

MASTER DEGREE PROGRAM

The Department of Environmental Sciences offers a Master (MSc) program in Ecology for graduates with a background in biology or environmental sciences (see admission). The program builds upon the strength and leadership in ecology, evolutionary ecology and conservation biology of the associated research groups.

Our program is designed for a 1.5-year study composed of one term (4 months) of course work, a 9-month scientific project (thesis) and 2-month preparation for the final exam. This is a recommendation, as our university poses no restrictions on the length and depth of your studies.

The biology section of the Department of Environmental Sciences is recognized for its excellent research in biodiversity research, conservation biology and global change biology.

- We offer a broad spectrum of course modules from which you can choose your preferred topics
- Our teaching emphasizes theory-driven and quantitative thinking
- We have scientific collaboration with institutions practicing applied ecology and conservation management
- Our research and teaching focus on attractive systems such as diverse meadows, freshwater, alpine and arctic systems



TOPICS

The core of the Master program is a research project leading to the Master thesis. Projects typically involve work in the field, in plant growth facilities and/or in the molecular lab. General areas of Masters research include:

- Responses to environmental stress: from genes to ecosystems
- Global change biology: impact on species and species communities
- Species distribution: ecological and evolutionary aspects
- Alpine and arctic vegetation
- Stream ecology
- Paleoecology
- Species interactions: competition, herbivory, pollination
- Conservation biology and invasive species
- Courses of the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center



FACTS

Curriculum

Master Thesis	50 ECTS
Master Exam	10 ECTS
Lectures and Seminars	30 ECTS
Total Master Program	90 ECTS

Degree title: Master of Science (MSc) in Ecology

Duration of the program: 18+ months

Language: English

Start of the program: Fall or spring

Admission: Students with a BSc in Biology

Students with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Basel are admitted to the Master of Science in Ecology without reservation. All other students need to be admitted by the Student Administration Office (Studiensekretariat) of the University of Basel.

Registration

Student Administration Office

Phone: +41 61 207 30 23

unibas.ch/admission



As a Master student in Ecology

- You will get to know diverse biota and deepen your floristic or faunistic knowledge
- You will get to know and apply state-of-the-art scientific methods and techniques such as: statistical analysis with R, molecular techniques, and ecophysiological measurements
- You will learn and practice skills such as scientific writing, oral presentation, programming, and soft skills including time- and self-management

Career opportunities for graduates with a MSc in Ecology are wide-ranging. Graduates can proceed in their academic career and pursue a doctoral qualification at the University of Basel or any other academic institution. Graduates are also trained for a successful career in any field of life sciences in the private or public sector.

The diploma for biology teachers at the University of Basel is based on a Master's degree in one or two subjects.



Prof. Sabine Rumpf
Ecology
Bernoullistrasse 32
CH-4056 Basel
Phone: +41 61 207 36 02
sabine.rumpf@unibas.ch
eco.duw.unibas.ch



Prof. Yvonne Willi
Plant Ecology and Evolution
Schönbeinstrasse 6
CH-4056 Basel
Phone: +41 61 207 23 20
yvonne.willi@unibas.ch
duw.unibas.ch/en/ecoevo/



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Department of
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