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Master of Science in Bioinformatics • Freie Universität Berlin • Berlin .......................................................... 2
# Master's degree

## Master of Science in Bioinformatics

**Freie Universität Berlin • Berlin**

### Overview

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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Master of Science in Bioinformatics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In cooperation with</td>
<td>Joint programme of the Berlin University Alliance offered by Freie Universität and Charité – Universitätsmedizin.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In cooperation with:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Max-Planck-Institut für molekulare Genetik (MPIMG)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Zuse-Institut Berlin (ZIB)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Max-Delbrück-Centrum für molekulare Medizin (MDC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Robert Koch-Institut (RKI)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und Binnenfischerei (IGB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>Courses are held in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme duration</td>
<td>4 semesters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning</td>
<td>Winter semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>Applications for our Master’s programme in Bioinformatics (consecutive Master’s programme) are usually accepted from mid of April until end of May each year. The dates may change. Please find more information here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined Master’s degree / PhD programme</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint degree / double degree programme</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description/content</td>
<td>Bioinformatics research in medicine and the life sciences is increasingly based on analysis and interpretation of biological mass data. The use of computers, combined with accurate mathematical models and efficient algorithms, is indispensable in this process. Building on the knowledge gained in a Bachelor’s degree programme in bioinformatics, this programme offers advanced education in the corresponding subfields of mathematics, computer science, biology, and translational bioinformatics. The programme is jointly conducted by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Pharmacy and the Charité Medical School. It offers both in-depth theoretical courses and applied training in bioinformatics. This gives students the necessary knowledge and skills to identify relevant biological issues, develop appropriate mathematical or computational solutions to</td>
</tr>
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</table>
approach them, and interpret the results correctly in a biological or biomedical context.

The following **focus areas** are offered to students:

**Complex Systems**
Advanced techniques for modelling, simulation, and analysis of complex networks and dynamic processes pave the way for understanding systems ranging from molecular interaction networks to ecosystems.

**Data Science**
This specialisation puts the data in the centre. State-of-the-art analysis and knowledge extraction techniques from modern statistics and machine learning will be explored and applied to realistic data sets. Consequences of the data generation process and topics pertaining to big data will also be considered.

**Advanced Algorithms**
The emphasis lies on advanced algorithms for bioinformatics analyses. This includes methods to generate search indices for very large sequencing data, efficient protein and RNA analysis, and the necessary computer science foundations to analyse and develop novel and efficient algorithms.

## Course Details

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course organisation</th>
<th>Basic studies (30 credit points = CP)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Three basic modules, 6 CP each, must be done within the first semester. All three modules consist of a lecture and an exercise/tutorial. These modules strengthen and deepen the methodological basics and prepare the students for the focus areas and optional courses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Foundations in Computer Science
- Foundations in Mathematics and Statistics
- Foundations in Bio-Medicine

In addition, there is an introductory module provided (12 CP). This introductory module consists of a lecture series and a seminar:

- **Introduction to Focus Areas:** This introduces three profile areas (Advanced Algorithms, Complex Systems and Data Science) and should support the basis of decision-making for the student's own profile area.

**Profile area (30 CP)**
Starting in the second semester, students choose a profile area. Each profile area consists of the following:

- one **Focus Area** (15 CP)
- Module: **Research Internship** (10 CP)
- Module: **Ethics and Policy Questions** (5 CP)

The following modules are compulsory in the respective focus area:

- **Complex Systems:** Module: Complex Systems in Bioinformatics (10 CP); Module: Complex Systems in Biomedical Applications (5 CP)
- **Data Science:** Module: Data Science in the Life Sciences (15 CP)
- **Advanced Algorithms:** Module: Advanced Algorithms for Bioinformatics (10 CP); Module: Methods in Life Sciences (5 CP)

**Elective area (30 CP)**
In the elective area, profile modules and elective modules are offered. Modules from the list of optional modules can be chosen freely with the following restrictions:

- Profile modules of at least 10 LP from the chosen profile area (Focus Area) must be
Costs / Funding

A Diploma supplement will be issued  Yes

Integrated internships  No additional internship is necessary.

Course-specific, integrated German language courses  No

Course-specific, integrated English language courses  No

Costs of living  Compared to other European countries, the cost of living in Germany is quite reasonable. The prices for food, accommodation, clothing, cultural events, etc. are basically in line with the EU average. You will need around 950 EUR each month to cover your living expenses. The largest expense is your monthly rent.

Funding opportunities within the university  No

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements  Summary of the Admission Regulations
(All information is subject to confirmation by the Senate Administration of Berlin.)
Detailed information for prospective students can be found here

First Degree
You need to have a university degree (Bachelor’s or equivalent), either from Germany or an equivalent foreign degree, in a higher education programme comprising at least six semesters that qualifies to practice a profession.

Computer Science, Bioinformatics & Programming Skills (25 CP)
You need at least 25 credits in computer science modules. Out of these, at least 10 credits need to be in modules in which you acquired knowledge in an imperative programming language, such as C/C++, Java or Python, and at least 10 credits in the area of algorithms.

Mathematics/Statistics (25 CP)
You need at least 25 credits in mathematical modules. Out of these, at least 10 credits need to be in the area of linear algebra or analysis and at least 10 credits in the area of statistics.

Biology/Chemistry/Biochemistry (25 CP)
You need at least 25 credits in this area. Out of these, at least 10 credits need to be in the area of biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics.

If you are an applicant who has not received the university degree in Germany, you should apply to Freie Universität Berlin via uni-assist. Uni-assist will check your documents and forward them to the respective university. Before you apply, please read our homepage concerning application procedures, admission requirements and fees. [Link](http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/bewerbung/master/index.html) and [Link](http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/index.html)

For all inquiries about the application process, admission, enrolment, orientation at Freie Universität Berlin, etc., please contact the Student Services Centre: [Info-Service@fu-berlin.de](mailto:Info-Service@fu-berlin.de)

Student Services Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language requirements</th>
<th>Proof of English language skills (level B2 CEFR or equivalent) is required.</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Submit application to | Freie Universität Berlin  
c/o uni-assist e.V.  
11507 Berlin  
Germany |

Possibility of finding part-time employment
There are many ways to earn money while you study. For example, you can work as a waiter, academic assistant or private tutor. Knowledge of German will improve your chances of finding a part-time job. Please be aware of the legal regulations.

Student services at the universities and the local representative of the "Bundesagentur für Arbeit" (Federal Employment Agency) can provide information about jobs for students. When searching, look at online job boards, adverts in local newspapers and notice boards on campus.

Accommodation
You have the option to stay in a public/private student dormitory or in a private (shared)
apartment. Student dormitories are not administrated by the university itself, so Freie Universität Berlin does not have any on-campus housing. However, it works together with "studierendenWERK Berlin" regarding student accommodation. If you do not wish to stay in a student dormitory, you can try to find a room or an apartment on the private housing market. Many students in Berlin live in shared apartments ("WG")s. You can find these offers online (e.g., studenten-wg.de or wg-gesucht.de), in various Berlin magazines, or on notice boards. Rooms/apartments around the university are rare. Therefore, students mostly commute from other parts of the city. The duration of the commute on public transport typically ranges from 30 minutes to one hour.
International Programmes in Germany - Database

www.daad.de/international-programmes
www.daad.de/sommerkurse

Editor
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German Academic Exchange Service
Section K23 – Information on Studying in Germany
Kennedyallee 50
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www.daad.de

GATE-Germany
Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing
www.gate-germany.de

Disclaimer
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