

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN BIOINFORMATICS

Admission requirements 2010

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This is a programme offering interdisciplinary knowledge of bioinformatics. Courses are jointly managed by the [University of Tampere](#) and [University of Turku](#), and take advantage of modern educational technology. Education is given in English, and the students of this international programme learn to work together with associates from different countries and scientific backgrounds. Students will be “bilingual”, in terms of combined expertise on information technology and biosciences, and therefore applicants can be as well from biological as computational fields.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

BSc degree in a relevant field of study (see below). The Bachelor's degree must be from a full university (i.e. an institution of higher education offering a doctorate), formally qualify the student to access Master-level studies, and correspond to the level of a Bachelor's degree awarded by a Finnish university in terms of the extent (at least 180 ECTS (European credits) or three years of full-time study).

OR

A polytechnic degree from an *ammattikorkeakoulu* institution in Finland in a relevant field of study, which can be considered to be sufficient for Master's degree studies when combined with possible work experience and additional studies that the student is required to complete while studying for the Master's Degree. These additional studies (max. 60 ECTS) are Bachelor-level studies and not part of the Master's Degree. The extent and contents are defined individually for each student when a personal study plan is created in the beginning of his/her studies. Since the main language of instruction at Bachelor level is Finnish, knowledge of Finnish is necessary for all these applicants (see Language requirements).

Relevant fields of prior studies are biosciences and information technology, or other relevant fields of studies where sufficient knowledge of information technology and/or biosciences is achieved for studying in the Master's Degree Programme in Bioinformatics. The decision for admission will be based on the relevance of the awarded degrees; the amount, relevance and grades of the courses in the degree; language test result (see Language requirements); and the applicant's preference for home university.

The applicant shall give evidence of his/her educational background by submitting officially attested copies of certificates in time and, in addition, the accepted student will have to show the original documents in the appropriate Faculty in order to be able to register at the university.

Additional studies

The contents of formally eligible students' previous degrees do not always correspond to the academic level in the programme. Students can be required to complete additional Bachelor level studies while studying for the Master's Degree. These additional studies (max. 60 ECTS) are not part of the Master's Degree. The extent and contents of the additional studies are defined individually for each student when a personal study plan is created in the beginning of his/her studies. Depending on the amount of additional studies, the study time for the Master's Degree can be more than the targeted study time, which is 2 years.

Please note that additional studies are always required from applicants accepted on the basis of a polytechnic degree from an *ammattikorkeakoulu* institution in Finland. Since the main

language of instruction at Bachelor level is Finnish, knowledge of Finnish is necessary for all these applicants (see Language requirements).

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must prove their knowledge of **English** in one of the ways accepted by the Faculty.

All applicants applying on the basis of a polytechnic degree from an *ammattikorkeakoulu* institution in Finland must prove their proficiency also in **Finnish**, since these students will need to complete additional Bachelor level studies while studying for their Master's Degree, and these studies are available only in Finnish.

The language requirements concerning both languages are given on <http://www.sci.utu.fi/tdk/en/education/applying/Languagerequirements.html>

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Deadline

The application period is 1 December 2009 - 1 February 2010 for studies starting in September 2010. Students graduating after the application deadline may apply, on the condition that the application includes a statement from the home institution stating the expected date of graduation. In this case, a certified copy of the original degree certificate (in the original language), and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation (or a Diploma Supplement), must arrive at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences by 3 August 2010 at 16:15 (local time in Finland). Applications arriving after the deadline are not considered. Postmark dates on the applications will not be taken into account; the applications must arrive at the University Admissions Finland before the above deadline.

Application form and enclosures

The electronic application form is available on <http://www.universityadmissions.fi/>.

All applications are sent to the University Admissions Finland, from where the complete applications are forwarded to the universities.

The following documents must be sent by the applicant:

- A printed version of the electronic application form, bearing the original signature of the applicant.
- Degree certificate. An officially certified copy of the original certificate (in the original language) and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation.
- Transcript of study records. An officially certified copy of the original record transcript (in the original language) and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation.
- If the Bachelor's degree will be completed after the deadline, a statement from the home University stating the expected date of graduation.
- Certificate of knowledge of English (see Language requirements).
- Certificate of knowledge of Finnish (requested only from applicants who are seeking admission on the basis of a degree from an *ammattikorkeakoulu* institution in Finland, see Language requirements).

During the application round, a secondary/high school certificate may be requested from the applicant, if this is necessary for determining the length of the applicant's previous education (this concerns degrees from a minority of countries).

All copies must be officially certified and bear the official stamp and signature of an official entitled to attest documents: an authorized university official from the degree awarding institution or a notary public. Applications sent by e-mail or fax are not accepted. Application documents will not be returned to the applicant. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

ADMISSION QUOTA

If you apply to both universities within the programme, it must be indicated in the application form. Every year 15 students are taken to the programme in each university (a total of 30 students). All students are required to start in the beginning of the autumn term, and there is no separate admission for the spring term.