



Feb. 14, 2018

M.Sc. studies – Admissions and Regulations: School of Molecular Cell Biology and Biotechnology

Overview

The Master's degree program is a two-year program which combines coursework and research that takes place in one of the research groups led by faculty members in the School of Molecular Cell Biology and Biotechnology. It is intended for full-time students. There are several designated tracks available to students in the program.

1. Admission dates

- Application to the Master of Science degree (M.Sc.) program (beginning in semester A) will take place between Feb. 1 and Sept. 1 each year.
- Applications to start in semester B are also possible during November through February of each year. However, if possible it is preferable to apply before September and specify interest in beginning studies in semester B.

2. Admission process

In order to be accepted to the M.Sc. program, **all** applicants must first find a supervisor, who is a faculty member of the School of Molecular Cell Biology and Biotechnology, and who is willing to accept the applicant to his/her research group. In addition, the applicant must fulfill one of the following criteria:

2.1. Applicants holding a B.Sc. degree in the field of **Life Sciences** with an average of **at least 80** will be **admitted directly** to the M.Sc. track (without an interview).

2.2. Applicants holding a B.Sc. degree in the field of **Life Sciences** with an average ranging **from 75 and up to (lower than) 80** will be admitted only if he/she is accepted following an interview by the **admissions committee of the school**. Applicants with an average of less than 75 are eligible to submit a special request to the school's admission committee.

2.3 Applicants holding a B.Sc. or equivalent degree in **exact sciences or engineering, with an average of 80 or higher and applying to the M.Sc. program in one of the two following tracks: Theoretical and Mathematical Biology, or Bioinformatics**. Such an applicant will be admitted only if he/she is accepted following an interview (a) by the admissions committee of the school, and (b) by the admissions committee of the track. During the M.Sc. studies the applicant will be obliged to complete three of the four following specific courses of the Life Sciences B.Sc. program, with an average of 80 across the three courses: (i) Genetics, (ii) Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, (iii) Biochemistry, Enzymology and Metabolism, (iv) Cell Biology.

2.4 Applicants holding a B.Sc. or equivalent degree in **exact sciences or engineering, with an average of 80 or higher, applying to the M.Sc. program in other tracks**. Such an applicant will be required to complete the following Life Sciences B.Sc. courses, **before beginning the M.Sc. program**. An average of 80 across the five courses is required: (i) Genetics, (ii) Biochemistry, Enzymology and Metabolism, (iii) Cell Biology, (iv) Laboratory in Molecular Biology. The fifth course will be completed during the M.Sc. program itself. This course will be either Microbiology or Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, to be decided after consultation with the head of the track chosen by the applicant. Furthermore, the applicant may need to complete additional courses as required by the chosen track. Such an applicant will be admitted only if he/she is accepted following an interview by the admissions committee of the school.



2.5. Applicants holding a bachelor's degree **that is not in the fields of** Life Sciences, Exact Sciences, or Engineering:

Such an applicant is strongly advised to complete a post-bachelor B.Sc. program in Life Sciences, which will allow him to gain a strong basis in Life Sciences (HUG LE'ACHAR TO'AR).

A second alternative is to complete the following limited set of Life Sciences B.Sc. degree courses, **before beginning the M.Sc. program**. An average of 80 across the courses is required:

(i) Genetics, (ii) Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, (iii) Biochemistry, Enzymology and Metabolism, (iv) Cell Biology, (v) Microbiology *or* Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, (vi) lab project (6 points, to be completed in one of the research groups of the school). Additional courses may be required by the track. Such an applicant will be admitted only if he/she is accepted following an interview by the admissions committee of the school.

Applicants in the categories 2.2 through 2.5 are further requested to submit a CV and one or preferably two recommendation letters, to Prof. Gerardo Lederkremer (gerardo@post.tau.ac.il), head of the M.Sc. admissions committee of the school. Letters will be from faculty members or researchers who are familiar with the applicant, and will be filled in on designated forms of the school.

Presentations given during the M.Sc. studies

During his/her studies, the M.Sc. student will be requested to present at least two seminars:

(i) during the first year of studies the student will present a research article from the scientific literature as part of his/her duties in the so-called MALAM school seminar. (ii) At the end of the second year, the student will present his/her research findings, as part of a school-wide forum that will convene during August. Students who began their studies during semester B will not present in August but will instead present their research as part of the MALAM seminar towards the end of semester A.

Additional student presentations may be required by the chosen track.

It is recommended to give the talks in English.

Thesis and examination

M.Sc. students will undergo an examination after handing in their thesis work.

Examiners will include the supervisor of the student and two additional faculty members who are not direct collaborators in the research project of the student.

Asides from being questioned about his/her research, the student will be further required to answer a general question about one of the fields of research performed in another research group in the school.

During the exam, the student may show a powerpoint presentation, which includes only results of the research (and not including any introductory or summary slides). The student will be requested to refrain from bringing refreshments to the exam.

Any further questions or consultations may be addressed to the head of the M.Sc. admissions committee of the school, Prof. Gerardo Lederkremer (gerardo@post.tau.ac.il).