



MASTER IN BIOLOGY free specialization (OL)

Name :
Name of master's thesis supervisor :
Name of sponsor (if applicable) :
Department (where master's thesis will be done) :
Title of master's thesis :
Start date of master's thesis :

Once filled in and signed (with the signed annexes), the form must be returned to the "Secrétariat des étudiants" of the Section of Biology (Sciences III - 2nd floor - office 2004A) before the academic start of the first term of the master's

Table with 4 columns: Course #, TITLE, Semestre A/P/AN, ECTS. Includes a row for 'Mandatory safety days!' and a total credits row.

*Registration will take place in November for the autumn semester and in March for the spring semester. You will receive a registration confirmation by e-mail from the security officer!

Select optional courses in agreement with your master's thesis supervisor, your sponsor (where applicable), and the vice-president of the Section. Selected courses must relate to the master in biology. Subsequent amendments are possible provided a fully executed new version of this form is submitted.

Signature of the Study Advisor of the Section:

Signature of the thesis supervisor:

Signature of the sponsor:

Signature of the student:

Geneva, (date)

ANNEX 1 TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE MASTER IN BIOLOGY

Registration to the master's program:

Registration to a master's degree is only possible after having found a master's work adviser.

The student has to get in touch him/herself with a potential adviser according to his/her interest for a given discipline and the possibilities of supervision. Some master's positions are also proposed on the web sites of the Section of Biology and of its individual departments.

The master's work adviser must be a professor or MER of the Section of Biology. CC and CE with PhD degree can also be authorized by the president to supervise or sponsor (see below) a master's work. If the master in biology is done with a particular option, the choice of the thesis adviser or sponsor may be restricted.

Students are allowed to perform their master's work in a laboratory outside the Section of Biology with the agreement of the president. In that case, a sponsor acting as responsible for the Section of Biology has to be found. This sponsor must be a professor or MER (or CC or CE as indicated above) of the Section of Biology. The sponsor of the Section of Biology ensures both that the academic environment of the host laboratory is appropriate and that the subject proposed to the student for his/her master's work fulfills the criteria of the Section of Biology. The sponsor or his/her Department can request a written project description before accepting the sponsorship. The sponsor checks and cosigns the final evaluation of the master's thesis.

The registration form for the master's work must be brought to the Secretariat for students of the Section of Biology with all signatures **by the official start of the 1st semester of the master's, at the latest.**

The registration form is checked by the Secretariat for students (credits, courses in relation to the master's work, etc) and signed by the presidency of the Section. Copies of the registration form are returned to the student, including one for the master's adviser and/or sponsor.

According to the Art. 19-1c of the "Règlement d'études général" of the Faculty of sciences, a minimum of 20 ECTS must be obtained for the first two semesters of the master's. If the student has not successfully obtained them yet with courses, the master's thesis adviser (and the sponsor, if required) can provide a certificate attesting that the student's work on the master's thesis is equivalent to at least 20 ECTS for this period. To this end, an official form will be sent to the master's thesis adviser at the end of the first year by the Secretariat for students of the Section of Biology.

Objectives of the master's work:

- To answer a question related to biology through experimentation.
- To become familiar with the practical and theoretical aspects of the scientific process.
- To acquire a wide range of experimental skills involving a variety of techniques.
- To learn how to present scientific results in group seminars and in a written form (e.g. master's thesis).

Time investment for the master's work:

The master's work is credited 60 ECTS. This corresponds to 45 weeks of full-time work (without counting vacation).

Writing the master's thesis:

The master's work must be presented in the form of a **written master's thesis**. See guidelines on the website of the Section of Biology (<http://www.unige.ch/sciences/biologie>).

Duration and conditions for obtaining a Master's degree in Biology

To obtain a Master's degree in Biology, students must obtain a total of 90 ECTS credits: 60 ECTS for the master's work and 30 ECTS for master's courses. The normal duration of the master's studies is 3 semesters, but an extension can be obtained (maximum 6 semesters in total). For more information on deadlines and conditions, please visit the website of the Section of Biology, link *Master in Biology*.

Evaluation and submission of the master's thesis:

The master's thesis is evaluated by two examiners, the thesis supervisor and another member of the jury who holds at least a PhD, according to the criteria mentioned hereafter. If the master's work is performed in a laboratory outside the Section of Biology, the sponsor from the Section acts as the second examiner. With the agreement of the student, an oral defense in the presence of the two examiners can be organized. The final grade is transmitted by the thesis director on the official form to the Secretariat for students of the Section of Biology, with the two signatures. The grade can also be given by the College of principal investigators of the corresponding Department.

Evaluation criteria: Intellectual contribution / understanding / independence, creativity / personal commitment / practical skills / contents of the master's thesis: current state of research, results, interpretation / writing and presentation of the thesis / when applicable, quality of oral presentation.

Once the master's thesis has been accepted by the master's supervisor, the procedure is as follows:

- 1) A pdf version must be sent to the Secretariat for students of the Section of Biology (e.g. sent by e-mail to secretariat-biologie@unige.ch).
- 2) After validation of the thesis and receipt of the grade from the supervisor, the Secretariat will send a confirmation to the student by e-mail.
- 3) The student then needs to file an electronic copy of the master's thesis in the Open Archive (<http://archive-ouverte.unige.ch>) and send the official confirmation (including the link) from the Open Archive to the Secretariat for students of the Section of Biology.
- 4) The Secretariat for students of the Section of Biology can then forward the grade to the Faculty. In order for the master's to be formally granted, this process must be completed before the end of the exam session of the last semester of the master's. According to the terms of the relevant department, paper copies may also be required for the director (and supervisor if applicable) and /or the department.

The thesis supervisor hereby confirms having taken note of this Annex 1 to the regulation of the master in biology.

Signature:

Geneva, (date)

ANNEX 2 TO REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE MASTER IN BIOLOGY

Plagiarism:

I hereby certify that I understand that "plagiarism and attempted plagiarism are serious infringements of University ethics and research integrity" (Directive on student plagiarism; <http://www.unige.ch/universite/politique-generale/plagiat/>) and that sanctions can be very severe (see article 18 of the general regulations of the Faculty of sciences; "Règlement d'Etudes Général de la Faculté des sciences").

Name :

Signature of the **student** :

Geneva,

P.S.: Note that the Section of biology scans all master's theses for plagiarism.