Course information
Using animals in research - Designing procedures and projects
# Function B

Spring 2025

LASDigiloikka
Laboratory Animal Science

Sakari Laaksonen
Hanna-Marja Voipio

In this introduction
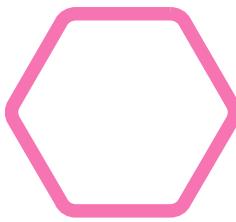
- About the course and us
- Who needs this course?
- Who can attend?
- Contents and structure
- Exercises
- How long is the course platform open?
- Examination and exam dates
- Certificates and ECTS
- When will you be competent to design procedures and projects?
- Contact us

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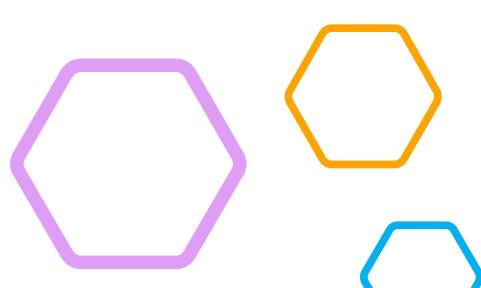
About the course and us

- This digital course has been prepared by Finnish laboratory animal science professionals in FinLAS ry, together with Master's Programme in Neuroscience at the University of Helsinki

- The course aims to harmonize the mandatory laboratory animal education and training in Finland

- Hanna-Marja Voipio and Sakari Laaksonen represented the University of Oulu in the group that created the course material

We are working at the Oulu Laboratory Animal Centre, OULAC:

Hanna-Marja Voipio
Director, Professor, European Veterinary Specialist in Laboratory Animal Medicine
Course organizer and teacher
Hanna-Marja.Voipio@oulu.fi

Sakari Laaksonen
Designated veterinarian, DVM, M.Sc. (laboratory animal science)
Course teacher
Sakari.Laaksonen@oulu.fi

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Who needs this course?

- Everyone who works with laboratory animals needs to be adequately educated and trained

- This course is intended for people who need to **design scientific projects using animals (function B)**.

- A designer competence is compulsory for designing animal experiments, and when applying for a project licence to use animals in scientific or educational purpose.

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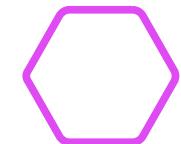
Who can attend?

Prerequisites for attending the course:

- A higher academic degree in a scientific discipline relevant to laboratory animal research, or studies for such a degree that are near completion AND

- A completed course for people carrying out procedures on animals (function A)

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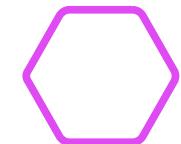
Contents and structure

- Estimated time to go through the material is 50-55 hours
- NOTICE that **the sizes and lengths of modules differ** – before planning your own timetable, take a look at the entire content in Moodle
- Contents follow the EU Education and training framework learning outcomes
- The course includes 4 theory modules
  - Minimally invasive procedures without anaesthesia – theory
  - Ethics, animal welfare and the Three Rs (level2)
  - Design of procedures and projects (level 1)
  - Design of procedures and projects (level 2)
- There will be two separate exercises
  - Reviewing a scientific article
  - Writing a project licence application
- There will be a written examination on experimental design

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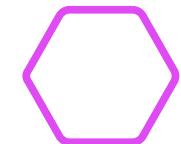
Exercises

- In addition to the Moodle material and examination, you will do two exercises:

  - Reviewing a scientific article
  - Writing a project licence application

- The exercises will be assigned to you at the beginning of the Moodle course

- In the article review task you will make a detailed analysis of a given article, based on the ARRIVE guidelines (Essential 10 and Recommended set): https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines

- The project licence application will be based on an actual animal experiment that you intend to carry out, or on a published animal experiment report. The licence form, instructions for its use and information about all aspects of applying for a licence can be found on the website of Regional State Administrative Agency: https://avi.fi/en/services/individuals/licences-notices-and-applications/animals/laboratory-animals

- Feedback of the exercises will be given by email. Personal meetings can also be arranged, if needed, to discuss the tasks.

- The exercises will have to be completed successfully before the Moodle course is closed

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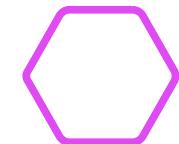
How long is the Moodle course open?

- The course material in Moodle platform will be open from 10 February till 12 May 2025

- You will need to pass the examination and complete the exercises successfully before the Moodle course is closed

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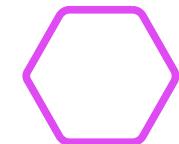
Examination

NB! There will not be any other examination opportunities in this course than the ones listed here. If you do not pass any of them and still want to try again, you will have to attend a new course, paying the normal fee.

- Before you can take the examination, you need to pass the theory in Moodle including exercises within modules

- The examination is a written exam

Register yourself to the exam: Email to Sakari.Laaksonen@oulu.fi and Hanna-Marja.Voipio@oulu.fi
Examination dates in spring 2025 are:

- Monday 10 March 2025 at 9.00-11.00, lecture hall P122

- Monday 24 March 2025 at 9.00-11.00, lecture hall P117

- Monday 14 April 2025 at 9.00-11.00, lecture hall P117

- Monday 15 May 2025 at 9.00-11.00, lecture hall P117

Certificates and ECTS

- You will get a certificate after you have passed the examination

- **Save your certificate carefully.** It is an official document for you, showing that you have passed the course to design procedures and projects. Remember to save also the certificates from function A (Carrying out procedures) which is a part of this design-course

- Passing the course theory gives you 2.0 ECTS

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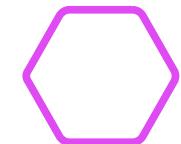
When will you be competent to design procedures and projects?

You will have an official competency to design procedures and projects and apply for animal experiment licenses when you have

- A higher degree in a scientific discipline relevant to laboratory animal research

AND

- Completed course for people designing procedures and projects (function B)

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Contact us

- If you have any questions
- If there are problems with Moodle or any parts of the course content

Email to Sakari and Hanna-Marja:

Sakari.Laaksonen@oulu.fi

Hanna-Marja.Voipio@oulu.fi

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