

# Master of Science in Biology



## DURATION

**2 years (full-time), 120 ECTS**

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

**1 March** (for non-EEA citizens)

**1 June** (for EEA citizens)

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR



**1st semester:** 3rd week of September → end of January (exams in January)



**2nd semester:** 2nd week of February → July (exams in June)

[www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar](http://www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar)

The Master of Science in Biology is a specialised yet flexible programme that covers aspects of molecular and cellular biology, functional and evolutionary biology, and ecology. It emphasises problem-solving, independent thinking, and communication. You will be trained in the theory and techniques of fundamental and applied research in one of two areas of specialisation: 'Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology' or 'Molecular Biology and Physiology'.

## Department of Biology

The Department of Biology is committed to excellence in teaching and research and is comprised of four divisions with diverse research activities ranging from molecular and physiological research at the level of cells and organisms to ecological research on populations, communities, and ecosystems. Although many research groups conduct in-depth analyses on specific model organisms, as a whole the department studies an impressive diversity of lifeforms.

Our research is internationally renowned and embedded in well-established worldwide collaborations with other universities, research institutes, and companies. Our primary goal is to obtain insight into patterns and processes at different levels of biological organisation and to understand the basis and evolution of the mechanisms that allow organisms to adapt to their constantly changing environment. This knowledge often leads to applications with important economic or societal benefits. The department attracts many students and hosts approximately 250 staff members.

Divisions of the department: [bio.kuleuven.be/Divisions](http://bio.kuleuven.be/Divisions)

Research fields: [bio.kuleuven.be/fields](http://bio.kuleuven.be/fields)

## Programme

The 120 ECTS programme comprises four mandatory modules:

**Common Core (18 ECTS).** You will obtain the necessary training in analysing and processing complex biological data, in basic programming, and in discussing biological topics in a societal context.

**Advanced Biology (54 ECTS).** You can follow two modules: 'Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology' and 'Molecular Biology and Physiology'. Throughout advanced and specialised courses, you will obtain the necessary knowledge and insights in a specific area of Biology. You can specialise in one module or combine courses from both modules to design a programme that fits your needs and interests.

**Elective courses (18 ECTS).** You can select additional courses in Advanced Biology, courses on Entrepreneurship, take remedial courses to fill in knowledge gaps and/or follow courses from other master's programmes.

**Master's Thesis (30 ECTS).** You will conduct your own original scientific research in the field of biology in an academic setting with the help of a supervisor. You will defend your master's thesis publicly.

For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult [www.kuleuven.be/ma/emabiol](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/emabiol).

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### Discover KU Leuven

Founded in 1425, the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) has been a centre of learning for almost six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's largest and highest-ranked university as well as one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of programmes in English supported by high-quality interdisciplinary research.

Within the field of science, engineering, and technology, KU Leuven offers five academic educational profiles organized in five faculties: Science, Engineering Science, Bioscience Engineering, Engineering Technology, and Architecture. Boasting an outstanding central location in the heart of Europe, KU Leuven offers a truly international experience, high-quality education, world-class research and cutting-edge innovation.



KU Leuven is a founding member of  
the League of European Research Universities

### Admission requirements

To be eligible for the Master of Science in Biology, you must have obtained an academic bachelor's degree in the field of biology. Good knowledge of the English language is essential. Unless you are of Anglo-Saxon origin, you will be asked to submit a TOEFL or IELTS certificate.

Programme admission: [www.kuleuven.be/ma/emabiol](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/emabiol)

General admission: [www.kuleuven.be/admissions](http://www.kuleuven.be/admissions)

### Tuition fees

The tuition fee for the 2016 - 2017 academic year is € 890 for all students. The tuition fee for future academic years may be higher. Please consult the website for the most recent information: [www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees](http://www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees).



### Application procedure

KU Leuven uses an online application system. You can download and submit your application form via [www.kuleuven.be/application](http://www.kuleuven.be/application). Students with a Flemish degree can consult [www.kuleuven.be/studentenadministratie](http://www.kuleuven.be/studentenadministratie).

### Career perspectives

As a graduate of the programme, you will be in a position to pursue a career as a scientific researcher at universities, agro-industries, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, environmental conservation organisations, and NGOs. You will also be an excellent candidate for employment as a scientific advisor in banks and private investment foundations, a policy officer in governmental and public administration, a scientific communications advisor, scientific journalist, or a science teacher. Where do your interests lie?

Contact:

[www.kuleuven.be/ma/emabiol](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/emabiol)

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