

Appendix 1

To the Programme Regulations 2023 of the
Master's degree programme in Biology

13.10.2022 (Version: 13.10.2022)

Applies to students who commence or re-enter the degree programme in Autumn Semester 2023 or later.

For those entering the programme before Autumn Semester 2023 the stipulations of the previous appendix apply (Programme Regulations 2018).

This English translation is for information purposes only. The German version is the legally binding document.

This appendix sets out the academic, language and performance prerequisites for and further details regarding admission to the Master's degree programme in Biology. It supplements the stipulations of the Admission Regulations of ETH Zurich¹ and the Directive on Admission to Master's degree programmes².

Contents

1 Profile of requirements

- 1.1 Degree qualifications
- 1.2 Academic prerequisites
- 1.3 Language prerequisites

2 Specific stipulations for admission and entering the degree programme

- 2.1 Specific stipulations for admission to the degree programme
 - 2.1.1 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from ETH Zurich
 - 2.1.2 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Zurich (UZH)
 - 2.1.3 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from another Swiss university
 - 2.1.4 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from a university outside Switzerland
 - 2.1.5 Candidates with a university Bachelor's degree in a discipline other than Biology
- 2.2 Specific stipulations for entering the degree programme
 - 2.2.1 Candidates with an ETH Bachelor's degree
 - 2.2.2 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree from another university

¹ SR 414.131.52

² See: www.ethz.ch/directives

3 Application and admission procedure

4 Fulfilling additional admission requirements

4.1 General regulations

4.2 Performance assessment deadlines and conditions

1 Profile of requirements

Policy

For admission to the Master's degree programme in Biology (subsequently «the degree programme») all of the following prerequisites must be satisfied.

1.1 Degree qualifications

¹ Admission to the degree programme presupposes a university Bachelor's degree comprising at least 180 ECTS credits or an equivalent university degree in a discipline the content of which – also with regard to any additional academic requirements within the given framework – satisfies the pertaining academic prerequisites.

² A Bachelor's degree qualifies its holder for admission to an ETH Master's degree programme only if it also qualifies said holder to enter, without additional requirements, the desired Master's degree programme within the university system where the Bachelor's degree was acquired. The Rector may also demand proof of this, determining whether such proof must come from the home university or from another university in the country where the Bachelor's degree was acquired.

1.2 Academic prerequisites

¹ Attendance of the Master's degree programme in Biology presupposes basic knowledge and skills in the Natural Sciences and subject-specific knowledge and competences connected with the selected specialisation. These must in content, scope, quality and skill level be equivalent to those covered in the ETH Bachelor's degree programme in Biology (discipline requirements profile).

² The **discipline requirements profile** comprises **163 ECTS credits** in total and includes the significant knowledge and skills covered in the ETH Bachelor's degree programme in Biology. This includes training in the relevant methodological scientific thinking and experimental skills.

³ If an applicant does not completely satisfy the academic prerequisites, admission may be subject to the acquisition of the missing knowledge and skills in the form of additional requirements. Completion of additional requirements is expressed in ECTS credits.

⁴ Admission to the degree programme is not possible if a candidate does not fulfil the following requirements.

⁵ The **discipline requirements profile** is structured in the two parts set out below. Details regarding the content of the corresponding course units from the ETH Bachelor's degree programme in Biology are published in the ETH course catalogue (www.courses.ethz.ch).

Part 1: Basic knowledge and skills (103 ECTS credits)

Part 1 comprises 103 ECTS credits and covers basic knowledge and skills in the Natural Sciences and in practical laboratory work:

Part 1a: Fundamentals of Natural Sciences (73 ECTS credits)

The substance of the following areas is required:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| – Mathematics and Statistics | 15 ECTS credits |
| – Computer Science and Bioinformatics | 6 ECTS credits |
| – Chemistry (General, Organic and Physical Chemistry) | 16 ECTS credits |
| – Physics | 6 ECTS credits |
| – Biology | 30 ECTS credits |

Part 1b: Laboratory practicals or project theses (30 ECTS credits)

Practical laboratory knowledge and skills in Chemistry and Biology are required.

Part 2: Subject-specific knowledge and skills (60 ECTS credits)

Part 2 comprises 60 ECTS credits and covers subject-specific knowledge and skills connected with the intended specialisation in the Master's degree programme. This knowledge will be checked by the admissions committee by experts in the respective specialisation.

1.3 Language prerequisites

¹ The teaching language of the degree programme is English.

² For admission to the degree programme, proof of sufficient knowledge of English (level C1)³ must be provided.

³ The required language certificates must be submitted by the application deadline. The ETH Zurich publishes a list of the language certificates accepted.

³ The required language level is measured according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale.

2 Specific stipulations for admission and entering the degree programme

2.1 Specific stipulations for admission to the degree programme

2.1.1 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from ETH Zurich

The following persons are guaranteed unconditional admission to the degree programme:

- a. Holders of a Bachelor's degree in Biology from ETH Zurich; or
- b. Students enrolled in the ETH Bachelor's degree programme in Biology.

2.1.2 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Zurich (UZH)

¹ A differentiation is made between the following types of Bachelor's degree in Biology at UZH:

- a. One-subject Bachelor's degree in Biology, with 180 ECTS credits in the subject of biology (see Para. 2 and 3 below);
- b. Bachelor's degree with a major in Biology, with 150 ECTS credits in the subject of biology (see Para. 4–6 below);
- c. Bachelor's degree with a major in Biology, with 120 ECTS credits in the subject of biology (see Para. 7 below).

² Unconditional admission to the degree programme is guaranteed for persons holding a one-subject Bachelor's degree in Biology from UZH with 180 ECTS credits in the subject of Biology.

