

Degree programme regulations for the Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences

The Rector's Office of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO)

having regard to the Intercantonal Convention on the HES-SO, of 26 May 2011,
having regard to the Regulations relating to first-cycle and second-cycle degrees (Bachelor's and Master's) at the HES-SO, of 2 June 2020,

having regard to the HES-SO Master's admission regulations, of 11 December 2014,

determines:

I. General provisions

Object	<p>Art. 1 ¹These regulations define the prescriptive provisions relating to the Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences (hereinafter referred to as MLS).</p> <p>²They are applicable to candidates for the MLS and to students registered at the HES-SO for the MLS.</p>
Background to the degree programme	<p>Art. 2 ¹The MLS is a University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Master's degree programme which follows on from Bachelor of Science degree programmes in the Chemistry and Life Sciences field (including agriculture and forestry).</p> <p>²Offered in collaboration with the other public universities of applied sciences in Switzerland offering this field of study, this degree programme is worth a total of 90 ECTS credits.</p> <p>³The joint part of the programme is coordinated at national level and the teaching of the individual specialisations is coordinated by the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of the HES-SO (hereinafter referred to as the Faculty).</p>
Objective of the MLS	<p>Art. 3 ¹The objective of the MLS is to provide practice-oriented training in engineering.</p> <p>²On completion of the programme, students will have acquired scientific competence and soft skills in engineering at Master's level and professional competence related to their chosen major in the field of Life Sciences.</p>
Form and duration of the programme	<p>Art. 4 ¹The programme is available on either a full-time or part-time basis.</p> <p>²The maximum duration of study is 6 semesters. In specific cases, the Dean of the Faculty may as an exception grant an extension to the maximum duration.</p> <p>³In the specific cases referred to in paragraph 2, the request, with supporting evidence, must be sent by registered mail for the attention of the Head of the degree programme, who shall advise the Dean of the Faculty of the request.</p>

Language of teaching **Art. 5** ¹The language of teaching is generally English.
²The language(s) used in the various modules and for evaluations are specified in the module descriptions.

II. Admission

Ordinary admission **Art. 6** ¹Candidates are subject to a procedure of admission by portfolio.
²Candidates who hold a UAS Bachelor's degree or UAS diploma awarded by a degree programme associated with the field of study of Life Sciences at a Swiss UAS are admissible.
³Candidates who hold a Bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university or Federal institute of technology in the field of study of life sciences are admissible if they can demonstrate a minimum of 6 months of professional experience in the corresponding major of the MLS. In the case of part-time study, this experience can be the corequisite professional experience acquired during the first year of study.
⁴Candidates who hold a foreign diploma are admissible if their prior education is deemed comparable to that of a Swiss Bachelor's degree awarded in the field of study of life sciences and if they can demonstrate a minimum of 6 months of professional experience in the corresponding major of the MLS. In the case of a part-time degree programme, this experience can be the corequisite professional experience acquired during the first year of study.
⁵In the case of a positive decision regarding the admission of a candidate, the candidate may be required to complete:
a) a supplementary programme before the MLS programme to acquire up to 60 ECTS credits, and/or;
b) a prerequisite or corequisite related to professional practice if the candidate's professional experience is deemed to be insufficient.

Languages **Art. 7** ¹Candidates must possess Level B2 linguistic skills in English, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
²Proof of linguistic skills may be required.

Obtaining credit equivalences **Art. 8** ¹A student admitted to the MLS who has previously completed a recognised programme deemed to be of Master's level in a field of study similar to the major chosen in the MLS can obtain equivalences.
²Requests for credit equivalences must be submitted at the time of submission of the application portfolio.
³In all cases, a minimum of 60 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits of the 90 required to be awarded the MLS must be acquired within the MLS degree programme.
⁴The Master's thesis may not form the basis of equivalence.
⁵The provisions relating to the process of validation of previous experience (Validation des Acquis de l'Expérience) remain reserved.

III. Organisation of the degree programme

Organising principles	Art. 9 This programme is constructed around the skills profile defined in the framework study plan for the degree programme.
Organisation of studies	Art. 10 The framework study plan comprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) joint modules;b) modules specialising in the chosen major;c) one or more projects;d) a Master's thesis accounting for a minimum of 30 ECTS credits.
Teaching locations	Art. 11 ¹ The different teaching locations are specified in the programme of study. ² Students shall bear the costs associated with transport and accommodation where applicable in relation to the different teaching locations.

IV. Evaluation, graduation and certification

Validation of the modules	Art. 12 ¹ Each module is subject to a minimum of one evaluation. ² The conditions of assignment of ECTS credits are stated in the module description. ³ Credits are assigned or refused en bloc for each module. ⁴ Each module is graded on a scale of numerical grades graduated by half-point, ranging from 1.0 to 6.0, with 4.0 being the minimum grade to pass the module. ⁵ Any student who does not obtain the credits allocated to a compulsory module must repeat the module as soon as possible under the conditions stated in the module description. ⁶ A module graded with a 3.5 may be subject to a reassessment, as long as this is explicitly provided for in the module description. If the student passes the reassessment, the final grade for that module shall be 4.0. If the student fails the reassessment, the grade 3.5 shall be final and the student shall be assessed as having failed the module. ⁷ If a module that is failed after repetition is not a compulsory module, the student may replace it with another module, providing the maximum number of credits attempted is not exceeded.
Title	Art. 13 ¹ Students who have obtained the 90 ECTS credits required by the framework study plan within the allotted time will be awarded the diploma Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences, major in [Title of major]. ² The diploma is signed by the Rector of the HES-SO and by the Dean of the Faculty.

V. Exclusion

Exclusion from the degree programme

Art. 14 ¹Students will be definitively excluded from the degree programme if they:

- a) do not obtain the 90 ECTS credits required to obtain the Master's title within the allotted time;
- b) have definitively failed one of the compulsory modules;
- c) have registered for more than 90 ECTS credits, not including their Master's thesis, without completing the programme;
- d) are subject to disciplinary proceedings of exclusion.

²The decision to exclude a student from the degree programme will be communicated in writing to the student by the Head of the degree programme, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty.

³Exclusion from the degree programme will result in a ban from the resumption of study at the Faculty for a period of 5 years.

VI. Final provisions

Repeal and coming into force

Art. 15 ¹These regulations supersede the Regulations for the Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences, of 14 July 2015.

²They come into force on 14 September 2020.

These regulations were adopted by decision '2020/18/60' of the Rector's Office of the HES-SO at the meeting of 2 June 2020.