

Student admission criteria 2017

Protein Science and Biotechnology, Master's Programme in Biochemistry, Master of Science (2y)

Programme Description

The MSc degree programme in Protein Science and Biotechnology was established to meet the clear needs of academia and industry in the post genomic era. This degree is specifically aimed at giving students in-depth understanding of the structure-function relationship of proteins and the techniques used to produce and characterize them.

Students who are selected for the degree will undertake 120 study points (equivalent of two years) of studies. These studies are designed to maximise hands on individual training in modern state of the art techniques and methodologies while providing a solid groundwork in theoretical aspects of the field. Around half of the degree involves integration of students into different research groups, finally cumulating in a 6 month research project.

The degree is flexible and allows the students to specialize in the aspects of protein science and biotechnology which will most benefit their future career. The programme is particularly aimed at people going into research and former students have been very successful in finding PhD positions in Finland and abroad.

The degree is taught in a highly international new faculty, the Faculty of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, which was formed 1st of January 2014 by the merger of the departments of Biochemistry (Faculty of Science) and Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (Faculty of Medicine), bringing together expertise in *in vitro*, *in vivo* and *in silico* analysis of protein structure and function.

How to Apply

General Academic Requirements and Language Requirements

A successful applicant has obtained their first academic degree, normally a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, from an institution of higher education. As a rule, the Bachelor's degree is the lower academic degree. This degree should be equivalent of at least three years of full-time studies (180 ECTS).

Students who are on their last term/semester of Bachelor's studies can apply to study for a Master's degree. Applicants with excellent academic records can be offered a conditional study placement.

Applicants are required to submit an officially certified copy of the latest transcript of records (please also see Country-specific requirements from the University of Oulu [web page](#)). You should point out the anticipated graduation date on the application and submit the documents you have at the time of applying. Do not wait to receive your final diploma or degree certificate if it is not available during the application period.

In the case that the applicant is accepted for study, the applicant has to submit officially certified copies of his/her Bachelor's degree certificate and the final transcript of records according to the following timetable;

Applicants graduating from Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences - **June 12 2017**

Applicants graduating from abroad or Finnish research universities - **July 28 2017**

All applicants are required to prove a high level of proficiency in English language. All programmes ask the applicant to demonstrate their level of English language. To find out the different approved methods, please visit the [Language Requirements pages](#) of the University of Oulu.

Admissions and application period

University of Oulu partners with the University Admissions Finland for their services for the application system and the pre-processing of application documents.

Application period for studies starting in Autumn 2017 **starts 15.12.2016 and ends 25.1.2017 at 15.00 (+2 GMT)**.

Application fee

University of Oulu does not charge application fees.

Application documents

All application documents have to be delivered by the deadline to

University Admissions Finland
Unioninkatu 40 C
FI-00170 Helsinki
Finland

All submitted documents will be examined for their eligibility and authenticity. In case the applicant submits forged documents, the application will be automatically rejected.

Detailed information on the application documents are available at University of Oulu [web page](#).

Student Selection

Programme

MSc degree programme in Protein Science and Biotechnology

Application

Application for Master's Programmes taught in English (University of Oulu)

Number of Study Places

A maximum of 15 students will be selected

Prerequisites for applicants:

Bachelor of Science degree with good grades in either:

- i. Biochemistry, or a closely related topic (to be judged by the content of the degree)
- ii. Chemistry, or a closely related topic, and relevant biochemistry experience

The degree has to consist of minimum three (3) years of full-time study. An equivalent higher education degree which enables the applicant to apply for higher university degree (master) studies in his/her home country is also acceptable in place of the BSc.

Please note that conditional admission is possible, if the applicant receives the degree certificate from the previous degree after the application deadline. However the final degree certificate must be submitted by

- *Applicants graduating spring term 2017 from Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences by 12th of June 2017*
- *Applicants graduating spring/summer term 2016 form abroad or Finnish research university by 28th of July 2017*

to commence the MSc degree.

Student Admission to Study Programme

The application and selection process is comprised of two stages:

Stage I: written applications

Stage II: interviews

Stage I: Written applications

The admission period for International Master's Degree Programmes is **from 15th December 2016 to 25th January 2017 (15.00 pm, GMT +2)**. Please note that there is only one application period per year.

University of Oulu partners with the University Admissions Finland for their services for the application system and the pre-processing of application documents. University Admissions Finland will evaluate your eligibility and the authenticity of your educational certificates. This includes e.g. contacting your previous educational institution. Any malpractice will be reported to the universities and proper authorities.

A written application includes:

- a) Completed online application form
- b) Compulsory attachments to the application form:
 - A copy of passport information page or a copy of an official ID card
 - Bachelor's (or equivalent) degree certificate
 - University transcript, including the grading system of the institution
 - Curriculum Vitae in Europass CV format

- Two reference letters

[Information about the application process.](#)

[Information about application documents.](#)

1. Fill in the online application

All available study programmes of University of Oulu can be found on the [Studyinfo portal](#) where you can search for suitable programmes and start the application. The online application is only open during the application period, 15.12.2016-25.1.2017. Once you have found a programme you wish to apply to, find out what the admissions requirements are from the [University of Oulu Admissions](#). Visit also the [programme website](#) for programme specific requirements.

2. Collect the required enclosures

The list of required documents is also on the online application. Mark down your Application Form number into every document, and also into the lower left corner of the envelope.

Please make sure that the documents are officially certified and translated. There are no exceptions to these rules.

3. Send the requested application documents to the mailing address of the University Admissions Finland

University Admissions Finland
Unioninkatu 40 C
FI-00170 Helsinki
FINLAND

(If you use a courier service, please also mark down the University Admissions Finland's phone number +358 29 41 235 28)

Applications sent via email or fax will not be considered.

Please make sure your application package (enclosures) reaches University Admissions Finland by mail within the given application deadline. Late applications will not be processed.

Please note that if you apply for more than one programme, you need to submit a full application file (all requested documents) for each programme you apply for.

The application documents will not be returned to the applicants.

Submitting Application Documents

All educational documents must be officially certified (attested) by the Notary Public or the awarding institution. Please also note the possible [country-specific requirements](#). Detailed descriptions of the official translations and officially certified copies can be found below.

Official Translations

All documents must be submitted in Finnish, Swedish or English. Also the copies of the original documents have to be submitted. Translations of educational documents must be

1. issued by the awarding institution or
2. officially certified copy of a translation issued by the awarding institution or
3. translated by an official translator or
4. officially certified copy of a translation made by an official translator.

Each page of an official translation must bear the translator's stamp and/or signature. Official translations must be exact translations of the original documents. Translations done by the applicant him- or herself are not accepted. Please note that you have to send a legalised copy of the translated document also in its original language.

Officially Certified Copies

All educational documents must be officially certified (attested) by the Notary Public or the awarding institution. This means that every page of each document must bear an original stamp/seal and signature of the certifying officer, e.g. regular copies of certified copies will not be accepted. In addition to the standard document requirements, educational documents from [certain countries](#) must be submitted in a certain way.

Please make sure that the officially certified copies:

1. are taken directly from your original educational documents
2. include every page of your educational documents
3. bear the original stamp of the awarding institution or Notary Public on each page of the document (e.g. a stamp stating only "Certified true copy" will not be accepted)
4. bear the original signature of the certifying officer.

All submitted documents will be examined for their eligibility and authenticity. In case the applicant submits forged documents, the application will be automatically rejected.

Please note that all students are required to present their original Bachelor's degree certificate (or higher) and transcript of records upon arrival, before starting their studies at the University of Oulu. If a student fails to do so, the right to study will be waived.

Stage II: Interviews

The second stage of the selection will be an interview by skype (or by telephone if skype is unavailable), with questions based on the relevant scientific background i.e. protein chemistry, molecular biology, basic cellular biology, and relevant sections of chemistry such as kinetics and thermodynamics, along with questions relating to motivation and career aspirations. The interview will also be a test of the ability of the applicant to understand and communicate effectively in English. The interviews will typically be 45-50 minutes in length and will be held during March-April.

Language requirements

Our MSc degree uses the interview as the method for demonstrating language proficiency. No documentation on language proficiency is needed.

Student Selection

A maximum of **15 students** will be selected to the Master's programme based on the ranking of their performance in the interview. In the case of ties the written application will be used to separate the candidates.

Scholarships and Fees

MSc degree programme in Protein Science and Biotechnology tuition fee is 13 000 euros per year. The fee concerns degree students who will start their studies in international Master's degree programme on or later than 1st August 2017.

Students who are not citizens of an EU/EEA member state are liable to pay the tuition fee.

Exceptions to this general rule are students who

- are equivalent to an EU citizen (i.e. citizen of Switzerland)
- are residing in Finland or some other EU-country on a permanent basis (continuous (A) or permanent (P or P-EU) residence permit type) or have an EU Blue Card
- are a family member (spouse or child) of an EU/EEA citizen (have a residence card for non-EU family members of EU citizens)
- have started their studies in the University of Oulu before the academic year 2017-2018
- are enrolled in Doctoral programmes
- are studying in degree programmes taught in Finnish

The first payment has to be paid by 31.7.2017. Failure to pay will result in the cancelling of the student's acceptance and revoking of the study right. Applicants eligible to full tuition scholarships are exempted from paying the tuition fee.

The tuition fee is an academic fee and thus covers the costs of tuition. The tuition fee does not cover the living costs such as accommodation, meals, and transportation. All students are required to finance their living costs by themselves.

Connected with the renewal of university strategy, the increased importance of internationalization and the introduction of tuition fees for non-EU/EEA citizens, the University of Oulu has assigned a significant amount of money for tuition scholarships for 2017 entry. **Up to 15 scholarships** will be granted in the form of a tuition fee waiver in double degree in Molecular Medicine. The tuition fee waiver awarded **covers 100 % of the full tuition fee**. Applicants can apply for the tuition scholarship as part of the admissions process. In order to retain the scholarship in the following year of study, a student must have completed 55 ECTS by the end of the previous academic year. If a student does not achieve this requirement during the first year of studies, they will be liable to pay the full international tuition fee for the second year if they wish to complete their Master's degree programme.

Information on the scholarship programmes and tuition fees:

<http://www oulu.fi/university/masters/scholarships>

Announcing the Results

Selection result will be published by 28th April 2017.

Accepting the Study Place

Deadline to confirm the study place for a full two-year Master's Programme starting in Autumn 2017 is July 14, 2017 at 15.00 pm (GMT +3).

Requests for Rectification

An applicant with grounds for appeal on the student selection procedure may apply for rectification of the decision within 14 days of notification of results. Any requests for rectification must be addressed in writing to the Board of Examiners and sent to the Registry Office of the University of Oulu (by 15.00 pm, GMT +3).

Registry Office of the University of Oulu
P.O.Box 8000,
FI-90014 University of Oulu, Finland