



UNIVERSITÄT
HOHENHEIM

Admission Regulations for the Master's program in BIOTECHNOLOGY

This translation is not legally binding.

University of Hohenheim Admission Regulations for the Master's Program in Biotechnology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences

From 27 February 2025

On 5 February 2025, the University of Hohenheim Senate passed the following regulations on the basis of § 63(2), § 60(2), § 59(1), § 19(1) sentence 2 no. 10 of the State Higher Education Act (LHG) of 1 January 2005 (GBl. p. 1), in the version of Art. 1 of the Third Higher Education Amendment Act (3rd HRÄG) from 1 April 2014 (GBl. p. 99), most recently amended by Art. 24 of the Budget Accompanying Act 2025/2026 from 17 December 2024 (GBl. no. 114), § 6(4), § 6a, § 9(2) and (3) as well as § 11 of the Higher Education Admissions Act (HZG) from 15 September 2005 (GBl. p. 629), most recently amended by Art. 9 of the Fourth Higher Education Amendment Act (4th HRÄG) from 17 December 2020 (GBl. p. 1204, 1229), and §§ 19 ff. as well as § 33 of the Higher Education Admissions Ordinance (Hochschulzulassungsverordnung, HZVO) from 2 December 2019 (GBl. p. 489), most recently amended by Art. 2 of the University Admission Ordinance for Professionals (BerufstätigenhochschulzugangsVO) and the HZVO from 2 July 2024 (GBl. no. 52).

§ 1 Scope of application

The University of Hohenheim allocates the available study places in the Master's program in Biotechnology according to the following regulations.

§ 2 Selection quotas

- (1) The study places available under § 1 shall be allocated as follows:
 - a) 80% to German applicants
 - b) 20% to foreign and stateless applicants.
- (2) A separate ranking is established for each of these two quotas. University places that remain open in one quota are added to the other quota.

§ 3 Application deadline and formalities

- (1) Admission to the first subject-related semester is possible only for the winter semester. The application deadline is 15 June (cut-off date).
- (2) The application must be submitted electronically to the University of Hohenheim via the website of the University of Hohenheim (online application) in accordance with the requirements stated therein and with the submission of the required documents. To avoid undue hardship, the University of Hohenheim's Examinations Office can forgo an electronic application and permit a written application.

§ 4 Responsibilities

- (1) The President of the University of Hohenheim decides on admission on the recommendation of the responsible selection committee for the university's own selection procedure.
- (2) A selection committee is appointed for the Master's program in Biotechnology. This

selection committee consists of the program coordinator or the academic program adviser, at least two representatives of the professors, at least one member of the research service from one of the departments assigned to the program, and one student member in an advisory capacity. The term of office is two years. Reappointment is permitted. Members are elected by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. One of the professorial members of the selection committee is the chairperson. The selection committee is quorate if, in addition to the chairperson or their deputy, one other member is present.

- (3) The selection committee decides by a simple majority of the members present; in the event of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote. The meetings of the selection committee are not open to the public.

§ 5 Admission requirements

- (1) Admission to the Master's programs in Biotechnology can only be granted to those who
 - a) have completed a Bachelor's degree program with a natural science or engineering profile that lasted at least three years and included at least 180 ECTS credits at a university in Germany or abroad or who have an equivalent degree. Recognized Bachelor's programs include food science and biotechnology, food technology, biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, bioprocess engineering, chemistry, and a Bachelor's in Nutritional Science obtained from the University of Hohenheim. In addition, the selection committee may recognize other degree programs in the natural sciences and engineering as equivalent.
 - b) can demonstrate subject-specific knowledge in the fields of biotechnology, biochemistry, organic chemistry, molecular biology, microbiology and process engineering totaling at least 75 points (see also Section 7 (2b) and Annex 2);
 - c) have good English language skills (at least level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages), which – if it is not the applicant's native language – is usually demonstrated by a language test or other evidence in accordance with § 5(2). Further details of the proof of language proficiency are set out in Annex 1 to these regulations, and the selection committee may permit exceptions.
- (2) In recognizing grades and proof which were given outside of the Federal Republic of Germany, the equivalence agreements from the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and the German Rectors' Conference as well as agreements in the context of the university partnerships will be taken into consideration. The Office of International Affairs assists the selection committee in verifying the eligibility of foreign degrees.

