Master’s Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences, Master of Science (2 years)

THE PROGRAMME

The Master’s Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences is a two-year full-time programme amounting to 120 ECTS credits.

The Master’s Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences is organised together by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Turku. Graduates of the programme are awarded a Master of Science (MSc) degree. The education is given in English.

The Faculty of Medicine offers two specialisation tracks

- Drug Discovery and Development
- Biomedical Imaging (in co-operation with the Department of Biosciences at the Åbo Akademi University)

The Faculty of Science and Engineering offers two specialisation tracks

- Medicinal and Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry
- Molecular Biotechnology and Diagnostics

GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

BSc degree that formally qualifies the applicant to access Master-level studies in the country where it has been completed. The degree should correspond to at least 180 ECTS (European credits) or to three years of full-time study. It should be awarded by a nationally accredited institution of higher education, either full university offering a doctorate or a University of Applied Sciences.

Please note that supplementary studies to a maximum of 60 ECTS may be required for the formally eligible admitted students depending on the studies they have completed during their previous degree. These supplementary studies are additional and will not be included in the Master’s degree and may extend the targeted study time. The aim of these studies is to bring everyone to approximately same level in biosciences and other topics that are relevant for the area.

Specific degree requirements for the specialisation tracks

University of Turku
Fi-20014 University of Turku, Finland
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The completed lower university degree (on basis of which you are applying to the MDP in Biomedical Sciences) must be in a relevant field of study. The relevant fields depend on the specialisation tracks:

**Biomedical Imaging**
- biochemistry
- biology
- biomedical sciences
- chemistry
- engineering
- medical sciences
- other life sciences
- physics

**Drug Discovery and Development**
- bioengineering
- biochemistry
- bioinformatics
- biology
- biomedical sciences
- chemistry
- medical sciences
- other life sciences
- pharmacology
- pharmacy

**Medicinal and Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry**
- chemistry
- molecular biosciences
- biochemistry
- biomedical sciences
- bioengineering
- other life sciences
- pharmacology
- pharmacy
- medical sciences

**Molecular Biotechnology and Diagnostics**
- biomedical sciences
- molecular biosciences
- biochemistry
- other life sciences
- chemistry
- engineering
The applicants should also be familiar with the basics of laboratory practice. Both Finnish and foreign students can apply to the programme.

**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must have excellent English language skills and a certificate that proves those skills. The applicants are required to prove their English skills by one of the following ways:

Applicants must reach the minimum test results to be eligible to be chosen to the University of Turku. No exceptions will be made.

**TOEFL** – Test of English as a Foreign Language with a minimum score of 90 and the writing test score 20 or more on the internet-based test (IBT). University of Turku code 9701.

- More information about the TOEFL test
- Locate a test site

**IELTS** – International English Language Testing Service test (Academic) with an overall band score of 6.5 and the writing test score 6.0 or more.

- More information about the IELTS test
- Locate a test site

**C2 Proficiency (previously CPE)** – Cambridge English Qualifications with pass grade A, B or C.

- More information about the CPE test
- Locate a test site

**C1 Advanced (previously CAE)** – Cambridge English Qualifications with pass grade A, B or C.

- More information about the CAE test
- Locate a test site

**PTE** – Academic test with a minimum overall score of 62 and the writing test score 54 or more.

- More information about PTE
- Locate a test site

**YKI** – National certificate for language proficiency with a minimum score of 4 in the intermediate level test


Some test organisers give an expiration date on the tests, the University of Turku does not set any expiration dates, but the language test results must be verifiable from the online verification service of the organiser. If the test scores can no longer be verified, the test is not valid and the applicant is advised to retake the test.

Applicants are exempt from doing an English language test if they hold one of the following.

- Bachelor’s degree (or higher) or an equivalent degree in an English-language programme in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States or in an EU/EEA country.
- Bachelor’s (or higher) degree from a university or university of applied sciences in Finland, if the applicant has demonstrated language skills in the English language according to the requirements concerning foreign language studies in Bachelor’s and applied university degrees in Finland.
- Secondary education in English in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, or the United States.
- Finnish matriculation examination in English language, minimum grade of magna cum laude approbatur (or a corresponding minimum English language grade of 5 from the International Baccalaureate degree, grade 7.00 from the European Baccalaureate degree or grade 8 from the Reifeprüfung degree).

The language of instruction of the degree must be proven with the degree certificate, transcript of records or Diploma Supplement.

If the degree you use to prove your language skills is different from the one used as a basis for eligibility for the programme, the degree must be earned by the time of application.

**No other degrees or statements of language proficiency will be accepted.**

Please note that the applicant is responsible for taking care of the test. The test results must be valid throughout the application period. This means, that the test results must not expire before the application deadline. When taking the test the applicant must choose University of Turku as a recipient of the results. She/he must also attach a scanned copy of the test result to the application for verification purposes. The test must be taken by the end of the application period and the results must reach the University of Turku by the end of the supplementation period (14 days after the application period ends).

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

**Deadline**

The application period is 8 January – 22 January 2020 at 15:00 (local time in Finland, GMT +2) for studies starting in autumn 2020. Students graduating after the application deadline may apply, on the condition that the required application documents are submitted and arrive at the University of Turku by 10 July 2020 at 15:00 (local time in Finland).
The application form is available to be filled and submitted online at the Studyinfo portal (www.studyinfo.fi) with the required enclosures attached in pdf format during the application period. The form includes a space for writing a motivation letter, and open questions about competencies, which will be scored (see scoring).

