

# Guideline for the Seminars of Innovation and Research in Informatics (SIRI) Course

In this course, the student will acquire competence in fundamental methodological aspects and good practices of research and innovation, fundamentally through the study of cutting-edge topics and the experiences transmitted by researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs of recognized prestige in the field of Computer Science, in a flexible seminar-type format or intensive modules.

SIRI is not assigned to a specific semester. Therefore, it is not enrolled a priori, as usual, but only after taking enough seminars as to validate the 6 ECTS of this course (except for exchange students who must enrol it as any other course a priori).

#### Nomenclature

SIRI accepts two kind of activities: seminars and guided activities.

- 1) **Seminars** are activities proposed by the faculty that students may take:
  - They can be *one-off* (e.g., a talk by a visiting professor) and take place on a specific date (or dates) during a given academic year.
  - o **recurring** (e.g., relevant online courses) without a specific date to conduct them during a given academic year.
- 2) **Guided activities** are activities proposed by the students to be conducted supervised by a tutor and accepted as a valid activity by the specialization coordinator.

## Procedure

Whatever kind of activity you want to follow, there is a strict procedure you must follow: *creation, validation, registration and recognition*. The whole procedure takes place via *Racó*. Let us discuss the procedure for each kind of activity.

#### Seminars

- <u>Creation/Validation</u>: it is created and validated by academic staff. Students are not allowed to propose seminars. Seminars are proposed all over the whole academic year and as soon as they are validated they appear in *Racó*: Go to *Groups / MIRI* and then click on seminars on the left menu that appear. See Figure 1 for more details.
- <u>Registration</u>: carefully read the details provided by each seminar. If you have any
  question, drop an email to the contact person. When interested in a seminar follow the
  instructions in the seminar details to register (e.g., register via a website or sending an
  email). Please, be aware that without properly registering you will not be able to
  recognize it.
- Recognition: once the seminar is over and you have passed it (check the seminar details to know about the evaluation method) you must obtain a certificate from the organizer(s). This certificate must list your name, seminar name and mark obtained (if any; otherwise, an explicit acknowledgement that you passed). Most seminars, however, require a second



certificate. Contact the person who created the seminar (not the contact person) and follow her instructions (more information in the appendix). In short, you will be asked to produce some documentation to validate you properly followed and profited the seminar. Once delivered, this person will generate the second certificate you must upload via Racó together with the organizers certificate.

Then, upload the certificate(s) via Racó. Find the seminar (in the list of seminars already passed within this academic year) and accredit the seminar as shown in Figure 2. Once you submit this information, the process is finished and you must wait for the secretariat to double check the documentation submitted. If everything is in order, you will obtain the number of ECTS listed in the seminar details.

Importantly, you must accredit the seminar within the academic year it was given. It will not be possible to accredit a seminar from another academic year.