§ 6 Application

- (1) For a proper application, the following documents must be uploaded online:
 - a) the grade certificate, degree certificate of the completed university studies, and the transcript of records that includes the content of the program;
 - b) proof of subject-specific knowledge in the fields of biotechnology, biochemistry, organic chemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, as well as process engineering;

- c) proof of English language skills (details are regulated in § 5(1);
- d) a data entry form to describe the educational path;
- e) if available, proof that can provide information about the aptitude for the chosen degree program; this can include completed examinations from a Master's program, completed vocational training, practical work, other subject-specific achievements, or semesters abroad.
- f) Applicants who have already been enrolled in the same Master's programs must provide proof that they have the right to be examined in this degree program and that they are not currently undergoing an examination procedure. The same applies to a related degree program. Related degree programs are: biochemistry, bioprocess engineering, technical biology. In addition, the selection committee may recognize further degree programs as related and amend the list accordingly. Proof must be provided by a certificate from the university or college at which the enrollment took place.

If the proof described under points a) to f) is not in German or English, a certified translation into German is required.

- (2) If the final degree certificate for the first degree is not yet available by the application deadline, an overview of the examination results available up to that point must be enclosed with the application for admission. The final degree certificate must be submitted no later than 15 December for the winter semester of the year for which admission is requested.
- (3) If 50% of the proof for the UNIcert II certificate (proof of English language proficiency) has been provided by the application deadline, the applicant can include the relevant proof with the application for admission. The complete UNIcert II certificate must be submitted no later than 1 October for the winter semester or 1 April for the summer semester of the year for which admission is requested.
- (4) In the case of § 6(2 and 3), admission to the Master's degree program is subject to the proviso that proof of the degree and/or the UNIcert II certificate is provided by the deadline. If the proof is not submitted by the deadline, admission is revoked.

§ 7 Selection procedure

- (1) If the number of qualified applicants according to § 5 exceeds the number of available university places, a ranking list created by using the criteria set down in these regulations according to the selection quotas in § 2. University places are allocated, and admission and rejection letters are issued on the basis of these ranking lists.
- (2) When creating the ranking list, the following criteria are considered:
 - a) Overall grade for the first degree or the average grade for examinations completed so far (on this, see § 6(2)),
 - b) Subject-specific coursework and examinations; modules with at least 6 ECTS credits are recognized for each major; these must come from the following majors: biotechnology, biochemistry, organic chemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, process engineering,
 - c) relevant professional activities such as:

- completed vocational training as a laboratory technician (natural sciences, medicine), technical assistant (natural sciences, medicine), completed vocational training in the chemical, pharmaceutical, or biotechnology industry,
 - subject-specific industrial internship lasting at least 3 months,
 - subject-specific activity abroad of at least 3 months at a university within the EU, Switzerland, USA, Great Britain, or Japan,
- (3) Only those who have applied for a place in a degree program in due form and time and who fulfill the requirements according to § 5 shall be admitted to the selection procedure.

§ 8 Creation of the ranking list

- (1) The ranking list is drawn up as follows. An overall score is calculated from the values expressed as a number of points for individual selection criteria in terms of § 7(2). The total score is created with the following weighting:
- 50% from the average grade of the first degree program or the average grade of exams already taken,
 - 40% from the subject-specific coursework and examinations according to § 7(2)b,
 - 10% from relevant vocational training as well as internships and work abroad in accordance with § 7(2)c.
- (2) The assessment of the criteria pursuant to § 7(2) is carried out in accordance with Annex 2.
- (3) Only those who have applied for a place in a degree program in due form and time and who fulfill the requirements according to § 5 shall be admitted to the selection procedure.

