

# BIP – Blended Intensive Programme

## From Flower to Fruit Methods and Techniques for assessing Flower Fertility

**Host:** University of Almeria (Spain)

**Academic coordination:** Prof. Julián Cuevas González ([link](#))

**On site dates:** February 3 to February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**On line component:** January 20: Introduction and teams, February 20: Mentoring and follow-up, and March 21: Presentation of results

**Objectives:** Lack of fruiting is a common failure in cultivated plants, especially in protected cultivation where pollinators' access is complicated by the closed structure and where the climate modification brings harsh conditions for plant fertility. Unfortunately, this lack of fruiting is rarely analyzed in deep determining which component of flower fertility failed. The main objective of this course is to form students in the fundamentals and methodology to evaluate reproductive success and failures in cultivated plants, more exactly in measuring male (pollen) and female (gynoecium) fertility. Students will also learn to measure flower attractiveness and rewards and their effects on pollinating insects. Assessment of pollinators' activity and pollen-pistil interaction in response is within the program. The course also intends to form students in the evaluation of reproductive success by measuring fertilization levels, and initial and final seed set and fruit set. Fruit and seed abortion will be analyzed too.

**Registration deadline:** Interested students must obtain an Erasmus+ grant and be nominated through their International Office, in coordination with Hugo González ([erasmusbip@ual.es](mailto:erasmusbip@ual.es)).

**Aimed at:** MSc or PhD and 3<sup>rd</sup> year BS students of Agronomy, but also students of Botany, Plant Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Forestry and related fields.

**More information:** Hugo González ([erasmusbip@ual.es](mailto:erasmusbip@ual.es)).



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