

# Master of Science in Medical Biology

Guide for applicants

This study guide applies to students who start the program in FS 2022 or later (matriculation).



**University of  
Zurich**<sup>UZH</sup>

Interfaculty MD-PhD Committee IMPK

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# 1 Requirements

## 1.1 Qualification

The MSc Medical Biology program enables medical graduates (in addition to their regular degree in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine) to gain a basic natural science education that allows them to conduct MSc studies at the Faculty of Science at UZH, without previously attaining a BSc degree in natural science.

The program is open to students who have earned at least a Master's degree or an equivalent degree in human medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry. Both propaedeutic studies and MSc dissertation are conducted after attaining a medical Master or an equivalent degree.

We only accept candidates up to three years after completing their medical degree, counting from the date of the application.

## 1.2 Nationality

The MSc Medical Biology program is open to students of all nationalities. Admission of applicants from outside Europe is subject to the recognition of their degree by the Admission Office of UZH. Residence and work permits are granted by the local authorities.

## 1.3 Language requirements

The courses are taught in English. For more information on language requirements, please refer to the website of UZH:

<https://www.uzh.ch/cmsssl/en/studies/application/languagerequirements.html>

## 1.4 Regulations

The MSc Medical Biology program is governed by the program regulations governing study in the Faculty of Science's Bachelor's and Master's degree programs (currently only available in German).

<https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/reglemente.html>

# 2 Deadlines

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Interview</i>	<i>Matriculation</i>
30. September	by arrangement	Spring semester
28. Februar	by arrangement	Fall semester

## 3 Application

### 3.1 Application process

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<b>Selection of host lab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See section 5.2</li></ul>
<b>Initial contact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thomas Aeppli, coordinator</li><li>• email: <a href="mailto:thomas.aeppli@uzh.ch">thomas.aeppli@uzh.ch</a></li></ul>
<b>Submission of application documents</b> (pdf format)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Motivation letter/career plan (1 page)</li><li>• CV</li><li>• Copies of diplomas and grades</li><li>• Brief outline of PhD project (1-5 pages)</li><li>• Confirmation of supervisor (form: see Downloads)</li></ul>
<b>Interviews with two members of IMPK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructions communicated by the program coordinator.</li><li>• The program requires a confirmation of the host lab that the salary for the students is secured.</li></ul>
<b>Admission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Admission is subject to the decision of IMPK.</li><li>• Information regarding matriculation are communicated by the Students office of UZH.</li><li>• Admission to matriculation is subject to the decision of UZH.</li></ul>

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### 3.2 Repetition

Rejected candidates will not be permitted to apply again.

## 4 Funding

### 4.1 General remarks

For the duration of the MSc program (3 semester), the host lab must provide a salary which must in total amount to the SNSF rate for a first-year doctoral student.

For detailed information and model contracts, please contact the program coordinator.

### 4.2 Funding opportunities

Information: <https://www.researchers.uzh.ch/en/funding.html>

## 5 Organization

### 5.1 Propaedeutic studies and Learning Agreement

In the framework of the propaedeutic studies, students must gain a minimum of 30 ECTS credit points. This is equivalent to 6 months (fulltime). Further information as well as a selection of mandatory and recommended courses and lectures can be obtained from the program website (pdf document “propaedeutic studies”).

It is possible to have previously gained credit points recognized towards the propaedeutic studies. Please contact the program coordinator.

Details regarding the propaedeutic studies will be recorded in the learning agreement, which will be drawn up in cooperation with the supervisor and the program coordination.

### 5.2 Dissertation

The Master dissertation is conducted in parallel to the propaedeutic studies. Therefore, the duration of the dissertation comprises the entire three semesters of the program.

The dissertation must be conducted in a research group affiliated to the Life Science Graduate School. Candidates must find a host laboratory/supervisor on their own initiative; the program coordinator does not offer any assistance.

