

## **Virtual summer semester BMB**

In my master program BMB, the summer semester was completely restructured, so that the theoretical parts, the seminars, are happening now, hoping that the laboratories will be able to host us students later in the semester. For the first three weeks, I have had a seminar every morning at 10, in which our professors and some collaborators from other faculties are presenting their work, and we get to discuss our questions and ideas. The task for us is to develop our own interdisciplinary project which we will present in October on a (virtual?) Symposium. The lectures are almost normal, the professors share the presentation screen in zoom and hold the lecture.

In the afternoons, we had a course on project management. Having some information on how to structure a project, we directly get to apply and experience. In group work, we organize ourselves to create and hold a presentation on a topic of synthetic biology for a class of Bachelor students.

I have experienced, that, as we do not lose time to go to a meeting, we save time. But, on the other hand, communication is more difficult, because we are not able to see each other in person. Discussions are more difficult in a video conference and I am missing to have lunch together in Mensa.

Our professors suggested that we have our own private meetings to enjoy ourselves as well. So, we have been organizing the “virtual breakfast”. Every morning before the lecture, we meet and have a coffee together and talk and exchange news.

In the meantime, laboratories have opened again and under hygiene restrictions, the module D classes have started. Twice a week, we work in the lab and learn about proteostasis in *C. elegans*.