# Respondent 19 Interview Summary

Field of Researcher: plant breeding and plant path

## Question 1

* Yes
* We struggle to get students interested in plants
* Maybe due to not being exposed to it or having a bad experience in HS
* Some students don’t know what jobs they can do with the degree

## Question 2

* Yes and no
* With pure botany we have a lot of students who need to take the module as a compulsory module
* With other areas like ecology, plant breeding and plant path we do struggle a bit more
* In PG it depends on the field, some have a lot and some don’t
* Some students may think certain areas are too difficult for them to succeed in
* But generally, we have enough PG students

## Question 3

* Broader approach
* First year is the foundation for all the other modules, so giving them a broad base to start on can help them in various other modules later down the line
* Broader allows a student to continue in any direction
* Could help spark interest
* Seen first hand about how exposing the students to the lesser-known areas can help with interest

## Question 4

* Evolution forms the basis of explaining the history of life and gives the basics of how plants develop
* Pathways should be included because it forms the cornerstones of how plants transport molecules and create energy to survive
* Information is important because these days almost everything is based on molecular work
* Students often forget about what they have learnt in high school and so you can redo this kind of stuff
* Structure and function is important to understand the processes that can take place in plants
* Systems can be included to a limited extent it is not that important for first year
* Top two: evolution and pathways, you have to know this to build on the rest

## Question 5

* I would include everything
* Also include things such as computer literacy, especially these days while we are online because of COVID
* Students really struggle to write; they have to do prac reports and they don’t always know what is expected of them if they write scientifically
* Also battle to interpret data and this is important
* Process of science and interdisciplinary nature of science and integration of science and society can probably be under one heading
* These are important for students to understand and see how research influences the real world and how important it is
* Students battle with communication as well
* Collaboration can fall under how we teach, doing group work and so on but it is important
* Any basic quantitative knowledge should be included
* Top two: communication and understanding and interpreting data

## Question 6

* systems
* A, B and C combined, should rather be working on communication skills that they will be using for the rest of their careers

## Question 7

* No
* Could be a good basis to structure a module on
* Module content also has to be determined by your environment
* What kind of students are you serving? Where are they going after this?

## Question 8

* People don’t like change, especially if they have been at the varsity for a long time, they want to continue doing what they have been doing before
* Someone has to do the extra work to change the curriculum and that might not go down well with that person

## Question 9

* If you can write a good motivation as to why there needs to be a change and how it will benefit the student in terms of looking for work and so on then that could work
* Change will form a better basis for higher level modules and therefore students going through this module will be better equipped
* Motivate staff to get a better end product
* Make sure whoever is changing the module has enough time, support and resources to assist in this change

## Question 10

* It will take time to change the module and time to develop a new curriculum which they might feel they don’t have time for
* Can overcome this with good motivation
* People don’t like change

## Question 11

* It will benefit students and other lecturers higher up
* Definitely needed to update modules now and then, we need to change and adapt to the work situation and keep up to date with the new information

## Question 12

* Very important
* Can be difficult in big classes, especially if you don’t have the space or the equipment
* They learn necessary skills in the pracs and they enjoy it
* Can do a basic photosynthesis experiment
* Find practical ways of presenting difficult concepts that students might struggle with