

Evaluation of the Summer Undergraduate Research Programme 2011

Number of responses : 18 / 20 (90 % participation)

Survey from August 25 to September 8 2011

For each question, the results are expressed in the plot, percentage (number of responses per question / total responses). The student comments have been transcribed respecting the style and spelling of authors.

I. Evaluation of the programme



Looking at the responses of students, we find that the programme meets the expectations very well as the satisfaction rate is over 80 % for all the questions asked.

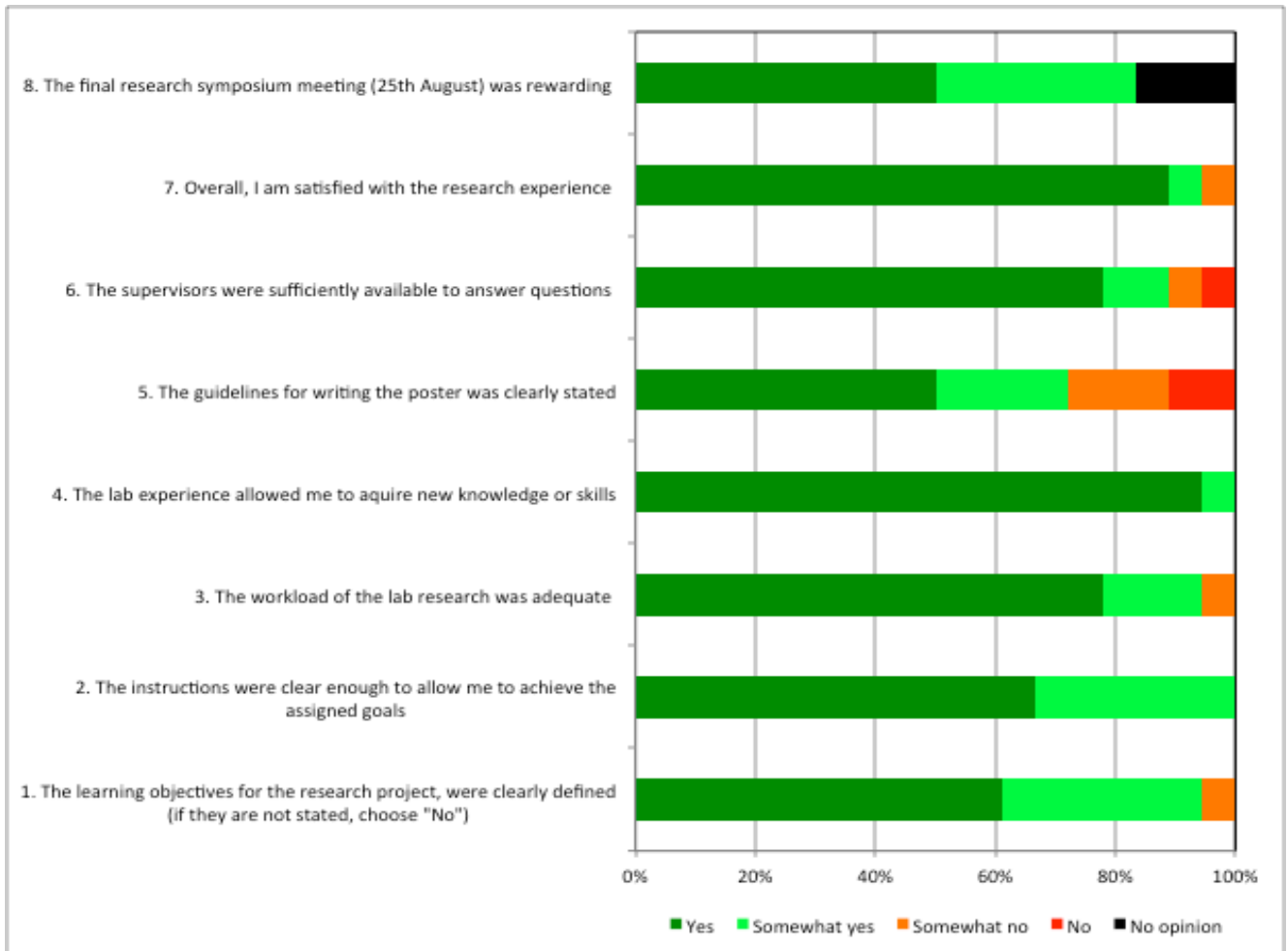
Specific comments about the programme

The programme was very well organized- it was not too academic, like a university course, and instead exposed me to lab life and techniques as well as possible career paths. I also had a lot of fun outside the lab, travelling around Switzerland, and have made good friends, with whom I will hopefully keep in touch. The bursary was a good amount and it should stay this way to ensure future students' welfare.

