UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA	**Teaching plan for the course unit**

General information

Course unit name: Treball Final de Màster

Course unit code: 575567

Academic year: 2023-2024

Coordinator: Carles Martin Closas

Department: Department of Earth and Ocean Dynamics

Credits: 12

Single program: S

Estimated learning time　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Total number of hours 300**

Face-to-face and/or online activities	16	
- Other class types	Face-to-face	16
Supervised project	100	
Independent learning	184	

Competences to be gained during study

- To prepare a written and illustrated document related to paleontology following specific format parameters.

- To acquire the appropriate verbal communication and non-verbal expression tools to carry out a public exhibition related to the study of fossils efficiently.

Learning objectives

Referring to knowledge

- To identify the importance of fossils as tangible evidence of the evolution of life on Earth.
- To recognize the of paleontology as a multidisciplinary tool for solving problems / debates of biological and / or geological nature.
- To apply modern fossil analytical techniques and the consequent treatment of the data obtained.

Referring to abilities, skills

- To delimit a problem from an active debate in the specialized paleontological literature and to look for fossil material that allows obtaining new evidence to try to solve it.
- To choose the most appropriate analyses or experiments to solve a problem about paleontology.
- To summarize the most important aspects of the student own research and to transmit them to a specialized audience in the field of paleontology.

Referring to attitudes, values and norms

- To prepare a written and illustrated document related to paleontology, following specific format rules.
- To acquire the tools and attitudes of verbal communication and corporal expression appropriate to carry out a public exhibition related to the study of fossils in an efficient manner.

Teaching blocks

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1. Master Thesis

* **Delimitation of the problem.** Contextualization of a scientific objective to be resolved from previous scientific debates.

Statement of a working hypothesis. Determination of the appropriate methods or likely to be used to demonstrate or refute the validity of the initial working hypothesis.

Obtaining primary data. Statistical or discriminant treatment of numerical data. Descriptive work and development of qualitative data. Analysis and discussion of the data obtained and contextualization within a previously delimited scientific debate or paradigm.

Drawing conclusions. Preparation of a scientific report in article format, preferably in English. Oral presentation of the most relevant results derived from the research tasks carried out in front of panel of experts.

Teaching methods and general organization

The Master's Final Project, equivalent to 12 ECTS, will be supervised by one of the master's degree teachers. It must be an original research work in which students demonstrate the correct acquisition of the main learning outcomes of the Master degree. The completion of the Master's Thesis will necessarily be carried out during the second semester. Exceptionally, the Master's Project development and defense will be authorized during the first semester in the case the student has satisfactorily completed the rest of the Master modules but was not been able to finish the Master Thesis during the previous course. The guidelines will be published in the Virtual Campus.
The tutor is the academic reference of the student. He or she stimulates and evaluates the student during his/her learning process, guaranteeing a personalized training. The tutor's role is focused on helping students to identify their learning needs, reinforce teihr perseverance and effort and offer guidance on the learning process. Before presenting the TFM, the tutor makes a reasoned report addressed privately to the coordinator of the Master.

Official assessment of learning outcomes

Examination-based assessment

Overall evaluation of the Master Thesis 40%

Use of theories 20%

Research methodology 10%

Formal aspects 10%

Oral presentation and defense of the Master Thesis 20%

The Master Thesis will be evaluated by a jury composed of three professors, who teach in the Master, representing each of the institutions involved in teaching.