Research groups can be found by way of the Life Science Graduate School website:

<https://www.lifescience-graduateschool.uzh.ch/en/about-LSZGS/phd-programs.html>

**PhD-Programs > select individual programs > Research Groups**  
**> contact suitable research group**

In matters of dissertation und graduation, students in the MSc Medical Biology program are subject to the regulations applying to all MSc students of the Faculty of Science. Regulations, forms and further information are available on the website of the Faculty of Science.

<https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/reglemente.html>

### 5.3 Concluding module (Examination)

The concluding module comprises of a presentation on the master dissertation and an oral examination (30 min). Examinators are the candidate’s supervisor and one IMPK member. For passing, the combined grade of the presentation and the examination must be at least 4. Repetition is possible withing 6 months.

Details regarding organization of the concluding module are communicated by the program coordinator in due time.

For further details, please refer to the Bachelor and Master program regulations (see section 1.4).

For information about formal requirements regarding the Master dissertation, please refer to the section “Reglemente und Merkblätter” of the Biology Studies website:

<https://www.biologie.uzh.ch/de/Studium/AllgemeineInformationen.html>

## 6 Matriculation and module booking

### 6.1 Matriculation

Students are matriculated as MSc students at the Faculty of Science at UZH. Further information will be communicated after admission.

### 6.2 Module booking

Information about module booking can be obtained from the UZH website: [https://www.students.uzh.ch/booking\\_en.html](https://www.students.uzh.ch/booking_en.html)

Further information and conditions regarding eligible modules are detailed in the document «Propaedeutic studies» (see Downloads).

### 6.3 Modules at ETH

In order to attend modules at ETHZ, you need to register as a “special student”:

<https://www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/special-students.html>

### 6.4 Credit points gained outside UZH

Credit points that do not automatically appear in your Summary of Credits (ETH modules, LTK1, etc.) can be added manually. Please send a copy of your course certificate to the program coordinator (Thomas Aepli).

## 7 Lab rotations

Candidates who do not have any wet lab experience are strongly advised to engage in at least one lab rotation prior to joining the program. For detailed information, please refer to the document «Propaedeutic studies» (see Downloads). Students may acquire a maximum of 16 ECTS credit points with lab rotations.

## 8 Retreat

The annual retreat is sponsored by the MD-PhD/MSc Medical Biology program and organized by the students.

MSc students are required to attend the retreat once during their studies. Participation in the organizing activities is awarded with 1 ECTS credit point, which is counted towards the soft skills points.

## 9 Transition into the MD-PhD program

The propaedeutic studies of the MD-PhD and the MSc Medical Biology programs are identical. This allows students to transfer from one program into the other.

Students wishing to transfer from the MSc Medical Biology program to the MD-PhD program must notify the MD-PhD coordinator no later than 8 months after acceptance into the MSc program by submitting a written request. They are then evaluated upon presenting their PhD project to the MD-PhD committee (see MD-PhD guidelines, 3.2).

## 10 Contacts and web links

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<b>Program coordination</b>	Interfaculty MD-PhD Committee IMPK: Prof. Dr. Nicole Joller  <u>Contact:</u> Thomas Aeppli <a href="mailto:thomas.aeppli@uzh.ch">thomas.aeppli@uzh.ch</a>  <a href="https://www.med.uzh.ch/en/doctoralprograms/MasterBiologyMedicalBiology.html">https://www.med.uzh.ch/en/doctoralprograms/MasterBiologyMedicalBiology.html</a>
<b>Admission and matriculation: Swiss qualification</b>	University of Zurich Student Administration Office Büro KOL E8 Rämistrasse 71 8006 Zürich <a href="https://www.students.uzh.ch/en/contact.html">https://www.students.uzh.ch/en/contact.html</a>
<b>Admission and matriculation: Foreign qualification</b>	University of Zurich Admission Office Rämistrasse 71 8006 Zürich <a href="https://www.students.uzh.ch/en/contact.html">https://www.students.uzh.ch/en/contact.html</a>
<b>Dean's Office Science Faculty Bachelor and Master</b>	<a href="https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/fakultaet/studiendekanat.html">https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/fakultaet/studiendekanat.html</a>
<b>Science Faculty: Regulations (some German only)</b>	<a href="https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/reglemente.html">https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/reglemente.html</a>

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