FAQs - Master in Life Sciences Engineering – 2018-19

How can I do a Specialization?
Validation of a Specialization is optional and requires at least 30 ECTS credits with the same label (A, B, C, D, E, F, G) from “Core courses” and “Options”. However, a course can only be validated once (either in group 1 or 2).

How can I do a Minor?
Validation of a Minor is optional and requires at least 30 ECTS from the corresponding Minor study plan. 
N.B.: Students enrolled into the minor in MTE are not allowed to take any additional credits in the master in MTE (max. 30 and not more).

Do I need to extend my studies if I do a minor?
No, the minor (30 ECTS specialization) “eats” credits of optional courses (group 2, options). Specific minor courses, including a semester project, can be taken instead of optional courses. The total of the master remains 120 credits.

Who should I contact if a minor doesn’t have the exact list of necessary courses?
You should contact the person responsible for a given minor (each section has a responsible person). http://master.epfl.ch/mineurs

Is it possible to do more than 1 specialization / minor?
No, you can only do one minor (Master cycle = 90 ECTS)

Is there a deadline to choose a Specialization or a Minor?
You have until the end of the MA1 to choose a specialization or a minor and validate the Academic Registration Form (FRAC). http://is-academia.epfl.ch/page-6244-en.html

Do I need to indicate my specialization or minor when I validate the Academic Registration Form (FRAC)?
Yes, you need to indicate your orientation/minor when you validate the registration form (each semester). http://is-academia.epfl.ch/page-6244-en.html

Can I validate a course twice (e.g. options and minor)?
No, every course counts ONLY ONCE.
Can I take “Core courses” (Group 1) to validate my “Options” (Group 2)?
Yes, but you cannot validate one course twice (e.g. Group 1 and Group 2).
But if you reach 16 credits in group 1 the additional credit won’t count in the “Options”.

Can I exceed requested credits in the “Options”?
Yes, you may exceed 53 credits. However, once you validated all groups in the master cycle (90 ECTS), you will be enrolled into the master project (30 ECTS).

How can I do a Lab immersion (8 or 12 ECTS)?
Student projects are available on the web sites of SV laboratories or discussed with a potential head of lab.
http://sv.epfl.ch/brain-mind
http://sv.epfl.ch/global-health
http://sv.epfl.ch/ISREC
http://bioengineering.epfl.ch/welcome
and in some SV Core Facilities and other faculties, with approval of the section

Timing:
- During the semester: 16h (or 24h/week for 12 ECTS) during 14 weeks
- During the summer: 5 (or 8 weeks for 12 ECTS) full time; week = 42h
- Or as discussed with a potential head of lab
- Total workload = 240 or 360 hours

We encourage you to see different labs during your master studies.

Registration: When you register on is-academia, please download the form, ask your supervisor to sign it and send it to master-stv@epfl.ch for record.

Caution: You cannot spend a lab immersion in industry.

How can I do a Lab immersion out of EPFL (22 ECTS)?
- Lab immersion outside EPFL in academia (BIO-504)
- Lab immersion outside EPFL in industry (BIO-506)

Download and complete the project proposal form http://sv.epfl.ch/master_en ; under “FORMS” and submit it to the SV Section (master-stv@epfl.ch).
The form must be approved and signed by an EPFL supervising professor and the section’s representative.

External Master students must validate at least 90 ECTS credits within EPFL. This implies that external Master students may do a 22-credit lab immersion outside EPFL or a 30-credit Master thesis project outside EPFL but they may not do both.

How many credits Lab immersions can I take?
No more than 30 credits can be taken from lab immersions (including a minor project)
Are there courses with restricted number of students?
Yes, [https://sac.epfl.ch/exchange-incoming/studies](https://sac.epfl.ch/exchange-incoming/studies)
Priority will be given to 2nd attempts
*Caution:* no withdrawal after registration deadline (Friday September 28th)

Is it possible to register for a class in another department/section?
Yes, you can take 10 credits “Autres” (not listed in Life Sciences Engineering study plan) of optional courses (group 2), in agreement with your study advisor.

When should I register to “Lab methods” (“Options”)?
It is recommended to take the “Lab methods” courses at the **MA3 level** – rather than at the MA1 level: they are all block courses in 3-4-5 days/semester and the presence of registered students is mandatory (no withdrawal).

When should I register to “Project in Human and Social Sciences” (“Group 6”)?
Introduction to the project (3 credits) is in the fall. Don’t forget to register in MA1!

What is the deadline for course registration?
You can modify your course choice during the first two weeks of the semester
Deadline for course registration: Friday September 28th

Master admission conditions
If external master students have an admission condition, they have to give priority to the requested course(s) and need to register in the first year of the master.

Mandatory industry internship
All information may be found by following the link [http://sv.epfl.ch/internships](http://sv.epfl.ch/internships)
Length: minimum of 8 weeks, maximum of 1 semester.
Contact: Dr. Igor Allaman [igor.allaman@epfl.ch](mailto:igor.allaman@epfl.ch)

Can I extend my master studies?
Yes, it’s possible to extend your master cycle (90 ECTS) from 3 semesters to max. 6 semesters and you have maximum 2 attempts for the master thesis [http://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20041651/index.html](http://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20041651/index.html).

How many attempts do I have to pass an exam?
You have two attempts to pass a course. [http://sac.epfl.ch/master-pass](http://sac.epfl.ch/master-pass)
How can I take iGEM (Scientific project design in synthetic biology)?
Only a limited number of students will be selected (max. 12) based on their application file. Selection of team participants is highly competitive (February 2019). Participants of iGEM team 2019 will register on IS-Academia in MA3.