§ 9 Entry into force

- (1) These Admission Regulations enter into force on the day after they have been published in the University of Hohenheim's Official Communications.
- (2) At the same time, the University of Hohenheim's Admission Regulations for the Master's degree program in Biotechnology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences from 15 February 2024 (published in the Official Notices of the University of Hohenheim no. 1491) will no longer apply.
- (3) These Admission Regulations shall apply for the first time to the admission procedure for the winter semester 2025/26.

Stuttgart, dated 27 May 2025

signed, Dr. Katrin Scheffer

Chancellor of the University of Hohenheim (deputizing for the President)

Annex 1 on Sec. 5 Admission requirements**Required language skills for the Master's Program in Biotechnology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences**

(1) Good English language skills are required for admission. Proof of language proficiency may be given by providing one of the following documents:

- a) TOEFL test (internet based) with at least 90 out of 120 points
- b) IELTS certificate with at least 6.5 out of 9 points
- c) UNlcert II certificate (min. grade "good")

(2) Proof of sufficient language skills is not required if the applicant

- a) is a citizen of one of the following countries and declares that English as their native language: United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, or Guyana; or
- b) has successfully completed a Bachelor's/Master's degree in English at a recognized European university or in one of the countries listed under a). If the degree certificate has not yet been issued by the application deadline, § 6 applies accordingly; or
- c) attended a bilingual secondary school as long as one of the languages of instruction is English; or
- d) took English continuously as a subject in the upper secondary school (minimum grade of the grade average in the upper secondary school "satisfactory" (8 points)).

(3) If the required minimum grade according to 2.d cannot be demonstrated in the upper secondary school, this can be compensated for if the applicant

- a) completed at least 1 semester of the Bachelor's degree program in English; or
- b) completed at least a 3-month full-time internship in an English-speaking company.

Annex 2 on Sec. 5 Admission requirements and § 7 Selection procedure

The number of points for creating the ranking list according to § 8 results from the sum of the points achieved in the following selection criteria.

Criterion	Details							
(preliminary) overall grade of the undergraduate degree	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
	1.0-1.1	160	1.81-1.9	128	2.61-2.7	90	3.41-3.5	38
	1.11-1.2	156	1.91-2.0	124	2.71-2.8	84	3.51-3.6	31
	1.21-1.3	152	2.01-2.1	120	2.81-2.9	78	3.61-3.7	24
	1.31-1.4	148	2.11-2.2	115	2.91-3.0	72	3.71-3.8	16
	1.41-1.5	144	2.21-2.3	110	3.01-3.1	66	3.81-3.9	8
	1.51-1.6	140	2.31-2.4	105	3.11-3.2	59	3.91-4.0	0
	1.61-1.7	136	2.41-2.5	100	3.21-3.3	52		
	1.71-1.8	132	2.51-2.6	95	3.31-3.4	45		
Subject-specific coursework and examinations (according to § 5(1) b and § 7(2)b)	Coursework and examinations from the following departments are taken into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biotechnology (25 P.)• Biochemistry (25 P.)• Organic Chemistry (15 P.)• Molecular Biology (25 P.)• Microbiology (25 P.)• Process Engineering (15 P.) Modules with at least 6 ECTS credits are recognized for each major							
	A maximum of 130 points may be awarded.							
Subject-specific professional activities (according to § 7(2)c)	The number of points indicated in each case is awarded for proof of relevant practical work experience.							
	Relevant vocational training, such as laboratory technician (natural sciences, medicine); technical assistant (natural sciences, medicine); completed vocational training in the food industry, chemical industry, pharmaceutical industry, or biotechnological industry;							20
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant work experience, such as an industrial internship with a minimum duration of 3 months, or• A stay abroad at a university within the EU, Switzerland, Great Britain, USA, or Japan with a minimum duration of 3 months.							10
	A maximum of 30 points may be awarded.							