



REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE PROGRAMME MASTER OF SCIENCE HES-SO IN LIFE SCIENCES

Version of 27 August 2024

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 for 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 28 September 2021,

determines:

I. General provisions

Sphere of application

Art. 1 ¹These regulations define the prescriptive provisions relating to the Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences (hereinafter referred to as MLS).

²They are applicable to candidates for the MLS and to students registered at the HES-SO for the MLS.

Background to the degree programme

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 field of chemistry and life sciences (including agriculture and forestry).

²Offered in collaboration with the other public universities of applied sciences in Switzerland offering this field of study, this degree programme comprises 90 ECTS credits.

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).

Objective of the MLS

Art. 3 ¹The objective of the MLS is to provide a practice-oriented education in engineering.

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.

Mode and duration of studies

Art. 4 ¹The programme is offered on either a full-time or part-time basis.



²The maximum duration of study is 6 semesters. In specific cases, the Head of HES-SO Master jointly with the Dean of the Faculty may as an exception grant an extension to the maximum duration, in consultation with the Head of the degree programme

³In the specific cases referred to in paragraph 2, the request, with supporting evidence, must be handed in before the start of a semester.

Languages of teaching

Art. 5 ¹The course is generally taught in English.

²The languages 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.

²Students who hold a UAS Bachelor's degree or UAS diploma awarded by the Faculty of Life Sciences of a Swiss University of Applied Sciences are admissible.

³Holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university or Federal institute of technology in the field of life sciences are admissible to the MLS 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.

⁴Holders of foreign qualifications are admissible to the MLS if their prior education is deemed comparable to that of a Swiss Bachelor's degree awarded in the field 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.

⁵If the candidate is deemed suitable for admission, they 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 been awarded a recognised Master's level university qualification in a field of study similar to the chosen major may be entitled to equivalence.

²Applications 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 for 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 The course is structured around the skills profile defined in the framework study plan for the degree programme.

Organisation of studies

Art. 10 The framework study plan comprises:

- 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 ¹The different teaching locations are specified in the programme of study.

²Students 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 ¹Each module is subject to a minimum of one evaluation.

²The conditions of award of ECTS credits are stated in the module description.

³Credits are awarded or withheld en bloc for each module.

⁴Each 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.

⁵Any student who does not obtain the credits allocated to a compulsory module must repeat it as soon as possible under the conditions stated in the module description.

⁶A 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.

⁷If a module that is failed after repetition is not a compulsory module, the student may replace it with another module.

Qualification awarded

Art. 13 ¹Students who have obtained the 90 ECTS credits required by the framework study plan in the allotted time will be awarded the degree 'Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences, major in [Title of major]'.

²The 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, alternatively, they:

- a) have not been awarded the 90 ECTS credits required to obtain the Master's qualification within the allotted time, and/or
- b) have definitively failed one or more of the compulsory modules, and/or
- c) have failed more than 30 ECTS credits during the programme, not including their Master's thesis and/or
- d) are subject to disciplinary proceedings of exclusion.

²The decision to exclude a student from the degree programme is communicated in writing to the student by, the Head of HES-SO Master jointly with the Dean of the Faculty in consultation with the the Head of the degree programme,

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

Art. 14bis Art. 14 paragraph 1 letter c) does not apply to students who began their studies before 16 September 2024. For these students, the following provision applies instead:

¹Students will be definitively excluded from the degree programme if, alternatively, they :

- c) have been registered for more than 90 ECTS credits, not including their Master's thesis, without having completed their programme.

Repeal and applicable date

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.

These regulations were formally amended on 18 May 2021.

These regulations were modified by decision 2024/23/73 of the Rector's Office of the HES-SO at the meeting of 27 August 2024. The partial revision comes into force on 16 September 2024.