Figure 1: Available seminars listing

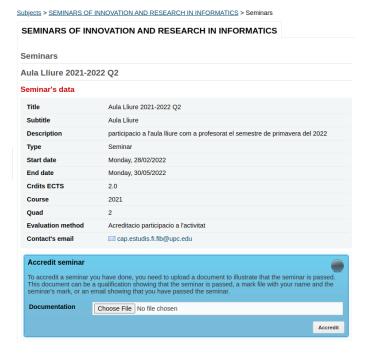


Figure 2: Accrediting a seminar via Racó



## Guided activities

- **Creation**: the following steps are mandatory:
  - The student must contact one lecturer from the master specialization (it is mandatory to be a FIB lecturer) and propose the guided activity of interest.
  - o If the lecturer accepts it, this person will play the role of tutor for this activity. The student and the lecturer must agree on the relevance of the guided activity for the master, the evaluation method to be followed and also the number of ECTS it is worth. Basically, the following proportion must hold: 30h/work should be equivalent to 1 ECTS.
  - The student then goes to Racó (same placement as for available seminars, see Figure 1), and creates a new proposal for a guided activity. You must enter, at least, all the information depicted in Figure 3, namely:
    - Title of the guided activity,
    - Subtitle (optional),
    - Description,
    - Type: choose guided activity. Choosing any other option will make the procedure fail (even if you do not get an error notification),
    - Speciality: choose your master specialization (if you are an exchange student leave it as no specialization),
    - Start and end date,
    - Schedule,
    - Number of hours (in total),
    - ECTS credits agreed with the tutor,
    - Course: the current academic course,
    - Quad: first or second, depending when you plan to do it,
    - Evaluation method: clear and detailed specification of the evaluation method (see appendix A for more details),
    - Contact's name: name of your tutor,
    - Contact's email: email of your tutor,
    - Web: if you are participating in an activity organized by a third party, introduced here the event website,
    - Documentation: if you have any additional documentation that may want to be considered for the validation of the seminar added it here.
       IMPORTANT: you should not include here a certificate / documentation for validation you already got (see recognition below).

Be informative and include as much information as possible when creating the guided activity. This is important to guarantee a smooth process (see following items). Once done, do not forget to save and send.



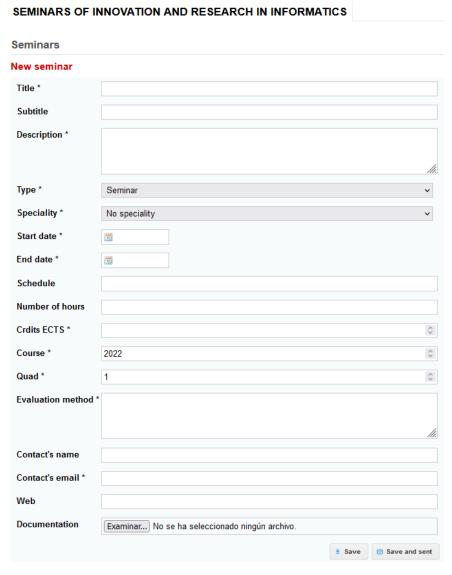


Figure 3: Creation of a guided activity

- <u>Validation</u>: the created seminar arrives to your specialization coordinator (if you are an exchange student, it gets to the vicedean of postgraduate studies). This person is in charge to validate the proposed guided activity and accept/reject it. The thumb rule you must account for is that 30h/work is typically recognized as 1 ECTS. Further, the evaluation method must follow the constraints set in the Appendix A of this document. It is important you are informative and clear when introducing the proposed guided activity to facilitate its validation. In case of doubts during this step, contact your specialization coordinator for further details:
  - o MIRI-AC: Jordi Petit (jpetit@cs.upc.edu)
  - o MIRI-CGVR: Nuria Pelechano (npelechano@cs.upc.edu)
  - o MIRI-CNDS: Jose M. Barceló (joseb@ac.upc.edu)
  - MIRI-HPC: Josep Llosa (josepll@ac.upc.edu)
  - MIRI-DS and exchange students: Vicedean of postgraduate studies (vd.postgrau.fib@upc.edu)



- <u>Registration</u>: once validated this guided activity will appear in your Racó as pending to be recognized. Therefore, the registration is automatic once validated. If rejected, you will have to start the procedure from scratch.
- <u>Recognition</u>: once you finish the guided activity, you must produce all the documents required and upload them via Racó to the registered activity (which should be listed as pending to be recognized). Once you submit this information, the process is finished and you must wait for the secretariat to double check the documentation submitted. If everything is in order, you will obtain the number of ECTS listed in the seminar details.

## How to enroll SIRI

SIRI can only be enrolled when you got enough seminars / guided activities (i.e., 6 ECTS) recognized (i.e., after the validation of the secretariat). At this moment, contact the secretariat to enroll SIRI by the end of the current semester.

