

Approval of students and interns to level 2 laboratories

Introduction

Within Maastricht University, it is agreed that students and interns may not come into contact with high-risk substances. Working with ML-II GMOs falls under this agreement. The risks of different ML-II GMOs are not the same, therefore activities are divided into various categories. Each has its admission policy for students and interns.

Viruses

Production and infection

This concerns activities with a high load of viral particles; students may not perform or watch these activities. Students and interns are therefore not allowed to access the ML-II production and infection COV.

Viral transduced cell line

This concerns a cell line being cultured after viral transduction with a (GM) virus for a considerable time but which cannot be scaled down to ML-I. Students and interns may culture these cells in the ML-II laboratory, after having gained sufficient culture experience on ML-I. Students and interns may culture these cells on ML-II since if there are still viral particles present, this will be a minimal amount (low viral load).

Bacteria

The admission policy for students and interns regarding working with GM bacteria is, among other things, based on the characteristics of the bacterial strain. In general, the admission policy below is used.

- There are no exceptions for students and interns who work in the laboratory for **less than 4 months**; they are not allowed to work with level 2 GM bacteria.
- Students and interns who work in the laboratory for more than 4 months may **not perform** this work for the **first 4 months**. These first 4 months should be used to gain sufficient practical bacteriological experience on ML-I. **Subsequently**, these students may work with level II GM bacteria under supervision during the following period. For this, students and interns must change their GMO approval by using the form [Approval as GMO worker](#).

NB. "Under supervision" means that at the beginning of the internship, the supervisor is present in the laboratory, as soon as the supervisor is convinced that the student can work more independently, the supervisor must be present in at least an adjacent lab or nearby room/office. A student cannot be supervised by a supervisor working at home!!!

Supervisors have to take these restrictions into account when writing internship proposals.

Abbreviations

COV	Central Research Facilities
GM	Genetically Modified
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
ML-I	Microbiological Laboratory Class I
ML-II	Microbiological Laboratory Class II

References

- Decree and Regulation on Genetically Modified Organisms, Environmental Management 2013, IenW April 2014.
- [Website HSB Maastricht](#)

Further information

For further information, please contact the [BSO](#).