

Appendix VI. Admission to the degree programmes

(art. 2.1A.1 + 2.1B.1)

1. Requirements for admission to the selective master's degree in Ecology and Evolution

Applicants have to fulfil the following admission requirements:

- an academic Bachelor's degree in Biology with a specialization in Ecology and Evolution or Marine Biology
- sufficient English proficiency; see <https://www.rug.nl/fse/programme/admissions/msc/language-requirements>

2. Applications procedure

All candidates have to register in Studielink, and upload the following documents (start 1 September):

- ID card or passport
- Diploma of relevant Bachelor's degree programme (if possible)
- List of grades (transcript of records)
- Proof of English language proficiency
- CV
- Checklist:
 - Motivation
 - Reference contacts/letters
 - List of subjects/courses (to be) followed
 - Brief description of 5 key subjects/courses (*bachelor students Biology at the University of Groningen with a major in Ecology, and Evolution do not need to give this description)
- A report as a result of an academic assignment in the context of the programme. The report has to reflect the student's ability to produce a well-structured and concise report.

After candidates have completed their registration in Studielink, applications will be processed in the following way:

For holders of a Dutch BSc diploma:

1. The Student Administration FSE (SA FSE) compiles the individual selection file
2. SA FSE submits the individual selection file to the Admissions Board of the individual programme

For holders of a non-Dutch BSc diploma:

1. Admissions Office compiles the individual selection file
2. Admissions Office validates individual Bachelor's degree diploma
3. Admissions Office submits the individual selection file to the SA FSE
4. SA FSE submits the individual selection file to the Admission Board of the individual programme

3 Selection procedure

In order to select the appropriately suited and motivated students, the Admission Board requires a complete selection file from all candidates. The Admission Board of the individual programmes will review all individual applicants on the basis of their selection file. All candidates that have an appropriate background will be considered admissible

and further considered for the selection procedure described below. All candidates who meet the selection criteria regarding 'academic performance' and 'motivation' (as specified by the different programmes) will be admitted to the ranking list. The maximum number of students who will be admitted to the programme is 50.

At least two members of the Admission Board score the selection criteria. Scoring is on a 9-point scale from 1 to 5 (1 = insufficient to 5 = excellent with 0.5 steps). If the scores on academic performance and/or motivation deviate 1 point or more, the members of the Admission Board that gave the scores have to confer, after which they grade a second time. This outcome constitutes the final score. Candidates with minimally a sufficient average score of 3 for each criterion, and an average overall score of at least 3.5 are selected.

- **Academic performance (60%)**

The score on academic performance is the average result of the scores on relevance (70%) and proficiency (30%). Maximum score 1 point per key subject for criterium on relevance and maximum 5 points for criterium on proficiency.

A) Relevance and affiliation/fit (70%) of the followed Bachelor programme to the Master programme (list of subjects/courses followed and grades obtained; brief description of the content of 5 key subjects/courses demonstrating the programme specific knowledge and skill(s) acquired by the student).

Key subjects¹:

1. Biostatistics (Biostatistics 1, Biostatistics 2, Research Skills in Ecology & Evolution 1+2)
2. Evolution (Evolutionary Ecology, Genes & Evolution, Genetics Ecology & Evolution, Research Skills in Ecology & Evolution 1+2)
3. Ecology (Behavioural Neuroscience, Evolutionary Ecology, Research Skills in Ecology & Evolution 1+2, Systems Ecology & Ecological Interactions)
4. Physiology (Physiology, Ecophysiology of Plants & Animals)
5. Cell biology (Basic Cell & Molecular Biology, Genetics Ecology & Evolution, Biochemistry & Cell Biology in Ecology & Evolution)

¹ *Key subjects/courses: the nature of the knowledge and relevant skill(s) are defined by the deputy director in consultation with the programme committee, and are approved by the director of the Graduate School.*

Please consult our online catalogue www.rug.nl/ocasys/ for the intended learning outcomes of the course units that cover these subjects

B) Academic and analytical skills/Proficiency (30%) in completing an academic assignment in the context of the programme, and in individually producing a written report on the assignment topic. The report has to reflect the student's ability to produce a well-structured and concise report. It also has to show that the student is developing a critical attitude, and is capable of critical thinking. The assignment handed in is free of choice, and can be a report on a practicum, experiment, field-work, a literature review, a bachelor thesis, etc.²)

² *If the student has not made an individually written report in English during the bachelor programme he/she should contact the Student Administration FSE to receive an assignment on the basis of which a written report can be prepared.*

1. Motivation (40%)

The candidate has to provide a motivation form (max. 500 words, part of the checklist) demonstrating a suitable stance and talent to follow the programme. Maximum score 1

point (1 point for excellent, 0,5 point for satisfying) per question/issue 1-5. In case a specific motivation is covered under question/issue 6, the BoA members will together discuss the scoring of this answer, and note this in the scoring sheet. The motivation table in the checklist should address the following specific questions/issues:

- 1. Why did you choose this specific master's degree programme?*
- 2. How did the bachelor's degree programme, extracurricular activities, and/or other experiences prepare you for this specific master programme?*
- 3. In case it took you longer than nominal to acquire the bachelor degree, please briefly explain the cause(s) of the delay.*
- 4. How does this master' degree programme prepare you for your future career and/or serves your ambitions?*
- 5. The master program contains two research projects of 5-7 months. On what topic and under supervision of which researcher(s) at the University of Groningen would you like to carry out your first project? Please motivate your choices?*
- 6. Free space to mention anything you feel is relevant and is not addressed by the questions above.*

Timeline for the application and selection procedure

The application procedure for the start on the 1st of September will open on the 1st of October and will close on the 15th of March. The details of the entire application procedure are published on the *Admission and Application* website for the individual Master's degree programme.

After registration in Studielink, all candidates will receive an email with an overview of the application procedure, the deadlines and instructions on how to proceed.

After candidates have successfully submitted all necessary documents, the Student Administration FSE (for holders of a Dutch BSc diploma,) or the Admissions Office (for holders of a non-Dutch BSc diploma) will send the candidate a confirmation of receipt.

The Admission Board will carry out the ranking. The top 50 students will be offered placements between 4 to 6 weeks after the deadline.

Students who are offered a place have to accept or decline the placement within four weeks after receiving the offer. If the student does not accept the placement within four weeks, this placement expires and the placement will be offered to a candidate on the waiting list. If a student declines their placement, that placement will be offered to a candidate on the waiting list.

There will be one round of offering placements to candidates on the waiting list.

Candidates who are not selected or not in the top 50 of the ranking can lodge a written appeal against this decision within four weeks of the date of sending, with the Board of Appeal for Examinations, P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands.