

Consecutive Master program

Biodiversity: Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation (BEEC)

- with option of double-degree IMABEE -

Info-Session – 15 December 2025

Study program director: Prof. Dr. Stefan Scheu

Coordination: Dr. Barbara Wick

Agenda

1. Application and admission
2. Program and study structure
3. Modules and study plans – where to find information
4. Double-Degree IMABEE
5. Outlook – Professional perspective



Application and admission

- Admission to each winter semester: 40 students
- Application period:

**Non-EU citizenship and non-EU
BSc degree**

1 Jan – 15 Feb

EU citizenship or EU BSc degree

1 Apr – 15 May

- Application procedure:
 - Registration + submission of documents
 - Online Assessment Test
 - Interview
 - Await decision
- Application procedure:
 - Registration + submission of documents
 - Await decision

Application and admission

- **Criteria / Requirements** (website: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/123968.html>)
 - BSc degree in biology or related field (completed or with at least 150 credit points/CP at time of application)
 - Proof of at least 125 CP from *Natural Sciences*, including at least 60 CP in *Biology*
 - English (C1) (not first language, BSc not in English)
 - CV, Letter of motivation



Program and study structure - BEEC

- Two years, four semesters (120 CP)
- Organized modularly (block and semester-long courses)
 - ✓ Selection from 43 BEEC modules
 - ✓ Selection from 39 modules from other master programs (Biology, Agricultural Sciences, Forest Sciences & Forest Ecology, Geoscience & Geography)
- English as main teaching language
- Possibility of double degree – International Master of Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution (IMABEE)

Program and study structure

1. – 4. Semester		4. Semester
Professional Studies (78 C)	Compulsory Modules (18 C)	Master's Thesis (26 weeks)
	Area of Specialization (36 C) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecology (plants or animals) 2. Evolution 3. Conservation Biology 	
	Supplementary Modules (24 C)	
	Key Competences (12 C)	
(90 C)		
	(30 C)	



Program and study structure - Specialization

➤ **Three main areas of specialization**

- A. Ecology (with specification in plants or animals): Functionality of biodiversity
- B. Evolution: Development of biodiversity
- C. Conservation Biology: Preserving biodiversity

➤ **One area of specialization must be selected**

- ✓ Note: Demand from students for Conservation Biology is high – it might not be possible to take all the desired courses as planned !



Program and study structure – Specialization (36 CP)

A. Ecology (with specification in plants or animals)

a. Two core modules (12 CP) – selection from 3

- i. *Plant ecology & ecosystem research*
- ii. *Vegetation ecology & vegetation history*
- iii. *Animal ecology*



i. Dr. Hertel



ii. Prof. Behling



iii. Prof. Scheu

b. Compulsory elective modules (12-24 CP)

- Plants: selection from 8 [e.g. community ecology of plants]
- Animals: selection from 5 [e.g. interactions in soil food webs]

c. Elective modules (0-12 CP) – selection from 17



Program and study structure – Specialization (36 CP)

B. Evolution

a. Two core modules (12 CP)

i. *Evolutionary biology*

ii. *Evolution of embryophyta*



i. Prof. Wimmer



ii. Prof. Hörandl

b. Compulsory elective modules (12-24 CP) – selection from 10 [e.g. phylogenomics, next generation sequencing in evolutionary biology]

c. Elective modules (0-12 CP) – selection from 8



Program and study structure – Specialization (36 CP)

C. Conservation biology

a. Three (from 4) core modules (18 CP)

i. *Conservation biology*

ii. *Animal ecology*

iii. *Plant ecology & ecosystem research or*

iv. *Vegetation ecology & vegetation history*



i. Prof. Kamp



ii. Prof. Scheu



iii. Dr. Hertel



iv. Prof. Behling

b. Compulsory elective modules (12-18 CP) – selection from 7 [e.g. nature conservation inventories, data analysis for field biologists]

c. Elective modules (0-6 CP) – selection from 12



Program and study structure – Compulsory modules (18 CP)

➤ **Compulsory modules (18 CP)**

a. M. Biodiv.400 (8 CP):

- Species identification courses
- 4 one-day field trips: 2 zoological, 2 botanical

b. M.Biodiv.405 (4 CP):

- One extended field trip / excursion (botanical or zoological focus)

c. M.Biodiv.417 (6 CP) – preparing module for MSc thesis:

- Research colloquia: 14 talks over one or several semester
- Project management: development + defense of thesis proposal, identification of supervisors



Program and study structure

- **Master thesis (30 CP, 26 weeks)**
 - ❖ Prerequisite for the beginning of the thesis:
 - 60 CP accomplished, including compulsory modules (18 CP)
 - ❖ In Göttingen or abroad



Modules and study plans

➤ **Where to find information and overviews?:**

Website: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/693870.html>



About the programme

- › [Programme outline](#)
- › [Programme and study structure \(pdf\)](#)
- › [Qualification and professional perspectives](#)
- › [Documents and workflows \(owncloud\)](#)
- › [Key competencies](#)
- › [List of modules and study regulations](#)
- › [Option: IMABEE programme](#)