³ Admission is subject to fulfilment of the language prerequisites set out in section 1.3 above.

⁴ Admission to the degree programme is guaranteed for persons holding a Bachelor's degree with a major in Biology from the UZH with 150 ECTS credits in the subject of biology.

⁵ Admission is subject to fulfilment of the language prerequisites set out in section 1.3 above.

⁶ Admission may be subject to additional requirements.

⁷ Admission to the degree programme is not guaranteed for persons holding a Bachelor's degree with a major in Biology with 120 ECTS credits in the subject of biology. This type of Bachelor's degree is subject to the stipulations set out in section 2.1.5 below.

2.1.3 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from another Swiss university

¹ Admission to the degree programme is guaranteed for persons holding a Bachelor's degree in Biology from a Swiss university (other than ETH Zurich and UZH) as long as this degree was a one-subject degree involving at least 150 ECTS credits in the subject of biology.

² Admission is subject to fulfilment of the language prerequisites set out in section 1.3 above.

³ Admission may be subject to additional requirements.

2.1.4 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from a university outside Switzerland

¹ Holders of a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent in Biology from a university outside Switzerland must satisfy all of the academic and language prerequisites listed in section 1.2 and 1.3 above for admission to the degree programme.

² Admission may be subject to additional requirements.

³ Admission is not possible if any of the following apply:

- a. the language prerequisites are not satisfied; or
- b. the content, scope, quality and skills level of the degree are not equivalent to those at ETH Zurich;
- c. to satisfy the academic prerequisites according to section 1.2:
 1. any ECTS credits from Part 1 of the academic prerequisites must be acquired, or
 2. more than 30 ECTS credits from Part 2 of the academic prerequisites must be acquired.

2.1.5 Candidates with a university Bachelor's degree in a discipline other than Biology

¹ Holders of a university Bachelor's degree or the equivalent in a discipline other than Biology may be admitted to the degree programme if they can satisfy all of the following prerequisites:

- a. The academic requirements set out in section 1.2 above are satisfied within the given framework.
- b. The language prerequisites set out in section 1.3 above are satisfied.
- c. A very good academic performance during the Bachelor's degree studies.

² Admission may be subject to additional requirements.

³ Admission is not possible if any of the following apply;

- a. the language or performance prerequisites are not satisfied; or
- b. the content, scope, quality and skills level of the degree are not equivalent to those at ETH Zurich; or
- c. to satisfy the academic prerequisites according to section 1.2:
 1. any ECTS credits from Part 1 of the academic prerequisites must be acquired; or
 2. more than 30 ECTS credits from Part 2 of the academic prerequisites must be acquired.

2.2 Specific stipulations for entering the degree programme

2.2.1 Candidates with an ETH Bachelor's degree

¹ Students of the ETH Zurich Bachelor's degree programme in Biology may enrol in the degree programme directly via www.mystudies.ethz.ch. The admission procedure outlined in section 3 is waived. Further details:

- a. Enrolment is possible as soon as only a maximum of 64 ECTS credits (60 from the third year of the Bachelor's degree programme and 4 from SIP courses) are pending.
- b. The normal ETH enrolment dates and deadlines apply.
- c. Admission is provisional until the Bachelor's degree is issued. Admission will be revoked if the Bachelor's degree is not or cannot be issued.

² The following stipulations regarding entry to the Master's degree programme apply to students from an ETH Zurich Bachelor's degree programme (other than Biology) who have been granted admission:

- a. They can enrol in the Master's degree programme once they have acquired that number of ECTS credits which would qualify them to enrol in the Master's degree programme consecutive to their original subject.⁴
- b. The normal ETH enrolment dates and deadlines apply.
- c. Admission is provisional until the Bachelor's degree is issued. Admission will be revoked if the Bachelor's degree is not or cannot be issued.

2.2.2 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree from another university

Non-ETH graduates who have been granted admission may only begin the degree programme when they have completed the previous (Bachelor's) degree programme.

3 Application and admission procedure

¹ All candidates – with the exception of matriculated ETH Zurich students from the Bachelor's degree programme in Biology – must submit an application for admission to the degree programme. The binding specifications for application, in particular the documents required and the submission dates/deadlines, are published on the website of the ETH Zurich Admissions Office.

² Application may be made even if the required preceding degree has not yet been issued.

³ Applications will not be considered if:

- a. they are submitted late or not in the correct form; or
- b. the relevant fees have not been paid.

⁴ The permitted number of missing ECTS credits is set out in the Programme Regulations of the respective consecutive Master's degree programme (e.g., BSc Physics → MSc Physics).

⁴ The admissions committee of the degree programme determines how far the background of the candidate corresponds to the profile of requirements and submits an application for admission/rejection to the Director of Studies.

⁵ On the request of the Director of Studies the Rector makes the final decision regarding the condition-free admission, the admission with conditions or the rejection.

⁶ The candidate receives a written admissions decision which includes relevant information concerning any additional admission requirements.

4 Fulfilling additional admission requirements

4.1 General regulations

¹ Candidates who are admitted subject to the fulfilment of additional requirements must acquire the required additional knowledge and skills before or during the Master's degree programme via self-study or by attending classes. The corresponding individual performance assessments must take place by set deadlines.

² If the candidate fails said performance assessments or does not respect the set deadlines he/she will be regarded as having failed the programme and will be excluded from it.

4.2 Performance assessment deadlines and conditions

¹ Candidates must undertake all of the performance assessments pertaining to the additional admission requirements by the end of the first year of the Master's degree programme at the latest. All additional requirements, including any assessment repetitions, must be fulfilled within 18 months of the start of the Master's degree programme at the latest.

² A pass grade in each individual performance assessment is required.

³ A failed performance assessment may only be repeated once.