

About the yDiv membership

The uniqueness of the yDiv training and supervision programme stems from active exchange between different fields of integrative biodiversity research. yDiv furthermore provides method courses and transferable skills training as well as career support. yDiv doctoral researchers also have the opportunity to network and exchange within iDiv and yDiv and to complete a stay abroad.

Our training programme allows each doctoral researcher to flexibly choose courses and training that best support the completion of their PhD project and prepare them for a successful career in the field of biodiversity sciences or other responsible positions in politics, administration and economy.

Supervision

Each yDiv thesis project will be guided by the main supervisor and the PhD Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is composed of the main supervisor, another scientist from a different research group associated with the iDiv consortium, and at least one other scientist. The members of the PAC are jointly chosen by the doctoral researcher and their main supervisor.

The purpose of the PAC is to monitor the doctoral researcher's work progress, advise them regarding the development of their research project, and help in building the doctoral researcher's academic network. The PAC members are also requested to assist the doctoral researcher in all aspects of career planning.

Following the admission to yDiv, the formation of the PAC and the first meeting should take place *within the first three to six months* of the doctoral project to discuss the project plan. The PAC will meet *at least once per year* to discuss the progress of the project.

yDiv curriculum

Next to their own scientific research culminating in the PhD thesis, the doctoral researchers are obliged to complete a training programme of 12 credit points (CP). The CP system

follows the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and courses attended elsewhere are therefore easily creditable (1 ECTS = 25–30 hours of work).

The aim of the yDiv curriculum is to broaden the horizon of the doctoral researchers within the field of biodiversity research, improve their scientific and personal skills, foster research collaborations and personal networks, enhance integration at iDiv, and allow active peer support and exchange of experiences among the doctoral researchers.

Courses and workshops will be offered by yDiv, but also by the graduate academies of the consortium and other yDiv cooperation partners.

The additional curriculum contains:

- **Courses (10 CP)** – Including the mandatory yDiv Welcome Week and a training in “Good scientific practice”. For more information about the courses, see the yDiv website.
- **Activities (2 CP)** – With emphasis on activities that improve the doctoral researchers professional skills, networks, and integration within yDiv and iDiv. For more information on activities, please see the curriculum table on our website.
- **Stay abroad** – A research visit at a foreign top research group or organisation is strongly recommended to all yDiv doctoral researchers. An exchange visit provides an opportunity to specialize and further qualify in a chosen field of interest. The research stay can be completed in one or several parts and can last up to three months in total. yDiv provides co-funding for travel and accommodation.

yDiv certificate

After the completion of their doctoral degree and the yDiv curriculum, each doctoral researcher will receive a final certificate detailing all accomplished courses and activities.

By signing this document, the doctoral researcher and the supervisor confirm that the data given in the application form are correct and the conditions of the yDiv membership described above are accepted.

Name of doctoral researcher

Date and signature of the doctoral researcher

Name of supervisor

Date and signature of the supervisor