

# **Appendix: Programme Specifics for the MSc Programme Nanobiology**

Part of the Course and Exam Regulation of the Master's Programme  
As referred to in Paragraph 2 of the Teaching and Exam Regulations

Faculty of Medicine (Erasmus MC)  
Erasmus University Rotterdam

and

Faculty of Applied Sciences  
Delft University of Technology

2024-2025

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## Section 1 Appendix to the TER

### TER Article 3 Admissions

The Master's degree programme in Nanobiology is a multidisciplinary programme with mathematics, physics and biology as core subjects. Due to the multidisciplinary content of the programme we require a solid background in university mathematics (calculus, linear algebra and differential equations), physics and molecular biology. How to complete the requirements for admission depend on the educational background of the applicant.

#### TER Article 3.1 A Dutch university BSc degree

The master's degree programme is accessible to students without further requirements after completion of their bachelor's degree in Nanobiology.

Students holding a Dutch University BSc degree from another programme can be admitted, but may be required to take additional courses to compensate for any gaps in prior education. More information can be found below under Bridging Programme (TER Article 3.4 and section 5 article 8).

#### TER Article 3.2 A Non-Dutch university bachelor's

Applicants with degrees from non-Dutch universities seeking admission to the MSc programme in Nanobiology must in most cases possess a Bachelor of Science degree covering the required coursework. Their application will be evaluated by the Admission Committee, based upon academic scores and may include an interview. Perceived deficiencies will be identified in the review process and will need to be addressed by taking appropriate courses before the applicant can be admitted into the MSc programme. Applicants residing in the Netherlands may be eligible for a Bridging programme, more information can be found below under Bridging Programme (TER Article 3.4 and section 5 article 8)

#### TER Article 3.3 Dutch University of Applied Sciences (HBO)

A Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences does not qualify applicants for direct admission to the Master's degree programme in Nanobiology.

#### TER Article 3.4 Bridging programmes eligibility

Applicants who have a Bachelor's degree from a Dutch University or who are resident in the Netherlands, may be eligible to complete a bridging programme to remediate any gaps in prior education. The bridging programme for the MSc programme is always customised to the students' specific situation in consultation with the programme coordinator and Admission Committee. Students will have up to two years to complete their bridging programme. See Section 5 article 8 for more information about bridging programmes.

Given there is no nanobiology programme in universities of applied science (HBO), a bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences does not qualify applicants for access to a Nanobiology bridging programme.

### TER Article 5 Goal of the Programme

The Nanobiology Master's programme has the following specific learning goals for our students.

#### TER Article 5.2

##### 5.2.a. Knowledge

- 1 The student has theoretical and practical knowledge of the physics of biological processes and the methods to observe them.
- 2 The student is able to build mathematical models of physical and biological systems, and can solve them numerically and/or analytically.
- 3 The student can apply their knowledge to quantify biological processes from experimental results.
- 4 The student understands ethical issues in research.

### 5.2.b Research skills

- 5 The student is able to identify a problem and translate this into a research question.
- 6 The student is able to conduct comprehensive literature investigations, related to the research question.
- 7 The student is able to translate a research question into a research proposal.
- 8 In collaboration with other research group members, the student is able to set up and conduct a research project, collect data, analyse data, and come to conclusions.
- 9 The student is able to perform ethically responsible research.

### 5.2.c Communication skills

- 10 The student is able to write research findings in the form of a draft manuscript, which in collaboration with a research supervisor may be developed into a scientific article, suitable for publication in an international, peer-reviewed journal.
- 11 The student can communicate his or her results in oral and written form to audiences of specialists and non-specialists.
12. The student understands ethical considerations in communicating science.

## Section 2 Programme Composition

### Article 1 Obligatory courses

The Nanobiology programme is a two-year master's programme and comprises 120 EC.

Courses that form part of the student's bachelor programme cannot be part of the Master's programme.

In every quarter there should be 8 weeks of education, 1 week (week 9) primarily for exam preparations, and 1 week (week 10) for exams. Non-obligatory activities like practice exams, Q&A sessions/reviews and opportunities to make up practicals may be planned in week 9. Exigent circumstances may require exceptions to this rule. The schedule is published in the TU Delft Timetable, with updates provided by teachers during the course via Brightspace.