Application and admission

- › [Application and requirements](#)
- › [Required documents](#)
- › [Selection process](#)
- › [FAQ for the application](#)
- › [Semester fees](#)



Getting started

- › [Information for new students](#)
- › [For international students](#)
- › [Campus Map](#)
- › [Starter Package](#)
- › [FAQ for 1st-Years](#)
- › [FlexNow: Registration rules](#)



Modules and study plans

1. **List of modules** – Module handbook: <https://uni-goettingen.de/en/37262.html>
2. **Exemplary study plans for each area of specialization** – in:
 - a) Examination and study regulation: <https://uni-goettingen.de/en/37262.html>
 - b) OwnCloud: <https://owncloud.gwdg.de/index.php/s/JSDGzWcQXF4u3bf>
3. **BEEC modules: times and course places - OwnCloud:**
<https://owncloud.gwdg.de/index.php/s/JSDGzWcQXF4u3bf>

Modules and study plans

2. Exemplary study plans for each area of specialization - Ecology

Schwerpunkt „Ökologie“ / Specialization „Ecology“					
Sem. Σ C	Modul	Modul	Modul	Modul	Modul
1. Σ 30 C	M.Biodiv.404 Animal ecology 6 C (Mon & Tue, 16.15-17.45)	M.Biodiv.403 Vegetation ecology and vegetation history 6 C (401.1: Wed, 14:15-15:45, 403.4: Mon, 09:00-10:30)	M.Biodiv.492 Molecular methods for “Next Generation Sequencing” 6 C (10.02.-21.02.)	M.Biodiv.441 Animal ecology: Evolutionary ecology 6 C (03.03.-21.03.)	Key competences 6 C
2. Σ 30 C	M.Biodiv.400 Species identification and natural history 8 C (400.1d, 1e, early mornings or evenings)	M.Biodiv.445 Molecular analysis of soil food webs 6 C (05.05.-23.05.)	M.Biodiv.442 Community ecology of animals 6 C (26.05.-13.06.)	M.Biodiv.422 Plant Ecology: CO₂ and water relations of plants 6 C (23.06.11.07.)	M.Biodiv.405 Botanical or zoological field trip 4 C (Jul or Sep)
3. Σ 30 C	M.Biodiv.417 Research colloquia and project management 6 C (individual)	M.Biodiv.470* Morphology of animals 6 C (21.10.-08.11.)	M.Biodiv.447 Biodiversity, ecology and evolution of <u>terrestrial invertebrates</u> 6 C (02.12.-20.12.)	M.Biodiv.421 Project course: Plant Ecology 6 C (03.03.-21.03.)	Key competences 6 C
4. Σ 30 C	Master thesis				
Σ 120 C					

*or M.Biodiv.480, 06.01.-24.01. or M.Biodiv.435 Project studies (individual)



Modules and study plans

3. BEEC modules: times and course places – WS 2025/26

General overview of modules (block courses, lectures and seminars) offered in the winter semester 2025/26 - allocation to different areas of specialization

