



# **Master of Science in Biology, Biodiversity and Biomedicine**

## **Information for incoming Master Students at the University of Zürich (UZH)**

Academic Support Office (Studienkoordination Biologie)

PD Dr. Karin Isler (Division of Biology)  
Kresimir Rados (MSc Biology coordinator)  
Claudia Hegglin (MSc Biodiversity coordinator)  
Dr. Sabine Jacob (MSc Biomedicine coordinator)

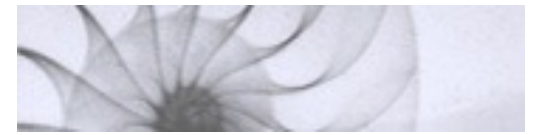




# Content

- Master of Science at UZH
- Master curriculum - Concentrations of Biology
- Preparatory phase
- Learning Agreement
- Course work
- Master thesis
- Master degree
- Some useful information





# Coordination Offices Division of Biology



PD Dr. Karin Isler



Karin Niffeler



Ewa Bolli

*E-Learning Koordination Grundstudium*



Kresimir Rados

*Fachberatung Biologie*



Dr. Sabine Jacob

*Fachberatung Biomedizin*



Claudia Hegglin

*Fachberatung Biodiversität*



**Universität  
Zürich**<sup>UZH</sup>



# MSc Biology

## 12 concentrations

- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Genetics and Development
- Plant Sciences
- Neurosciences
- Microbiology
- Quantitative Biology and Systems Biology
- Cancer Biology
- Immunology
- Virology
- Animal Behavior
- Anthropology
- Paleontology

# MSc Biodiversity

# MSc Biomedicine

*Some rules are general,  
some are specific to a  
concentration or program!*

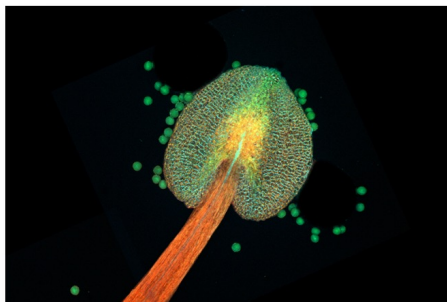
*Check homepage or  
guidelines!*



## Studium Biologie

# www.biologie.uzh.ch

Biologie – ein Studium, das heute spannender und relevanter ist denn je zuvor.



### Quicklinks

- > [Informationsveranstaltungen](#)
- > [Wegleitung und Merkblätter](#)
- > [Vorlesungsverzeichnis](#)
- > [News](#)
- > [Buchungsfristen und Module](#)
- > [Onlinekurse 23FS](#)
- > [Onlinekurse 23HS](#)



### Informationen für

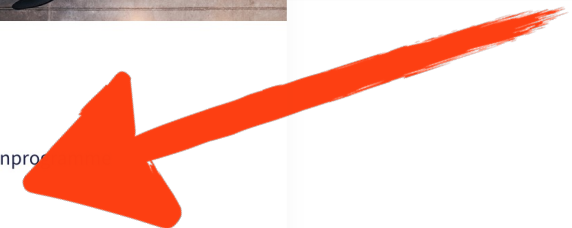
- > [Studieninteressierte](#)
- > [Biologiestudierende](#)
- > [Science Alumni](#)
  
- > [Dozierende](#)



### Studium

- > [Bachelor](#)
- > [Minor-Studienprogramm](#)
- > [Master](#)
- > [Doktorat](#)
  
- > [Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen](#)

**Master**

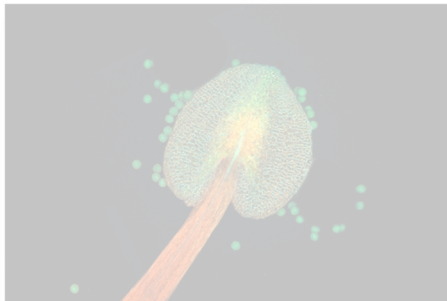


## Studium Biologie

# [www.biodiversitaet.uzh.ch](http://www.biodiversitaet.uzh.ch)

Biologie – ein Studium, das heute spannender und relevanter ist denn je zuvor.

