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relative  
weight of  
chance and  
necessity?

# 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 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](http://www.unil.ch/perspectives/biologie)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organiser

School of Biology, Faculty of Biology and Medicine:  
[www.unil.ch/ecoledebiologie](http://www.unil.ch/ecoledebiologie)

### Degree awarded

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

### ECTS credits

90

### Duration

3 semesters

### Teaching language

English. Recommended level: C1.

### Contact

School of Biology  
Quartier UNIL-Sorge  
Amphipôle  
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[biologie-etudiants@unil.ch](mailto:biologie-etudiants@unil.ch)

### Additional information

[www.unil.ch/eb-bec](http://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.

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

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Ms Almudena Vazquez  
biologie-etudiants@unil.ch

### Head of studies

Prof. Tadeusz Kawecki  
Tadeusz.Kawecki@unil.ch

### Enrolment and final dates

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Service before 30<sup>th</sup> April:  
[www.unil.ch/immat](http://www.unil.ch/immat)

Candidates requiring a visa to study in Switzerland: 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### Start of courses

Mid-September. Academic calendar:  
[www.unil.ch/central/calendar](http://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](http://www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel)

### General information on studies, guidance

[www.unil.ch/soc](http://www.unil.ch/soc)

### Career prospects

[www.unil.ch/perspectives](http://www.unil.ch/perspectives)

### Accommodation and financial assistance

[www.unil.ch/sasme](http://www.unil.ch/sasme)

### International

[www.unil.ch/international](http://www.unil.ch/international)



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