

Faculty of Medicine
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Master's Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences, Master of Science (2 years)

1. THE PROGRAMME

The Master's Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences is a two-year full-time programme amounting to 120 ECTS credits. The programme in Biomedical Sciences is organised together by the Faculties of Medicine and the Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the University of Turku. Graduates of the programme are awarded a Master of Science (MSc) degree. The education is given in English.

The Faculty of Medicine offers specialisation tracks in *Biomedical Imaging and Drug Discovery and Development*, and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences offers *Molecular Biotechnology and Diagnostics and Medicinal and Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry*. *Biomedical Imaging track* is organized in co-operation with the Department of Biosciences at the Åbo Akademi University.

2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Degree requirement

The applicants should have completed a lower university degree, Bachelor's degree or equivalent, corresponding to at least 180 ECTS or minimum of three years of full-time study in a relevant field (see below) by 10th of July 2018. The degree should be awarded by a full university, i.e. an institution of higher education offering a doctorate, and it should qualify the applicant to access Master-level studies in the country where the degree has been awarded. In addition, a polytechnic degree from a Finnish university of applied sciences gives eligibility to apply.

Please note that supplementary studies to a maximum of 60 ECTS may be required for the formally eligible admitted students depending on the studies they have completed during their previous degree. These supplementary studies are additional and will not be included in the Master's degree. The aim of these studies is to bring everyone to approximately same level in biosciences and other topics that are relevant for the area.

Relevant background fields for the specialization tracks

Biomedical Imaging:

- biochemistry
- biology
- biomedical sciences
- chemistry
- engineering

- medical sciences
- other life sciences
- physics

Drug Discovery and Development:

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

Molecular Biotechnology and Diagnostics:

- biomedical sciences
- molecular biosciences
- biochemistry
- other life sciences
- chemistry
- engineering

Medicinal and Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry:

- chemistry
- molecular biosciences

The applicants should also be familiar with the basics of laboratory practice. Both Finnish and foreign students can apply to the programme.

Language requirements

As the programme is taught in English, admitted applicants must have sufficient knowledge in English language. The applicants must prove their English skills as determined by the language requirements of the Faculty of Medicine or the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

The applicants are required to prove their knowledge of English by one of the following ways:

- 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)

- IELTS Academic (International English Language Testing Service) 6.5 (no individual scores below 6.0)
- 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
- Bachelor's degree (or higher) or an equivalent degree in an English-language programme in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States or in an EU/EEA country. The language of instruction of the degree must be proven with the degree certificate, transcript of records or Diploma Supplement.
- A Bachelor's (or higher) degree from a university or university of applied sciences in Finland, 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.

Please note that the applicant is responsible for arranging the test for her/himself. The test results must be valid throughout the application period. This means, that the test results must not expire before 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.

If the language skills are proven with the previous degree, the application must include a copy of the degree certificate/transcript of records indicating the required language proficiency.

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Deadline

The application period is **1 December 2017 – 31 January 2018** at 15:00 (local time in Finland, GMT +2) for studies starting in autumn 2018. Students graduating after the application deadline may apply, on the condition that the required application documents are submitted and arrive at the University of Turku by 10 July 2018 at 15:00 (local time in Finland). The general and country specific requirements concerning the way of certifying and submitting the documents (<http://masters.utu.fi/how-to-apply/>) must be followed also after the expiry of the application period.

The application form is filled in and submitted online at www.studyinfo.fi with the required enclosures attached in pdf format. It is possible to attach additional documents, such as CV or work certificates, which provide more information about the

applicant. The form includes a space for writing a motivation letter, and open questions about competencies, which will be scored (see scoring).

Required enclosures

- The original degree certificate in the original language
- An English, Finnish or Swedish translation (or an English-language Diploma Supplement concerning graduates from European universities) of the degree certificate
- The original transcript of study records in the original language
- An official English, Swedish or Finnish translation (or an English-language Diploma Supplement concerning graduates from European universities) of the transcript of records
- Certificate of knowledge in English (see language requirements above and at <http://masters.utu.fi/how-to-apply/>)

All translations must be made by an authorised translator.

In addition, the following enclosure is required to help in handling of the applications, and identifying the applicants in the interview:

- Copy of information page of the passport or identification card containing the applicant's name, date of birth and photo

Applicants graduating after deadline may apply on the condition that the required application documents are submitted and arrive at the University of Turku by 10 July 2018 at 15:00 (local time in Finland).

Applicants will directly select the specialisation track of the Master's degree programme in Biomedical Sciences to which they will apply. Each applicant can choose several tracks, but they will be asked to mark them in the order of preference.

The specialisation track of Biomedical Imaging is organized by the Faculty of Medicine in University of Turku and the Department of Biosciences in Åbo Akademi University. To increase the chances of being admitted to Biomedical Imaging, 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 both applications and two sets of enclosures. The applicant must also mark the universities applied to in the order of preference.

4. ADMISSION PROCEDURE AND SCORING THE APPLICANTS

The yearly quota is 40 students shared out to the four specialisation fields. In case the share is uneven, the applicants with best points will be prioritised.

Applications are evaluated by the admission committee of the Master's Degree Programme. The applicant is scored separately for each track s/he is applying to. The admission committee also interviews the best scoring applicants in each specialisation track. 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

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

- Compatibility of the background studies 0-4 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1p = sufficient relevance, 2 p. = good relevance, 3 p. = excellent relevance, 4 p. = outstanding relevance)
- Previous academic success and study history 0-3 p. (0 p. = insufficient/not suitable, 1 p. = sufficient, 2 p. = good, 3 p. = 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 0-3 p. (0 p. = no experience, 1 p. = laboratory course work as part of previous studies, 2 p. or 3 p. = additional experience which is not directly included in the previous studies, e.g. internships, summer projects, other working experience)
- Motivation letter 0-3 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = somewhat motivated, 2 p. = sufficient and well-justified motivation, 3 p. = excellent motivation)
- The interview performance and the English skills during the interview are both scored on scale 0-3 p. (0 p. = insufficient, 1 p. = satisfactory, 2 p. = good, 3 p. = excellent).

In addition, an applicant may receive additional points from a written thesis (1 p.) and possible academic awards and/or stipends (1 p.) and completing a possible pre-assignment task during the interview (0-3 p.). Preassignment task is used in Biomedical Imaging track.

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

Admission results

The admission results will be published by 28 March, 2018. All applicants will be informed by email, but also hard copies are sent upon request. Admitted applicants will receive a confirmation form for accepting the study place. The admitted students will be required to show the originals of his/her educational documents (degree certificate and transcript of study records) at the University of Turku after arrival in Finland.

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 <http://masters.utu.fi/>.

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