

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN BIOINFORMATICS (Bioinformatiikan maisteriohjelman)

Application requirements 2010

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This is a new 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

Students who have a good knowledge of English for academic purposes are eligible to apply if they have at least:

- a) B.Sc. degree in an applicable field, equivalent to a Finnish B.Sc. degree (180 ECTS, at least 3 years of full time study).
- b) Polytechnic degree in an applicable field, which can be considered to be sufficient for Master's degree studies when combined with possible work experience and additional studies.

If the applicant has a degree in which the relevant studies in applicable fields are insufficient, the university may require that the student performs additional studies (max. 60 credits) in addition to Master's degree studies. These studies are offered mainly in the Finnish language. Therefore a sufficient knowledge of Finnish may be necessary for applicants. The required amount and content of additional studies is decided for each student individually.

Applicable 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 made by the relevance of the awarded degrees; the amount, relevance and grades of the courses in the degree; language test result (see Language requirements); and 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.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Language proficiency is to be verified by one of the ways listed below.

- a) Applicants must pass an internationally recognized English language test. Please note that it is the applicant's duty to arrange the test: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Required scores are TOEFL, 90 in new internet-based test (iBT), 575 in paper version, or 232 in computer based version; IELTS, 6.5 and no individual score below 5.5. University will only accept score reports received directly from the testing center.

When filling out the TOEFL Registration Form, please fill in University Admissions' Institution Code 3138 in the Score Report Recipient field.

When filling out the IELTS application form to take the test, please address the test results in section 24 (Institution Applications) to University Admissions.

b) The applicant is exempted from language test if he/she has demonstrated skills in English language in a level which is demanded for foreign language in all Bachelor's and polytechnic degrees in Finland.

c) Applicants who have completed their Bachelor's degree or equivalent in English can be exempted from the language test if English has been the exclusive language in teaching and examinations in their degree and this fact is clearly stated in the degree certificate, or if they can provide an original certificate (not photocopy) to attest this fact, signed by an official from their university/college. The position and contact information of the person who signs such an additional certificate must be included in the certificate.

We strongly recommend that applicants take the TOEFL or IELTS language test. In case we need to have an order of preference, we will give priority to students who have taken the language test.

APPLICATION FORM AND ENCLOSURES

The application should include:

- * Application form is electronic and filled out at www.universityadmissions.fi
- * Letter of motivation including a brief CV.
- * Secondary school certificate. A certified copy of the original certificate, including studied subjects, and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation
- * University or polytechnic degree certificate. A certified copy of the original certificate, and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation
- * University or polytechnic transcript of records. A certified copy of the original record transcript and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation
- * A statement from the home University or Polytechnic with expected time of graduation, if the applicant has not graduated before the application deadline.
- * Names and contact information (including e-mail address) for two persons who can provide recommendations.
- * English proficiency test results (TOEFL or IELTS, see above) must be sent by the application deadline directly from the testing center to University Admissions (University Admissions, Snellmaninkatu 14 B, FI-00170 Helsinki, Finland).

All officially certified copies must bear the official stamp and signature of an official entitled to attest documents: an authorized university official or a notary public. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application time starts 1.12.2009 and ends 1.2. 2010 at 16:15 EET. The application with all its enclosures must reach University admissions, Snellmanink. 14 B, FI-00170 Helsinki before the application deadline. If the applicant graduates after the application deadline, the degree certificate must be received by 30.7.2010.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED

You can indicate in the application form if you want to apply to both universities within the programme. 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.