



## Suitability for the Program

Master's Program in Molecular Medicine  
Charité University Medical School, Berlin

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We receive many inquiries from students who are not sure if their backgrounds are suitable for our program, or if they are even eligible to apply. We encourage you to read this document carefully, and think carefully if you fulfill our requirements. If you think you do, then we encourage you to apply. Our application does not cost anything other than a bit of time and effort. It is also a completely electronic, online application system that enables you to log on as many times as you like to see the questions we ask, think about your answers, change them if you like, before you press the submit button. The worst that can happen is that you will either not complete the application in time (see the dates link on our website), or that you will eventually be rejected. However, if you never apply, you will never know if you stood a chance or not.

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Generally speaking, if you have studied biology, biotechnology, chemistry, molecular biology, pharmacy, bioengineering, molecular medicine, genetics, medicine, or bioinformatics in a bachelor (or master) program, then you are eligible to apply to the Master's Program in Molecular Medicine. We do NOT have a list of required classes that you should have taken in order to apply to our program. Instead we assume that if you have successfully completed a bachelor degree in one of the subjects listed above (or something similar), then you will automatically have taken enough of the right courses to be well prepared for our program.

The program does NOT have a "Numerus Clausus," otherwise known as a specific grade point average below which we do not accept students. Instead we take into consideration what sort of courses you took and at what sort of university. Thus, a student with lower grades, but who took very hard courses (advanced physics, for example) will, in principle anyway, have just as good a chance of being accepted to our program as a student who took more basic classes and consistently received excellent grades.

The admissions committee members also look for students who have not only learned, but also used modern research techniques as part of a research project. Thus, if your bachelor program did not offer the opportunity to perform such research, nor were you able to obtain this experience outside of your bachelor program (for example, in an internship or technical position held after graduating) then your chances of actually being accepted to our program are not good. For a complete list of the factors our admissions committee strongly considers, please read to the end of this document.

If you lack the necessary lab skills but nevertheless are strongly interested in attending the Master's Program in Molecular Medicine, then we encourage you to first work or intern in a research laboratory. In either case, the experience you gain should increase your chances of being accepted to our program considerably. It will certainly demonstrate to our admissions committee your commitment to scientific research.



Occasionally we also receive inquiries from perspective students asking what sort of characteristics we look for in our candidates. The answer is that we do not look for one type of personality or another as we see that many different types of people can be successful in our program. Sometimes, for example, a hard-working student is better than one who seems brilliant, but might be rather lazy. Likewise, a highly focused student might not be flexible enough to handle all the various different challenges and frequent changes involved in our program. But an especially flexible person might also experience difficulty with the structured nature of our program. Thus, we do not make our admission decision based on personality. Instead we look at each student's background to see if they have all the necessary skills, knowledge, and intellectual aptitude required by our program.

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More specifically, we look for students who have

- 1) excellent grades in a field as closely related to molecular biology as possible,
- 2) research experience, and hands-on experience with at least a few of the basic techniques of modern molecular biology,
- 3) letters of recommendation that are not only positive about the student's capabilities specifically related to science, but also detailed enough to be of use,
- 4) additional things like international experience, awards, general work experience and so forth are additional pluses, but not required.

If you have further questions regarding the admissions process, please read the application directions and review our FAQ's in the admissions section of our website. If you still have questions, please send an email to [admissions-molmed@charite.de](mailto:admissions-molmed@charite.de).

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