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# 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 with the possibility of working with fauna, flora or microbes.

The Master program provides in-depth knowledge of the relations of living beings with their environment, the resources on which they depend and the dangers they face. It also provides advanced teaching on the evolution of organisms and their mechanisms of adaptation to changing biotic and abiotic environmental conditions.

This knowledge provides the foundations for evidence-based biodiversity management and conservation strategies.

### Career prospects

This Master will help you develop many transversal 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 during this Master, is excellent preparation for a wide range of professional sectors, including:

- Academic research
- Museums and conservation work
- Public and private research organisations
- Public environmental protection services
- Environmental protection Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private applied ecology companies

Other examples of opportunities and alumni's profiles:

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

will you  
discover the  
relative  
weight of  
chance and  
necessity?

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organiser

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

### Degree awarded

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

### ECTS credits

120

### Duration

4 semesters

### Teaching language

English. Recommended level: C1.

### Contact

School of Biology  
Quartier UNIL-Sorge  
Amphipôle  
CH-1015 Lausanne  
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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.

From the second semester the program consists of a personal Master research project, a field course and optional courses devoted to evolution, evolutionary genetics, animal behaviour and conservation biology. You can choose several courses in other Master's programmes.

### 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).

Some compulsory and optional courses will be common to all specialisations, while other compulsory and optional courses will be specific to the chosen specialisation.

### Mobility

The Master research project can be conducted in a partner institution recognised by UNIL.

## SYLLABUS

### 1<sup>st</sup> semester - 30 ECTS

#### Common study programme

- Concepts in Ecology
- Concepts in Evolution
- Data Analysis in Biology
- Molecular Methods in Ecology and Evolution
- Scientific Writing

#### Specific course depending of the specialization :

- Microeconomics and Game Theory
- Spatial Analysis and Geographic information systems (GIS) in Ecology
- Advanced Python Programming

#### Personal short research project

### 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> semester - 90 ECTS

#### 40 ECTS

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
- Evolution and Biogeography of Semi-arid and Island Floras
- Mountain Ecosystems in the Alps

#### 50 ECTS

Personal Master research 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 programme, with or without further conditions.

### Administrative information

Ms Almudena Vazquez  
biologie-etudiants@unil.ch

### Director of the programme

Prof. Tadeusz Kawecki  
Tadeusz.Kawecki@unil.ch

### Enrolment

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. 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)

### 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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