master of science (MSc)
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 a thorough scientific training in 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.

Career prospects
University studies develop a great many transverse skills: oral and written communication, critical, analytical and summarising faculties, abilities in research, management of bibliographical resources and familiarisation with scientific literature relating to the field, etc.

This panoply of skills, combined with specialist knowledge acquired in the course of studies, is excellent preparation for a wide range of economic sectors:

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

Alumni have different positions, such as biologist in a environmental firm.

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 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 a personal research work, a field work camp 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.

Possibilities of specialisation
Three specialisations can be chosen to complete the Master: 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).

Interested students will follow the same compulsory courses as other students taking the MSc in Behaviour, Evolution and Conservation while their optional courses will focus on the chosen field to obtain the specialisation.

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

SYLLABUS

1st semester - 30 crédits ECTS
Common study programme
• Modelling and Statistics
• Molecular Genetics
• 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
Introduction

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

Field work
• Conservation Biology of Mediterranean Region
• Ecology and Faunistics of Intertidal Area
• Evolution and Biogeography of Semi-arid and Island Floras

Start of Personal Research Work

3rd semester - 30 crédits ECTS
Personal Research Work
• Continuation and Conclusion of Research Work

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
www.unil.ch/eb-bec

Administrative information
Ms Almudena Vazquez
biologie-etudiants@unil.ch

Head of studies
Prof. Jérôme Goudet
Jerome.Goudet@unil.ch

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/enseignement/tempspartiel

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

Career prospects
www.unil.ch/perspectives

Accommodation and financial assistance
www.unil.ch/sasme

International students
www.unil.ch/international

Study abroad possibilities
www.unil.ch/echanges