



UNIVERSITY STUDY PROGRAMME OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ŽILINA

INSTITUTE OF HIGH MOUNTAIN BIOLOGY MASTER'S DEGREE STUDY

CONTACT

University of Žilina / Žilinská univerzita v Žiline

University study programme

Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina

Tel.: 041/513 50 40

e-mail: vzdelavanie@uniza.sk

www.vuvb.uniza.sk



Supervising Department:

Institute of High Mountain Biology (IHMB)

059 56 Tatranská Javorina 7

Tel.: 052/449 91 08

e-mail: ihmb@uniza.sk

All the questions concerning your studies can be referred to the study administrator:

tel.: 041/513 50 40

Coordinator for work with students with special needs:

Bc. Jana Závodská

tel.: 041/513 50 40

e-mail: jana.zavodska@uniza.sk

ACCREDITED STUDY PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/2019

MASTER'S DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMME	
FULL-TIME STUDY LENGTH OF STUDY 2 YEARS	PART-TIME STUDY LENGTH OF STUDY 3 YEARS
Alpine Ecology Science (*)	-
Alpine and Mountain Ecology**	-
* <i>study programme is available only in the English language – a joint study programme with the University College of South East Norway (students study one semester in Norway and one semester in Slovakia)</i>	
** <i>study programme is available in the Slovak or English language</i>	

Detailed information on particular study programmes

- syllabus,
- course information sheets

can be found at <http://vzdelavanie.uniza.sk/vzdelavanie/plany.php>.

EXPECTED NUMBER OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS TO THE FIRST YEAR:		
MASTER ´S DEGREE STUDY		
STUDY PROGRAMME / FIELD OF STUDY	PLANNED CAPACITY	
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME
Alpine Ecology Science / General Ecology and Individual and Population Ecology	20	-
Alpine and Mountain Ecology / General Ecology and Individual and Population Ecology	20	-
Total number	40	-



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. **The fundamental requirement of** admission for the graduate study program (second degree) is the full completion of the first degree study (undergraduate study, Bc.), (Higher Education Act, n.131/2002 Coll.).
2. **Language competence** – The requirements for English proficiency for the master ´s degree study in the study programme Alpine Ecology Science may be met in one of the following ways:
 - International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) with a minimum score of 6.0. The applicants must take the Academic test. An IELTS test is valid only for two years. Or
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 550 in a paper-based test, a score of at least 210 in a computer-based test or 80 in an Internet-based test. The TOEFL tests are valid for the period of two years only. Or
 - Completed Bachelor ´s degree from UK, USA, Canada, Ireland or New Zealand with the English language as the language of instruction. Or
 - Undergraduates from the partner universities - the University of Žilina or University College of South East Norway, are not required to take IELTS or TOEFL. Their command of English will be examined individually. This applies to applicants from both partner universities.

Knowledge of the Norwegian or the Slovak language is not required. (Alpine Ecology Science).

3. **Health certificates** – UNIZA does not require any health certificates and accepts all the applications without any health certificates for all degrees of the university studies.



FORMS OF ADMISSION

Rules of Selection Procedure:

Alpine Ecology Science: Applicants must obtain an education equivalent to Norwegian or Slovak Bachelor degrees with a minimum of 80 credits in environmental sciences (ecology, biology, geology, limnology or equivalent subjects) in order to apply for master 's degree study programmes in Alpine Ecology Science and Alpine Mountain Ecology. This means at least three years of higher education, including the minimum requirements for continuing higher education in Europe. The minimum required average of study results is C. A priority will be given to students who have not already obtained the master degree.

Applicants will be selected according to the following priorities applicable to Alpine Ecology Science):

1st priority – undergraduates in environmental fields of Bachelor ´s degree from the Institute of High Mountain Biology of the University of Žilina and from the Department of Environmental and Health Studies of the University College of South East Norway. Applicants will be selected according to the qualitative results during their Bachelor ´s study. The graduates of the Bachelor ´s degree study programme of the Institute of High Mountain Biology of the University of Žilina are expected to continue their Bachelor ´s research project in the Master ´s degree at the Institute of High Mountain Biology.

2nd priority – undergraduates in environmental fields of Bachelor´s degree from the selected partner universities of the University of Žilina or the University College of South East Norway will be selected according to the qualitative results during their Bachelor´s study.

3rd priority – undergraduates in environmental fields of Bachelor study from the EU and other countries will be selected according to qualitative results during their Bachelor´s study.

