

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 of these upper university 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 B.Sc. degree (180 ECTS) in life sciences or in a relevant field (biomedical sciences, pharmacy, physics, engineering or chemistry). The applicants should also be familiar with the basics of laboratory practice. Both Finnish and foreign students can apply for the programmes. Sufficient knowledge in English language is also required (see Language requirements).

A degree from applied university in Finland gives eligibility to apply to master-level studies. However, please note that a degree from an applied university is not the same as a University Bachelor's degree. Therefore applicants who hold this degree might need to complete supplementary studies to a maximum of 60 credits if admitted. These additional studies are not included in the Master's degree. The aim of these studies is to bring everyone to approximately compatible skills in terms of their background in biosciences and other topics that are relevant for the area.

Language requirements

As the programmes are taught in English, admitted students must have sufficient knowledge in English language. The students 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). Applicants who have completed their Bachelor's degree in English in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, USA or the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway or Sweden) are exempted from the language test. These applicants knowledge of English must be indicated in their Bachelor's degree certificate.
- CPE (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English: pass Grades A, B or C
- CAE (Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English): pass Grades A, B or C
- current and former degree students and 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 credits during one term during the exchange, and in that way proven their proficiency in academic English. Current degree and exchange students may also be exempted from the English language test by a written recommendation of a professor responsible for the Master's degree programme in question (the applicant must in such cases enclose the recommendation with the application).
- in some cases the admission board of the programmes can exempt applicants who have graduated from partner universities or Finnish universities and applied universities from taking the English language test. In this case student should ask his/her professor or teacher to write a recommendation for the steering committee. For more information about this, please contact the programme coordinator.

All language test results must be sent to University Admission Finland, Yliopistonkatu 2, FI-00170 Helsinki, Finland by the application deadline. Please note 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.

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.

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application period for studies starting in September 2015 is December 1st, 2014 – January 30th, 2015 (16:00 UTC+2).

All applicants must complete the application form in English. The application template will be available on December 1st, 2014 at www.universityadmissions.fi. All applications are sent to the University Admissions Service, from where the complete applications are forwarded to the universities.

Required enclosures

- Application form
- An officially¹certified 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 the end of the ongoing academic year (July 2015) 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 the end of July 2015.
- 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
- An English, Swedish or Finnish translation of the contents of the transcript of records (course descriptions)
- Proof of proficiency in English (see language requirements above)

All the required application enclosures must be sent to the following address: University Admissions Finland, Yliopistonkatu 2, FI-00170 Helsinki, Finland.

NB: The Master's Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences: Biomedical Imaging is offered by the Faculty of Medicine (University of Turku) and the Department of Biosciences (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 only send one copy of the language test). The applicant must also put the universities applied to in order of preference.

4. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

The annual intake of the programmes in Biomedical Imaging and Drug Discovery and Development is ten (10) each. Applications are evaluated by the admission board of the Master's Degree Programmes. Selection is made by scoring the applicants degree certificates, previous academic success, motivation letter, language test results and interview. A space for writing a letter of motivation is included in the application form. In this letter the applicant must give reasons why he/she is interested in the programme and describe how it fits in with his/her previous studies and would benefit his/her future interests. Applications will be checked for plagiarism. The admission board also interviews maximum number of 50 applicants. In the admission procedure, the applicants with minor need of bridging studies and with laboratory working experience may be preferred.

The admission board reserves itself a right to decide into which university the applicant of Biomedical Imaging will be admitted if she/he has applied to both. The preferred choice of the applicant will be taken into account when possible.

The results of the admission will be published latest in July 1st, 2015. Accepted students will be informed by mail and email.

5. MORE INFORMATION

Information about the Master's Degree Programmes in Biomedical Sciences and application can be found at the web site: www.biomedicine.fi

Coordinator of the programme: Ms Eeva Rainio, erainio@utu.fi

¹*Officially Certified (Attested) Copies*

All copies of original documents must be officially certified (attested) by the awarding institution or a 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 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 transcript of records should include the course units that the student has completed for the degree, their completion time and the grades and credits awarded. The transcript of records should also include information on the grading scale currently used at the institution. If the degree includes course units that the student has completed in another institution and the transferred credits are not indicated in detail in the transcript of records, a separate transcript of records regarding the transferred credits should be delivered.

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.

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/index.php?page=countrySpecificDocuments>).