

## Appendix

To the Programme Regulations 2006 of the  
Master's Degree Programme in Biology

31 August 2010 (Version: 1 November 2011)

*Applies to students who commence the degree programme in Autumn Semester 2011 or later. For those entering the programme before Autumn Semester 2011 the stipulations of the previous Appendix apply.*

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*This is an English translation only. The original German version is the legally binding document.*

This appendix sets out the 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 Zurich and the Directive on Admission to Master's Degree Programmes.

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## 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

<sup>1</sup> For admission to the degree programme one of the following is required:

- a. a university Bachelor's degree in Biology comprising at least 180 ECTS<sup>1</sup> credits or an equivalent university degree in Biology
- b. a university Bachelor's degree comprising at least 180 ECTS credits or an equivalent university degree in a discipline whose content covers the academic prerequisites listed in 1.2.

<sup>2</sup> 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

#### 1.2.1 Knowledge and competences

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

<sup>2</sup> The **discipline requirements profile** comprises **160 ECTS credits** in total and is based on knowledge and competences covered in the ETH Bachelor's degree programme in Biology. This includes training in the relevant methodological scientific thinking and in experimental competence.

The discipline requirements profile is structured in two parts, as follows. Details regarding the content of the corresponding course units are published in the course catalogue ([www.vvz.ethz.ch](http://www.vvz.ethz.ch)).

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<sup>1</sup> ECTS: European Credit Transfer System. Credits describe the average time expended to achieve a learning goal. One credit corresponds to 30 hours of work.

## Part 1: Basic knowledge and competences

Part 1 comprises 100 ECTS credits and covers basic knowledge and competences in the Natural Sciences and in practical laboratory work.

### Fundamentals of Natural Science (65 credits)

The substance of the following areas from the ETH Bachelor's degree programme in Biology is required:

– Mathematik [Mathematics]	11 credits
– Informatik [Computer Science]	4 credits
– Chemie [Chemistry] (Allgemeine, Organische und Physikalische Chemie [General, Organic and Physical Chemistry])	22 credits
– Physik [Physics]	8 credits
– Biologie [Biology]	20 credits

### Laboratory practicals, field trips or project theses(35 KP)

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

## Part 2: Subject-specific knowledge and competences

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

### 1.2.2 Admission with additional requirements

<sup>1</sup> If the academic prerequisites listed in 1.2.1 are not completely satisfied, admission may be granted subject to the acquisition of the missing knowledge and competences in the form of additional credits (admission with additional requirements).

<sup>2</sup> The candidate must provide proof of the acquisition of the additional knowledge and competences required by passing the pertaining performance assessments by set deadlines (see 5).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

## 1.3 Language prerequisites

<sup>1</sup> The teaching language of the degree programme is English.

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

## **2 Specific stipulations for persons holding a Bachelor's degree in Biology**

### **2.1 Bachelor's degree in Biology from ETH Zurich**

#### *Unconditional admission*

<sup>1</sup> Holders of a Bachelor's degree in Biology from ETH Zurich are unconditionally admitted to the degree programme.

#### *Registration*

<sup>2</sup> Students of the Bachelor's degree programme in Biology already matriculated at ETH Zurich should enrol in the degree programme directly via [www.mystudies.ethz.ch](http://www.mystudies.ethz.ch). The admission procedure outlined in Section 4 is dispensed with.

#### *Entering the Master's degree programme*

<sup>3</sup> For all Bachelor's degree students already matriculated at ETH Zurich who progress to the ETH Master's degree programme, the following applies:

- a. The normal ETH enrolment dates and deadlines apply.
- b. 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.

<sup>4</sup> Students of the ETH Bachelor's degree programme in Biology may enrol directly in the programme, as long as only 60 credits maximum from the third year of the Bachelor's degree programme are pending.

### **2.2 Other Bachelor's degrees in Biology**

#### **2.2.1 General regulations**

##### *Application*

<sup>1</sup> Interested parties holding a Bachelor's degree in Biology which was not issued by ETH Zurich should apply through the ETH Zurich Admissions Office for admission to the programme and are subject to the admissions procedure set out in Section 4.

