UNIVERSITY STUDY PROGRAMME OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ŽILINA

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Supervising department:
Institute of High Mountain Biology (IHMB)
059 56 Tatranská Javorina 7
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INFORMATION ON THE STUDY POSSIBILITIES

Forms and length of study:
Bachelor’s degree – full-time - 3 years
Master’s degree – full-time - 2 years

ACCREDITED STUDY PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017

BACHELOR’S DEGREE

Ranger (full-time study)
- in the field of study: Land Protection and Land Use
  (in Slovak and English language)

MAISTER’S DEGREE (for graduates of Bachelor’s degree)

Alpine Ecology - (full-time study)
- in the field of study: General Ecology and Individual and Population Ecology
  (only in English language), joint study programme with the University College of South East Norway (Telemark University College)

Anticipated number of students admitted to the 1st year of study:

full-time Bachelor’s degree: 15
full-time Master’s degree: 20

Detailed information on study programme (study plans, course information sheets) can be found at http://vzdelavanie.uniza.sk/vzdelavanie/plany.php.
http://vuvb.uniza.sk

Language skills – Bachelor degree - written and oral command of Slovak, knowledge of English language at the level of the secondary school graduates.
Master degree - knowledge of English language – language quality is referred in admission conditions.

Knowledge requirements – Bachelor’s degree - knowledge of Biology, Geography and work with computer at the level of the high school graduate.

Health certificate - not required for the university study, applications forms without health certificate are accepted.
Students of the study programme Land Protection and Land Use may obtain motivational scholarship according to the established criteria.

**TERMS AND FORMS OF ADMISSION PROCEDURE FOR THE BACHELOR’S DEGREE**

**Basic requirement** for admission to Bachelor’s degree (1st degree study programme) is to accomplish secondary education on the date of enrolment (Act no. 131/2002 on Higher Education).

**Other requirements of admission to the Bachelor’s degree study programme for the academic year 2016/2017:**

a) Applicants complete entrance exams and they will be admitted according to the following criteria:
   1. study results achieved at secondary schools in courses Biology, Geography and Mathematics
   2. the result of entrance exam from Biology – written test

b) Secondary school graduates who were successful (minimum rank 3rd) in the competitions of young researches at the national level (so called Olympiada or SOČ – secondary school research studies) will be admitted without entrance exams.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMME**

**English requirements**

The requirement for English proficiency may be met in one of the following ways:

- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) with a minimum score of 6.0. An IELTS test is only valid for two years. You must take the Academic test.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 550 for a paper-based test, a score of at least 210 for a computer-based test or minimum 80 for an internet-based test. A TOEFL test is only valid for two years.
- Bachelor’s degree from UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Ireland or New Zealand with English as the language of instruction.
- Students from the University of Zilina and Telemark University College must have a minimum score of B2 level on the Common European Framework Language Test. The test must be carried out by the university.

A Bachelor's degree*, which includes 80 credits within the relevant science / environmental sciences, is required. Minimum grade requirement is C (mean).

Knowledge of Norwegian or Slovak language is not required.

In accordance of Article 57 of the Act no. 131/2002 and Article 27 of the Statute of University of Žilina, the applicants will be selected according to the following priorities:

1st priority – graduates in environmental fields of Bachelor’s degree of the Institute of High Mountain Biology of the University of Žilina and the Department of Environmental and Health Studies University College of South East Norway. Applicants will be selected according to grades during the 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 at the Master’s degree at the Institute of High Mountain Biology.

2nd priority – graduates in environmental fields of Bachelor’s degree of the selected partner universities of the University of Žilina or the University College of South East Norway. Applicants will be selected according to the grades during the Bachelor’s study.

3rd priority – graduates in environmental fields of Bachelor study from EU and other countries. Applicants will be selected according to grades during the Bachelor’s study.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES

Open Day: 07.04.2016 (11:00 at IHMB (Institute of High Mountain Biology) in Tatranská Javorina)

Application forms delivery deadline

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Master’s degree

Application deadlines (all documents must be uploaded by January 15th (March 1st for applicants from EU/EEA):
- 15th January: applicants outside EU/EEA
- 1st March: applicants from EU/EEA, including Slovakia
- 15th April: applicants from Norway

Master’s degrees – requirements and application + link to application form: [http://www.tuc.no/Applicants/Degree-seeking-students/Master-s-degrees-requirements-application](http://www.tuc.no/Applicants/Degree-seeking-students/Master-s-degrees-requirements-application)

Link to the Joint Master study program: [http://www.tuc.no/Applicants/Alpine-Ecology](http://www.tuc.no/Applicants/Alpine-Ecology)


Admission procedure fee – Bachelor’s degree: 30.00 € payable for each application separately to the following address:

Žilinská univerzita, Univerzitná 1, 010 26 Žilina
Bank: Štátna pokladnica
Account number in IBAN: SK40 8180 0000 0070 0008 0700
Variable symbol: 19031
Constant symbol: 0308

proof of payment will be sent together with the application formular and the secondary school reports to the Žilina University address!

When payment is realised from the EU member states, EEA countries, territories considered to be part of the EU (Article 229 Treaty of Rome) and countries that voluntarily joined SEPA, it is necessary to use BIC: SPSRSKBAXXX, IBAN: SK40 8180 0000 0070 0008 0700.

Note: Even in case of electronic application form, it is required to print, sign, enclose the documents required and proof of payment - then sent it to the above address within the specified deadlines!

Incomplete application form or application sent after the specified deadline will not be accepted! In case of absence in admission procedure or not being admitted to studies, admission procedure fee will not be refunded!

