



Biodiv Annual Meeting 2025
"Bridging Science and Society - From Discovery to Impact"

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this and what is this for?

The BIODIV Annual Meeting is a meeting between the students of the doctoral programme in Biodiversity, Genetics and Evolution (BIODIV) from the Universities of Porto and Lisbon. This meeting is meant to promote the exchange of scientific ideas and foster social and academic connections within the doctoral programme.

When?

From the 27th to the 30th of April, 2025 (Sunday to Wednesday).

Where?

At Mértola Biological Station (EBM)

Address of the **event**:

Cineteatro Duque Marques
Rua Dr. Afonso Costa, 56 78.
7750-352, Mértola
Portugal

[Here](#)

Address of the provisory station:

Casa dos Azulejos
Rua Professor Batista da Graça, n.º1.
7750-360, Mértola
Portugal

[Here](#)

For whom?

For BIODIV Doctoral Programme PhD students based in Porto and Lisbon.

What is going to happen exactly?

The preliminary program is available on our website:

<https://www.biodiv.pt/en/phd-programme/annual-meeting-2025/>

What is the official language of the meeting?

As always, we wish to promote diversity and intercultural dialogue, so we will conduct our meeting in **English**. Therefore, all abstract submissions and presentations should be prepared in this language.

What kind of activities will happen during the event?

All activities will be mentioned in the schedule of the preliminary programme, but we wish to detail some of the most relevant to you:

1. **Plenary talks:** This year, the four plenary talks will be focused on the motto of our meeting, "*Bridging Science and Society - From Discovery to Impact*". We have invited four speakers who will tell us about their work and how their research brings meaningful contributions to society. We hope that these talks will offer new insights into the importance of scientific research not only in Portugal but also worldwide, and inspire you in your own research endeavours.
2. **BIODIV student talks:** One of the main goals of the Annual Meeting is to foster the exchange of ideas and knowledge with each other. As such, student talks will be one of the main aspects of our programme! You can submit your abstract for either a **Full talk**, **Flash talk**, **Poster + Flash talk** or a **Poster** (see below for details). We welcome you to take this opportunity to present your PhD project to the BIODIV community. You can discuss your research plan, current results, future directions, etc. Submissions are not restricted to the motto of the meeting!
3. **Workshop:** within the scope of this year's motto, we will have a presentation and workshop led by Dr. João Palma. The workshop will focus on innovative strategies for forest conservation with a slight touch on how models can be of

help for decision-making. Dr. João Palma will also address the topic about the professional career in research outside academia.

4. **Social activities:** The 6th BIODIV Annual Meeting will be held, for the first time, in neutral territory besides Porto and Lisbon. As such, we want to make sure you will have plenty of opportunities to hang out with your PhD colleagues, get to know each other, and foster new and meaningful connections. Social events will include an informal welcome reception, ice-breaking activities and a group dinner. As this is the first Meeting in Mértola, we will also have the opportunity to discover the beautiful town of Mértola.

How can I register and how should I submit my abstract?

Registrations for the Meeting are now open. If you are interested in attending the meeting, please use the following link: [here](#).

Abstract submissions are now open. If you are interested in submitting your abstract and presenting your work, please use the following link: [here](#).

What can I present?

There are four possible types of communication:

1. Oral communication of 10 min, with 5 min discussion immediately after (**Full talk**)
2. Oral communication of 3 min, with the option of up to 2 powerpoints slides (**Flash talk**)
3. Poster, with the additional opportunity for a 3 min pitch about why your poster is so amazing and why everyone should see it (**Poster + Flash talk**)
4. Poster only, without flash talk, presented during the poster session with a possibility for a short "pitching" presentation (**Poster**)

All types of communications are limited and will be selected by the Scientific Committee. Priority will be given to 3rd and 4th-year students.

If you submit a Full talk and your abstract is not selected, you may be invited to present a Flash talk, Poster + flash talk or Poster instead.

Does my submission have to be under the motto of the meeting?

No! While we are preparing several activities focused on real-world applications of scientific research, students' submissions do not have to focus on these themes! We want to hear about what you have been doing during your PhD, your project, results, struggles, prospects, etc.!

When will I know if my oral communication was accepted?

We plan to let you know if you were selected by **March 31st**.

I'm doing a poster communication. Can you print my poster?

Yes. BIODIV will cover the costs of printing all posters for the Meeting. To make sure we have time to print your poster, please send us your **Poster pdf file through email, by April 20th 2025**, to biodivannualmeeting@gmail.com.

If you fail to send your file by this deadline, we cannot ensure the printing of the poster.

Are there any guidelines for poster size?

Yes. All posters should be prepared in **A0 portrait format (120 cm height and 80 cm width)** so that they can fit the available poster stands.

I'm doing an oral communication. Should I deliver my PowerPoint in advance?

Yes. Please send us your presentation through **email, until April 25th 2025**, to biodivannualmeeting@gmail.com.

Alternatively, we will collect presentations at the Welcome event (**Sunday, April 27th**). If you wish to deliver your file **in person**, please bring it in a pen drive USB.

Which costs are covered by the Doctoral Programme?

Travel costs related to **transportation** (by bus) between Porto, Lisbon and Mértola (on April 27th and April 30th) will be covered. **Accommodation** in pension and residencies between April 27th and 30th will also be covered for all participants.

If you decide on transportation and accommodation options other than those provided by the Doctoral Programme, expenses will not be covered.

For **all participants** (from both Porto and Lisbon), **meals** (coffee breaks, lunches on April 28th and April 29th) and **social events** (welcome reception and social dinner) are also covered.

If you register for accommodation or transportation and you do not show in, **finés** will be applied accordingly.

Which meals are included?

Besides coffee breaks, there are four main meals included in this meeting:

- Welcome Reception on April 27th (location to be announced; see details below)
- Lunch on April 28th (Cineteatro Duque Marques; see details below)
- Lunch on April 29th (Cineteatro Duque Marques; see details below).
- Social Dinner on April 29th (location to be announced; see details below)
- Lunch on April 30th (Cineteatro Duque Marques; see details below).

Meals will include vegan options. If you have any food restrictions (e.g., lactose intolerance, celiac disease, or any other intolerances or diseases), please let us know through the registration form.

The **Welcome Reception** will take place in the late afternoon on the first day, on location to be defined. It will include coffee-break-like food and pizzas, so it is unlikely that you need to have dinner afterwards.

The **lunches at the lobby of Cineteatro**, on April 28th, 29th and 30th will be in a **buffet** format.

The **Social Dinner**, on April 29th, will be held in a **restaurant**.

Important: The dinner on April 28th will **not be included** in the BIODIV Meeting program, so it will be a free choice night through the local gastronomy.

Where will I stay during the meeting?

All students who register for accommodation will be provided with one. The exact **location and other relevant information are to be announced**.

How am I receiving my bus ticket?

Don't worry. The ticket will be assured by the organizing committee at the time and place of the departure to be defined.

Is there any public transportation in Mértola?

Inside Mértola, there is not. However, between Mértola and Beja (the closest train connection), there is a bus company that you can consult [here](#).

How will I move around Mértola?

As Mértola is such a small village, the movement around the town will be made by walking.

What will happen on the group activities of April 29th?

We will have a **guided visit** through the village's cultural heritage, landscape observation, finalizing the visit at the field station of Mértola Biological Station.

I still have questions! How can I contact you?

Feel free to contact us at biodivannualmeeting@gmail.com.