

Appendix

To the Programme Regulations 2021 of the
Master's degree programme in Biotechnology

18 October 2016 (Version: 01 January 2022)

Applies to students who commence the degree programme in Autumn Semester 2022 or later, including students who are re-entering the degree programme.

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

Subject and scope

This appendix sets out the academic, language and performance prerequisites for and further details regarding admission to the Master's degree programme in Biotechnology. 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 Biotechnology (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 ECTS¹ credits, an equivalent university degree, or a Bachelor's degree from a Swiss university of applied sciences² in a natural sciences or technical discipline the content of which – also with regard to any additional academic requirements within the given framework – satisfies the pertaining academic and performance admission prerequisites.

² Said technical and natural science disciplines include, in particular (listed alphabetically):

- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biotechnology
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Electrical Engineering
- Food Sciences
- Health Sciences and Technology
- Interdisciplinary Sciences
- Materials Science
- Mechanical Engineering
- Molecular Biology
- Nanosciences
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Physics

³ 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 degree programme presupposes basic knowledge and skills in technical and natural sciences which must in content, scope, quality and level of mastery be equivalent to that covered in ETH Bachelor's degree programmes (discipline requirements profile).

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

² A Diploma from a Swiss university of applied sciences is considered equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in the same discipline. A Bachelor's degree from a German or Austrian university of applied sciences is considered equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from a Swiss university of applied sciences.

² The **discipline requirements profile** set out below comprises **162 ECTS credits**. The discipline requirements profile is based on knowledge and skills covered in ETH Bachelor's degree programmes in the disciplines listed in Section 1.1. This includes training in the relevant methodological scientific thinking and experimental skills. Details are set out in Para. 5 below.

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 credits. For further details, see Section 4 below.

⁴ Admission to the degree programme is not possible if the academic gaps in the candidate's background are too extensive. For further details, see the Sections below.

⁵ The **discipline requirements profile** is structured in three parts set out below. Details regarding the content of the corresponding course units are published in the ETH Course Catalogue (www.courses.ethz.ch).

Part 1: Basic knowledge and skills: Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science (27 credits)

Part 1 comprises 27 credits and covers basic knowledge and skills from the disciplines Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science. The substance of the following course units is required (the course units belong to ETH Bachelor's degree programmes in Natural Sciences):

- Mathematics I and II (11 credits)
- Statistics I and II (6 credits)
- Physics (6 credits)
- Foundations of Computer Science (4 credits)

Part 2: Basic knowledge and skills: Biology and Chemistry (55 credits)

Part 2 comprises 55 credits and covers basic knowledge and experimental skills from the disciplines Biology and Chemistry.

a. Discipline Biology

At least 30 credits in the discipline Biology based on the following areas, including the corresponding basic labs:

- General Biology
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Genetics
- Cell Biology
- Bioinformatics
- Microbiology

b. Discipline Chemistry

At least 25 credits in the discipline Biology based on the following areas, including the corresponding basic labs:

- General Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry

Part 3: Subject-specific knowledge and skills (80 credits)

Part 3 comprises **80 credits** and covers subject-specific knowledge and skills in areas of technology and the natural sciences (Engineering, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science) as presented in the Bachelor's degree programmes of those disciplines listed in Section 1.1.

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 Applicants to the degree programme who hold a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences must, according to the pertaining additional requirements (see Section 2.2, Para. 2), also supply proof of sufficient knowledge of German (level C1).

⁴ The required language certificates must be submitted by the application deadline. The ETH Zurich publishes a list of the language certificates accepted.

1.4 Performance prerequisites

Admission to the degree programme presupposes a very good study performance record in the preceding course of studies.

2 Specific stipulations for admission and entry to the Master's degree programme

2.1 Application with a university Bachelor's degree

¹ Holders of a university Bachelor's degree or an equivalent university qualification must satisfy all of the prerequisites set out in Section 1.

² Admission may be subject to additional requirements.

³ Admission is not possible if

- a. the language prerequisites set out in Section 1.3 are not satisfied, or

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

- b. the performance prerequisites set out in Section 1.4 are not satisfied, or
- c. the number of additional credits required to satisfy the academic prerequisites exceeds 30 credits.

2.2 Application with a Bachelor's degree from a Swiss university of applied sciences

¹ Holders of a Bachelor's degree from a Swiss university of applied sciences must satisfy all of the prerequisites set out in Section 1.

² Admission is always subject to the acquisition of the missing academic and methodological knowledge and skills in the form of additional studies comprising at least 45 credits.

⁴ Admission is not possible if

- a. the language prerequisites set out in Section 1.3 are not satisfied, or
- b. the performance prerequisites set out in Section 1.4 are not satisfied, or
- c. the number of additional credits required to satisfy the academic prerequisites exceeds 60 credits.

2.3 Entering the Master's degree programme

¹ To students from an ETH Bachelor's degree programme who have been granted admission, the following applies:

- a. Said students can enrol in the Master's degree 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.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 All other candidates who have been granted admission may only enrol in the Master's degree programme when they have completed the preceding (Bachelor's) degree.

3 Application and admission procedure

¹ All interested parties must submit an application for admission to the degree programme to the ETH Zurich Admissions Office. 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).

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

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 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 The Rector of ETH Zurich makes the final decision regarding admission or 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 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.

³ The deadlines and conditions for undergoing said performance assessments depend upon the background of the candidate (see Sections 4.2 and 4.3 below).

4.2 Candidates with a university Bachelor's degree

¹ Candidates holding a university Bachelor's degree 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.

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

³ A failed performance assessment may only be repeated once.

4.3 Candidates with a Bachelor's degree from a Swiss university of applied sciences

¹ Candidates holding a Bachelor's degree from a Swiss university of applied sciences 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 two years of the start of the Master's programme at the latest.

² Session examinations may be combined in examination blocks. The examinations belonging to one examination block must always be undertaken during the same examination session.

³ A pass grade in the examination block is achieved if the average of the individual grades is at least a 4.

⁴ A failed performance assessment or a failed examination block may be repeated once. Repeating an examination block entails repeating all of the examinations belonging to it.