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Master of science (MSc) in behaviour, evolution and conservation

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 with the possibility of working with fauna, flora or microbes.

This Master's programme provides in-depth knowledge of the relations between living beings and their environment, the resources on which they depend and the dangers they face. It also provides advanced teaching on the evolution of organisms and their mechanisms of adaptation to changing biotic and abiotic environmental conditions.

This knowledge builds the foundations for evidence-based biodiversity management and conservation strategies.

Career prospects

This Master will provide high-level training in behaviour, evolution and conservation research, analytical and critical thinking, written and oral communication abilities, as well as management of bibliographic resources, familiarisation with scientific literature and other transversal skills.

As such, this programme serves as a foundation for potential careers in:

- Academic research
- Museums and conservation work
- Public and private research organisations
- Public environmental protection services
- Environmental protection Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private applied ecology companies

Other examples of opportunities and alumni's profiles:

www.unil.ch/perspectives/unil-et-apres

will you
discover the
relative
weight of
chance and
necessity?

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organiser

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

Degree awarded

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

ECTS credits

120

Duration

4 semesters

Teaching language

English. Recommended level: C1.

Contact

School of Biology
Quartier UNIL-Sorge
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Additional information

www.unil.ch/eb-bec

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.

From the second semester, the programme consists of a personal Master research project, a field course and optional courses dedicated to evolution, evolutionary genetics, animal behaviour and conservation biology. Several courses can be chosen from other Master's programmes.

Possibilities of specialisation

Within the framework of the master, it is possible to 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).

Some compulsory and optional courses will be common to all specialisations, while others will be specific to the chosen specialisation.

Mobility

The Master research project can be conducted in a partner institution recognised by UNIL including a non-academic research laboratory, elsewhere in Switzerland or abroad.

SYLLABUS

1st semester - 30 ECTS

Common study programme

- Concepts in Ecology
- Concepts in Evolution
- Data Analysis in Biology
- Molecular Methods in Ecology and Evolution
- Scientific Writing

Specific course depending on the specialisation:

- Microeconomics and Game Theory
- Spatial Analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Ecology
- Advanced Python Programming

First step research project

2nd to 4th semester - 90 ECTS

40 ECTS

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

- Invertebrate Biodiversity along Altitudinal Gradients
- Ecology and Evolution of the Mediterranean Flora
- Mountain Ecosystems in the Alps

50 ECTS

Personal Master research project

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission requirements

Candidates must be holders of a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Biology or in a field considered to be equivalent awarded by a Swiss university. Other degrees awarded by a foreign university may be considered equivalent and grant access to the programme with or without further conditions.

Administrative information

Ms. Almudena Vazquez
biologie-etudiants@unil.ch

Director of the programme

Prof. Tadeusz Kawecki
Tadeusz.Kawecki@unil.ch

Enrolment

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Office before April 30th:
www.unil.ch/immat

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

Start of courses

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

Part-time Master's degree

Under 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.

For more details concerning the required conditions:
www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel

General information on studies, guidance

www.unil.ch/soc

Accommodation and financial assistance

www.unil.ch/sasme

International

www.unil.ch/international



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Faculté de biologie
et de médecine