Columns 1-11 in the tables below indicate the programme goals above in TER 5.2.a-c

#### Article 1.1 Obligatory courses of the first year

Course	Code	EC	Assessment method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Analytical Mechanics	NB4011	3	homework, written exam	X	X										
Biology of Cancer	NB4040	4	report, written exam			X		X	X	X	X			X	
Engineering Genetic Information	NB4030	3	written exam	X		X	X	X		X	X				
High-Resolution Imaging	NB4020	4	homework, written exam	X	X	X	X	X							X
Modeling Dynamical Systems	NB4050	3	report, group work, quizzes	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Physics of Biological Systems*	AP3163	6	homework, presentation, written exam	X	X	X		X	X				X		

Course	Code	EC	Assessment method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Soft Matter*	NB4070	6	presentation, homework, written exam	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X
Stochastic Processes With Applications	NB4012	3	homework, written exam	X	X	X		X			X				
Seminars	NB5015	2	reports										X	X	
Project Development Part 1	NB4510	3	report, presentation	X			X	X	X				X	X	X
Project Development Part 2**	NB4520	7	report, presentation	X				X	X	X				X	

\*Students may take either NB4070 or AP3163 to meet this requirement. They may choose to take the other as an elective. If they take NB4070 and AP3163, then AP3163 counts as an elective.

\*\*Students must have completed NB4510 Project Development Part 1 before NB4520 Project Development Part 2. Or receive permission of the teacher.

## Article 1.2 Obligatory courses of the second year

### 1.2.a Master End Project

Course	Code	EC	Assessment method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Master End Project Nanobiology	NB5942	42	report, presentation, oral exam	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### 1.2.b Broadening Research Project

Students select one research project from the options listed. Only one will be included in their degree audit. Details about the procedures for these are in the Study Guide. Options which are worth 15 EC, require students to complete an additional 3 EC of elective credits for their programme.

Course	Code	EC	Assessment method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Internship	NB4060	18	report					X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Academic Research Project	NB4065	18	report					X	X		X	X	X	X	X
iGem	LM3962	15	report, presentation					X	X					X	X
System Engineering Company Project*	AP3841	15*	presentation, participation, report		X	X								X	X
Technology Venture Development	TPM423	15	Presentation, report		X	X								X	X
Joint Interdisciplinary Project	TUD4040	15	presentation, participation, report		X	X								X	X

\* AP3841 System Engineering Company Projects requires completion of AP3832 Systems Engineering for Physicists in Q4 of the previous year.

## Article 1.3 Elective courses

In addition to the obligatory courses in the first and second year, students must earn at least 22 EC of elective courses.

Article 1.3.a contains a list of the electives currently offered by the Nanobiology MSc programme. Article 1.3.b. contains a list of electives from other programmes currently approved by the Board of Examiners for inclusion in the Nanobiology Master's programme. Students may request to include electives to their degree audit which are not on the approved list. Students must submit this request to the Board of Examiners before beginning the course(s).

Students may take one elective (no more than 6 EC) that is not related to Nanobiology content. It may be taken at any university but must be approved by the Board of Examiners to ensure appropriate level of study.

Article 1.3.a Nanobiology Programme Electives

Electives within the Nanobiology programme.

Course	Code	EC	Assessment method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Biological Networks: a data driven approach to discovery and understanding	NB4120	3	written exam	X	X	X		X			X		X	X	X
Engineering of Living Systems	NB4160	3	written reports	X		X		X	X				X	X	
Geometry of Physics	NB4110	6	participation, presentation	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X
Nuclear Architecture	NB4100	3	discussion, written exam	X				X	X					X	
Protein Quality Control Mechanisms	NB4080	3	homework, written exam	X		X	X		X					X	
Stem Cells	NB4090	3	presentation, written exam				X	X	X					X	X
Molecular Virology & Immunology	NB4166	3	poster presentation, written exam				X	X	X					X	
AI and Machine Learning for Biomedical Science	NB4170	3	Project, written exam		X	X	X							X	
Independent Research*	NB5910	*	written												

\*Starting an independent project must be discussed with the Nanobiology program and approved by the programme director prior to beginning the project. The program may begin a project and open registration to any students at any time.

Article 1.3.b Currently BoE approved electives from other programmes

The following electives from other programmes are approved for inclusion in the Nanobiology programme. They are created by other programmes and are not guaranteed to be taught in any given year. Students should check the Study Guide for availability and prerequisites when planning to include them.