Student accommodation: in the course of study, in Žilina - colleges of the University of Žilina (taking into account the distance from a student’s residence to the university)

in the course of study, in Tatranská Javorina – limited accommodation in the housing premises of the Institute of High Mountain Biology, 2 € per night.

Accommodation fee: 41.00 € – 51.00 € / month in Žilina.

Catering: dining facility of the University of Žilina.

Catering fee: from 1.90 € / meal (in the course of study in Tatranská Javorina – individually, possibility of self-preparation of food at IHMB).

Admission of foreign students:

Foreign applicants are recruited on the basis of relevant international agreements, and the Agreement on joint study programme between the University of Žilina and Telemark University College (since 01.01.2015 University College of South East Norway). Bachelor students when studying in a different language than in Slovak language pay tuition fees under the terms stated in Article 92(8) of the Act on Higher Education. Tuition fees for the particular academic year are specified in the Directive of the University of Žilina and published on the university website. Applicants from the Czech Republic can fill out form valid in the Czech Republic.

Master degree:

The admission process will be conducted by the coordinating institution (TUC) in accordance with the admission requirements of the joint master’s programme, as specified in the programme description. A common online application form will be created. Admission to the programme will be based upon a joint decision of the cooperating institutions.

The cooperating institutions will determine the level of fees, in accordance with national and institutional regulations and procedures. Whereas students from the EU and EEA member countries, as well as students from partner universities elsewhere, will not pay school fees, students from third countries may be subject to school fees during their studies in Slovakia. These tuition fees for the particular academic year are specified in the Directive of the University of Žilina and published on the university website. University College of South East Norway does not charge tuition fees, only a
compulsory fee to cover the membership fee in the Student Welfare organisation as well as other administrative fees when applicable. Students will be financially responsible for:

- Travel to and from the institutions they are attending during the length of the programme.
- Books, stationery, etc.
- Travel documentation, visas, etc.
- Travel, accommodation, and living expenses
- Student Association/General Services Charges.
- International insurance coverage relevant to their stay in a given country.

Payment for the extra period longer than nominal length of the study, which is four semesters, is required in accordance with the directives of the University of Žilina or University College of South East Norway.

**GRADUATES APPLICATION**

**Bachelor´s degree study programme**

Study programme Ranger (field of the study: Land Protection and Land Use) is focused on the study and education in the field of general and applied ecology, nature conservation, renewable and non-renewable natural resources, biology, management, information technology, social sciences and humanities. Graduates will be able to use their knowledge of ecology, biotic and abiotic components of the environment, geographic, and other scientific disciplines as well as knowledge of practical courses in adequate professions, including the applied biology research. Prerequisite for successful completion of the study includes knowledge of the following areas: natural resource management, informatics in environmental disciplines, natural sciences, economics and physical requirements and skills. In addition to theoretical and practical knowledge on natural resources (botany, zoology, geology and hydrology, pedology, climatology) and environmental legislation, graduates acquire practical knowledge in the courses necessary for the application of environmental management and research, such as: research in nature conservation, geographic information systems, field navigation, mountain climbing, ski touring, horse riding, self-defense, shooting and other.

Study programme respects the description of the field of study – Land Protection and Land Use 4.3.1. (Accreditation Commission of the Slovak Government, www.akredkom.sk) and is completed according to the contents of similar studies of some European and American universities so that it is suitable for students of the Slovak Republic and the wider Central European region. This interdisciplinary study is provided at the university (not faculty) level.

Graduates may find application mainly in nature and environmental protection and environmental research. The Institute has world-class facilities in the area of molecular biology, imaging roentgenology, thermal imaging, microscopy, ecotoxicology. Regarding to the acquired knowledge and skills, graduates can also work in museums, forestry, fire departments, etc. Education gives significant possibilities to be successful in the private sector, mainly in tourism (professional guides in nature) and organisations dealing with cynology, horse riding or alpinism. Graduate is able to manipulate with wild animals and effectively participate in their management. He applies in joint projects and tasks with veterinary and agricultural organisations. He can significantly facilitate the effective fund-raising for non-government organisations.

In the course of the Bachelor’s study Ranger the selected students have the opportunity to study one semester at the partner university University College of South East Norway [http://www.hit.no/english/](http://www.hit.no/english/) through the exchange programme Erasmus.

**Master’s degree study programme**

Alpine areas are increasingly being exposed to a number of different types of environmental impacts, both biotic and abiotic, that in time may completely change the integrity of alpine ecosystems. In addition to possible changes in ecosystem function and structure, the biological diversity found at high altitudes is likely to be negatively affected as well. The thousands of plants and animals with their specialized adaptations will most certainly face new challenges in the form of a warmer climate, habitat changes, alien species, and more. This is particularly true for species that are endemic to the alpine region, which without proper management are likely to experience population declines or even extinction. Therefore, knowledge on how to manage and conserve species and their habitats is imperative in order to protect the alpine environment for the future. The emphasis of the study programme will be placed on how different management strategies can contribute to sustainable use, conservation and the recovery of natural resources in the alpine environment.

This master’s programme is especially designed for students with an educational background from disciplines related to environmental sciences. Priority may be given to students from the University of Žilina and University College of South East Norway’s international partner universities. Benefit of study is not only the knowledge of different European cultures in educating students, but primarily on knowledge of two distinct alpine ecosystems - one above the Arctic at lower altitudes and the second more continental at higher altitudes. In the first year, students will be together all the time, they will be able to compare both at individual as well as at national level. They will work in language of science – English. Application of the students is expected mainly in multinational and national research addressing the problems of climate change in the
high mountains. It does not exclude, however, the application in the management of research in organisations preparing projects and business companies that are based their trade and merit from the alpine environment.

Coordinator for work with the students with specific needs
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