# [www.biomedizin.uzh.ch](http://www.biomedizin.uzh.ch)



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### Studium

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# Master of Science - Organisation at UZH

- University office of student affairs - Kanzlei:  
Immatriculation, semester enrollment, fees, login data
- Faculty of Science - Studiendekanat MNF:  
Rules, exams, appeals, decisions
- Division of Biology - Studienkoordination Biology: Organisation, module booking, all questions, counseling:  
Biology: Kresimir Rados; Biodiv.: Claudia Hegglin; Biomed.: Sabine Jacob
- Master coordinators MSc Biology, program directors:  
all concentration-specific rules, final exam, help and advice
- Module - Professors:  
lectures, courses, exams, content





# ECTS - “European Credit Transfer System”

- 1 credit equals ca. 30 hours student work
- 30 credits is a full load per semester
- Grading:

|   |               |                 |                       |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 6 | sehr gut      | bestanden       | alle<br>Kreditpunkte  |
| 5 | gut           |                 |                       |
| 4 | genügend      |                 |                       |
| 3 | ungenügend    |                 |                       |
| 2 | schlecht      | nicht bestanden | keine<br>Kreditpunkte |
| 1 | sehr schlecht |                 |                       |





# Structure of Master Major - all concentrations

- Course work: at least 20 ECTS (MSc Biomed.: 24 ECTS)
- **Master thesis project:** 60 ECTS (thesis, proposal, including presentation and seminars) **1 year full time**
- Exam “520”:
  - BIO 520 “Integrated Knowledge in Biology” 10 ECTS, 3h-written and oral exam, 6-8 weeks after hand-in of thesis
  - BME 520 “Integrated Knowledge in Biomedicine” 6 ECTS, oral exam, afterwards
  - EEE 520 “Integrated Knowledge in Biodiversity” 10 ECTS, oral exam before start of thesis
- Total duration: 3-4 semesters





# Admission to Master preparatory phase

Defined in the Admission letter from UZH

- **Conditional admission** “Bedingungen” - modules must be completed before starting any Masters modules
- **Additional requirements** „Auflagen“ - modules must be completed before starting the Masters thesis
- List of modules cannot be changed
- Must be completed within four semesters



# Regulations: Master preparatory phase

Two chances for each module

- Failed once: either repeat the exam (if offered) or repeat the module next year (studies are prolonged!)
- Failed twice: no admission to this Master in Switzerland

Some modules may require more than 30 hours work per credit!

The credits of conditions or additional requirements are not counted towards the Master degree.





# Learning Agreement

a study contract between you, your supervisor, the Master coordinator and Studienkoordination

- Find a supervisor and a project, plan dates
- Fill in the Learning Agreement (LA) on [studentadmin.mnf.uzh.ch](http://studentadmin.mnf.uzh.ch) (but not submit it yet!)
- Meet the Master coordinator of your concentration in person
- Submit the LA on [studentadmin.mnf.uzh.ch](http://studentadmin.mnf.uzh.ch)
- Check whether LA got confirmed by supervisor, coordinator and Studienkoordination
- Start working on MSc thesis project

**The Learning Agreement is binding.**  
(listed courses are mandatory for you)





# Learning Agreement process

- *complete conditions modules*
- look around for supervisor
- submit LA
- do course work listed in LA
- start thesis project
- do some course work first (mandatory or recommended modules)  
*if in doubt, ask study counselor or Master coordinator*
- look around for supervisor
- submit LA
- start thesis project





# Hoe to find a supervisor / thesis topic

- *Ask in person*
- a list of thesis projects does not always exists (but e.g. for MSc Biomedicine)
- Ask directly, after lecture or in a block course
- If asking by email, ask for an appointment and bring your UZH transcript
- Check out the atmosphere in the lab
- Look also for smaller groups / young professors





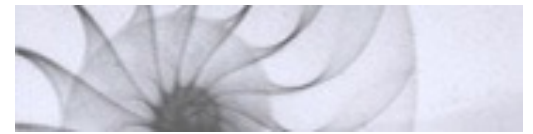
# Course Work

- Generally done in the first semester.
- Information on complete course offer at UZH see online course catalogue or on study program website  
(most courses are shared between advanced Bachelor and Master)

<http://www.biologie.uzh.ch/Studium/Bachelorstudium/AdvancedStudies.html>

- Language: most Master lectures and block courses are in English, if in doubt ask the module leader before booking
- Conditions or additional requirements modules may be in German