Alpine and Mountain Ecology: The prerequisite is the full completion of the first degree of the university study (Bachelor's degree) with a minimum of 80 credits for subjects specializing in environmental sciences (ecology, biology, geology, limnology, or equivalent subjects) in order to apply for master 's degree study programme in ecology.

The content and description of the second degree field of study General Ecology and Individual and Population Ecology determine that the prerequisite of being accepted to the master´s degree study programmes in the field of study Ecology is to complete a bachelor study in the same or related fields of study (natural sciences or agricultural fields of study). Thereby it is provided a common basis mainly from mathematics, statistics, physics, chemistry, geology, geomorphology, hydrology, climatology, pedology, botany, zoology, microbiology, genetics, plant and animal physiology, as well as all basic ecological disciplines (general ecology, autoecology, synecology) for all students of this field of study (it is assumed that the common core of the field of study Ecology in the bachelor study will comprise 80% of all subjects). The second degree of study creates the prerequisites for continuing to study in the third degree of study.

The results of bachelor study will be taken into account in selection procedure. Applicants who will meet the conditions will be selected on the basis of an oral interview. The oral interview will be related to the bachelor thesis of an applicant.



ADMISSION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

The applicants from abroad are accepted on the basis of relevant international agreements and of the joint study programme between UNIZA and University College of South East Norway.

Concerning the study programme Alpine and Mountain Ecology, the same terms and conditions of admission are applicable as for the applicants from abroad as for the applicants from Slovakia.

For foreign applicants who were accepted on the basis of international agreements or Slovak government grants, terms and conditions stated in respective agreements are applicable.



HOW TO APPLY

Alpine Ecology Science:

Application forms are to be submitted in their electronic form at the University College of South East Norway (study programme Alpine Ecology Science) and at the University of Žilina (study programme Alpine and Mountain Ecology.)

Alpine and Mountain Ecology:

Applicants have to fill in the form *Prihláška na vysokoškolské štúdium - 2. Stupeň* or they can also use an electronic application form that can be found on the university website: <https://vzdelavanie.uniza.sk/prijimacky/index.php> or on the education portal: [https:// prihlaskavs.sk/sk/](https://prihlaskavs.sk/sk/).

Even in case of electronic application form, it is required to print it, sign it, enclose other required documents including the payment confirmation statement of the fee and send it to the address UNIZA within the stipulated deadlines.

Incomplete application form or application form sent after the deadline will not be accepted.

In the absence or failure of entrance exams, the faculty does not refund the admission fee.

If an applicant wants to take part in entrance exams at more faculties of UNIZA, the application forms have to be sent separately to each faculty and the respective admission procedure fees paid separately to each faculty.

Enclosures for the master´s degree programmes (to be sent with application forms):

1. Curriculum vitae,
2. proof of payment of the admission fee,
3. copy of the Diploma,
4. information on the results of the previous study.

Admission fee:Send **30 €** to:

Žilinská univerzita v Žiline, Univerzitná 1, 010 26 Žilina

Bank: Štátna pokladnica

IBAN: SK40 8180 0000 0070 0008 0700

const. symbol: 0308

variable symbol: 19032

Payment method:

payment can be paid by bank transfer or postal order to the account above.

Proof of payment:

proof of payment is to be sent to UNIZA with the application form.

With payment of the admission fee from the EU member states, the EES countries, territories that are considered a part of the EU (Treaty of Rome, Section 299) and SEPA countries, it is necessary to use BIC: **SPSRSKBAXXX**, IBAN: **SK40 8180 0000 0070 0008 0700**.

Tuition fees - in accordance with the Higher Education Act, information about the amount of tuition for the respective academic year will be announced on the website of the University of Žilina.

**USEFUL DATES**

Study programme	Open Day	Deadline for submitting the application form	Entrance exams
Alpine Ecology Science	April, 5, 2018 from 11 a.m.	Applicants outside the EU/EEA: January, 15, 2018 Applicants within the EU/EEA: March, 1, 2018 Applicants with bachelor degree from Norway: April, 15, 2018	-
Alpine and Mountain Ecology	April, 5, 2018 from 11 a.m.	April, 30, 2018	June, 7, 2018

More details on dates can be found at:

- <https://www.usn.no/joint-master-in-alpine-ecology/category27186.html>
- http://vuvb.uniza.sk/#/ihmb/education/alpine_mountain_ecology/

Admission to the Alpine Ecology Science study programme will be based on a joint decision of the collaborating institutions. If you do not have a Bachelor's degree at the time of submitting the application form, you will need to send a list of subjects / courses that you have enrolled for the last semester, along with the expected date of their completion. By the deadline of enrolment, you will send a diploma and a diploma supplement, or more precisely a list of completed subjects. If you have not obtained the diploma yet, you must send a confirmation from your educational institution proving that you have obtained a degree. The Department of Natural Sciences and Nature Protection and the Institute of High Mountain Biology will create a preliminary list of potential applicants. The final decision will be sent to the candidates after successful completion of their studies and after obtaining a bachelor's degree.



