



will you
discover the
relative
weighting of
chance and
necessity?

Master of science in behaviour, evolution and conservation

GENERAL OUTLINE

Objectives

The Master of Science in Behaviour, Evolution and Conservation degree is intended for students who wish to combine an advanced approach to ecology and sciences of evolution with the possibility of working with fauna and/or flora.

This training provides in-depth knowledge of the relations that living beings establish with their environment, their fellows, the resources on which they depend and the dangers with which they must cope. It also provides advanced teaching on the evolution of organisms and their mechanisms of adaptation to changing biotic and abiotic environmental conditions.

Skills development and career prospects

University studies develop, in addition to specific academic skills, a great many transverse skills such as: oral and written communication, critical, analytical and summarising faculties, abilities in research, the learning and transmission of knowledge, independence and the ability to make judgments in the field of specialisation and overlapping areas.

This panoply of skills, combined with specialist knowledge acquired in the course of studies, is excellent preparation for a wide range of employment opportunities and economic sectors. The following career prospects may be cited as an example:

- Academic research
- Museums and conservation work
- Swiss Federal research stations
- Public environmental protection services
- Environmental protection organisations
- Private applied ecology firms

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organiser

School of Biology,
Faculty of Biology and Medicine:
www.unil.ch/ecoledebiologie

Degree awarded

Master of Science (MSc) in Behaviour,
Evolution and Conservation

ECTS credits

90

Duration

3 semesters

Teaching language

English

Enrolment

Applications must be submitted on time to the Admissions Department:
www.unil.ch/immat

Contact

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de biologie
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EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Description

The first semester of studies consists of obligatory and optional subjects covering both conceptual and methodological aspects. The knowledge and skills acquired will be applied in the context of research activities and field work.

The second semester is dedicated to specialisation. It consists of field work and optional courses devoted to evolution, evolutionary genetics, animal behaviour and conservation biology. Students can choose some courses of the Master of Science in Molecular Life Sciences.

The third semester is dedicated to the completion of personal research work.

Examinations

Examinations for the autumn and spring semesters may be continuous, or taken in the session immediately following the semester. Examinations may take the form of participation in teaching activities, reports, oral presentations and/or written and oral examinations.

The successful completion of personal work carried out for the Master's degree is worth 45 credits (of the 90 necessary to obtain the Master's degree).

Mobility

Students registered for a Master's degree cycle may complete a part of their studies in a partner institution recognised by UNIL.

If the mobility study programme is accepted by the School of Biology and confirmed by examination passes, the credits earned will be recognised and validated in the student's degree course.

SYLLABUS

1st semester

Common study programme

- Mathematics, Statistics
- Molecular Genetics
- Scientific Writing
- Seminars of the Department of Ecology and Evolution

Specialisation Courses (3 free-choice courses):

- Evolution
- Introduction to R.
- Sociobiology
- Behavioural Ecology
- Spatial Analyses
- Phylogeography

Personal Research Work (Introduction)

30 ECTS credits

2nd semester

Choice of optional courses (including field courses within and outside Switzerland), seminars, exercises and practical work in:

- Evolution
- Conservation Biology
- Ecology

Field work

Start of Personal Research Work

30 ECTS credits

3rd semester

Personal Research Work

- Continuation and Conclusion of Research Work

30 ECTS credits

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission requirements

Candidates must be holders of a Bachelor of Science in Biology or in a field considered to be equivalent awarded by a Swiss university. Another degree or academic title may be judged equivalent and give access to the Master's degree course, with or without further conditions.

Regulations and additional information concerning the course

Internet site of the School of Biology:
www.unil.ch/ecoledbiologie/page80028.html
www.unil.ch/bec

Administrative information

Ms Almudena Vazquez
biologie-etudiants@unil.ch

Head of studies

Prof. Claus Wedekind
Claus.Wedekind@unil.ch

Final enrolment date

30 April

Candidates needing a study visa must apply two months prior to this deadline.

Start of courses

mid-September

Part-time Master's degree

See Directive 3.12:
www.unil.ch/interne/page44629.html#3

Academic calendar

www.unil.ch/central/page4804.html

General information on studies, career prospects and guidance

Office for educational counselling and careers guidance:
www.unil.ch/soc

Accommodation and financial assistance

Office for socio-cultural affairs:
www.unil.ch/sasc

International students

www.unil.ch/international

Study abroad possibilities

www.unil.ch/echanges