# Structure of Course Work

At least 20 ECTS, according to regulations of the concentration

- Block courses  
(Tuesday noon to Friday evening for 3 ½ weeks)
- Lectures Monday all day and Tuesday mornings (for the whole semester)

|         | Montag             | Dienstag           | Mittwoch   | Donnerstag | Freitag    |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 08-09 h | Spezialvorlesungen | Spezialvorlesungen | Blockkurse | Blockkurse | Blockkurse |
| 09-10 h |                    |                    |            |            |            |
| 10-11 h | Spezialvorlesungen | Spezialvorlesungen |            |            |            |
| 11-12 h |                    |                    |            |            |            |
| 12-13 h |                    |                    |            |            |            |
| 13-14 h | Spezialvorlesungen | Blockkurse         |            |            |            |
| 14-15 h |                    |                    |            |            |            |
| 15-16 h | Spezialvorlesungen |                    |            |            |            |
| 16-17 h |                    |                    |            |            |            |
| 17-18 h |                    |                    |            |            |            |



# Registration for block courses

online application tool for block courses:  
[www.mybiportal.uzh.ch](http://www.mybiportal.uzh.ch)

- Only during the booking window (2 weeks in December and July)
- Give several options for each quarter.  
Places in block courses are strictly limited and courses are usually overbooked.
- If listed on your confirmed learning agreement, you have priority over BSc students for max. 2 courses (no guarantee).





# Book modules

- Book modules each semester (mid january and mid august)
- Get information about times, rooms, teachers etc.  
from the UZH course catalogue
- Booking = registered for exam

Booking and cancellation (Storno) dates are published for each module in the course catalogue.



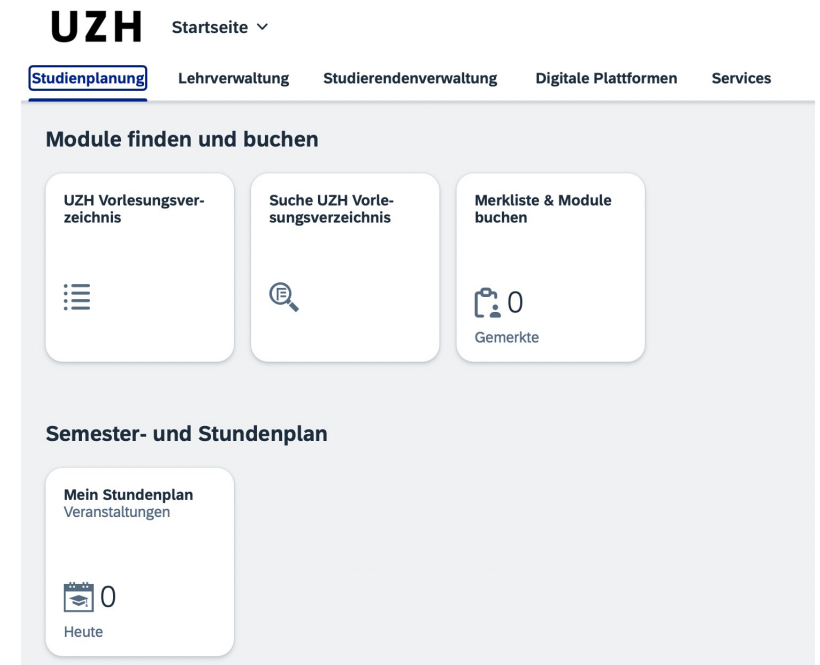


# UZH Student Services

[Studentservices.uzh.ch](https://studentservices.uzh.ch)

Reliable info about:

- Course catalogue
- Module booking
- My Requests and Receipts
- My Modules, Results, Transcripts, Bans
- Study progress and Graduation  
(*here you see booked repetition exams!*)





## UZH Now App

- UZH Card (small blue button)
- Schedule
- Push Notification for a new grade
- Mensa
- Push Notification in case of a nearby emergency





# Cancel modules

- If you do not attend an exam without a valid excuse, the exam counts as “failed”
- If you are ill, upload medical certificate in the student portal “My requests” **within 5 days**
- Lectures: cancellation date is fixed (course catalogue), cancel in the module booking tool UZH (often around mid November)
- Block courses: no cancellation unless severely ill



# Exams

- Exam schedule for large modules:  
<https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/pruefungen.html>
- For all other modules: usually in the last week of the semester at the time of the lecture  
(but sometimes in January)
- No invitation, you are expected to be there about 15min early
- Some exams on your own computer (BYOD) with safe exam browser





# OLAT = Online Learning and Training

- Information from teachers, materials etc.
- Link for every module on:  
<https://www.biologie.uzh.ch/de/Fuer-Biologiestudierende/Onlinekurse26HS.html>

Register to OLAT:

1. Log in to OLAT with UZH login dates: <https://lms.uzh.ch>  
(UZH shortname and password)
2. Choose an OLAT user name (e.g. peter\_muster; cannot be changed later!)