Course code	Course name	EC
AP3021	Advanced Statistical Mechanics	6
AP3132	Advanced Digital Image Processing	6
AP3163	Physics of Biological Systems <sup>1</sup>	6
AP3232	Medical Imaging Signals and Systems	6
AP3371	Radiological Health Physics	6
AP3582	Medical Physics Of Photon And Proton Therapy	6
AP3751	Artificial Intelligence for Physicists	3
AP3832	Systems Engineering for Physicists	5
CH3153	Molecular Transport Phenomena	4
CS4176	Algorithms for Network-Based Bioinformatics	5
CS4195	Modelling and Data Analysis in Complex Networks	5
CS4255	Algorithms for Sequence-Based Bioinformatics	5
CS4329	Recent Topics in Bioinformatics	5
EE4740	Data Compression: Entropy and Sparsity Perspectives	5

<sup>1</sup> This course is a required course unless a student also takes NB4070 Soft Matter, in which case AP3163 Physics of Biological Systems will count as an elective.

Course code	Course name	EC
IN4049TU	Introduction to High Performance Computing	6
LM3432	Analysis Of Metabolic Networks	6
LM3561	Ethical, Legal And Social Issues In Biotechnology	3
LM3581NB	Metabolic Systems Biology	3
LM3611	Microbial Community Engineering	6
LM3701	Advanced Enzymology	6
ME46072	Nonlinear Dynamics	4
ME46125	Micro and Nanofabrication for Cell Biology and Tissue Engineering	4
SEN124A	Design for Networked Systems	5
TPM305A	Writing a Master's Thesis in English	2
TW3730TU	Numerical Methods for Differential Equations	6
WI4011-17	Computational Fluid Dynamics	6
WI4014TU	Numerical Analysis	6
WI4019-SP	Non-Linear Differential Equations	6
WI4201	Scientific Computing	6
WI4204	Advanced Modeling	6
WI4205	Applied Finite Elements	6
WI4212	Advanced Numerical Methods	6
WI4260TU	Scientific Programming for Engineers	3
WI4430	Martingales, Brownian Motion, And Stochastic Processes	6
WI4660	Dynamical Systems and Chaos	6
WM0201TU-Eng	Technical Writing	2
WM0320TU	Ethics and Engineering	3
WM-ITAV-4010	Scientific Writing	2
MM-BOD	EUR- Biology of Disease (at Erasmus MC)	3

## Section 3 Examinations

### Article 2 The form of examinations and methods of assessment

The form of the exams and the assessment strategy is described for each course in the studyguide: <https://www.studiegids.tudelft.nl/>

Examiners may specify different exam formats for the resits, these are also listed in the studyguide.

Attendance requirements are specified for each course in the studyguide or on Brightspace at the start of the course.

Rules on the composition of the final course grade can be found in the Master's programmes "Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners."

### Article 3 Schedule of the exams

General timing for exams is included in each course's information in the study guide. Retake examinations are planned generally in the next exam week after the regular exam. Precise details of date and time are available in the TU Delft TimeTable.

### Article 4 Master's End Project

Students may start their Master's End Project if they:

- have been admitted to the Nanobiology Master's programme,

- have completed bridging/homologation requirements and any obligations from their bachelor programme,
- have completed at least 35 EC of Nanobiology MSc courses,
- have completed NB4510 and NB4520 Project Development Part 1 and Part 2.
- have submitted and had approved the appropriate application form to the Thesis office.

Students are responsible for finding a supervisor for their project. Supervisors must be an approved Nanobiology programme supervisor, the list of approved supervisors is called the “Green List” and is available from the TNW Thesis Office Brightspace page. The Green List designates the research groups as specified in article 21a and b of the Rules and Guidelines of the Board of Examiners.

For Broadening research projects which require a GreenList supervisor be involved, students may not have the same GreenList supervisor for their MEP and Broadening research project. The date and time of the Master’s End Project presentation is determined by the end project supervisor, in consultation with the student. In exceptional cases, the programme director may be involved in setting the date and time.

Further rules governing the Master's End Projects can be found in the Rules and Guidelines of the Board of Examiners and on the TNW Thesis office BrightSpace page.

#### **Article 4.1 Projects outside of Nanobiology Programme**

Students must complete at least one of their research projects (MEP or Broadening) with a research group within the Nanobiology programme as designated by the GreenList. Master End Projects outside of Nanobiology must be approved in advance by the Board of Examiners.

#### **Article 4.1a Definition: external vs internal Broadening Research Projects**

For the purpose of Article 4.1, the following definitions apply:

NB4060 Internship is always considered an external project, and requires a GreenList internal supervisor as evaluator.

NB4065 Academic Research Project can be either internal or external depending on the research group the student does the project with, and always requires a GreenList supervisor as first or second evaluator.

LM3962 iGem is considered an internal project, it does not require a GreenList supervisor.

AP3841 Physics Design Project is always an external project. It does not require a GreenList supervisor.

TPM 423 Technology Venture Development is always an external project. It does not require a GreenList supervisor.