I answered YES+OF COURSE for all questions, because it is really that!

I think communication of information before the program could have been better. Maybe more brochures with information in a more organized fashion. Otherwise organization of the program was fantastic.

II. Evaluation of the research experience



Regarding the results, the research experience is very positive for the students. 7/8 questions received a satisfaction rate over than 80 %.

The only question with a lower satisfaction rate concerns “The guideline for writing the poster” (72 % positive response).

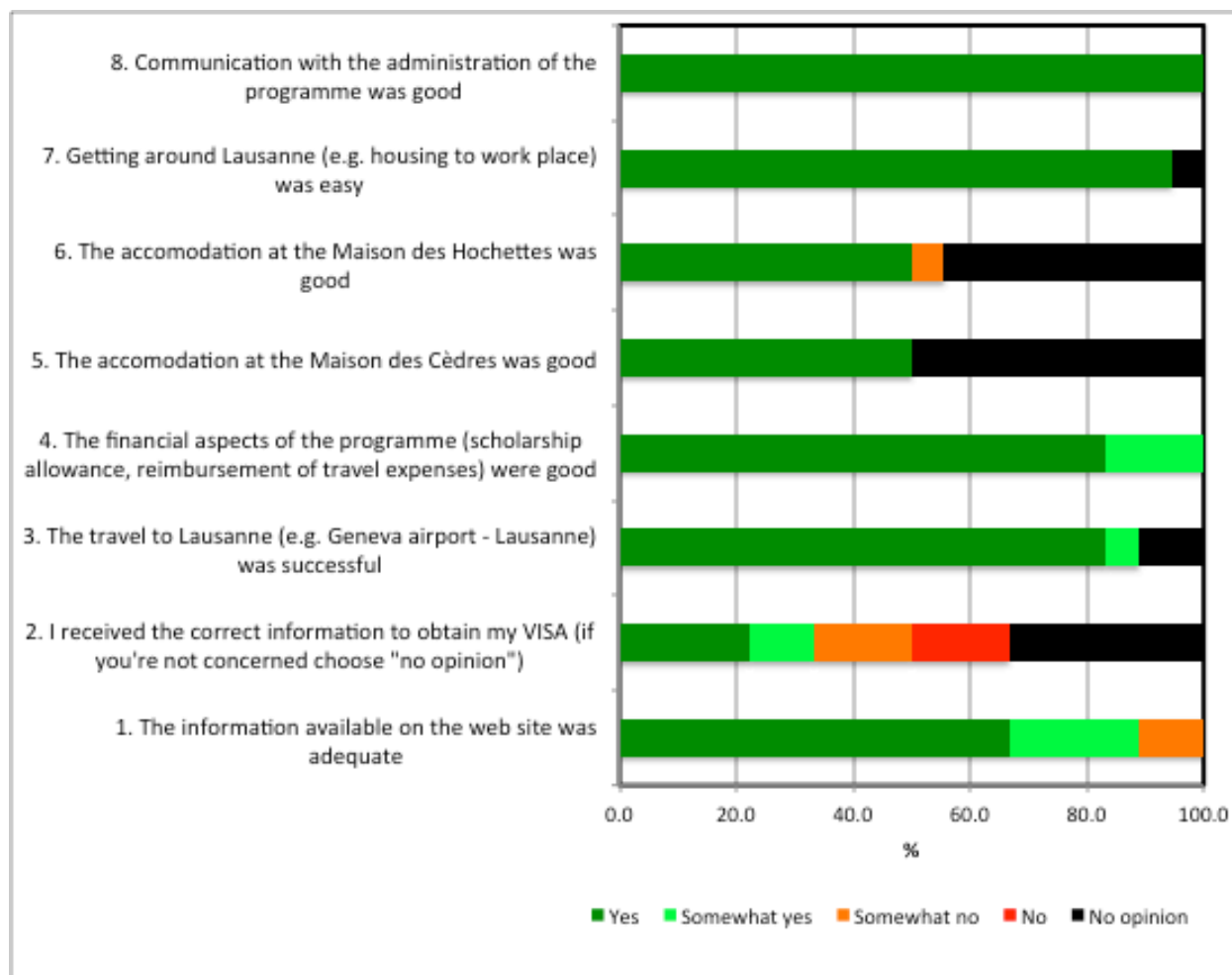
Specific comments about research experience

Maybe there should be better explanation for example what everything should be on on poster, to remind us about putting logo of University on poster, what shout be the bisggest font for writing on the poster.

