

Credit Point Key

Last update: 04.09.2025

This credit point key is the guideline for training elements that you must complete in the JSMC program and that are subject to agreement with your supervisor and the JSMC management. Certain activities will require individual assessment of the credit points awarded, so be sure to get this approved before you embark on those activities. Our credit points are compatible with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), where one credit point corresponds to 25-30 hours, to allow for participating in external training elements such as those offered by the FSU Graduate Academy. To keep track of your collected credit points, please download a [batch card template](#) and fill it in regularly. Financial assistance to cover course fees may be offered after assessment by the JSMC management on an individual basis.

A total of 30 cp has to be collected during the PhD training period and prior to graduation. Points must be gained from the Scientific, Mentoring and Soft skills programs. Training in Statistics, an annual Good Scientific Practice session, and attending departmental seminars as well as the monthly ECRE seminars are mandatory for all JSMC doctoral researchers. Further, we highly recommend training in Data Management and Scientific Writing. Relevant course offerings will be communicated in the JSMC newsletter and on our website.

A maximum of 12 cp can be earned per year and no more than 3 cp for any single activity, with the exception of cumulative attendance of weekly seminars. Please note that the goal is to earn a total of 30 cp during of your PhD, NOT to earn as many credit points as possible as additional points will not be listed as such on your graduate certificate.

A. Scientific program

A.1. Mandatory: Scientific Practice and Statistics

- Annual Good Scientific Practice: 1 cp total
- Statistics: 1 cp minimum

These can be taken at in-house JSMC courses, the HKI, the FSU Graduate Academy or accredited training institutions. Please contact the JSMC management prior to registering for the course to verify it will be recognized.

A.2. Mandatory: Early Career Research Exchange (ECRE seminar)

- 1 cp per year (regular attendance is mandatory); max. 6 cp overall

A.3. Methods Courses and Practical Workshops

- Methods courses and practical workshops will be offered by the JSMC and the FSU Graduate Academy but can also be attended at partner institutes or accredited providers

A.4. Research Stays and Industry Partner Projects

- 1 cp per week, max. 3 cp per stay / project

A.5. Conference visits

- Talk presented = 1 cp
- Poster presented = 1 cp

B. Mentoring program

B.1. Mandatory: Annual Thesis Committee Meeting (TCM)

- 1 cp per meeting (= per year; a TCM protocol has to be submitted for each TCM)

B.2. Mandatory: Weekly seminar

- 1 cp per semester for regular attendance
- 1 cp for preparing a seminar
- max. 3 cp per year; max. 6 cp overall

If no weekly seminars are offered within your workgroup, make sure to attend a weekly seminar of another group within JSMC!

B.3. Teaching

- Mentoring at a practical student course or lecturing: 1 cp per week, max. 3 cp per course / lecture
- Mentoring of individual students (such as co-supervising a Master student or a student assistant): 1 cp per week, max. 3 cp per student

C. Soft skill program

C.1. Soft skills and language courses

- These include, but are not limited to, project management, science communication, presentation skills, scientific writing, language courses (German/English)

C.2. Public engagement activities

- Assisting with the organization of MiCom, Long Night of Sciences and other outreach activities
- Please contact the JSMC management for the allocation of credit points