Application for the Master of Science (Biodiversity)

The Master's program can only be started in the winter semester. The program is admission restricted. Applicants are eligible for admission if they have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, a Bachelor degree in a closely related subject or an equivalent degree by the time of enrollment at the latest (see below for details). **Both molecular biology and organismic content are required.** Equivalency will be determined on the basis of the application documents submitted. In addition, proof of sufficient German and English language skills according to § 1 (3) and (4) of the examination regulations for the Master's program Biodiversity at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and the University of Duisburg-Essen is required.

The study places are allocated in the order of the final mark for the first job-qualifying degree (see above) or the provisional overall grade (Transcript of Records, min. 150 CP).

The application and admission procedure is carried out in the following steps. All deadlines are cut-off deadlines.

1. **Online application and upload of application documents / late submission deadline**
   Application deadline is **15.07.** of each year (activation of the applicant portal expected from the beginning of June).

   Late submission deadline (does not apply to foreign applicants): 21.07.

   Please apply via the RUB application portal.

   Additional information for international applicants:
   https://studium.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/en/application-international-prospective-students

   The following application documents must be uploaded. **These must be submitted in full by international applicants outside the EU by 15.07.. All other applicants can submit the listed documents until 21.07.. EU applicants** must provide proof of the required German exam (e.g. DSH 2, DSH 3 or Testdaf 16 points) at the latest upon enrollment.

   - Graduation documents (usually certificate, diploma supplement, transcript of records) of the first professional degree (B.Sc. Biology or equivalent degree) **or** a transcript of records with a preliminary overall grade, in which at least the grades of the first five semesters (corresponding to 150 ECTS credits) have been included. **International applicants** outside the European Union

must submit final documents, a Transcript of Records with a preliminary overall grade is not sufficient.

- Proof of language skills in German, if the study qualification (usually Abitur) was not acquired at a German-speaking institution. Proof according to § 1 (3) of the examination regulations is accepted (e.g. DSH 2, DSH 3 or Testdaf 16 points usually 4 x 4).

- Proof of language skills in English, min. B2 Common European Framework of Reference (8 years of English lessons (Abitur certificate), UNIcert® II or one of the successful tests: IELS 6.0, TOEFL IBT 98, TOEFL PBT 597 or First Certificate in English (FCE)).

At the end of the online application you will receive a control sheet. Please pay attention to all information listed there.

2. **If applicable, determination of equivalence of previous studies with a B.Sc. in Biology**
   Application documents of applicants who apply with a degree or transcript from a different study program than a "B.Sc. degree in Biology" from a German university will be subject to an equivalence check after the application deadline. During the examination it will be decided whether the present study program is equivalent to a "B.Sc. Biology" or not. Both molecular biology and organismic content are required. If equivalence exists, admission to the M.Sc. Biodiversity is possible. Otherwise, the applicant is eliminated from the procedure.

   If the equivalence of your previous studies has already been determined in past application procedures for the M.Sc. Biodiversity at RUB/UDE, please inform us accordingly. A re-verification is not necessary.

   The B.Sc. Biological Sciences of the Universities of Münster, Osnabrück, Potsdam and Kaiserslautern, B.Sc. Biological Sciences of the University of Konstanz and the B.Sc. Molecular Biology of the University of Bielefeld are equivalent to the B.Sc. Biology of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum / the University of Duisburg-Essen. Application documents of applicants of these study programs are not subject to an equivalence check.

3. **Admission**
   The study places are allocated 100% in the order of the available grade (final mark for the first job-qualifying degree or the provisional overall grade).

   All information on the status of the application can be viewed online at the RUB application portal.

Those who are admitted to the M.Sc. program will be provided with the admission letter for download in the RUB application portal. The letter states the deadline for acceptance of the study place (online) and the enrollment deadline (online). The deadlines must be observed (cut-off deadlines).

Those who are not admitted initially may be given a place via the late move-up procedure. You can find out about the current status of the late move-up procedure online via the RUB application portal. No further application is required for participation in the late move-up procedure.

4. **Enrollment (online)**
   Since this is a joint program of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and the University of Duisburg-Essen, enrollment at both locations is required. Registration as "Ersthörer" (the term for students at their primary university) takes place at the Ruhr-University Bochum, subsequently a registration as "Zweithörer" (this is the term for students at their secondary university) at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

   You will be informed of the enrollment deadlines at the RUB in your admission letter (see above). Enrollment at the RUB takes place online. In order to enroll, you must have completed your first professional degree. The proof (certificate or graduation certificate) is to be uploaded together with the usual documents in the RUB application portal. A certificate of “obligatorische Beratung” (mandatory counseling) does not need to be uploaded.

   Information on enrollment as "Ersthörer" at RUB:
   https://studium.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/en/enrolment

   Information on enrollment as "Zweithörer" at UDE:
   https://www.uni-due.de/studierendensekretariat/nebenhoerer.shtml

Further information on the study program:

https://www.biologie.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/biodek/studium/master/msc_b/home.html.de

Dates for the application procedure WS 26/27:

15.07.2026	Application deadline (online application) Deadline for uploading application documents for international applicants (non-EU): final certificates, language certificates German and English
21.07.2026	Deadline for uploading the application documents for all other applicants (national and EU): Transcript of Records (min. 150 CP and average grade), language certificate English; EU applicants have to submit the language certificate German at the latest at enrollment.
until 30.09.2026	Enrollment (see admission letter) as “Ersthörer” at RUB
until 31.10.2026	Enrollment as “Zweithörer” at UDE (prior enrollment as “Ersthörer” is required). Further information at: https://www.uni-due.de/studierendensekretariat/nebenhoerer.shtml