# GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF UNU\_BIOLAC TRAINING COURSES PROPOSALS 2024

**(Please fill out in English only)**

Applicants for the *2024 UNU-BIOLAC Training Courses* should be active researchers committed to sharing their expertise by organising training courses on Biotechnology *sensu stricto*.

UNU-BIOLAC is encouraging scientists to delve into the many facets of Biotechnology as a mean to solve problems of scientific nature or to generate biotechnological solutions/products derived from basic or applied research.

Our Programme manages limited resources that oblige us to exert careful and thoughtful selection of the best proposals in order to offer biotechnologists of our region the best Latin America and the Caribbean (and sometimes other parts of the world) can offer to promote Biotechnology as a tool of social change, scientific advancement and professional and personal growth.

**IMPORTANT:** For the work developed at BIOLAC, and that promoted elsewhere by the Programme, *Biotechnology can be defined as the field of* *applied knowledge that arises from the intersection between basic biological sciences and technical and technological innovations in order to use organisms, their parts or their native processes to create something new that fulfil the previously perceived need that stimulated its creation*. Biotechnology can give rise to a tool that, employed later, can be used to produce a good or service, or it can directly be one of the latter two.

Generally speaking, modern Biotechnology also requires applying scientific knowledge to understand why the processes and the organisms it creates work the way they do. Almost always, Biotechnology opens doors to improve itself or create a novelty capable and prone to originate additional ones.

**Therefore, biotechnology requires living organisms, their parts and processes, together with the intention and knowledge of factual evidence that gives the entire process a truly human nature, to give reality a novelty that could not occur or arise without human intervention.**

**Some examples of what is not Biotechnology**

* Traditional Agriculture and related fields (Agronomy, Horticulture, Economic Botany)
* Basic science
* Religion and/or political activism
* Alternative paradigms that rely on the use of rituals, stones, animals or other elements of the natural world with the intent of manipulating the perception and/or interpretation of reality

For a helpful discussion on the matter, you might like to visit <https://iubmb.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/bmb.2004.494032040375>, where the following article (and access to many others) is granted:

**Dahms, A.S.** (2004), Biotechnology: What it is, what it is not, and the challenges in reaching a national or global consensus. *Biochem. Mol. Biol. Educ*., 32: 271-278. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bmb.2004.494032040375>

1. Specific fields of the proposal (be precise and concise without omitting details)
2. **Title of the training proposal**
3. **Name and address of the institution hosting the training course**
4. **Name, title and institutional affiliation of the training course Coordinator**
5. **Coordinator’s email (and other forms of contact)**
6. **Expected Commencement and conclusion dates of the training course**
7. **Justification of the training course**
8. **Objectives of the training course**
9. **Course short description (present a summary of content)**
10. **Course Description (present a summary of content and specify the target audience. Relate activities and working plan)**
11. **Organization of training (indicate modalities of instruction to be used – lectures, laboratory sessions, visits, etc., resource persons to be involved including those that may be invited from abroad, language of instruction)**
12. **Collaborators (please include Full Name / Position / Institution / Phone / E-mail address and area of expertise; attach short resumes)**
13. **Identification and Selection of Trainees (indicate the extent to which these functions will be delegated to the institution hosting the training, and how the training opportunity will be targeted to a small number of core institutions in accordance with the UNU strategy for capacity-building)**
14. **Expected output (indicate reports, proceedings or training manual that will result from the training**
15. **Estimated Budget (make a Table with the main budget expenditure items related to the training course and identify all sources of funding per item)**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** UNU-BIOLAC will privilege budget funds mostly oriented to the students’ mobilization within the geographical vicinity of the host institution, and exhorts course coordinators not to charge registration fees.

**UNU/BIOLAC will fund courses up to 20000 USD and will not consider proposals with no counterpart funds.**