

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Master's Degree Programmes in Biomedical Sciences

- *Biomedical Imaging, intake 10 students*
- *Drug Discovery and Development, intake 10 students*

1. THE PROGRAMMES

The Master's Degree Programmes in Biomedical Sciences are two-year full-time programmes amounting to 120 ECTS credits. The programmes in Biomedical Sciences are organized in co-operation of the Faculties of Medicine and Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the University of Turku, and the Department of Biosciences at the Åbo Akademi University. Graduates of the programmes are awarded a Master of Science (MSc) degree. The education is given in English.

The Faculty of Medicine offers two Master's degree programmes specialising in Biomedical Imaging and Drug Discovery and Development.

2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The applicants should have sufficient background knowledge in biomedical and/or natural sciences, and they should have completed a lower university degree equivalent to a Finnish BSc degree (180 ECTS) in life sciences or in a relevant field.

Relevant background fields for **Biomedical Imaging**:

- biochemistry
- biology
- biomedical sciences
- chemistry
- engineering
- medical sciences
- other life sciences
- physics

Relevant background fields for **Drug Discovery and Development**:

- bioengineering
- biochemistry
- biology
- biomedical sciences
- chemistry
- medical sciences
- other life sciences
- pharmacology
- pharmacy

The applicants for both programmes should also be familiar with the basics of laboratory practice and applicants for Drug Discovery and Development also with pharmacology. Both Finnish and foreign students can apply to the programmes. Sufficient knowledge in English language is also required (see Language requirements).

A degree from a Finnish university of applied sciences gives eligibility to apply to master level studies. However, please note that a degree from a university of applied sciences is not the same as a Bachelor of Science degree from a university. Therefore applicants who hold a degree from a Finnish university of applied sciences might need to complete supplementary studies to a maximum of 60 ECTS credits if admitted. Supplementary studies may also be necessary for other applicants depending on the courses they have passed during their previous studies. These supplementary studies are additional and will not be included in the Master's degree. The aim of these supplementary studies is to bring everyone to approximately same level in biosciences and other topics that are relevant for the area. Those applicants with minor need for bridging studies may be preferred in the application process.

Language requirements

As the programmes are taught in English, admitted applicants must have sufficient knowledge in English language. The applicants must prove their English skills as determined by the admission requirements of the University of Turku: <http://www.utu.fi/en/studying/masters-degree-programmes/Apply/Pages/Language-requirements.aspx>.

Please see these pages for detailed information. Applicants must append the scores from an international English-language test to their application.

The applicants are required to proof their knowledge of English by one of the following certificates:

- applicants must pass a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) with a minimum score of 575 (paper-based test) / 92 (Internet-based test, no individual scores below 20) or IELTS Academic (International English Language Testing Service) 6.5 (no individual scores below 6.0) or PTE Academic (Pearson Test of English Academic) with a minimum score of 62 (no individual scores below 54).
- CPE (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English): pass Grade A, B or C
- CAE (Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English): pass Grade A, B or C

All language test results must be sent to University Admissions Finland, Unioninkatu 40 C, FI-00170 Helsinki, Finland.

Please note that it is the applicant's responsibility to make testing arrangements for her/himself. Applicants must also see that the test results should reach the University Admissions Finland office **by the application deadline**. Language tests taken more than two years prior to application will not be accepted. The test results must be valid throughout the application period. This means, it must not expire prior to the application deadline. Please see the information provided by the test organisers at www.ets.org/toefl and www.ielts.org and www.pearsonpte.com for available testing dates in your country.

The applicant can be exempted from the language test if s/he can indicate the English language skills with one of the ways listed below. In this case s/he must include an officially certified copy of the school leaving/degree certificate/transcript of records indicating the required language proficiency.

- Secondary education in English in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, or United States.
- English as the A language (i.e. mother tongue) as a part of IB (International Baccalaureate), or as the LI (i.e. mother tongue), or the LII (i.e. as the official language) as a part of EB (European Baccalaureate).
- A Bachelor's (or higher) degree in which the teaching language has been English in an EU or an EEA country.

- A Bachelor's (or higher) degree in which the teaching language has been English in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or United States.
- A Bachelor's (or higher) degree from a university in Finland, or a degree from a Finnish university of applied sciences (ammattikorkeakoulu), if the applicant has demonstrated language skills in the English language according to the requirements concerning foreign language studies in Bachelor's and applied university degrees in Finland.
- Current and former exchange students of the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University can be exempted from the language test if they have completed at least 20 ECTS studies in relevant field in English during the exchange, and in that way proven their proficiency in academic English. These studies must include biomedical studies with written exams, and not only practical courses or a laboratory internship period.

