Towards BioBased Finland Course 2026

KABI4022-3004 (UTU)

14-16 April 2026
14 April LS 2 (Säästöpankki hall), 1st floor, University of Turku Main Building
15 April Auditorium Argentum, 1st floor, Aurum
16 April ChemBIO, Expo and Convention Centre, Helsinki

A student participating this course will get knowledge in the basic concepts of bioeconomy and circular economy and will learn about different industrial companies operating in the field in Finland. Moreover, the students will learn about R&D related to bioeconomy and of the transfer of knowledge from academy to industry and back. Working life skills: Students will learn about R&D and operation in different chemical/biochemical industrial companies, operation in different chemical/biochemical industrial companies, and gain valuable information about company activities, start-ups and career possibilities. Direct interaction with industry representatives will stimulate critical thinking, lively discussion and create network with industry professionals. The course includes one-day excursion to ChemBio which is the largest chemistry & biotechnology trade fair in the Nordic and Baltic region. It brings together researchers, companies, and professionals to showcase innovations in lab technology, biotech, and the chemical industry. The event offers networking, seminars, and career opportunities across academia and industry.

Academic lecturers

Yagut Allahverdiyeva-Rinne, UTU
Sesilja Aranko, Aalto University
Dorothee Barth, VTT
Patrik Eklund, ÅAU
Henrik Grénman, ÅAU
Pauli Kallio, UTU
Daniel Lindberg, ÅAU
Erik Niemelä, UTU

Industry lecturers

Ted Bergman, Business Turku
Johan Fagerlund, Cyient
Daniel Solymosi, Neste
Lari Vähäsalo, CH-Bioforce

The students are expected to keep a learning diary throughout the course and at the end of the course each student is assigned one of the topics to plunge into and to write a final report. The in-depth essay should describe the Finnish as well as global current situation, reflect on the future and include literature search.

The course lasts three full days and requires full attendance but in case of colliding events students need to be in contact with the responsible teachers in advance. The course is intended for advanced Master students as well as for PhD researchers.

Responsible teachers

Prof. Yagut Allahvediyeva-Rinne (allahve@utu.fi)
Prof. Henrik Grénman (henrik.grenman@abo.fi)

The course is a joint effort of University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University and it is supported by BioCity Turku research program SmartBIO and Smart Chemisty Park.

Towards Sustainable Bioeconomy

Programme

14 April 2025, LS 2 (Säästöpankki hall), 1st floor, University of Turku Main Building

09:15 **Yagut Allahverdiyeva-Rinne** and **Henrik Grénman**
Welcome words and course introduction

09:30 **Yagut Allahverdiyeva-Rinne**, University of Turku
Biotechnology, Bioeconomy and photosynthesis

10:30 **Pauli Kallio**, University of Turku
Synthetic biology as enabler for future industrial biotechnologies

11:15 **Sesilja Aranko**, Aalto University
Functional biomaterials from bacteria

12:15 LUNCH (on your own)

13:15 **Dorothee Barth**, VTT
Industrial Biotechnology Powered by Biofoundries

14:14 **Daniel Solymosi**, Neste
Renewable fuels and green transition in the economy

15:00 **Lari Vähäsalo**, CH-Bioforce
From waste to value – sustainable polymers to replace fossil raw materials

16:00 Closing

15 April 2025, Auditorium Argentum 1st floor, Aurum

09:05 Wellcome

09:15 **Henrik Grénman**, Åbo Akademi University
Aspects of biomass and biogenic CO_2 as resources

10:15 **Johan Fagerlund**, Cyient
Carbon capture technologies and carbon storage

11:15 **Ted Bergman,** Business Turku

12:15 LUNCH (on your own)

13:15 **Patrik Eklund,** Åbo Akademi University
Biomolecules for bioactive compounds and medical applications

14:00 **Erik Niemelä,** University of Turku
Pearls and Pitfalls - innovation journey

15:00 **Daniel Lindberg**, Åbo Akademi University
High temperature chemistry in biobased production

16:00 Closing

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Towards Sustainable Bioeconomy

16 April 2026, ChemBIO, Expo and Convention Centre, Helsinki

08:00	Bus leaving from Turku Cathedral to Helsinki
10:00	Arrival to Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre
15:00	Bus leaving Back to Turku
17:00	Arrival to Turku Cathedral

Welcome!

Event sites

LS 2 (Säästöpankki hall), 1st floor,
University of Turku Main Building
Vesilinnantie 3
20500 Turku

Auditorium Argentum,
1st floor, Aurum
Henrikinkatu 2
20500 Turku

Bus pick-up and drop-off place in Turku
Turku Cathedral
Tourist bus stop, in front of the main entrance
Tuomiokirkonkatu 1
20500 Turku

Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre
Messuaukio 1
00520 Helsinki

Contact person for course organization: Dr. Tuomas Huokko (ttthuo@utu.fi)

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