



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



## Table of Contents

<b>Master's degree .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>FOKUS Life Sciences • Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg • Würzburg.....</b>	<b>2</b>

# Master's degree



**FOKUS Life Sciences**

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg • Würzburg

## Overview

Degree	Master of Science, en route to a doctoral degree, which is the final goal of this programme.
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>
Languages	While all courses are taught in English, it is very helpful to know some German for everyday life early on. The study programme regulations require that students prove basic competency in the German language before the start of the third semester. Complimentary courses at every level are offered through the university's language centre.
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>full-time</li></ul>
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Additional information on beginning, duration and mode of study	While our study programme is not formally a combined MSc/PhD programme, the goal is to enter a doctoral project in an accelerated fashion, ideally after one year into the MSc programme ("fast track"). See the programme description for further information.
Application deadline	15 March 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	<p>The programme features the leading <b>Life Sciences</b> expertise at the University of Würzburg under the auspices of the Faculty of Biology. It also includes research groups from the faculties of medicine, psychology, chemistry &amp; pharmacy as well as of physics. The programme is designed to be a fast track programme, accelerating access to a doctoral project within the <a href="#">Graduate School of Life Sciences</a>, comprising more than <a href="#">350 research groups</a>.</p> <p>The programme provides an entry point for a research career in academia or industry.</p> <p><b>Who should apply?</b></p> <p>Substantial relevant experimental research experience using state-of-the-art methodology is</p>

**essential for joining this programme** (minimum: experimental Bachelor's thesis, or alternatively, comparable academic experimental research experience may be acceptable under certain conditions).

Furthermore, this is the right programme for you if you:

- have finished your BSc programme (or are close to completion) with **a strong foundation in the natural sciences** (biology, chemistry, physics)
- have excellent theoretical knowledge
- want to embark on a doctoral thesis project as quickly as possible
- are willing and able to take on a high workload to achieve that goal
- are very independent and self-organised (this is not a classroom programme)
- want to study together with a highly international group of peers
- are truly fully proficient in reading and speaking English, but especially also **in writing** in English, our teaching language
- are keen to work in a very interdisciplinary environment

**This is not** the right study programme for you if any of the below is true:

- You lack experimental research experience (practical courses or methodological internships cannot substitute research)
- Your main career goal is an MSc degree
- Your main objective is to study any programme taught in English
- You have only a basic education in the natural sciences: study programmes that have a mostly technical/applied content such as nursing, laboratory technology, industrial biotechnology, fisheries science, etc., are not normally a sufficient prerequisite to apply, and neither are medical/veterinary programmes

## Course Details

### Course organisation

In the first semester, students are required to pass three obligatory modules mentioned below with a grade of at least a B+ to stay on the fast track. If they also manage to obtain at least an A- in the subsequent Master's thesis projects, they can start a doctoral project as early as in the second year of the programme. The remaining credit points for obtaining the Master's degree en route to the doctoral degree are earned in parallel with the doctoral project for activities that are obligatory during the doctoral study programme, such as special lectures and courses provided by the various GSLS sections, participation in conferences, attending group seminars, journal clubs, summer schools, etc.

If the fast track criteria are not met, the programme can also be finished as a regular Master's programme within a regular study period of two years.

#### First semester

- lecture series

"Topics and Concepts in Life Sciences" (10 ECTS)

"Methods in Life Sciences" (10 ECTS)

- research internship

"Research Concepts in Life Sciences" (10 ECTS)

The lectures are taught by principal investigators who are also members of the Graduate School of Life Sciences (GSLS). The research internship will take place at one of the GSLS research labs. During the first semester, students will decide which of the various fields of the life sciences they want to pursue, exemplified by the five [sections](#) of the GSLS.

#### Second semester and following

The Master's thesis project (25 ECTS) will take place in one of the laboratories of the [over 350 participating research groups](#). If the thesis is evaluated with an A- or better, candidates may proceed directly to a doctoral project. The Master's thesis defence (5 ECTS) and the other remaining

60 ECTS credit points may then be obtained in parallel with doctoral research (see above).

**Important note:** The current success rate for the fast track is approx. 70%. Nevertheless, please be warned, it is essential that you have **sufficient financial resources** to cover **two years** if necessary. Even fast track students may need more than one year until transition to a funded doctoral project is possible.

A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International guest lecturers</li><li>• Specialist literature in other languages</li><li>• Language training provided</li><li>• Training in intercultural skills</li><li>• Projects with partners in Germany and abroad</li></ul>
Special promotion / funding of the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other (e.g. state level)</li></ul>
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	Yes
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	No

## Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Semester contribution	<p>There are generally no tuition fees at the University of Würzburg. However, you must pay the semester contribution each semester for enrolment or registration. The student contribution includes a semester ticket that allows you to use public transportation all throughout the beautiful city of Würzburg.</p> <p>Student contribution: approx. 146 EUR</p>
Costs of living	<p>The cost of living in Würzburg is low compared to other German cities. Of course, this strongly depends on your individual lifestyle, but you should expect monthly costs of about 940 EUR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food: 250 EUR</li><li>• Rent: 350 EUR</li><li>• Health insurance: 110 EUR</li><li>• Other: 212 EUR</li><li>• Broadcasting fees (AZDBS/GEZ): 18 EUR</li></ul>
Funding opportunities within the university	Yes
Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the	You should not depend on funding opportunities through the university, as there are only limited options.

