

Introduction

The Academic Platform is responsible for the education and training of young researchers (PhD Students and Postdocs). One of its most important objective is the development of a doctoral network in Planetary Science within Switzerland.

The interdisciplinary study of Planetary Science entails the disciplines of Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Geochemistry, Geology, Geophysics, Computational Sciences, Biology, and others. Exoplanetary research is combined with the study of planets in our Solar System, and now includes the characterization of these objects and their atmospheres. While several prominent Universities (most within the United States) have “Planetary Science” Degrees, this is missing within Switzerland. The NCCR gathers the leading experts in the field of Planetary Science in Switzerland and as part of the Education and Training programme of the Academic Platform, it aims to initiate a Planetary Science degree in Switzerland. Within this framework:

We are now offering a PlanetS certificate in Planetary Science.

It is important to note that for the moment the PlanetS certificate will not be accredited officially by your University. While PlanetS will be working hard at trying to change this, for the moment the certificate is not an official document. However, it will show that you will have been exposed to a significant breadth of topics in addition to your local PhD requirements.

Fulfilling the following requirements during their PhD will allow PlanetS PhD students (incl. associate members) to obtain the PlanetS certificate in Planetary Science.

Requirements

- Complete **2 semester courses** (e.g. pass the exam) from the courses offered at our host institutions (at least one of them complementary to the PhD thesis topic) (see list in next paragraph)
- Attend **3 inter-project workshops** offered by PlanetS
- Give **1 presentation** (poster or talk) at a PlanetS scientific meeting (General Assembly or inter-project workshop or Site Visit)

	Type	Examples
2	Semester courses	See next paragraph
3	PlanetS inter-project workshops	
		Circumplanetary Disks
		Water and Planets
		Exoplanet Density
		Exoplanets in Binary Stars
		JWST
		etc.
1	Presentation (poster/talk) at PlanetS Scientific meeting	
		General Assembly
		Inter-project workshop
		Site Visit

Courses across PlanetS institutions

The following courses are considered to be relevant for an interdisciplinary Planetary Scientist *and only these courses count for the certificate*. The list of courses can change and relevant courses for each semester will be listed here: <http://nccr-planets.ch/planets-courses-list/>

Course	Lecturer	Date	University
Extrasolar Planets	S. Quanz	FS	ETHZ
Topics in Planetary Science	M. Schönbachler	FS	ETHZ
Planetary Geochemistry	M. Schönbachler	HS	ETHZ
Planetary Physics and Chemistry	P. Tackley	HS	ETHZ
The Sun and Planets	R. Helled	FS	UZH
Planet Formation	R. Helled	HS	UZH
Introduction to Astrobiology	B. Moore	HS	UZH
Computational Astrophysics	L. Mayer	HS	UZH
Chemical Evolution of the Earth	K. Mezger	FS, even years	UniBe
Planetary Atmospheres	K.Heng/P. Wurz/et al.	FS, even years	UniBe
Planet Formation and Evolution	Y. Alibert	HS	UniBe
Planetary Physics	C. Mordasini	HS	UniBe
Modern Exoplanetology	S. Udry	FS	UniGe
Fondements de l'Astronomie Observationelle	F. Pepe	HS	UniGe

FAQ:

- The PlanetS certificate in Planetary Science is not an officially accredited degree or document, however, it will be useful for your CV and future career
- The number of received credit points is irrelevant for obtaining the certificate
- If you have already started your PhD (or you are in the middle/at the end), you can still obtain the certificate: if you already fulfilled some requirements, they count retrospectively
- Proof of fulfilment of the requirements must be given (i.e. document with mark of passed exam or signed attendance sheet or similar) and sent by email to the Academic Platform (nadine.afam@erdw.ethz.ch) at the end of the PhD, together with the application form. If you are unsure about the requirements and if you fulfil them, please don't wait until the end of your PhD and contact us before to ask!