TUD4040 Joint Interdisciplinary Project is always an external project. It does not require a GreenList supervisor.

For Broadening research projects which require a GreenList supervisor be involved, students may not have the same GreenList supervisor for their MEP and Broadening research project.

## **Section 4 Special Programmes**

### **Article 5 Bridging programmes**

At the time a student applies to join the Master’s program, a decision is made whether they need to complete some additional coursework (homologation) to qualify to begin the programme. If their prior degree is from a Dutch university or they are a permanent resident of the Netherlands they may be able to complete these courses in a TU Delft Nanobiology bridging programme. The Nanobiology bridging programme is done in English and requires the same proof of English as the Nanobiology Master’s programme. The set of courses in a bridging programme is determined individually for each student. The bridging programme may not consist of more than 60EC and students may take no more than two years to complete it. Up to 9 EC of a bridging programme may be completed after students begin the Master’s programme, this must be agreed to with the programme coordinator. All others must be completed before



enrolling in the Master's programme. Successful completion of the bridging programme qualifies the student for admission into the Master's programme.

#### Article 5.1 Required bridging/homologation courses for TU Delft BSc Life Science and Technology

Course	Code	EC
Nanotechnology	NB2081	2
Physics 2	NB2141	3
Computational Science	NB2181	3
Differential Equations	NB2191	3
Electronic Instrumentation	NB2214	6
Statistical Physics	NB2220	3
Signals and Systems	TN2545	6
Imaging 1	NB2330	5
Imaging 2	NB2240	3.5

Students may wish to include Physics 1b NB1143, Analysis 3 NB1210 and Linear Algebra NB1230, or they can do these as self study.

#### Article 5.2 Required bridging/homologation courses for TU Delft BSc Applied Physics

Course	Code	EC
Biochemistry	NB1012	3
Molecular Biology	NB1016	3
Genetics	NB1022	4
Chemistry 1	NB1102	3
Chemistry 2	NB1110	3
Labcourse A1 or B1	NB1150 or NB1163	3
Evolutionary & Developmental Biology	NB2032	6
Physical Biology of the Cell 2	NB2071	3
Bioinformatics	NB2161	4.5
Biomolecular Structure & Function	NB2230	3
Imaging 1	NB2330	5
Imaging 2	NB2240	3.5

Students will be placed into either NB1150 or NB1163 as there is room.

#### Article 6 Honour's programme (HPM)

The Honour's Programme consists of at least 20 EC in addition to the Master's programme of 120 EC. It is an individualized programme that contains a 5 EC course for all TU Delft honours programme students plus a coherent package of at least 15 EC of challenging course modules or projects composed by the student.

Students receive an honour's certificate with their diploma if they have completed their MSc Programme and completed all HPM courses within two years of completing the first MSc exam. More details are available in the Study Guide.

<b>Collective Part</b>	<b>Choose one</b>	<b>EC</b>
UD2010	Technological expertise in public debate	5
UD2012	Business Leadership for Engineers	5
IFHPM0010	Materials in a Sustainable Society	5
IFHPM0020	Leadership Skills for Engineers	5
UD2014	Winterschool Alta Scuola Politecnica Innovation Districts	5
<b>Individual Part</b>	<b>Choose one</b>	<b>15 EC</b>
<b>Company Oriented HPM</b>		
AS1011HPM	Applied Sciences Company Project,	12
AS1021HPM	Applied Science Honours Classes	3
<b>Research Oriented HPM</b>		
AS1031HPM	Applied Sciences Research Project	9-15
	Project related courses	0-6
<b>4TU Responsible Sustainability Challenge</b>		
IF3ME40000	4TU Responsible Sustainability Challenge	15
<b>Courses</b>		
	Coherent collection of challenging courses	15

### Article 7 Education credential option

Students are allowed to substitute 30 EC of the Nanobiology MSc programme with the Education Credential option. They substitute 12 EC electives and 18 EC Broadening research project with the 30 EC Education verdieping programme.

Depending on their coursework and discussion with the SEC programme coordinator they may be able to receive Dutch secondary school teaching credentials in physics, math or chemistry.

#### 7.1 Prerequisites:

- Admission to the Nanobiology MSc
- Fluency in Dutch, as set by the SEC programme requirements
- Completion of the Education Minor
- Completion of any required pre-master courses in physics, math or chemistry.

