

ANNEX TO THE BYLAWS OF THE MASTER IN BIOLOGY

Registration to the master:

Registration to a master degree is only possible after having found a master 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 positions are also proposed on the websites of the Biology Section and Departments.

The master work adviser must be a professor or MER of the Biology Section. CC and CE with PhD degree can also be authorized by the president to supervise or sponsor (see below) a master 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 work in a laboratory outside the Biology Section with the agreement of the president. In that case, a sponsor acting as responsible for the Biology Section has to be found. This sponsor must be a professor or MER (or CC or CE as indicated above) of the Biology Section. The sponsor of the Biology Section ensures both that the academic environment of the host laboratory is appropriate and that the subject proposed to the student for his/her master work fulfills the criteria of the Biology Section. 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 thesis.

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

If the master adviser or sponsor works in the Department of Genetics and Evolution, the student must fill an additional registration form which can be obtained from the group leaders or the Secretariat of the Department (4th floor - SCIII – office 4002A - 022.379.6785).

The registration form is checked by the Secretariat for students (credits, courses in relation to the master 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 adviser and/or sponsor.

Objectives of the master work:

To answer a biological question 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 thesis).

Time investment for the master work:

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

Writing the master thesis:

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

Duration and conditions for obtaining a Master degree in Biology

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

Evaluation and submission of the master thesis:

The master thesis is evaluated by two examiners, the thesis adviser and another member of the jury, according to criteria published on the website of the Biology Section. If the master work is performed in a laboratory outside the Biology Section, the sponsor acts as the second examiner. The final grade is submitted on an official form to the Secretariat for students of the Biology Section, with the two signatures. The grade can also be given by the Faculty of the corresponding Department.

Once the master thesis has been accepted by the master adviser, the student must submit an **electronic copy to the Open Archive** (Archive Ouverte: <http://archive-ouverte.unige.ch>) and **a printed copy along with the official receipt (containing the link) from the Open Archive to the Secretariat for students of the Biology Section**, before the end of the examination session of the 3rd semester of the master. According to the rules of the corresponding Department, additional paper copies may be required for the thesis adviser (and, if applicable, the sponsor) and/or the Department.

ANNEX TO REGISTRATION FORM FOR 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/apropos/politique/plagiat/etudiants.html> and <https://memento.unige.ch/doc/0008/files/directive-on-student-plagiarism-1.pdf>) and that sanctions can be very severe (see article 18 of the general bylaws of the Faculty of sciences; "Règlement d'Etudes Général de la Faculté des sciences").

Signature of **student** :

Geneva,

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