##### *Entering the Master's degree programme*

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<sup>2</sup> The required language level is measured according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (EFR) scale: *The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*, p. 23f. [www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Candidates who have been granted admission or who are subject to guaranteed admission may enter the programme when they have completed the preceding Bachelor's degree programme.

### **2.2.2 Bachelor's degree in Biology or Biochemistry from the University of Zurich**

#### *Unconditional admission*

<sup>1</sup> Holders of a Bachelor's degree in Biology or Biochemistry from the University of Zurich are unconditionally admitted to the degree programme.

<sup>2</sup> Admission is subject to fulfilment of the language prerequisites listed in (1.3).

### **2.2.3 Bachelor's degree in Biology from another Swiss university**

#### *Admission*

<sup>1</sup> Admission to the degree programme is guaranteed for those holding a Bachelor's degree in Biology from another Swiss university, provided that the language prerequisites listed in Section 1.3 are satisfied.

<sup>2</sup> Admission may be subject to additional requirements.

### **2.2.4 Bachelor's degree in Biology from other universities**

#### *Admission*

<sup>1</sup> For admission to the degree programme all the prerequisites listed in Section 1 must be satisfied.

<sup>2</sup> Admission may be subject to additional requirements.

<sup>3</sup> Admission is not possible if, to satisfy the academic prerequisites,

- a. any credits from Part 1 of said academic prerequisites must be acquired, or
- b. more than 30 credits from Part 2 of said academic prerequisites must be acquired.

## **3 Specific stipulations for persons holding Bachelor's degrees in other disciplines**

### **3.1 General regulations**

#### *Application*

<sup>1</sup> Interested parties who hold a qualifying Bachelor's degree in a discipline other than Biology should apply for the programme via the ETH Zurich Admissions Office, and are subject to the admissions procedure set out in Section 4.

### *Admission*

<sup>2</sup> For admission to the degree programme all the prerequisites set out in Section 1 must be satisfied. Very good performance in the preceding course of studies is also required.

<sup>3</sup> Admission may be subject to additional requirements.

<sup>4</sup> Admission is not possible if, to satisfy the academic prerequisites,

- a. any credits from Part 1 of said academic prerequisites must be acquired, or
- b. more than 30 credits from Part 2 of said academic prerequisites must be acquired.

## **3.2 Bachelor's degree from ETH Zurich**

### *Entering the Master's degree programme*

<sup>1</sup> Students from an ETH Bachelor's degree programme who have been granted admission can enrol in the programme once they have acquired that number of credits which would qualify them to enrol in the Master's degree programme consecutive to their original subject.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> For all Bachelor's degree students who are already matriculated at ETH Zurich and who progress to an ETH Master's degree programme, the following applies:

- a. The normal ETH enrolment dates and deadlines apply.
- b. 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.

## **3.3 Bachelor's degree from another university**

### *Entering the Master's degree programme*

Candidates who have been granted admission can enter the programme when they have completed the preceding Bachelor's degree programme.

## **4 Application and admission procedure**

<sup>1</sup> All interested parties – 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 specifications for application, in particular the documents required and the dates/deadlines for submission, are published on the website of the ETH Zurich Admissions Office ([www.admission.ethz.ch](http://www.admission.ethz.ch)).

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

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<sup>3</sup> The permitted number of missing credits is set out in the Programme Regulations of the respective consecutive Master's degree programme (e.g., B.Sc. Physics > M.Sc. Physics).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The Rector makes the final decision regarding admission without additional requirements, admission with additional requirements, or rejection.

<sup>5</sup> The candidate receives a written admissions decision which includes relevant information concerning any additional admission requirements.

## **5 Fulfilling additional admission requirements**

### **5.1 General regulations**

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The deadlines and conditions for undergoing said performance assessments are set out in Section 5.2.

### **5.2 Performance assessment deadlines and conditions**

<sup>1</sup> 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 programme at the latest. All additional requirements, including any assessment repetitions, must be fulfilled within 18 months of the start of the Master's programme at the latest.

<sup>2</sup> A pass grade in each individual performance assessment is required.

<sup>3</sup> A failed performance assessment may be repeated once.