Concerning the research symposium, I would have liked to have more time to see other students' posters.

Symposium: Too many posters, too little space, and not enough time to see all the posters. I think it should be broken up into "groups" where certain students are assigned to stand by their posters at a specific time, and during other sessions are able to go to the other posters to learn about other students' projects. More detailed instructions should be sent out on the abstract and the poster. Perhaps providing more references/samples of what to do, how to organize the poster, would be better.

III. Evaluation of arrivals and living arrangements



The evaluation of arrivals and living arrangements received an overall satisfaction rate of 92 % .
The only point that we have to improve for next year concerns the information to obtain the VISA.

Specific comments about arrivals and living arrangements

Laurence was very helpful and quick to answer questions. Unfortunately there was some misunderstanding about which visa I needed, which caused some stress before my departure for Switzerland. Cedres is a very good location- it is more central than Ochettes and I'm glad I was there (close to Gare etc)

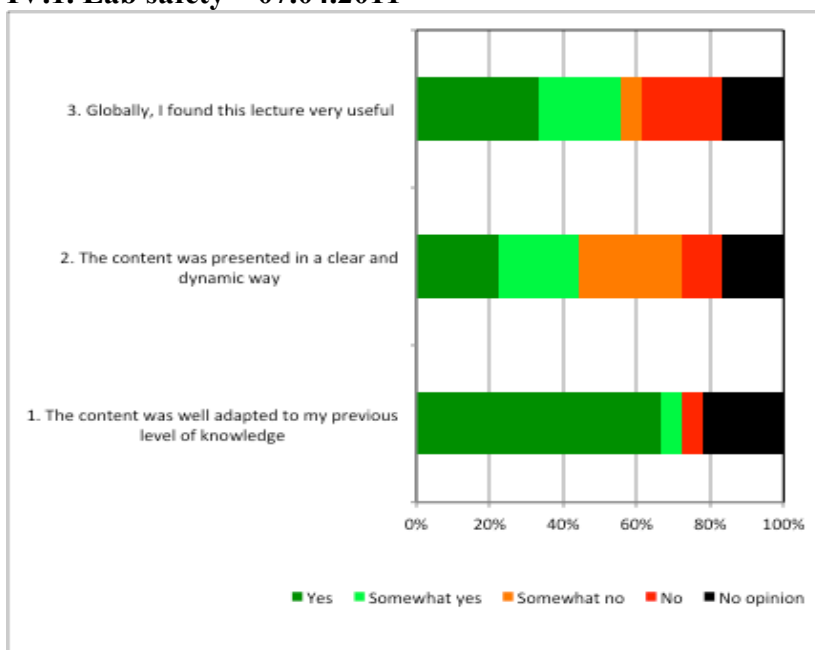
Maybe you should immediately said which type of visa we need for coming on this kind of program. Not to wait your Embassies in our contries.

Wish we could have had more "debriefing" sessions before the end of the program so that some problems could have been addressed earlier (for example with housing or travel)