# Block courses - Research-Based Learning

## Rules for block courses

- Registration in on [www.mybioportal.uzh.ch](http://www.mybioportal.uzh.ch)
- Give several options (even if you have a LA!)
- Cancel only in medical emergencies
- Active participation





# Master thesis year

- 12 months full time
- Discuss working times and holidays with your supervisor, in advance (2-4 weeks are usual)
- Take part in institute life as much as possible (colloquia, journal clubs etc.)
- Prolongation only due to medical reasons
- Deadline is strict!
- MSc Biology: Hand in your thesis at the Studienkoordination, Y32-H-01. Bring a hard copy and e-mail a digital version (pdf)





## BIO 520 “Integrated Knowledge in Biology”

- Specific rules and content in each concentration
- fix date for BIO 520 exams with supervisor and MSc coordinator
- Final exam: oral (30 min.) and written (3 hours), both parts must be passed, usually 6-8 weeks after thesis hand-in date





# Obtaining your MSc degree

- All grades are found in your UZH app
- Submit the degree request online  
(UZH App “Study Progress and Graduation”)
- You will get a preliminary confirmation from Faculty of Science (Studiendekanat)
- Diploma and graduation ceremony





# UZH career services and events

**Long Night of Careers, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Career Services der UZH: <https://www.careerservices.uzh.ch/en.html>

**Zurich Life Science Day, Feb 9<sup>rd</sup>, 2027**

Zurich Young Scientist Network  
(<https://www.lifescience-youngscientists.uzh.ch/en.html>)

**Biodiversity Career Day:**

Nov 2<sup>rd</sup> 2026, 17:15-20:00

Registration:





# Advice and support

- Counseling and advice

Study coordination Biology: Y32-H-01 ➔ building 32, level H, room 01

Study coordination Biomedicine: Y23-H-06

Study coordination Biodiversity: Y13-G-40

- BiUZ Biology and Biomedicine students association

<https://www.biuz.ch/>

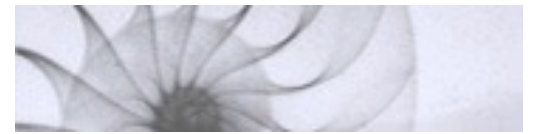
- Dean's office of Studies "Studiendekanat" building 10

- Office of student affairs UZH "Kanzlei" Main campus at  
Rämistrasse

- Various UZH offices

[http://www.uzh.ch/studies/infoadvice\\_en.html](http://www.uzh.ch/studies/infoadvice_en.html)





# Campus

Irchel Building – Floor – Room; example: **Y 32 – H - 01**





# Lecture times

08.00-08.45 Uhr

09.00-09.45 Uhr

*Break: 09.45-10.15 Uhr*

10.15-11.00 Uhr

11.15-12.00 Uhr

12.15-13.00 Uhr

13.00-13.45 Uhr

14.00-14.45 Uhr

15.00-15.45 Uhr

*Break: 15.45-16.15 Uhr*

16.15-17.00 Uhr

17.15-18.00 Uhr

18.15-19.00 Uhr





# Library (UB = Universitätsbibliothek) UB Lernzentrum Irchel, UB Naturwissenschaften

- Free E-Books, Journals etc.
- Workplaces on Campus
- Open 365 days 7:00-23:00





# Copy, print, scan

- UZH Print Plus
- Link with UZH-Card
- Printing/copying 0.08 CHF per page
- Scanning is free
- next to lecture hall Y15-G-60

- Validate UZH Card





# Warnings

- Cheating attempt or plagiarism results in severe disciplinary consequences and the module will count as “failed”

- Check your UZH email daily!

Documents in the Student Portal are official, you get a notice by email.





# Questions?

