Table of Contents

Master's degree .................................................................................................................................................. 2

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology • University of Potsdam • Potsdam..................................................... 2
# Master's degree

## Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

### University of Potsdam • Potsdam

## Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Degree</strong></th>
<th>Master of Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Languages</strong></td>
<td>The language of instruction in the Master’s programme in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is English. Exceptions are possible. All mandatory classes can be completed without German skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme duration</strong></td>
<td>4 semesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning</strong></td>
<td>Winter and summer semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Application deadline** | 1 September for the following winter semester  
1 March for the following summer semester |
| **Tuition fees per semester in EUR** | None         |
| **Combined Master’s degree / PhD programme** | No |
| **Joint degree / double degree programme** | No |

### Course content

The Master’s degree programme “Biochemistry and Molecular Biology” focuses on the current status of research in the fields of biochemistry, molecular biology, genome research, systems biology, and biotechnology. It does this with the assistance of state-of-the-art technologies embedded in collaborative interdisciplinary research networks, including Max Planck and Fraunhofer Institutes.

Students have the opportunity to specialise in the following subjects: structural and chemical biology, enzymology, immunology, microbiology, synthetic biology, genetics, animal and plant physiology, cellular as well as developmental biology, nanobiotechnology, biophysics, and bioinformatics.

### Course objective and future career options

The programme allows students to expand and deepen specialised knowledge and practical skills that they attained during their undergraduate studies. They will gain an overview of advanced theoretical and experimental approaches in molecular life sciences and a comprehensive understanding of essential concepts in this field. Students will be able to formulate scientific problems on their own and select appropriate methods and techniques; thus, they will be able to successfully work on complex projects and publish results.

The skills graduates acquire in the Master’s programme qualify them not only for work in research and development at universities and other scientific institutions but also for work in biotech or...
biomedical companies as well as for administration and management positions. For pursuing a career in academia, there is the option of doctoral studies.

Course Details

Course organisation

The consecutive Master’s programme in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is offered at the University of Potsdam as a single-discipline programme with a standard completion time (full-time study) of four semesters and 120 credit points.

The course programme includes two mandatory core modules on applied bioinformatics and state-of-the-art research in biochemistry and molecular biology. In addition, the students must complete three orientation modules that are each worth 11 ECTS credits. Every orientation module consists of a lecture, a literature seminar, and a six-week research project. The course programme contains five to six further elective modules, typically consisting of a lecture, a literature seminar, and a two-week research project, for a total of 40 ECTS credits. An advanced research practical training to prepare the six-month Master’s thesis completes the course. The orientation and elective modules can be chosen from a wide range of topics offered by the participating research groups of the Institute of Biochemistry and Biology.

A Diploma supplement will be issued

Yes

Course-specific, integrated German language courses

No

Course-specific, integrated English language courses

No

The course of study can be taken entirely online

No

Digital learning and teaching modules

- Moodle

Description of e-learning elements

E-learning platform

Participation in the e-learning course elements is compulsory

No

Can ECTS points be acquired by taking the online programmes?

No

Can the e-learning elements be taken without signing up for the course of study?

No

Costs / Funding
Tuition fees per semester in EUR: None

Semester contribution: No tuition is charged for studying at the University of Potsdam. There is only an administrative fee of approx. 300 EUR. This semester contribution includes a semester ticket entitling you to the free use of public transport all over Brandenburg and Berlin.

Costs of living: Living in Germany is rather cheap compared to other countries in Northern and Western Europe. Monthly living expenditures of students at the University of Potsdam vary between 500 and 1,000 EUR, largely depending on accommodation. A more detailed list of the average monthly expenditures of our students can be found at: https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/studying/financing-funding-housing/costs-at-a-glance.html

Funding opportunities within the university: No

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements: Applicants are required to hold an undergraduate academic degree in a discipline/programme related to the Master’s programme, such as biology, biochemistry, biosciences, biotechnology, biomedicine, or bioinformatics, with a total of 180 ECTS credit points. Each applicant needs to document knowledge of molecular biology and biochemistry totalling at least 60 ECTS credit points that were obtained during his or her Bachelor’s degree.

Language requirements: Applicants must provide proof of their German (level A2) and English (level B2) skills; the levels are according to the CEFR. German: Goethe-Zertifikat A2 or equivalent English: UNICert (at least level II), TOEFL (75 Internet-based test), IELTS (at least 5.0 in each area), English-language Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent

Application deadline: 1 September for the following winter semester
1 March for the following summer semester

Submit application to: The application is to be completed online via the uni-assist application portal.

Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment: Job opportunities for students alongside their studies are numerous. Depending on personal and professional skills, students can find jobs in the service sector (e.g., in restaurants, cinemas, museums, theatres, etc.) or work as student assistants at the university or in the numerous non-university research institutions located in Potsdam. Furthermore, lots of tourist attractions in town, such as castles and museums, offer jobs for international students. The German capital, Berlin, is located just around the corner and students can also find jobs there.

Accommodation: There are several student dormitories in Potsdam. These are administered exclusively by Potsdam’s Association for Student Affairs (“Studentenwerk Potsdam”). You can apply for a room in one of these dormitories if you are under the age of 30 and if the Master’s degree at the University of Potsdam is your first Master’s degree programme. Besides, in Potsdam, there are also a few private dormitories to which these conditions do not apply. However, many students prefer to find an apartment in Potsdam or Berlin, which they often share with fellow students.
For information on how to register for a dorm room or find accommodation elsewhere, please consult this brochure.

**Career advisory service**

The Career Service of the University of Potsdam provides comprehensive support for students desiring to actively shape their careers. Through workshops, seminars, and counselling services, students and graduates receive assistance in developing their skills for up to one year after graduation.

International students planning to pursue a professional career in Germany can join a special training programme, which will prepare them for applying to German employers.

The Career Service also offers a mentoring programme for female students, which thus gives them the opportunity to be individually mentored by experienced professionals.

Furthermore, the Career Service operates a database that is updated on a daily basis with internship and job opportunities.

**Specific specialist or non-specialist support for international students and doctoral candidates**

- Specialist counselling
- Welcome event
- Buddy programme
- Tutors
- Visa matters

**Contact**

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Disclaimer
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