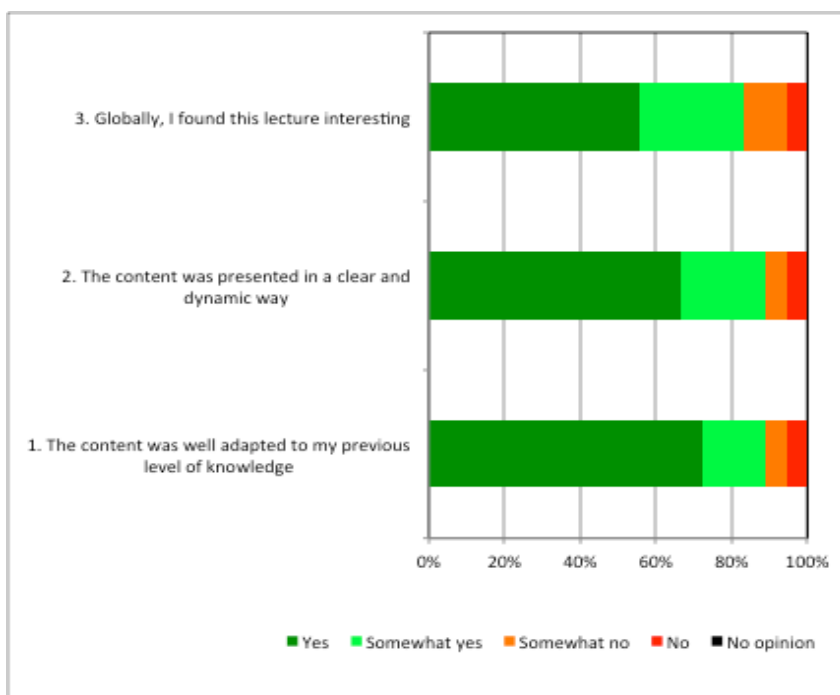
IV. Evaluation of the lecture

Globally, all conferences have been very well appreciated by students.
For next year, the value and importance of the conference "Lab safety" need to better communicate.

