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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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| In cooperation with | Charite - Universitätsmedizin Berlin  
 Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und Binnenfischerei (IGB)  
 Max-Planck-Institut für molekulare Genetik (MPIMG)  
 Zuse-Institut Berlin (ZIB)  
 Max-Delbrück-Centrum für molekulare Medizin (MDC) |
| Teaching language | English |
| Languages         | Courses are held in English. |
| Programme duration | 4 semesters |
| Beginning         | Winter semester |
| More information on beginning of studies | October |
| Application deadline | 31 May for the following winter semester |
| Tuition fees per semester in EUR | None |
| Combined Master's degree / PhD programme | No |
| Joint degree / double degree programme | No |
| Description/content | 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 approach them, and interpret the results correctly in a biological or biomedical context. |

The following **focus areas** are offered to students:
Complex Systems
Sophisticated 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

Course organisation

Fundamental study portion (30 credit points = CP)

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.

- Foundations in Computer Science
- Foundations in Mathematics and Statistics
- Foundations in Biomedicine

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 students own profile area.

Profile study portion (45 CP)

Starting in the second semester, students choose a profile area. Each profile area consists of:

- one Focus Area (30 CP)
- Module: Research Internship (10 CP)
- Module: Ethics and Policy Questions (5 CP)

The Focus Areas are again divided into a mandatory area (15 CP) and a required elective area (15 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)
In the **required elective area** (15 CP) modules from the list of optional modules can be completed, provided that they are assigned to the chosen specialisation.

Besides lectures, exercises and seminars, practical courses/lab seminars are also offered. This provides a direct insight into applied research.

**Supplementary area (15 CP)**

In the supplementary area comprising 15 credits, students can choose from all modules from the mandatory and required elective areas in the other two profile areas that were not chosen.

**Master’s thesis with accompanying colloquium (30 CP)**

The Master’s thesis is usually written in the fourth semester. The processing time is 23 weeks. During this time, the students should give a 30-minute presentation on the progress of their work.

The Online Studies Selection Guide (OSA) for the Bioinformatics Master’s programme gives a comprehensive insight into the study programme.

Further information can also be found on the programme website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of assessment</th>
<th>Module exams are written or oral exams/presentations. Seminar presentation, reports on practical courses as well as writing and presentation of the Master’s thesis are further forms of assessment.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Diploma supplement will be issued</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated internships</td>
<td>No additional internship is necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course-specific, integrated German language courses</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course-specific, integrated English language courses</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Costs / Funding**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</th>
<th>None</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester contribution</td>
<td>In total, the semester contribution amounts to 311.99 EUR. It includes a fee of 198.80 EUR for the transportation ticket contribution. This allows you to use public transportation in Berlin for free. Other costs covered by the semester contribution are a 50 EUR enrolment fee, a 54.09 EUR semester contribution to the student support service (“StudierenWERK Berlin”), a 7.90 EUR contribution to the student union and 1.20 EUR contribution to the Semester Ticket office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of living</td>
<td>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 900 EUR each month to cover your living expenses. The largest expense is your monthly rent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding opportunities within the university</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Requirements / Registration

### Academic admission requirements

Applicants are required to have a Bachelor’s degree in bioinformatics with components in mathematics, computer science, chemistry/biochemistry, biology, and bioinformatics that correspond to the Bachelor’s degree programme in bioinformatics at Freie Universität Berlin, or an equivalent degree. An equivalent degree might be a degree in a related field (e.g., biomathematics or computational biology) which contains components similar to our Bachelor’s degree programme. As a rule, in order to be eligible for the programme, one third of your undergraduate studies need to be in mathematics and statistics, one third in computer science and bioinformatics, and one third in biology/chemistry/biochemistry.

**Please note:** At least half of your undergraduate studies must be in the field of mathematics and computer science!

If you are an applicant who has not received your 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. See: [http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/bewerbung/master/index.html](http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/bewerbung/master/index.html) and [http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/index.html](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)


### Language requirements

Proof of English language skills (level B2 CEFR or equivalent) is required. English as a school subject for six years is equivalent to level B2.

### Application deadline

31 May for the following winter semester

### Submit application to

Freie Universität Berlin  
c/o uni-assist e.V.  
11507 Berlin  
Germany

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## Services

### Possibility of finding part-time employment

There are many ways of earning 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 ("WGs"). You can find these offers online (e.g., [studenten-wg.de](http://studenten-wg.de) or [wg-...](http://...))
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.

Contact

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www.gate-germany.de

Disclaimer
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