ACCOMMODATION

Institute of High Mountain Biology has a limited accommodation capacity. In the course of study in Tatranská Javorina there is a possibility of accommodation in private accommodation establishments. Institute of High Mountain Biology can help students to find a suitable accommodation.



BOARD

In the course of study in Tatranská Javorina students can prepare meals on the premises themselves or board individually.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Students of master's degree study programmes can obtain motivational scholarships (for excellent results or exceptional achievements) in accordance with the stated criteria. **Students of the study programme Alpine Ecology Science can obtain motivational departmental scholarships in accordance with the stated criteria.**

The undergraduates from the Institute of High Mountain Biology of the University of Žilina (in the study programme Ranger / field of study Land Protection and Land Use) who will continue their Bachelor's research project in the Master's degree can obtain financial grant for their study stay in Norway and other EU countries from the ERASMUS+ programme.



GRADUATE PROSPECTS

MASTER'S STUDY PROGRAMMES

ALPINE ECOLOGY SCIENCE and ALPINE AND MOUNTAIN ECOLOGY (or why to study Alpine Ecology?)

(Field of study 4.3.4 General Ecology and Individual and Population Ecology)

Alpine areas are increasingly being exposed to a number of different types of environmental impacts in recent decades with real economic impact on neighbouring and distant countries. With rapidly changing climate the integrity of the alpine ecosystems is changing too and there are thousands of plant and animal species being affected. There is a radical retreat of glaciers as sources of water in mountain valleys particularly in summer and especially in autumn period, traditional agriculture scheme vanishes, the qualitative composition of the flowing water is changing, endemic and relict species of biota retreat. Water resources, power plants and dams in the high mountains already today provide more than the originally planned capacity of power or irrigation, the economics of water and wood processing economy is changing, conditions in the tourism industry are changing upon which the economy of regions depend.

The aim of joint master's study programmes Alpine Ecology Science and Alpine and Mountain Ecology is to educate young scientists to address the above mentioned phenomena. Students of joint master study programme Alpine Ecology spend one semester in Norway and one semester in Slovakia and the last year of study is dedicated to their research project conducted at one of the cooperating universities. Benefit of the study comes not only from the knowledge of different European cultures when educating students, but primarily from their knowledge of two distinct alpine ecosystems - one above the Arctic at lower altitudes and the second one more continental at higher altitudes. In the first year, the students are together for the whole course of study, they are able to compare themselves both at individual as well as at national level. They will increase their ability to work in the language of science – in English.

Employment of the students is expected mainly in multinational and national research institutions addressing problems of climate change in the high mountains. However, it does not exclude their career prospects in the management of research, in organisations submitting projects and in business companies whose trade and merit are based on the alpine environment.

The combination of theory and practice is a base for both study programmes, providing students with the necessary theoretical knowledge as well as the practical experience required for employment or further study.

Aims of study programmes

The aim of the study programmes is to educate the graduates with the good multidisciplinary knowledge in a wide area of Alpine Ecology.

An independent work will be emphasized especially during the writing of a diploma thesis. The students will be educated to understand and critically evaluate the information, methods and results of the research. Students will also learn about interdisciplinary cooperation and communication, and how scientific research and reporting are conducted. A successful completion of these programmes will be a sufficient qualification to continue in doctoral study. Students who complete these programmes can proceed to the doctoral programmes in the field of natural sciences, ecology and similar research areas.

Target group for the study programme Alpine Ecology Science

A maximum of 20 students will be admitted each year. All students, regardless of whether they have applied for registration of their diploma thesis at UNIZA or USN will start the first semester at the Department of Natural Sciences and Nature Protection in Bø, Norway. In the second semester they will study at the Institute of High Mountain Biology in Tatranská Javorina, Slovakia. In the last year of master's degree study programme students will continue with their diploma thesis in Slovakia (maximum 10 students) and in Norway (maximum 10 students), depending on their choice during the process of submitting the application forms. A minimum of 6 applicants must be admitted to open a study programme in the academic year.