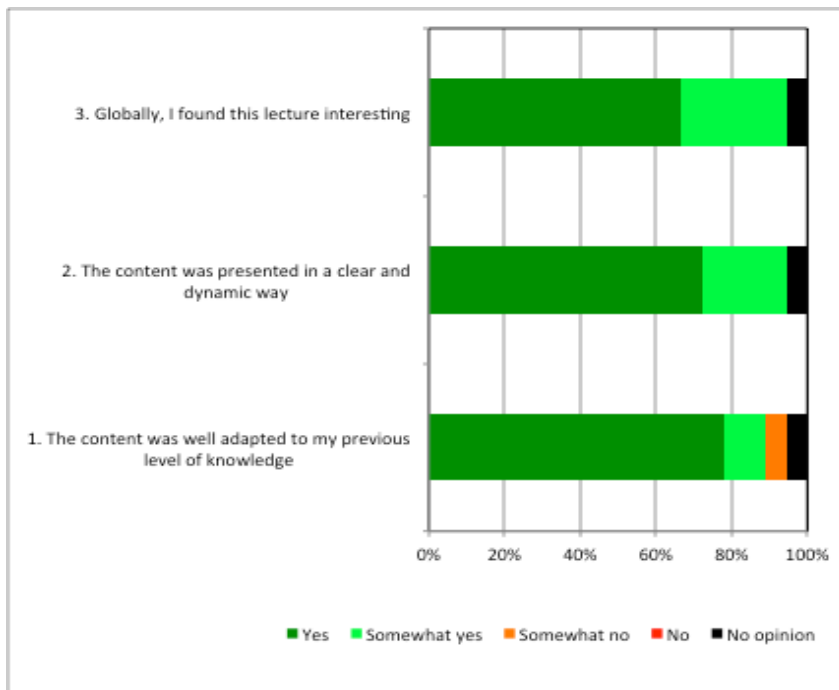
IV.1. Lab safety – 07.04.2011



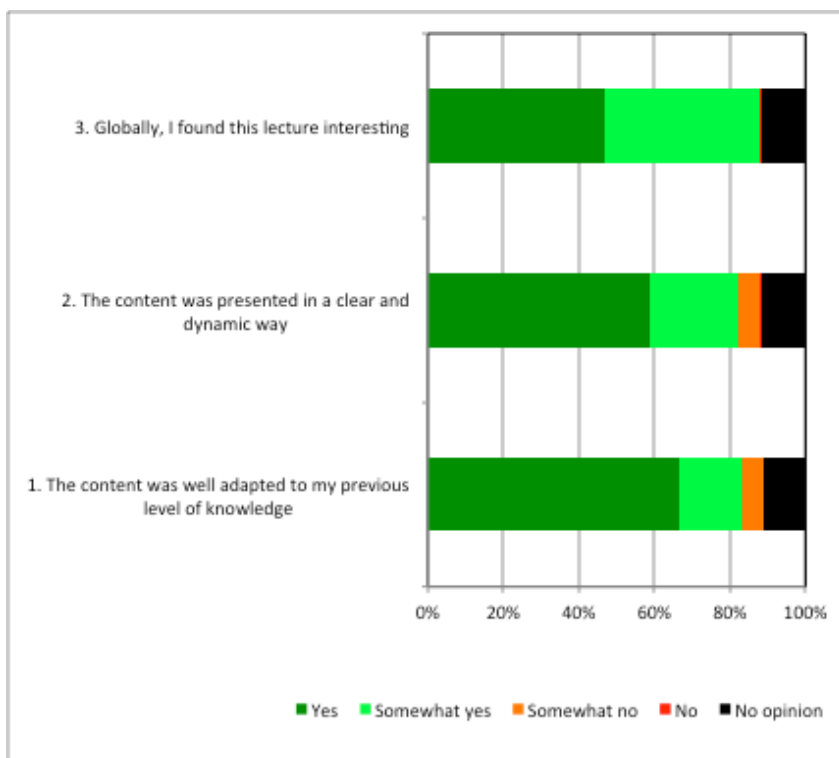
IV.2. Planning a career in science – 07.15.2011



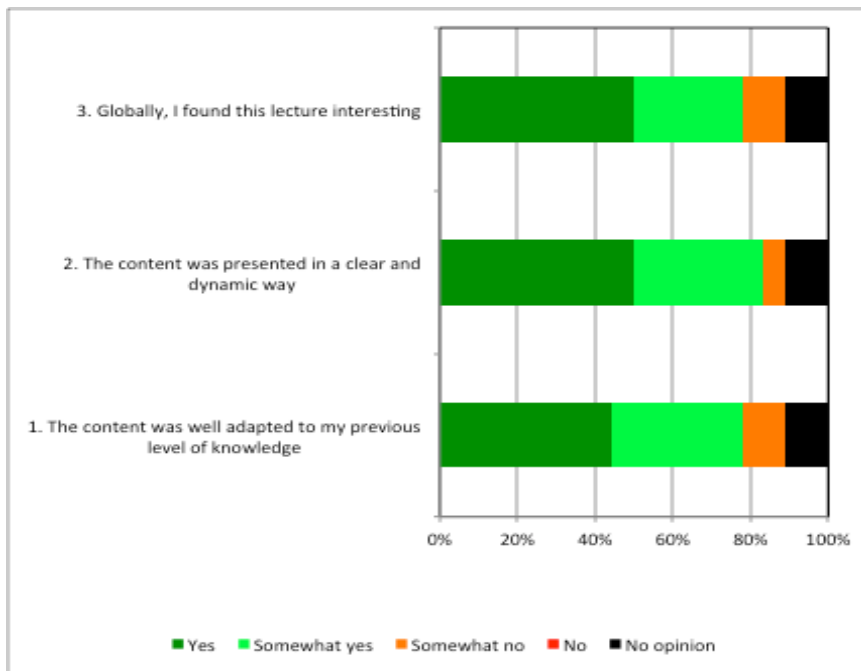
V.3. Lecture of P. Moreillon – 07.22.2011



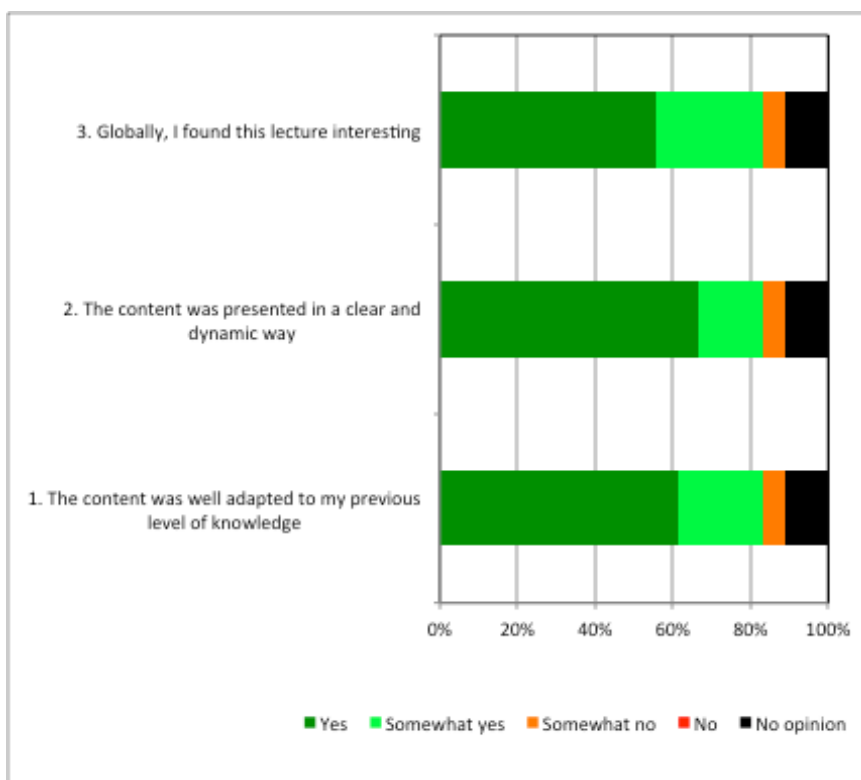
IV.4. Lecture of L. Pellerin – 07.29.2011