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application period for studies starting in September 2016 is December 1st 2016 – January 13th 2017 (15:00 UTC+2).

All applicants must complete the online application form in English. The application process begins on the Studyinfo portal on www.studyinfo.fi. The online application opens on the portal on the 1st of December 2016.

The application form is filled in and submitted online. But all the required enclosures are sent by mail to the University Admissions Finland office. University Admissions Finland will preprocess the applications before the complete applications are forwarded to the University of Turku.

Required enclosures

- An ¹officially certified copy of the ²degree certificate in the original language. Applicants who have not yet completed the Bachelor's degree required for admission but will complete the degree by mid-July 2017 can apply but must enclose with the application a ³certificate from the university awarding the degree stating when they will receive the degree. A certified true copy of the degree awarded must reach the university by 14th of July 2017, at 15:00 UTC+3.
- An ⁴official English, Swedish or Finnish translation of the degree certificate or an officially certified copy of the Diploma Supplement
- An officially certified copy of the ⁵transcript of records in the original language
- An official English, Swedish or Finnish translation of the transcript of records
- Proof of proficiency in English (see language requirements above)
- Copy of information page of the passport or identification card containing the applicant's name, date of birth and photo

In addition, the following enclosure is recommended to help in the handling and evaluation of the applications. This document does not need to be officially certified:

- An English, Swedish or Finnish translation of the contents of the transcript of records (= course descriptions)

All the required application enclosures must be sent to the following address:

University Admissions Finland
Unioninkatu 40 C
FI-00170 Helsinki
Finland

NB:

1) Applicants who will apply to several Master's degree programmes in University of Turku will be asked to put the programmes in the order of preference.

2) The Master's Degree Programme in Biomedical Imaging is offered by the Faculty of Medicine in University of Turku and the Department of Biosciences in Åbo Akademi University. In order to increase the chances of

being admitted to Biomedical Imaging programme, applicants are advised to apply to both the University of Turku and the Åbo Akademi University. Note that in order to do so the applicants must complete two application forms and send in both applications and two sets of enclosures (if the language test score report is sent directly to UAF by the testing agency, it is enough to send only one copy of the language test). The applicant must also put the universities applied to in the order of preference.

4. ADMISSION PROCEDURE AND SCORING THE APPLICANTS

The annual intake of the programmes in Biomedical Imaging and Drug Discovery and Development is ten (10) each. Applications are evaluated by the admission committees of the Master's Degree Programmes. The admission committees also interview maximum number of 50 applicants in each programme. The interview invitations will be sent by e-mail. If the applicant is not reached for the interview, the application will not be processed further.

Scoring in Biomedical Imaging

The admission committee scores the selected applicants by following application components:

- Compatibility of the background studies 0-3p (0p = insufficient, 1p = sufficient relevance to Biomedical Imaging programme curriculum, 2p = good relevance to Biomedical Imaging programme curriculum, 3p = excellent relevance to Biomedical Imaging programme curriculum)
- Previous academic success and study history 0-3p (0p = insufficient/not suitable, 1p = sufficient, 2p = good, 3p = excellent. Here it should be noted, that if the applicant has already an MSc degree(s or higher), or is already studying at University of Turku, it is not necessarily considered to be beneficial.
- Laboratory working experience 0-3p (0p = no experience, 1p = laboratory course work as part of previous studies, 2p or 3p = additional experience which is not directly included in the previous studies, e.g. internships, summer projects, other working experience)
- Motivation letter 0-3p (0p = insufficient, 1p = somewhat motivated, 2p = sufficient and well-justified motivation, 3p = excellent motivation)
- The interview performance, including English skills, is scored on scale 0-3p. (0 = insufficient, 1p = satisfactory, 2p = good, 3p = excellent).

In addition, an applicant may receive additional points from a written thesis (1p) and possible academic awards and/or stipends (1p) and completing a preassessment task during the interview (0-2p).

If the applicant scores 0 p in any of the components, the application will not be processed further. 10 best scoring applicants will be selected in the programme. In the case of the same amount of points, all of the applicants with the same score will be selected. Rest of the interviewees will be shortlisted, and if any of the admitted applicants will not accept the offered study place, it will be offered to the next applicant on the list. The admission committee reserve a right to decide into which university the applicant will be admitted, if s/he has applied to both universities, ÅAU and UTU in Biomedical Imaging. The preferred choice of the applicant will be taken into account when possible.

