

ECOLOGY

Master's degree program

Master of Science: MSc in Ecology

Within the Basel life science program, the Department of Environmental Sciences and its associates offer this comprehensive Master course for graduates with a background in biology or environmental sciences. The course builds upon the strength and leadership in functional ecology and conservation biology of the associated institutes and covers plant and animal sciences as well as ecosystem sciences. Course modules cover a wide spectrum of plant and animal ecology, ecosystem science and conservation biology, giving students the possibility of studying the interactions among organisms, between organisms and their environment, ecosystem processes and human influences on ecosystem integrity and biological diversity.

Focal area of teaching and research

Why choose an MSc in Ecology in Basel?

- We offer a broad spectrum of course modules from which you choose your preferred topics.
- We offer attractive field courses in Switzerland and abroad.
- We employ modern laboratory methods, including molecular techniques. In our field work, we integrate plant and animal biology.
- We emphasize theory based and experimental approaches.
- Our research and teaching focuses on attractive biota such as highly diverse meadow systems, mixed forests and alpine ecosystems in Switzerland as well as arctic and tropical biota.

Course structure Master studies

The Master of Science degree is the postgraduate degree after the Bachelor's programme. The program awards 90 ECTS credits in total. The Master's degree program Ecology is a so called «mono-course» consisting of only one core subject. Supervised practical work over the course of one year constitutes the core of the studies.

Curriculum Master's Degree in Ecology	KP
Courses in the field of Ecology	18
General Electives (of which at least 6 ECTS must be taken outside the Ecology course offerings)	12
Master's thesis	50
Master's examination	10
Total	90

One ECTS credit point roughly equals 30 hours of study.

Course language

The language of instruction is English. The Master's thesis is generally to be written in English.

Exams

Student performance is assessed through course accompanying certificates, proof of course participation according to study contracts, a Master's thesis and through a Master's examination.

Language stays / Internships

No language stays or internships are required.

Combination of subjects

The degree programs at the Faculty of Science are generally mono-courses with the possible addition of an in-depth subject and an elective subject.

Start of program

The program is to be started preferably in fall but can also be started in the spring semester.

Duration of study

The Master's program lasts three to four semesters. There are no restrictions on the duration of study.

Further degrees

Teaching diploma for secondary schools: The teaching diploma enables teaching within the general school system at the Secondary Level II and is based on the academic degree at Master's level of a university in one or two subjects. In addition, two semesters of vocational training at the school for teacher education at FHNW have to be completed. The diploma does not require a Master's degree in a second subject; however, it is advisable due to better career options later after graduation. Details can be found in UNI INFO «Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen».

Also see: www.fhnw.ch/de/studium/paedagogik/sekundarstufe-2

Doctorate: A Master of Science in Biology qualifies for a doctorate in biochemistry, biophysics, botany, computational biology, genetics, microbiology, molecular biology, neurobiology, structural biology, cell biology or zoology. Trans-faculty doctorates are possible in the fields of epidemiology, history of the sciences, medical-biological research and pharmacology. The doctoral studies last roughly three years. After the acceptance of the dissertation there follows an oral examination covering the postgraduate studies in the doctoral subject.

Career opportunities

After successfully completing their Master's degree the graduates can study further for a doctoral qualification or follow a profession in various fields of environmental and life sciences. Biology is a subject that covers many disciplines and the career opportunities include research and related activities in the fields of conservation, resource management, sustainable development, medicine, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. The practical advantages of the subject are found not only in basic research but also, increasingly, in business, society and politics. Numerous jobs are on offer to biology graduates, within the university and also in private industry, government service, schools and organizations, be it as researchers, communicators, teachers or advisors. For these reasons, biology can rightly be considered as this century's key science.

Admission

The following degree allows for direct admission to the Master's degree program Ecology: Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Biology from the University of Basel. Other Swiss or foreign degrees from an education institution recognized by the University of Basel require approval by the examination commission of the Faculty of Science.

Binding information under: www.unibas.ch/admission

Application

Application under www.unibas.ch/application; the application fee amounts to CHF 100.-. Application deadline for the fall semester is April 30, for the spring semester 30 November.

Enrollment

The letter of admission also informs students on the procedure of enrollment. In general, students with a Swiss educational background do not have to be present in person for enrollment.

Tuition fees and scholarships

Tuition fees per semester (also for examination semesters): CHF 850.-
Individual costs of living etc. are not included.

Scholarships and student loans: Applications should be sent to the responsible office of the canton in which the parents are eligible to pay their taxes.

Mobility

Semesters abroad are possible and supported by scholarship programs. The mobility programs facilitate the stay at other Swiss universities or foreign universities. Further Information: Student Exchange, Petersplatz 1, 4001 Basel, T +41 61 207 30 28, mobility@unibas.ch

Further information

Guidelines and regulations of the Master's Degree in Ecology see www.bio.unibas.ch/en/regulations

Information about the University of Basel

- The course directory can be found under: www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Course-Directory.html
- Basler Studienführer: www.studienberatung.unibas.ch
- Website: www.unibas.ch

Student advice

Questions regarding the study of Ecology can be discussed with the Study Counselors for the Master Program Ecology.

Contacts

Study Counselors for the Master Program Ecology

Prof. Sabine Rumpf

Departement Umweltwissenschaften, Ecology

Bernoullistrasse 30/32, 4056 Basel

T +41 61 207 36 02

e-mail: sabine.rumpf@unibas.ch

Prof. Yvonne Willi

Departement Umweltwissenschaften, Plant Ecology and Evolution

Schönbeinstrasse 6, 4056 Basel

T +41 61 207 23 20

e-mail: yvonne.willi@unibas.ch

Study Coordination Biology

Dr. Julia Locke

Biozentrum

Spitalstrasse 41, 4056 Basel

T +41 61 207 22 31

www.bio.unibas.ch

e-mail: julia.locke@unibas.ch

Office of the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Science

Klingelbergstrasse 50, 4056 Basel

T +41 61 207 30 54

www.philnat.unibas.ch

e-mail: studiendekanat-philnat@unibas.ch

Student Administration Office of the University of Basel

Petersplatz 1, 4001 Basel

T +41 61 207 30 23

www.unibas.ch

Enquiries: www.unibas.ch/studseksupportEN

Student Advice Center Basel

Steinengraben 5, 4051 Basel

T +41 61 207 29 29/30

www.studienberatung.unibas.ch

e-mail: studienberatung@unibas.ch

Imprint

Editorial: Student Advice Center Basel. Edited by Dr. Nathalie Bucher in collaboration with Prof. Yvonne Willi and Dr. Julia Locke, September 2026.

© by Studienberatung Basel / subject to change.