



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

# **Master of Science in Medical Biology**

Guide for applicants

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.

In general, we only accept candidates up to three years after completing their medical degree.

## 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>

# 2 Deadlines

Start in the fall semester: 28 February

Start in the spring semester: 30 September

# 3 Application process

## 3.1 Application

### Step 1: Selection of a host laboratory

Candidates must find a host laboratory/supervisor on their own initiative; the MD-PhD committee does not give any assistance. The host laboratory must be affiliated to the Life Science Graduate School.

Research groups can be found by way of the Life Science Graduate School website (PhD programs -> select the individual programs -> Research Groups).

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

### Step 2: Submission of application documents

The following documents must be submitted to the program coordinator:

- CV
- Copies of diplomas and grades
- Motivation letter/career plan (1 page)
- Brief outline of PhD project (1-5 pages)
- Confirmation of supervisor

Deadlines: See 2

### Step 3: Interview with two committee members

Instructions will be given by the program coordinator after Step 2.

The program requires a confirmation of the host lab that the salary for the students is secured.

## **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**

In the framework of the propaedeutic studies, students must gain a minimum of 35 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.

## **5.2 Dissertation**

Regarding 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 can be obtained from the website of the Faculty of Science.

<https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/reglemente.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 by the program coordinator after acceptance.

## **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 deadlines for biology block courses:

[https://www.uzh.ch/zoolmed/ssl-dir/Blockkurse\\_UNIETH.php](https://www.uzh.ch/zoolmed/ssl-dir/Blockkurse_UNIETH.php)

If you have questions or problems regarding module booking or deadlines, please contact the person in charge of the module.

## **6.3 Courses 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 MD-PhD coordinator (Jacqueline Wiedler).

## **6.5 Soft skills courses**

Students may account up to a maximum of 4 ECTS credit points gained with soft skill courses towards the 35 points.

## 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 MD-PhD program.

For more detailed information, please refer to the German version of the guidelines or contact the program coordinator.

## 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 will then be evaluated upon presenting their PhD project to the MD-PhD committee (see MD-PhD guidelines, 3.2).

## 10 Contacts and web links

### **Program coordination**

Interfaculty MD-PhD committee (IMPK)

Prof. Dr. Alexandra Trkola

Jacqueline Wiedler, coordinator

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<https://www.med.uzh.ch/en/doctoralprograms/MasterBiologyMedicalBiology.html>

### **Faculty of Science: Office of Student Affairs**

Bachelor and Master Studies

phone +41 44 635 40 07 / +41 44 635 40 15

[bama@mnf.uzh.ch](mailto:bama@mnf.uzh.ch)

### **MD-PhD Students Association**

<http://www.swiss-mdphd.ch/>

### **Course catalogues**

UZH:

<https://studentservices.uzh.ch/uzh/anonym/vvz/index.html?sap-language=EN&sap-ui-language=EN>

ETHZ:

<http://www.vvz.ethz.ch/Vorlesungsverzeichnis/sucheLehrangebotPre.do?lang=en>