



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

Student admission to study programme

The Master's Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences is organised together by the Faculties of Medicine and Science and Engineering at the University of Turku.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering offers two specialisation tracks

- Molecular Biotechnology and Diagnostics
- Medicinal and Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry

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)

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

General degree requirement

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. The contents of formally eligible applicants' previous degrees do not always correspond to the academic level of the programme. Therefore admitted students can be advised or required to complete additional, Bachelor level studies while studying for the Master's Degree. The extent and contents of the supplementary studies are defined individually for each student when a personal study plan is formulated in the beginning of the studies. The amount of required supplementary studies cannot exceed 60 ECTS.

Specialisation track specific degree requirements

The applicant's previous degree on basis of which s/he is applying to the MDP in Biomedical Sciences must be in a relevant field of study. The relevant fields of previous studies depend on the chosen specialization track:

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

Molecular Biotechnology and Diagnostics

- biomedical sciences
- molecular biosciences
- biochemistry
- biotechnology
- other life sciences
- chemistry
- engineering

Medicinal and Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry

- chemistry
- molecular biosciences
- biochemistry
- biomedical sciences
- bioengineering
- other life sciences
- pharmacology
- pharmacy
- medical sciences

The applicants should also be familiar with the basics of laboratory practice relevant to the track applied.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The program is taught in English. Therefore, sufficient skills in English are required as described in the Rector's decision (241-002-2019) "Demonstration of language proficiency in the student selection of the University of Turku". In brief, the applicants must prove their English skills by one of the following ways (for complete criteria see Rector's decision, 241-002-2019, Appendix 1).

- The English language test of the Finnish Matriculation Examination
- Secondary education completed in English in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand or the United States
- English skills demonstrated as part of a higher education degree completed in a Finnish higher education institution as stipulated in the Government Decree on University Degrees
- Higher education degree completed in English in an EU/EEA country, Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, or the United States
- Language test: TOEFL (IBT), IELTS (Academic), C2 Proficiency^{IELTS}_{SEP} (previously CPE), C1 Advanced (previously CAE), PTE Academic or National language proficiency test YKI (English)



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Limitations in applying

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 the four 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 choice 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.

At the Faculty of Science and Engineering (specialization tracks Molecular Biotechnology and Diagnostics and Medicinal and Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry) it is possible to have only one Bachelor's or Master's study right. Therefore, when accepting an offered study place, the student will lose any previous BSc. or MSc. study right at the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Turku.

Furthermore, at the University of Turku you can only have one valid study right at a time for a lower (bachelor) or higher (master) university degree within the same major subject or degree programme. You can also only have one valid study right at a time for a scientific or professional postgraduate degree of the same level at the University of Turku. If your study right has expired or been moved to the passive register, you cannot apply for a new, similar study right. Instead, you must then apply for an extension to your study time or a reactivation of your study right. You will not be granted a new, similar study right to pursue a degree or course of study that you are already pursuing, or have already completed, within the same field or a corresponding subject, unless stated otherwise in the admission criteria of the faculty.

Deadline

The application period is 7 January – 20 January 2021 at 15:00 (local time in Finland, GMT +2) for studies starting in autumn 2021. Students graduating after the application deadline may apply, on the condition that the required educational documents are submitted and arrive at the University of Turku by 16 July 2021 at 15:00 (local time in Finland).

Application form and enclosures

The application form is available to be filled and submitted online at the Studyinfo portal (www.studyinfo.fi) 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).

The following documents must be scanned and attached to the application (in pdf format):

- The original degree certificate (in the original language) AND 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) AND an English, Finnish or Swedish translation (or an English-language Diploma Supplement concerning graduates from European universities) of the transcript of records.
- Certificate of knowledge of English (see Language requirements).



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 done 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

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.

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 interviews the best scoring applicants (maximum 40) in each specialisation track. The interviews will take place on the week 11. The interviews will be organized remotely and all applicants need to use video connection. 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:

Scoring based on the application:

- Compatibility of the background studies 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1p = sufficient relevance, 2 p. = good relevance, 3 p. = very good relevance, 4 p. =excellent 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.)
- Relevant laboratory working experience:

Drug Discovery and Development track: Relevant laboratory working experience 0-4 p. (0 p. = no experience, 1 p. = some laboratory courses as part of previous studies, 2 p. = several laboratory courses as part of previous studies, 3 p. = additional experience which is not directly included in the previous studies, e.g. internships, summer projects, other working experience), 4 p. = additional extensive experience (e.g. worked many years in the lab)

Biomedical Imaging track: Relevant practical laboratory working experience (e.g. wet or dry laboratory, computer laboratory) 0-4 p. (0 p. = no experience, 1 p. = some laboratory courses as part of previous studies, 2 p. = several laboratory courses as part of previous studies, 3



p. = additional experience which is not directly included in the previous studies, e.g. internships, summer projects, other working experience), 4 p. = additional versatile experience)

- 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)
- First priority track selection (0.5 p.)

Total maximum score from the application 16.5 p.

Scoring based on the interview:

- The interview performance 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = sufficient, 2 p. = good, 3 p. = very good, 4 p. = excellent)
- The English skills during the interview:

Drug Discovery and Development track: 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = sufficient, 2 p. = good, 3 p. = very good, 4 p. = excellent)

Biomedical Imaging track: 0 or 4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 4 p. = sufficient)

- Completing a pre-assignment task 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = sufficient, 2 p. = good, 3 p. = very good, 4 p. = excellent)
- Motivation shown during the interview 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = sufficient, 2 p. = good, 3 p. = very good, 4 p. = excellent).

Total maximum score from the interview 16 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

The yearly quota for the Master's Degree programme in Biomedical Sciences is 40 students shared out to the four specialisation fields. The admission decisions are published by 26 March 2021. 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 legalized. Please see the [country specific requirements for the submission of the documents](#) upon arrival already before applying.

Please notice, that in Finnish higher education you can only accept one study place in studies starting each term. When accepting a place, any other admission offers to you will be canceled.

