**GENERAL OUTLINE**

**Objectives**
The Master of Science in Behaviour, Evolution and Conservation is intended for students who wish to combine a thorough scientific training in ecology and sciences of evolution with the possibility of working with fauna, flora or microbes.

The Master program 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.

**Career prospects**
University studies develop a great many transverse skills: oral and written communication, critical, analytical and synthetic thinking, competences to carry out research, management of bibliographical resources and familiarisation with scientific literature, etc.

This panoply of skills, combined with specialist knowledge acquired in the course of studies, is excellent preparation for a wide range of professional sectors, for instance:
- Academic research
- Museums and conservation work
- Public and private research organisations
- Public environmental protection services
- Environmental protection NGOs
- Private applied ecology companies

Other examples of opportunities and alumni’s profiles:
www.unil.ch/perspectives/biologie
EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Description
The first semester of studies consists of compulsory and optional courses covering both conceptual and methodological aspects. The knowledge and skills acquired will be applied in the context of a small individual research project.

The second semester consists of a personal research project, a field course and optional courses devoted to evolution, evolutionary genetics, animal behaviour and conservation biology. You can choose some courses in other Master’s programmes.

The third semester is dedicated to the completion of personal research work (master thesis).

Possibilities of specialisation
Within the framework of the master, the student can follow the general programme or choose one of three specialisations: Behaviour, Evolution and Conservation (in collaboration with the Faculty of Business and Economics - HEC), Computational Ecology and Evolution, and Geoscience, Ecology and Evolution (in collaboration with the Faculty of Geosciences and Environment).

While the students in a specialisation will take some of the same compulsory and optional courses as other students, some compulsory and optional courses will be specific to the specialisation.

Mobility
The Master research project can be conducted in a partner institution recognised by UNIL.

SYLLABUS

1st semester - 30 ECTS credits
Common study programme
- Modelling and Statistics
- Molecular Methods in Ecology and Evolution
- Scientific Writing
- Seminars of the Department of Ecology and Evolution

Optional courses in the field
- Evolution
- Data Analysis in Biology
- Genetics of Populations
- Behavioural Ecology
- Spatial Analyses
- Phylogeography

Personal research work
- A small individual project in a research group.

2nd semester - 30 ECTS credits
Choice of optional courses (including field courses within and outside Switzerland), seminars, exercises and practical work in:
- Evolution
- Conservation Biology
- Ecology
- Scientific Mediation
- Behavioural Ecology

Optional field courses
- Conservation Biology of Mediterranean Region
- Ecology and Faunistics of Intertidal Area
- Evolution and Biogeography of Semi-arid and Island Floras
- Mountain Ecosystems in the Alps

Personal research work
- Begin of the Master project

3rd semester - 30 ECTS credits
Personal research work
- Continuation and conclusion of the Master project

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 awarded by a foreign university may be judged equivalent and give access to the Master’s degree course, with or without further conditions.

Administrative information
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Enrolment and final dates
Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Service before 30th April:
www.unil.ch/immat

Candidates requiring a visa to study in Switzerland: 28th February.

Start of courses
Mid-September. Academic calendar: www.unil.ch/central/calendar

Part-time Master’s degree
Subject to certain conditions, Master’s studies can be followed part-time. In this case they correspond to semi-continuous studies (50%) for the entire duration of the course: all theoretical teaching in the first and second semester and then all practical work (introduction to research and Master’s dissertation). For more details concerning the requisite conditions: www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel

General information on studies, guidance
www.unil.ch/soc

Career prospects
www.unil.ch/perspectives

Accommodation and financial assistance
www.unil.ch/sasme

International
www.unil.ch/international