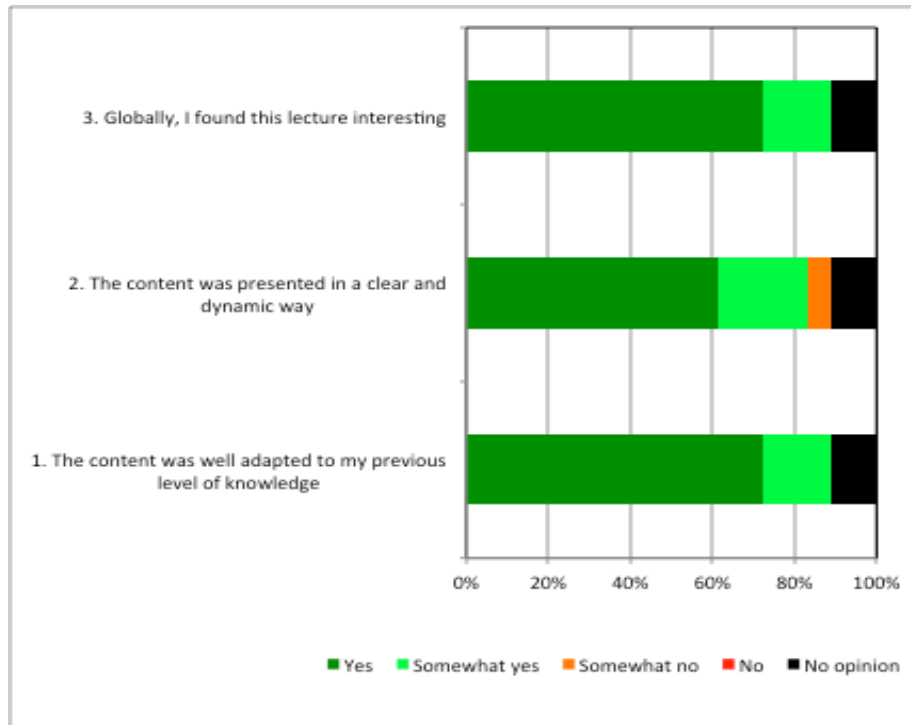
IV.5. Lecture of U. Paszkowski – 08.05.2011



IV.6. Lecture of G.-P. Dotto – 08.12.2011



IV.7. Communicating results / Scientific publishing / Applying to graduate school – W. Herr and R. Benton – 08.19.2011



Specific comments about lectures

Lectures should be more scientific. And maybe more often, some >happy hour< but where students from the program will present their contries and in that way increase the interaction between them and also if is posible to but the french lectures that would be great! :)

I felt like some of the Friday lectures were too early and interfered with my work in the lab. Perhaps placing them on a Wednesday afternoon might be better, since Friday is usually the day to finish up last experiments before the weekend.

The lectures had a good balance between science and career topics. I came to understand that this programme was mainly designed to introduce people to research, and not to teach science, like a university course. In that sense I thought it was good that we received more information on careers than on basic science- I can read a book if I want to learn science!