Be aware, however, of the SIRI tempos. Recognition is not immediate. The secretariat may need some time to process all events. Please, be patient. In general, SIRI enrolment is only accepted at the end of the current semester and therefore, recognition is typically conducted in batch towards the end of the semester. If you need to enrol SIRI beforehand due to external reasons (i.e., grant requirements or major issues like that), please, contact our secretariat.

Thus, please, plan ahead.



# APPENDIX A. LISTS OF VALID ACTIVITIES

# What activities are considered valid seminars?

- Participation in a Hands-on / Datathon / Hackathon / Tutorial: up to 3 ECTS
- Invited lecturers (e.g., visiting academics) talks or short courses
- Attendance (<u>not participation</u>) to a Summer School / Conference / Workshop, etc.
- Relevant online courses
- Participation in aula lliure / mentories
- Ftc

If an activity is listed in Racó then, it is a valid seminar you may consider. Sometimes, however, there are some activities that fit as seminars but do not appear there. For example, an interesting conference you may want to attend (be careful, participation in a conference is a guided activity), a hackathon or datathon, an interesting online course, etc. In this case, contact your specialization coordinator and discuss the possibility to create this seminar. If they agree, they will create the seminar and it will be available in the list of seminars.

#### General constraints

Bear in mind the following constraints all coordinators will apply when evaluating the possibility to add a new seminar on your demand:

- Activities that have already passed, i.e., already taken, and not communicated and discussed beforehand will not be accepted as seminars.
- Online conferences are not accepted anymore.
- Online courses are, in general, not accepted. Only exceptional cases might be considered.

## Specific constraints

Online courses and *aula lliure / mentories* do not require two certificates. The certificate generated by the organizers will suffice.

# What activities are considered valid guided activities?

A guided activity is that specific for the student, typically directly agreed with the tutor. The most common guided activities are as follows:

- State-of-the-art/survey in a specific field,
- Collaboration with an international or local research group (this includes seminars or presentations within a research group),
- Presentation of an academic work (paper, poster, demo, etc.) at a conference / workshop / etc.

As explained before, these activities are only valid if (i) you agree with a tutor and (ii) the specialization coordinator validates it. There are some general and specific constraints you must be aware of.



#### General constraints

- The proposed activity cannot be part of the student's master thesis, neither be part of the material produced for a course in the master, nor be part of a curricular internship.
- The activity must be conducted during the time the student is enrolled in the master.

### Specific constraints

Finally, be aware of the following restrictions per kind of activity:

- State-of-the-art/survey in a specific field: maximum 3 ECTS.
  - Constraints:
    - Each student can only account 1 activity of this kind.
    - It must contain no less than 10 bibliography references.
  - o Documentation to deliver (as part of the activity evaluation):
    - The state-of-the-art itself, which must contain, at least, 10 pages.
    - A certificate signed by the tutor stating that the work done is worth the number of ECTS claimed.
- Collaboration with an international or local research group (this includes seminars or presentations within a research group): maximum 3 ECTS.
  - Constraints:
    - Each student can only account 1 activity of this kind.
  - o Documentation to deliver (as part of the activity evaluation):
    - Report of at least 10 pages describing the objectives of the collaboration, main activities conducted and their relationship with the student's specialization.
    - A certificate signed by the collaboration supervisor acknowledging the collaboration with starting and ending date and number of hours devoted. If the supervisor is the tutor, this certificate must also certify the number of ECTS claimed.
    - If the supervisor is not the tutor, then, the tutor must create a certificate stating the work done is worth the number of ECTS claimed.
- Presentation of an academic work (paper, poster, demo, etc.) at a conference / workshop / etc.
  - o Documentation to deliver (as part of the activity evaluation):
    - Slides / poster of the presentation. If it is a demo, a link to Github / website where the demo can be found.
    - A certificate of attendance. If not possible, the conference badge and a screenshot of the conference program containing the presentation would suffice instead.
    - In this case, it is advisable the tutor of this task should be the specialization coordinator (to be sure the guided activity will be validated).