

# LF248-15 Plant Molecular Development

**26/27**

**Department**

Life Sciences

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

Beatriz Lagunas

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

5 weeks

**Assessment**

Multiple

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module provides a broad introduction to the molecular genetic analysis of plant development and leads to a discussion of potential implications for food security and a more sustainable agriculture.

### Module aims

This new, single term module will be introduced in order to offer an additional term 1 option for GSD students.

This module corresponds to part A of the LF217 module (Multicellular System). This in effect reinstates the discontinued BS248 module.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

#### 1-2. The Plant Cell I and II

1. Establishment of the embryonic body plan

## 2. Meristems and their maintenance

### 5-6. Plant hormones. Auxin and its role in shaping plant growth

1. Light responses and photomorphogenesis
2. Photoreceptors and downstream signalling pathways
3. The life cycle of higher plants. Plant gametes and fertilization
4. Seed development. Role of maternal tissue
5. Control of germination and seedling establishment
6. Sensing and responding to the environment in roots
7. Symbiotic nitrogen fixation
8. How plants cope with a stressful and changing environment
9. Plants under attack: defense against pathogens

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand the key aspects of plant development
- Understand how plant development is impacted by environmental signals (light, temperature, drought and nutrient availability)
- Understand mechanistic plant pathogens
- Understand the potential strategies to generate more resilient and more productive crops

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

## Subject specific skills

Outline the key differences between plant and animal development

Explain the mechanisms underlying pattern formation and tissue differentiation during development

Discuss the roles of different plant hormones and their mechanisms of action.

Describe how plants alter their development in response to environmental signals and explain the underlying mechanisms.

## Transferable skills

Self directed learning, group learning, adult learning, technology enhanced learning, quantitative skills.

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## Study

## Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	15 sessions of 1 hour (20%)
Practical classes	3 sessions of 3 hours (12%)
Private study	51 hours (68%)
Total	75 hours

## Private study description

Self directed learning and revision for end of year exam

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
In Module Laboratory	30%	30 hours	Yes (extension)
Exam (plus 30 minute reading time)	70%	45 hours	No

In-module laboratory that assesses plant responses to the hormone auxin

Section A: short answer questions. Section B: longer questions (may be essays, data-led or scenario-based).

Students should be given access to images for Section B for the first 30 minutes, then exam question should be opened for 90 minutes

### Assessment group R1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Exam (plus 30 minute reading time)	100%		No

Section A: short answer questions. Section B: longer questions (may be essays, data-led or

## Weighting

## Study time

## Eligible for self-certification

scenario-based).

Students should be given access to images for Section B for the first 30 minutes, then exam question should be opened for 90 minutes

## Feedback on assessment

Model answers will be provided via Moodle.

[Past exam papers for LF248](#)

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UIPA-C1L8 Undergraduate Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development

This module is Core optional for:

- UIPA-C1L8 Undergraduate Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of C1L8 Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of C1LB Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Ecology

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UBSA-3 Undergraduate Biological Sciences
- Year 2 of ULFA-C1A1 Undergraduate Biological Sciences (MBio)
- Year 2 of ULFA-C113 Undergraduate Biological Sciences (with Placement Year)
- Year 2 of ULFA-C1A5 Undergraduate Biological Sciences with Industrial Placement (MBio)
- Year 2 of UMDA-CF10 Undergraduate Integrated Natural Sciences (MSci)