In my opinion seminars on Friday should be more practical. I enjoyed a lot the last seminar and i think it should be longer. Another ideas: * Work with animals in the lab. Ethics and laws. * Practical Statistic. how to solve practical problems. * Useful software: Image J, Photoshop.. * Waste management

It was very good that lecturers were from different fields of research. Lectures were very interesting because they contained a little bit of a talk giver biography and science. It was really exciting to go every friday to lectures and get to know something very interesting and new.

I expected to hear more new information concerning scientific questions than information about career path of professors

I think the lecture of prof. Luc Pellerin was the best!

More science.

I could be a good idea to begin the lecture with science and to finish with biography.

Really enjoyed the discussion on publication, if only for the insight on how the scientific publication process works.

Lab safety lecture was not presented in an engaging manner.

Would have liked to hear lecturers talk about how they dealt with obstacles/setbacks in their research - did they ever have serious doubts about whether research is right for them, and how did they answer this?

VI. Specific comments about the hiking excursion

It was really great! It was good to organize this on the first week-end so that we can meet the other UNIL and EPFL participants.

A great way to break the ice and get comfortable with people you will need to get on with

Very good! An amazing experience- no complaints!

Awesome! definitely something to keep in the program

Really fun. More time for the peak would have been nice.

Ooh...it was unforgettable excursion:wonderful mountain, nice lac and forest with fresh air-all of them is in one place!

Great! If it is possible you should make more excursion in the program :)

Well organized and left beautiful memories

It is a great idea to organize the hiking excursion first weekend when we arrive. It's great to get to know people during hiking not only from SUR programme but also from EPFL.

The excursion was very well organised from the beginning till the end, but quite difficult for a person without any experience of hiking in the mountains

It was an excellent way to start the programme :)

BRILLIANT. really really good. great way to get to know the people in the group(s). Good exercise too. And amazing views..only time I got see 'proper' Swiss mountains and country-side.

It was fun!

VI. Comments and additional suggestions

The improvements you propose for the SUR programme

Without words!! Everything is good!

The programme is excellent.

More interaction between programme participants would be great. An informal group meeting within the program participants every week might be a way.

More interaction between participants basic lab techniques review elective lectures

Allow everybody to have a student card to both get student prices in some museums or so and get the bikes on the campus.

I'm sure there are ways to improve, but I cannot think of any. This summer was amazing in all respects!...maybe you could provide more fruits for the aperos...and orange juice...of course that will be more expensive.

Perhaps have an optional once or twice a week language class (french for those who don't know it, and german for those who do)

French lections, more science, >happy hours< where students will present something.

As it has proposed: French classes will be very useful. Some activity about the cultures of the different countries that the participants come. Paper seminar, in which you can learn how to organize the information or the happy hour

Just maybe students could be accommodated in the same housing so it would be much easier to organize meetings together.

Housing all together!! Possibly more planned social excursions/events? More classes like the last one - how to give presentations etc.. More practical lessons eg; journal reading etc

More organised events at the first two weeks, in order to increase SUR students interactions and also Unil-EPFL interactions.

More communication on program details before arrival.

Perhaps more clarification about visa applications

I would like more interactive tutorials, where the students are not listening to a lecturer for 1.5 hours, but get to answer questions, put forward ideas, and generally grow confidence in problem solving issues.

What you would judge useful to keep for the SUR programme

Everything that was put in place this year

Everything

Not to mention the lab work; the meeting on the first day, the presentation on the first Friday, the hiking excursion and raclette,, the volleyball and BBQ, the debriefing, the final symposium and the final brochure we will receive.

All the organised events.

Bikes/Transport cards for participants.

Transport cards

Laurence

Lectures and profesors,

Hiking excursion (3)

Friday Lectures (3)

The career pathway lectures

I enjoyed Uta's lecture, as she incorporated some science into her talk - I think this kind of approach should be kept, and maybe even used more.

It would be better to keep the tradition to host students in separate buildings according to their place of work

Cedres is a nicer place to live than Ochettes, in my opinion ;)...but I guess I'm biased

I think the best thing about the program is that you have recruited students from around the world - continue to do that! It makes the program truly unique. Oral presentation & poster session are a great way to begin and end the summer program.

What you would judge not necessary to keep for the SUR programme

I can't remember something that wasn't good ;-)

The safety talk. I was weary from travel and could not stay awake! If it's really necessary to do the talk, you could make it shorter.

Maybe not as many lectures on the life of some of the professors.