## Requirements / Registration

### Academic admission requirements

#### Degree/credit requirements

In order to be admitted, by the time of admission (not application!), you must have finished a BSc study programme of at least three years with an equivalent of 180 credit points according to ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). If you apply from outside Europe, your BSc study programme will, in principle, be considered as equal, but will be evaluated for equivalence in case of doubt. A decisive authority in this process is the federal "Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen". (<http://www.kmk.org/zab>)

If you have not yet finished your BSc at the time of application, you need to provide documents that prove that you have completed 5/6 of your regular study programme (e.g. 150 of 180 ECTS credit points in European study programmes).

#### Subject requirements

Your BSc programme must be in biology or at least have a special emphasis/specialisation/major in some aspect of the life sciences and natural sciences (e.g. biophysics, biotechnology, pharmacology, etc.). Experimental research experience through working in a natural science laboratory is essential. Please note that study programmes that have mostly technical or applied content, such as nursing, laboratory technology, industrial biotechnology, fisheries science, agriculture, and similar programmes, are normally not a sufficient prerequisite to apply. A medical education is also not normally a sufficient prerequisite.

Assessment is in three steps:

1. Screening of documents (upload of scans, sending of originals not required)
2. [Exam](#)
3. [Interview](#)

### Language requirements

International English Language Test System (IELTS) with a score of at least 6.5 or similar other tests.

Please note that **writing skills** have to be at or above that threshold, irrespective of the other components of the score.

For details, see: <https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/studium/msc-life-sciences/program/essential-qualifications/>.

### Application deadline

15 March for the following winter semester

### Submit application to

<https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/studium/msc-life-sciences/application/>

## Services

### Possibility of finding part-time employment

- **Students from countries within the EU and the EEA** are on equal terms in the labour market and are allowed to work during their course of study.
- **Students from other countries** are allowed to work 120 full days or 240 half days per year (which also includes voluntary internships). If you would like to work more, you will need permission from the employment agency ("Agentur für Arbeit") or the immigration office.
- Important: Be sure your studies will not suffer if you have a side job!

#### Career advisory service

FOKUS Life Sciences is a small programme with intensive individual advisory support provided by the study programme coordinators. In addition, the Service Centre Bio Careers is there to help.

#### Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Tutors

#### General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Intercultural communication
- Cultural programme (excursions, etc.)
- Good scientific practice
- International mentor



©FOKUS programme

**Chee Kwok**  
Dr rer nat

The FOKUS programme is a great introduction to the highly diverse Life Science research in Würzburg. Through FOKUS, I met many highly motivated and friendly students, many of whom have also embarked on doctoral projects in Würzburg and beyond. FOKUS is also embedded in a very supportive graduate school, which not only provides a fantastic structure for working towards a doctorate but also provides many opportunities to learn supplementary skills. Würzburg itself is a lively, entertaining city.

— Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg —



Theodor Boveri Centre

© Schröder-Köhne

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU) is an internationally acclaimed university offering [a wide range of subjects](#). We are committed to continuing [excellence in research](#) and teaching across all branches of science. Established for the first time in 1402, the University of Würzburg now covers the humanities, social and natural sciences, life sciences, medicine, and selected areas of engineering. Our students work with renowned scientists from all over the world and, with the completion of their Bachelor's, Master's, or doctoral degrees, make their own contributions to science.

In addition to delivering research and teaching of [international standing](#), we must never forget our ethics and responsibility towards society. Our motto – "Veritati", meaning devoted to the truth – also reflects this attitude. We fulfil our social responsibility by advocating for the basic rights of democracy, supporting humanitarian activities, and promoting the sustainable use of resources.

Many [eminent scholars](#) have studied, taught, and researched at our university. Among them was [Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen](#), who discovered X-rays in Würzburg, an achievement for which he received the first ever [Nobel Prize](#) in Physics. This was one of 14 prizes that went to researchers who have worked and taught here in successive years, including three of them since 1985: Klaus von Klitzing (physics), Hartmut Michel (chemistry), and Harald zur Hausen (medicine).



## 📍 University location

Our university, the [city of Würzburg](#), and the entire region of Main-Franconia are attractive places for our students and staff members to live, learn, and work. Its architectural beauty, easily accessible geographic location, scenic surroundings, and wide variety of recreational activities make Würzburg a popular place among students and researchers alike. The Main-Franconia region is characterised by vineyards, the Main river, and a climate reminiscent of the Mediterranean. Many guests of our university who come from all over the world to research, teach, or study in Würzburg fall in love with the city.

# Contact

## Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

Faculty of Biology and Graduate School of Life Sciences

Dr Robert Hock

Biozentrum Am Hubland  
97074 Würzburg

Tel. +49 9313184264

✉ [rhock@biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:rhock@biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de)

🌐 Course website: <https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/studium/msc-life-sciences/>

Dr Stephan Schröder-Köhne

Tel. +49 9313186068

✉ [Email](#)

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/uniwue>

🐦 [https://twitter.com/uni\\_wue](https://twitter.com/uni_wue)

📷 <https://www.instagram.com/uniwuerzburg/>

Last update 06.05.2024 10:49:49

# International Programmes in Germany - Database

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.daad.de/sommerkurse](http://www.daad.de/sommerkurse)

## Editor

DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V.  
German Academic Exchange Service  
Section K23 – Information on Studying in Germany  
Kennedyallee 50  
D-53175 Bonn  
[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

## GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing  
[www.gate-germany.de](http://www.gate-germany.de)

## Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

The publication is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and by contributions of the participating German institutions of higher education.



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research