Scoring in Drug Discovery and Development

In the Drug Discovery and Development programme the selection is made at two stages. First the admission committee selects the candidates for the interview by scoring the following application components:

- Previous studies in the relevant fields, 0-2p (see fields on 2. Admission requirements)
- Previous academic success and study history, 0-2p (Here it should be noted, that if the applicant has already an MSc degree(s or higher), or is already studying at University of Turku in another international MSc programme, it is not necessarily considered to be beneficial.)
- Laboratory working experience, 0-2p
- Motivation letter, 0-3p

Only the best scoring applicants (max. 50) will be invited for the interview. The interview performance, including English skills, is scored on scale 0-3p, and the interview points will be added up with the previous points for the final score.

If the applicant scores 0 p in any of the components, the application will not be processed further. 10 best scoring applicants will be selected in the programme. In the case of the same amount of points, all of the applicants with the same score will be selected. Rest of the interviewees will be shortlisted, and if any of the admitted applicants will not accept the offered study place, it will be offered to the next applicant on the list.

If the applicant scores 0 p in any of the components, the application will not be processed further.

Admission results

The admission results will be published latest in April 30th, 2017 on www.biomedicine.fi. All applicants will be informed by email, but also hard copies are sent upon request. Accepted applicants will receive a confirmation form for accepting the study place. This form should be returned to the following address: Academic affairs officer Ms. Miia Mattila, Faculty of Medicine, Kiinamylynkatu 10 C 7, FI-20520 Turku. The confirmation form must arrive at University of Turku on 15th of July 2017 at 15:00 local time (UTC+3) at the latest.

5. MORE INFORMATION

Information about the Master's Degree Programmes in Biomedical Sciences, and instructions how to apply can be found at the web site www.biomedicine.fi.

Coordinator: Ms Eeva Rainio, biomedicine@utu.fi

All copies of original documents must be officially certified (attested) by the awarding institution or a Finnish notary public (please note also country-specific requirements). Copies of copies will not be accepted. All copies must have the original stamp and signature on them. Please note that all pages of the copy must be stamped separately and clearly indicate:

- the signature of the certifying officer
- the stamp of the awarding institution or Finnish notary public
- a stamp stating only "Certified true copy" will not be accepted

²*Degree Certificate*

A degree certificate is a document issued by an institution to a student who has successfully completed all studies included in the degree. The student has graduated. The degree certificate should include the name of the institution awarding the degree, the date of issue, the name of the person to whom the degree certificate has been issued and which title/degree the person has been awarded.

³*Institution's Statement Concerning Student's Expected Date of Graduation*

The institution's statement concerning a student's expected date of graduation is a document that the institution awards to a student who has not completed all required course units before the application deadline. The student has not yet graduated. If a student has not completed all the required course units before the application deadline, he/she can ask for a statement from the institution concerning the expected date of graduation. The statement should state among other things that the student in question is currently studying at the institution and the date the student is expected to graduate.

⁴*Official Translations*

Translations of educational documents must be 1) issued by the awarding institution or 2) officially certified copy of a translation issued by the awarding institution or 3) translated by an official translator or 4) officially certified copy of a translation made by an official translator.

⁵*Transcript of Records*

A transcript of records is a document issued by the institution that has issued the degree certificate/temporary degree certificate.

The official transcript of records should include the following information:

- full titles of the units that the student has completed for the degree
- completion times of study units (or at the very least the overall study time at the institution)
- grades obtained
- credits awarded
- information on the grading scale used at the institution

The transcript must cover the full length of studies. If the degree includes course units that the student has completed at another institution and the transferred credits are not indicated in detail on the transcript of records, a separate transcript of records regarding the transferred credits should be submitted.

University Admissions Finland only accepts official transcripts of records.

Temporary (Provisional) Degree Certificate

A temporary (provisional) degree certificate is a document issued by an institution to a student who has successfully completed all studies included in the degree. The student has graduated. The temporary degree certificate is issued as a replacement for the actual degree certificate e.g. in case the actual degree certificate cannot be given to the student immediately after the studies have been completed due to technical or administrative reasons. The temporary degree certificate should include the name of the institution awarding the degree, the date of issue, the name of the person to whom the degree certificate has been issued and which title/degree the person has been awarded.

Country-specific Requirements

Applicants, whose degrees have been awarded in certain countries, need to pay special attention to the documentation before submitting it. In addition to the standard document requirements, educational documents from certain countries must be submitted in a certain way. These country-specific requirements must always be followed first and foremost, before any regular requirements for attesting documents.

Please check if your degree awarding country is listed on the University Admissions Finland webpage and then follow the given guidelines. University Admissions Finland will not make any exceptions to these requirements. http://www.universityadmissions.fi/?page_id=24