

## **MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN BIOINFORMATICS**

### **Application requirements 2008**

#### **PROGRAMME 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 takes 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) *Ammattikorkeakoulu* degree from an *amk* institution in Finland 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 the 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**

Applicants must prove their language proficiency as follows.

- a)** Applicants must pass an internationally recognized English language test. The tests accepted by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences are the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Please note that it is the applicant's responsibility to take the test in good time before the application deadline, and see to that the test scores are sent to the University of Turku by the test organizer by deadline. Required minimum scores for the TOEFL are 90 in the new internet-based test (iBT), 575 in the paper version, or 232 in the computer based version. The required minimum overall band score in the IELTS is 6.5 and no individual score should be below 5.5. The University of Turku will only accept

score reports received directly from the testing centre. The TOEFL reporting number of the University of Turku is 9701.

**b)** Applicants holding a Bachelor's degree from a university in Finland, or an *ammattikorkeakoulu* degree from an *amk* institution in Finland, are exempt from the English language test, if they have demonstrated skills in the English language according to the requirements concerning foreign language studies in Bachelor's and *ammattikorkeakoulu* degrees in Finland.

**c)** Applicants who have completed their Bachelor's degree or equivalent in English can be exempt 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.

**d)** Applicants holding an *ammattikorkeakoulu* degree from an *amk* institution in Finland must prove their proficiency in Finnish, since additional studies that the university may require from the student are available only in Finnish. The following information given in Finnish applies to these students:

*Hakulomakkeen mukaan on liitettävä suomen kielen todistus. Riittäväksi todistukseksi suomen kielen taidosta katsotaan valtiohallinnon kielitutkinto, jossa osoitetaan suomen kielen vähintään hyvää taitoa tai yleisen kielitutkinnon suorittaminen vähintään taitotasolla 4 (6-portainen taitotasosteikko) tai 5 (9-portainen taitotasosteikko) tai korkeakoulussa opettavan suomen kielen lehtorin lausunto em. kielitutkintoja vastaavasta kielitaidosta.*

*Em. kielitodistukset voi korvata tietyillä opinnoilla. Henkilöiltä, jotka ovat suorittaneet seuraavat hyvää suullista ja kirjallista kielitaitoa osoittavat opinnot (481/2003 § 16) ei vaadita suomen kielen todistusta:*

- kyseisellä kielellä hankittu koulusivistys

- ylioppilastutkinto, jossa hyväksytyt arvosana kyseisen kielen äidinkielen kokeessa

- ylioppilastutkinto, jossa suomi tai ruotsi toisena kielenä -kokeessa vähintään arvosana magna cum laude approbatur

- kyseisellä kielellä suoritettu korkeakoulun kypsyysnäyte

- korkeakoulututkintoon sisältyvät toisen kotimaisen kielen suullista ja kirjallista taitoa osoittavat opinnot tai kielikoe arvosanalla hyvä

- korkeakoulussa suomen tai ruotsin kielessä suullisessa ja kirjallisessa taidossa tai korkeakoulun antaman todistuksen mukaan vastaavassa oppiaineessa suoritettut vähintään 70 opintopisteen (35 opintoviikon) opinnot tai arvosana cum laude approbatur.

**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

Please ensure that you use the correct application form. The application should include:

- 1) Brief CV (1 page).
- 2) Secondary school certificate. A certified copy of the original certificate, including studied subjects, and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation.
- 3) University degree certificate. A certified copy of the original certificate, and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation.
- 4) University transcript of records. A certified copy of the original record transcript and an English, Swedish or Finnish translation.
- 5) A statement from the home university or *amk* institution with expected time of graduation, if the applicant has not graduated before the application deadline.
- 6) Two recommendations in English, sent directly to the university by referees.
- 7) A certificate of Finnish language skills, if applicable (see Language requirements, d).

The following documents must be sent directly from the testing center:

8) English proficiency test results (TOEFL or IELTS, see above).

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**

The application deadline is the **1st of February, 2008**. The application, its enclosures and those enclosures which are sent separately (e.g. English language proficiency test scores) must all reach the preferred university (first in the preference list) by the application deadline. If the applicant graduates after the application deadline, the degree certificate must be received by the University of Turku by the 18th of July, 2008. The application form will be available on <http://bioinformatics.fi>. Applications sent by e-mail or fax are not accepted.

### **NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED**

With one application you can apply for both universities or select only one. When you apply for both universities, you must express your preference in your application. 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.