	Lecture weeks																								
	Lecture-free	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Lecture-free (16.02. - 31.03.26)								
Winter semester	M.Biodiv.462 ^A Genetic biodiv of algae + cyano-bacteria (Friedl) (6 pl.)	27.10. - 14.11.25 M.Biodiv.470 Morphology of animals (Fischer/Helm) (6 pl., 27.10.-14.11.25)			17.11. - 05.12.25			08.12. - 22.12.25			05.01. - 23.01.26 M.Biodiv.480 ^B Nature conservation inventories (Hondong) (12 pl., 05.01.-23.01.26)			26.01. - 13.02.26 M.Biodiv.400.1a Pollen analysis (Behling) (8 pl., 02.02.-13.02.26)			16.02. - 06.03.26 M.Biodiv.400.1b ^B Mosses & lichens (Kaufmann, Drehwald, Hertel) (10 pl., 16.02.-27.02.26)			09.03. - 27.03.26 M.Biodiv.441 Animal ecology: Evolutionary ecol (Heimburger) (12 pl., 09.03.-27.03.26)					
							M.Biodiv.447 Biodiversity, ecology and evolution of terrestrial invertebrates (Scheu) (15 pl., 08.12.-19.12.25 + 05.1.-09.1.26)			M.Bio-NF.306 / M.Bio.346 ^H Introduction to behavioral biology (Ostner, Schülke) (4 + 8 pl., 19.01.-20.02.26)			M.Biodiv.421 Project course: Plant ecology (Hertel) (8 pl., 02.03.-20.03.26)												
		M.INC 1005 ^E Population biology in nature conservation (Gottschalk) (8 pl., 20.10.-07.12.25)		M.INC 1007 ^F Assessment of wildlife species for nature conservation (Waltert) (15 pl., 10.11.-28.11.25)			M.INC 1006 Data analysis for field biologists (Kamp, Daskalova) (8 pl., 01.12.-20.12.25)							M.Biodiv.492 Molecular methods for Next Generation Sequencing (Tomassello) (8 pl., 16.02.-27.02.26)											
		weekly M.Biodiv.402 Vegetation and ecology of the world Hertel ^C L: Wed, 14:15-15:45 M.Biodiv.402.4 Current topics in plant ecology and nature conservation (Hertel, 20 pl.) [Option A] S: Thur, 08:15-09:45 M.Biodiv.402.6 Anthropogenic impacts on biodiversity loss (Heim, 20 pl.) [Option B] S: Mon, 13:15-14:45 M.Biodiv.403.4 Modern issues of vegetation science in agricultural landscapes (Schellenberg, 12 pl.) ^G S: Thur, 16:15-17:45 M.Biodiv.404 Animal ecology (Scheu) L: Mon, 16:15-17:45 M.Biodiv.404 Topics of animal ecology and evolution (Scheu, 25 pl.) S: Tue, 16:15-17:45 M.Biodiv.412.1 Origins of Conservation Biology (Waltert) [Option A] L: Tue, 16:15-17:45 M.Biodiv.412.2 International Nature Conservation (Kamp) [Option B] L: Wed, 14:15-15:45 M.Biodiv.412.3 Current topics in conservation biology (Kamp, 20 pl.) [Option A] S: Wed, 16:15-17:45 M.Agr.0089 Ecological Seminar (Westphal, 30 pl.) ^P [Option B] S: Wed, 10:15-11:45 M.FES.312.1 Global Environmental and Forest Policy (Hubo) [Option C] S: xxxxxx M.Biodiv.415 Evolutionary biology (Friedl) ^C L: Thur, 16:15-17:45 M.Biodiv.425 Speciation and evolution of land plants (Hörandl) L: Wed, 16:15-17:45 M.Biodiv.425 Plant systematics and phycology (Hörandl, 20 pl.) - Start: Nov 18 S: Tue, 13:15-14:45 M.Bio.001 Statistics for Biology using R (Wibral) L: (Mon, 14:00-16:00) T: (Thur, 17:00-19:00)															M.Biodiv.400.1f Hymenoptera (Westphal, Bleidorn) (10 pl.) ^P , 16.02.-27.02.26			M.Biodiv.610 Science communication in biodiversity research (Aguado Molina) (20 pl., 16.02.-06.03.26)			M.Biodiv.606 ^G Identification of bird feathers (Stumpner) (16 pl., 02.03.-06.03.26)		

^AOn request L: Lecture, S: Seminar, T: Tutorial

^BIn German

^CVarious lecturers

^DFive additional places depending on demand from Faculty of Agriculture

^EFormer M.Biodiv.481

^FFormer M.Biodiv.483

^GFor the last time in WiSe 2025/26

^HM.Bio-NF.306 = 12 C, 4 places; M.Bio.346 = 6 C (without lab course), 8 places

Compulsory

Core and compulsory elective modules in specialization "Evolution"

Core and compulsory elective modules in specialization "Ecology"

Core and compulsory elective modules in specialization "Conservation" (plus 402, 403, 404)

Elective modules "Conservation" (M.INC 1005, M.INC 1006) and Key Competencies*

*Key competencies can also be recognized as Supplementary modules (see Directory of Modules)



Double – Degree IMABEE

- **Double Degree Program (<https://www.imabee.eu/>)**
 - Partner universities: Rennes 1, France (coordination) + Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
 - 12 Incomings + 12 Outgoings per year: 6 FRA and 6 NL
 - Double Degree
 - ✓ 1st year home university (60 CP)
 - ✓ 2nd year host university (60 CP, including MSc thesis)



Double – Degree IMABEE

- Göttingen students who start in winter term 2026/27 move to host university in winter term 2027/28 – start: 01 September
- No separate application needed – the application for consideration is indicated in application for admission (checkbox)
- The students' final decision is made at the end of the first semester



Outlook – Professional perspectives

- **Scientific career** – PhD programs at Göttingen, e.g. Biological Diversity and Ecology (<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/promotion/20917.html>)
- **Governmental authorities** (e.g. Federal Agency for Nature Conservation)
- **Inter/National Environmental Organisations** (e.g. WWF, BUND - German Federation for the Environment and Nature Conservation, NABU - The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature)
- **Educational Institutions** (e.g. museum, regional environmental education centers)
- **Public media** (e.g. science journalism)



Communication and documentation/information

Contact – Barbara Wick:

- E-mail: studienbuero@biologie.uni-goettingen.de; bwick@gwdg.de

Documentation and information:

- Website
- OwnCloud (tab [Programme overview / Information](#), website BEEC)
- BioBlog: <https://bioblog.uni-goettingen.de/>



Questions?

Thank you for your attention.....

Image-Film about studying and life
in: [Collect Lasting Memories |
University of Göttingen - YouTube](#)



..... we look forward to receiving your applications