*Students wishing to do this option, must discuss it with the academic counsellor of SEC and have the approval of the programme coordinator of SEC and the Nanobiology Board of examiners.*

#### 7.2 Option Composition:

Education Verdieping (Ed2) 30 EC		EC
SL3012	Personal Professional Development	3
SL4301	Implementatie van Onderwijs	9
SL4205-NK,SL4205-WK*	Professionele Leergemeenschap Verdieping	1
SL4320/SL4330/SL4350*	Vakdidactiek Verdieping *Vak	5
SL4325/SL4335/SL4355*	Schoolpracticum Verdieping *Vak	12

\*Vak can be Physics, Chemistry or Mathematics and will use the appropriate course codes.

### Article 8. Study Abroad (Exchange)

This programme consists of one semester of studies at a foreign university. A package of 30 EC of courses must be identified by the student. The International Office and the Programme Management are responsible for admission taking into account the average grade, feasibility of study plan, availability of exchange placements and prevention of study delay. After admission, the contents of the Study Abroad course package must be approved by the board of examiners. The intended course package:

- Can include a research project of 15-20 EC which can be used (with Board of Examiner approval) to fulfil the broadening research project requirement.
- Project courses over 10 EC cannot be used as electives.

## Section 5 Additional Rules

### Article 9 Transition rules

Students from prior cohorts can use any of the currently approved elective list as an elective. The elective list is updated each year with new courses.

#### 9.1 Per academic year 2016-2017

Elective courses are not divided in different categories. Student can choose any elective from the proposed list in article 3. In retrospect this also counts for the students from cohort 2015.

#### 9.2 Per academic year 2019-2020:

- Soft Matter (NB4070) will be a mandatory course for all students starting the Nanobiology Master's programme in September 2019 and later.
- The Seminars course (NB5010) has become a 2 EC course (NB5015) for all students starting the Nanobiology Master's programme in September 2019 and later. Students from the 2019 cohort will need to complete this requirement for their programme and an additional 2 EC of electives (22 total). Students from 2018 or earlier, can receive 4 EC under the old course code of NB5010.

#### 9.3 Per academic year 2020-2021:

- NB4010 has been divided into two courses NB4011 and NB4012. Completion of both of these will fulfil requirements for NB4010 for prior cohorts.
- Students beginning in 2020 and later may select between AP3162 and NB4070 to fulfil the Physics requirement. Students from the 2019 cohort may request this option from the Board of Examiners.

#### 9.4 Per academic year 2021-2022:

- Change to the language of how many credits are required for starting MEPs. The new rule is a clarification and simplification of the calculation of the previous requirement. If exceptions are needed, they can be discussed with the programme coordinator.

#### 9.5 Per academic year 2022-2023:

- Students doing a bridging programme which includes Evolution may substitute the new course NB2230 Biomolecular Structures and Function.
- Two paths to completing the 54 EC of MEP and surrounding courses. Students starting their MEP prior to Q3 2022-2023 will use the old path. Students starting their MEP in Q3 of 2022-2023 or later will need to do the new path. Students who have completed NB5020, NB5030, and NB5040 will use NB5900 for their MEP course code. NB5015 Seminars is the same in both paths.

Old		New	
Course	EC	Course	EC
NB5015 Seminars	2	NB5015 Seminars	2
NB5020 Literature Review	4	NB4510 Project Development Part 1 NB4520 Project Development Part 2	3 7
NB5030 Project Proposal Writing	2		
NB5040 Research Presentation	2		
NB5900 Master End Project Nanobiology	44	NB5942 Master End Project Nanobiology	42

- Students who wish to start their MEP in Q3 or Q4 of 2022-2023 will be allowed to begin their MEP before completing NB4510 and NB4520 with permission from the Academic Counsellor. They will need to complete NB4510 and NB4520 before they complete their MEP.
- Students from prior cohorts may also do an independent research project as an elective. Projects must be approved by the Programme director prior to beginning.

### **9.6 Per academic year 2023-2024**

The education credential option is available to students from prior cohorts. They will need to do 12 fewer elective credits than their current programme.

AP3162 Physics of Biological Systems: Mathematical Modelling in Systems Biology has changed its course code and name to AP3163 Physics of Biological Systems. Students from prior cohorts can take it to fulfil the requirement of AP3162. Students may not take both.

LM3691 iGem has changed its course code and credits to LM3692 iGem. Either can be included in the exam programme.

NB4165 Molecular Virology & Immunology has received a new course code, NB4166. It is otherwise exactly the same as before.

### **9.7 Per academic year 2024-2025**

Students from prior cohorts may use the updated list of electives and the updated list of broadening research projects from this year.

### **Article 10 Degree supplement**

An overview of the study modules taken is given on the certificate. The degree supplement is issued in English.

### **Article 11 Date of commencement**

These regulations will come into effect on 1 September 2024.