

Admission requirements

We expect from you

- enthusiasm for biology, neuroscience or biodiversity;
- a BSc degree in Biology or related sciences with a study profile in biology, neuroscience or biodiversity;
- B2 English language skills;
- C1 German language skills.

Students are selected on the basis of a competitive procedure.

Admission to the programme is based on i) your BSc grades, ii) the overlap of your elective BSc modules with one of the specialisations of the MSc Biology, iii) your letter of motivation for applying, including information about relevant additional qualifications, and iv) your participation in student administration and governance (if applicable).

Job perspectives

The majority of graduates from the MSc Biology programme in the last few years now work as research scientists in the private sector (biotech and biomedical) and in academia. Several have founded successful companies and many graduates completed a research doctorate (excellent local opportunities at our own institute and other major research centres, including the Max Planck Institute for Cognitive and Brain Sciences, the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, the Paul Flechsig Institute for Brain Sciences, and others). The programme includes internships at local biotech companies and research institutes.



How to apply

Please visit our website for information about the application procedure:

<https://biologie.lw.uni-leipzig.de/studium-lehre/master-of-science-biologie>

The application deadline is **May 31, 2019**. Students with a degree from a German university apply through AlmaWeb (<https://almaweb.uni-leipzig.de>).

Students with a degree from a university abroad apply through uni-assist (<https://www.uni-assist.de/en/how-to-apply/apply-online>).

You also need to enclose a letter of motivation (max. two pages) and submit a summary of your bachelor thesis.



Contact for questions related to general organisational matters (enrolment and course of studies)

Office for Studies Affairs (Faculty of Life Sciences)
Talstraße 33, 04103 Leipzig, Germany
Email: Masterbewerbung.LW@uni-leipzig.de

Contact for scientific questions

Research groups at the Faculty of Life Sciences, Institute of Biology
<https://www.lw.uni-leipzig.de/en/home.html>

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UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

Faculty of Life Sciences



Master of Science
Programme

**Biology (Neuro- and
Behavioural Science/
Biodiversity)**

Study programme

We offer a wide range of courses covering

- fundamentals of biology;
- two different research specialisations: a) neuro- and behavioural science, or b) biodiversity;
- neurobiology, behavioural studies, and brain function from animals to humans and clinical application;
- the science of biodiversity change and its consequences;
- advanced statistics, modelling, and programming in R and Python.

In the master programme you will

- learn how to plan and conduct cutting-edge research;
- apply your science to tackle real-world problems;
- develop essential soft skills;
- prepare for a job in science, biotechnology, conservation, and others.

Key benefits:

- one-to-one mentoring for every student to help you achieve your potential and your personal career goals
- study in a vibrant international hotspot of neuro- and behavioural science and biodiversity research with world-leading institutions
- enjoy small courses led by dedicated lecturers
- study in English to prepare you for an international job market
- learn to conduct independent research through dedicated courses preparing you for your thesis project
- easily integrate internships and study abroad at one of our many global partner universities from Finland to Australia
- use unique research platforms (Bioimaging Core Facility, Ecotron, Global Change Experimental Facility, Canopy Crane, Primate Research Centre)
- a large and connected local neuroscience community with an upcoming dedicated neuroscience graduate school
- live in a vibrant city, the fastest growing one in Germany, with a rich cultural scene, affordable housing, and many parks and lakes

Study contents

The MSc Biology programme can be studied in three variants: a) with a research specialisation in neurobiology, cognition, and behaviour, b) with a research specialisation in biodiversity, and, if you cannot decide just yet, c) without specialisation. You will complete most course work in the first year, work on thesis-related research for most of the second year and spend time abroad or in industry.

In addition to the fundamentals of biology at the MSc level, the **research specialisation in neuro- and behavioural science** covers the organisation and processing of information in biological systems, including the neural mechanisms of learning, sensation, cognition, and plasticity. You will work on many different levels from genes and neurons to brains and behaviour, using different organisms from insects to primates, including humans.

The **research specialisation in biodiversity** is designed to systematically cover the integration levels of life (molecules, organisms, populations, communities, ecosystems) along which ecological and evolutionary processes intertwine, thereby producing the various facets of biodiversity.

The programme offers the possibility to study **without specialisation**. This option is meant for students who are still looking for a thematic focus, or aim for a broad biological education. Students are free to choose among many electives, but are more responsible for the overall balance of their study programme. If you do have a preference for one of the specialisations, you should apply directly for it, to increase your chances of admission.

Modules	ECTS
1. Elective Modules	60
2. Internship	10
3. Theoreticum	10
4. Lab course	10
5. Study abroad (alternative to 2.–4.)	30
6. Master thesis	30
Total	120

Study milestones

The curriculum is divided into three levels: in the first and second semester, you can choose six modules to balance knowledge differences and to establish your specialisation. The broad range of modules not only covers biological topics, but also includes selected modules from other institutes (Psychology, Bioinformatics, Geography, Biochemistry, and Medicine). In the third semester, you complete an external internship to establish contacts with potential employers and institutions, and learn the technical and methodological foundations for your master thesis in a theoreticum and a lab course. Alternatively, you can spend the third semester abroad to study at one of our Erasmus or global partner institutions (listed on the web page). In the fourth semester, you complete your master thesis in a lab of your choice (potentially also abroad). Throughout the entire programme, you are assisted by a professor in planning your studies and meeting programme milestones (one-to-one mentoring system).

