics in research](#), [Open research data](#) and other [UNIL courses](#), section *Thesis from A to Z & Spice up your research!*
- [CUSO transversal program](#)
- [Scientific writing & communication SPINE](#)
- [SPINE Summer School\\*](#)

4<sup>th</sup> year +

Get ready for the thesis defense & beyond

0-2 ECTS

- Gain knowledge & expose your work:
- Oral or poster presentation during national or international conferences
  - Seminars/meetings/workshops
  - Oral presentation outside the department about the thesis results (public: researchers)

Get ready to present your thesis:

- [Get ready for the thesis defense and other UNIL courses](#), section *Thesis from A to Z, Spice up your research!*
- [SPINE Summer School\\*](#)

12 ECTS

8-9 ECTS points are recommended (6 ECTS min)

3-4 ECTS points are recommended (6 ECTS max)

Courses, seminars & events outside the program **might** be recognized. We encourage you to take part in those organized by other universities and renowned institutions, however contact us **in advance** to ensure we will recognize them. **\*Participation in at least 2 SPINE Summer Schools**