

Quality concept Master Ecology

Program objectives

The overriding objective pursued by the master's program Ecology is to provide students with an education that qualifies its graduates for careers in research and fields related to ecology. The study program is interdisciplinary and research oriented. It develops students' knowledge over a broad spectrum of foundational knowledge of ecology to subsequently move on to specialization in different subsections of the discipline.

The master's program bases on research-oriented studies that provide training in modern concepts of ecology, the planning and statistical evaluation of ecological investigations, and general scientific skills that reach beyond usual standards. This is supplemented by diverse methodology approaches for experiments as well as field and laboratory observations.

Furthermore, the study program focuses on developing students' abilities to apply and implement their acquired ecological knowledge in future career fields. Intensive networking between subsections of the discipline take account of the multifaceted nature of the research field, while still allowing individual profile tracks with different specializations in, for example, vegetation ecology, behavioral ecology, soil ecology, population ecology or environmental risk research. In so doing, the program promotes excellence in the area of ecology research.

Evaluation concept

Since the Master Ecology program was introduced, course questionnaires are the standard instrument for controlling the quality of teaching. They are carried out electronically and in anonymized form via the course management system Stud.IP. At the end of each course, the study program coordinator organizes a questionnaire and notifies students by email to take part. If need be, this is repeated until such time as a sufficient response quota has been achieved. As a rule, evaluation is implemented by means of a standard questionnaire that can be supplemented or adapted to fit the module in question. Other tailored means may be applied to fit the special situation of certain courses. The results of such student surveys are available to members of the teaching staff via the Stud.IP system. Currently, no general attempt is made to communicate results to the students, although members of teaching faculty are free to do so.

At the end of semester, the questionnaire results are collected and made available to the master's examination board and the QM Commission for perusal and possible action.