MSC IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY*
BENEFITING FROM WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

The MSc in Molecular Biology programme is both practical and research-oriented, reflecting the interests of business and industry, research institutions, and the public sector. This flexible programme accommodates the interests of the individual student, because it allows you to specialise in a particular subject area while acquiring a general mastery of molecular biology.

SPECIALISATION

Students can choose to specialise within a choice of fields, including one of the five branches of molecular biology in which Aarhus University is particularly strong: molecular medicine, structural biology, systems biology, plant biology, and quantitative genetics.

The study programme can be tailored to fit the individual student’s qualifications and interests. In the first year, you will follow an individually planned course programme. In the second year, you will write a thesis. There are excellent opportunities for collaboration with a group of researchers in connection with your thesis project work, and this gives you the chance to participate in the group’s research projects, academic discussions, and articles.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

Teaching in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics is greatly influenced by the research conducted here, as all the lecturers are active researchers. Students gain insight into ongoing research projects across the entire spectrum of molecular biology – from bacteria and yeast to humans. The understanding of biochemistry and molecular biology is based upon the entire spectrum, from atoms to organisms.

STUDENT LIFE

Students in the programme are based at the Department of Molecular Biology, which is located in Die Rote Zone, the department’s large facility in Science Park Aarhus, which students have furnished themselves and where they meet in connection with academic and social activities (and which has its own Friday bar). A number of student organisations in the department also organise academic activities.

CAREERS

As a molecular biologist, you will primarily be working with finding solutions to the many health and food challenges faced by our society due to ageing populations and more stringent standards for food development and quality. These areas are growing rapidly – a trend that is expected to continue. The employment prospects for future molecular biologists therefore look very promising.

Graduates of the Molecular Biology MSc programme are very much in demand on both Danish and international job markets. Previous graduates are working across a wide range of fields and institutions, mostly within research or administration and consultancy, in both private and public sectors. Graduates who want to be communicators go into teaching at lab-technician and teacher-training colleges or adult education. Other molecular biologists work in specialist molecular biology fields in the food industry, the health sector, or the pharmaceutical industry.

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In my Master’s programme I had the freedom to specialise within the topics I found most interesting. For me, this was an advantage – it meant that I chose to continue primarily with courses within cell biology. I spent the final year of my Master’s working on my thesis in the research lab at the Department of Molecular Biology. I was working on a project where we studied the repair mechanisms of DNA damage in neurons. In the lab, I got the opportunity to learn about life as a researcher, and to test methods that would be useful later in my career. Getting to spend an entire year in the laboratory was very valuable.

ANNE YDE
MSc in Molecular Biology
PBU Manager at Eurofins Agro Testing

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ANNUAL TUITION FEE
EU/EEA/Swiss citizens: FREE
Others: EUR 14,500

WWW
masters.au.dk/molecularbiology

Fees are subject to change. See international.au.dk
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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must have a bachelor of science degree with subject components in molecular biology equalling 60 ECTS credits, as well as basic subject components in mathematics, chemistry, and statistics. Other qualifications can also provide admission to the Master’s programme, provided the university assesses that their level, extent, and content correspond to the degrees mentioned above.

SELECTION CRITERIA
As the Master’s programme admits only a limited number of students each year, meeting the admission requirements does not in itself guarantee admission to the programme. Student places are allocated on the basis of an overall assessment. In evaluating qualified applicants, the admissions committee assesses applicants according to the following criteria: academic background; overall grade level of bachelor’s degree; grades achieved on relevant courses; and relevant courses (measured in credit units) included in the bachelor’s degree.

Relevant courses include core courses within the subject areas of molecular biology, bioinformatics, chemistry, mathematics, probability theory, and statistics.

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