**Required enclosures**

- The original degree certificate in the original language
- An English, Finnish or Swedish translation (or an English-language Diploma Supplement concerning graduates from European universities) of the degree certificate
- The original transcript of study records in the original language
- An official English, Swedish or Finnish translation (or an English-language Diploma Supplement concerning graduates from European universities) of the transcript of records
- Certificate of knowledge in English (see language requirements above and at http://masters.utu.fi/how-to-apply/)

All translations must be made either by an authorized translator or by the degree awarding institution. Each page of an official translation must bear the translator’s stamp and/or signature. Official translations must be exact translations of the original documents. Translations made by the applicant him- or herself are not accepted.

In addition, the following enclosure is required to help in handling of the applications, and identifying the applicants in the interview:
- Copy of information page of the passport or identification card containing the applicant’s name, date of birth and photo

Applicants graduating after deadline may apply on the condition that the required application documents are submitted and arrive at the University of Turku by 10 July 2020 at 15:00 (local time in Finland).

During one application round to the international Master’s Degree Programmes, the applicant may apply to a maximum of three programmes at the University of Turku. Of several specialisation tracks offered at the Master’s Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences the applicant may choose only two. The applicant should mark the tracks in the order of preference. Please note, that this marked preference is binding and the applicant can be admitted only to one specialisation track of the programme. The applicant will receive 0.5 additional points of the first priority track she/he has selected.

The specialisation track of Biomedical Imaging is organised by the Faculty of Medicine in University of Turku and the Department of Biosciences in Åbo Akademi University. To increase the chances of being admitted to Biomedical Imaging, applicants are advised to apply to both the University of Turku and the Åbo Akademi University. Note that the applicant must then complete two application forms and send both applications and two sets of enclosures. The applicant must also set the universities applied to in the order of preference.

**ADMISSION PROCEDURE AND SCORING THE APPLICANTS**

The yearly quota is 40 students which is shared out to the four specialisation tracks. The admission decisions are published by the end of March 2020. All applicants will be informed by email, but also
hard copies are sent upon request. All students are required to start in the beginning of the autumn semester, and there is no separate admission for the spring semester.

The admitted applicant will have to show the originals of his/her educational documents (degree certificate and transcript of study records) at the University of Turku after arrival in Finland. Depending on the country the original documents may have to be attested or legalised. Please see the country specific requirements for the submission of the documents upon arrival already before applying.


Please note that is its possible to have only one study right in Bachelor’s or Master’s level at the Faculty of Science and Engineering. Therefore, when accepting an offered study place, the student will lose any previous study right at the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Please also notice, that you can only accept one study place in Finnish higher education per term. When accepting a place, any other admission offers to you will be cancelled.

Scoring

Applications are evaluated by the admission committee of the Master’s Degree Programme. The applicant is scored separately for each track s/he is applying to. The admission committee also may interview the best scoring applicants in each specialisation track. The interview invitations will be sent by e-mail. If the applicant cannot be reached for the possible interview, the application will not be processed further.

The admission committee scores the selected applicants by following application components:

- Compatibility of the background studies 0-5 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = sufficient relevance, 2 p. = good relevance, 3 p. = very good relevance, 4 p. = excellent relevance, 5 p. = outstanding relevance)
- Previous academic success and study history 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient/not suitable, 1 p. = sufficient, 2 p. = good, 3 p. = very good, 4 p. = excellent. Here it should be noted, that if the applicant has already an MSc degree(s) or higher, or is already studying at University of Turku, it is not necessarily considered to be beneficial.)
- Laboratory working experience 0-4 p. (0 p. = no experience, 1 p. = laboratory course work as part of previous studies, 2 p. or 3 p. = additional experience which is not directly included in the previous studies, e.g. internships, summer projects, other working experience), 4 p. = extensive experience (e.g. worked many years in the lab)
- Motivation letter 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = somewhat motivated, 2 p. = sufficient and well-justified motivation, 3 p. = good motivation, 4 p. = excellent motivation)
- The interview performance and the English skills during the interview are both scored on scale 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = satisfactory, 2 p. = good, 3 p. = excellent, 4 p. = outstanding).
- Completing a pre-assignment task during the interview (0-4 p.)
- First priority track selection (0.5 p.)
If the applicant scores 0 p. in any of the components, the application will not be processed further. In the case of the same amount of points, all of the applicants with the same score will be selected. The admission committee reserves a right to decide into which university the applicant will be admitted, if the applicant has applied to both universities, ÅAU and UTU in Biomedical Imaging. The preferred choice of the applicant will be taken into account when possible.

Admission results

The admission results will be published by the end of March, 2020. All applicants will be informed by email, but also hard copies are sent upon request. Admitted applicants will receive a confirmation form for accepting the study place. The admitted students will be required to show the originals of his/her educational documents (degree certificate and transcript of study records) at the University of Turku after arrival in Finland.

5. MORE INFORMATION

Information about the Master’s Degree Programmes in Biomedical Sciences, and instructions how to apply can be found at the web site http://masters.utu.fi/.

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