Students respect the rules and regulations of the institution they are currently in. For example, all students will respect the rules and regulations of the University College of South East Norway during the first semester and they will respect the rules and regulations of the University of Žilina during the second semester. In the third and fourth semester students will follow the rules and regulations of the institution in which they work on their master's project.

Graduate Prospects

A graduate has the general knowledge about environmental phenomena and contexts in nature as well as about the effects that limit or developed them. He / she is able to identify and interpret the interactions in environment according to orientation of his / her diploma thesis (in water, in air, in soil and on its surface) on the basis of:

- a) model groups of organisms (plants, animals),
- b) data obtained from specialized workplaces dealing with environmental monitoring,
- c) changes in country. He / she can independently solve some sub-tasks related to the protection and creation of environment.

The graduate can apply:

- a) in basic or applied research,
- b) in specialized activities of state nature protection,
- c) in non-governmental organizations dealing with protection.

The graduate understands the basic issues of mutual relations between the abiotic and biotic elements of ecosystems on the basis of biological, chemical, landscape, geographic and protection aspects of the environment. He / she is able to identify the anthropogenic impacts on the environment and design related environmental protection. Under the guidance of an experienced expert he / she is able to solve independently some easier tasks related to the protection and creation of the environment.

General regulations at the University of Žilina:

http://vuvb.uniza.sk/ihmb/education/alpine_ecology/study_plan/General_regulations_at_University_of_Zilina.pdf.

General regulations at the University College of Southeast Norway: <https://www.usn.no/about-usn/rules-and-regulations/>.

The study programme Alpine Ecology Science includes various courses consisting of a total of 60 credits and diploma thesis (60 credits).

Teaching is largely based on week modules and laboratory and field lessons. It provides a flexible study programme and puts strong demands on the ability of students to work independently.

In the first year (60 credits) the students will complete two compulsory courses (20 credits) and courses selected from available optional courses (10 credits). Diploma thesis (60 credits) is compulsory. In both study programmes the students must have 60 credits after the first two semesters.



FUNDING AND STUDENT VISA

Tuition and student financial responsibility for applicants in the programme Alpine Ecology Science and for foreign students of the programme Alpine and Mountain Ecology

1. All students admitted to the joint master's programme and international students will be subject to the following fees:

- a) The cooperating institutions set the level of fees in accordance with national and institutional regulations and procedures.
- b) Students from the EU / EEA and Swiss Confederation (Slovakia) and students from other partner universities do not pay tuition fees in Norway nor in Slovakia. In Slovakia students from third countries pay a tuition fee of 5000 € for an academic year. The fee can be reduced up to 100 % with the approval of the rector of the University of Žilina.
- c) During the study in Norway, the University College of Southeast Norway does not charge a fee. There is only a registration fee for a semester (up to 1 000 NOK (110 €)) to cover the membership fee for the student organization and further administrative fees. Institute of High Mountain Biology of the University of Žilina does not charge any compulsory fee during the semesters of studies in Slovakia.

2. Students will be financially responsible for:

- a) Travel to and from institutions which the visit during the duration of the programme.
- b) Books, stationery, etc.
- c) Travel documents, visas, etc.
- d) Accommodation and boarding costs. Study related costs (travel costs, accommodation and boarding costs during excursions/trips, etc.).
- e) Fees for general services of student organizations.
- f) Insurance related to their stay in country.
- g) Students have the right to extend their studies for next two years. At the USN students will pay regular semester fees for this period. At UNIZA an extra payment for a study outside the scope of the two-year standard is 450 € for an academic year or 225 € for a semester during a study in Slovakia. The duration of study in Slovakia beyond the standard is maximum of two years.

3. It is expected that all students have international insurance related to their stay in particular country.

4. If you come from countries outside the EU/EEA and you are admitted to the programme, you need a visa/study permit.

If you want to obtain the student visa, you must pay a deposit for obtaining the study permit. The deposit is a proof that you can cover your expenses in Norway or in Slovakia.

Detailed information can be found at:

http://vuvb.uniza.sk/ihmb/education/alpine_ecology/study_plan/navigation_entry_and_stay_2014_11_FINAL.PDF

<http://www.studyinnorway.no/study-in-norway/student-residence-permit>