The Rector’s Office of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO)

having regard to the Intercantonal Convention on the HES-SO, of 26 May 2011,

having regard to the HES-SO Master’s admission regulations, of 11 December 2014,

having regard to the Regulations relating to first-cycle and second-cycle degrees
(Bachelor’s and Master’s) at the HES-SO, of 15 July 2014,

determines:

I. General provisions

Object

Art. 1 These regulations define the prescriptive provisions relating to the
Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences (hereinafter referred to as HES-
SO MLS).

Background to the degree programme

Art. 2 ¹ HES-SO MLS is a University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Master’s degree
programme which follows on from the UAS Bachelor of Science degree
programmes in the Chemistry and Life Sciences field (including agriculture and
forestry).

²Offered in collaboration with the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) at
Wädenswil, part of the Zürcher Fachhochschule (ZFH), the School of Agricultural,
Forest and Food sciences (HAFL) at Zollikofen, part of the Bern University of
Applied Sciences (BFH), and the School of Life Sciences at Muttenz, part of the
University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW), this
degree programme is worth a total of 90 ECTS credits, including the joint part of
the programme.

³The joint part of the programme is coordinated at national level and the teaching
of the individual specialisation subjects of the course is coordinated by the
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of the HES-SO (hereinafter referred to as
E&A Faculty).

Majors

Art. 3 HES-SO MLS comprises the following majors:
a) Applied Biosciences;
b) Chemical Development and Production;
c) Natural Resource Management;
d) Viticulture and Enology.
Art. 4  The course is built up around a skills base specified for the degree programme, which forms the basis for the framework study plan of the programme.

Art. 5  HES-SO MLS is managed by a degree programme Steering Committee whose composition, organisation and responsibilities are fixed by the organisational regulations of the Engineering and Architecture Faculty of the HES-SO.

HES-SO MLS is attached to the HES-SO Master unit for the purposes of academic administration and financial management.

Art. 6  Withdrawn

Art. 7  Withdrawn

II. Admission and registration

Art. 8  Candidates should submit requests for admission to the HES-SO MLS degree programme to the HES-SO Master unit.

An application portfolio will not be processed without proof of payment of the registration fee.

Art. 9  The E&A Faculty Admissions Committee ensures the coherence of the admissions regulations and procedures.
Ordinary admission

Art. 10 1Candidates are subject to a procedure of admission by portfolio.

2Candidates must meet the following conditions in order to qualify to submit an application portfolio:

   a) UAS Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Chemistry, Environmental Engineering, Enology or Life Technologies, directly related to the chosen HES-SO MLS major;

   b) UAS Bachelor of Science in life sciences in a programme other than a feeder programme, with at least 6 months’ professional experience within the area of expertise covered by the chosen major;

   c) university or Federal Institute of Technology Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent Swiss or foreign qualification in the field of life sciences with at least 6 months’ professional experience within the area of expertise covered by the chosen major.

3In the case of part-time studies, the professional experience may be undertaken in parallel with the studies, in the form of a corequisite.

4The decision on admission is made by the Admissions Committee in line with advice from the Head of the degree programme. The Admissions Committee makes its assessment based on the quality of the portfolios submitted, considering the nature of the candidates’ academic education, their professional experience and their academic career to date.

5For students in the final year of a Bachelor’s degree, admission is not confirmed until the Bachelor’s degree has been successfully obtained.

Auditors

Art. 11 1The status of auditors is defined in the Regulations relating to first-cycle and second-cycle degrees (Bachelor’s and Master’s) at the HES-SO.

2Requests should be addressed to the Head of the degree programme, with a copy to the academic administration office of the HES-SO Master unit.

Languages

Art. 12 Candidates must have Level B2 linguistic skills in English, in accordance with the Council of Europe reference document for the European Language Portfolio.

Obtaining equivalence of credits

Art. 13 1Requests for assessment of equivalence of credits should be submitted at the same time as the application file; they will be forwarded to the Admissions Committee.

2Of the 90 ECTS credits required to obtain the HES-SO MLS, the Admissions Committee may accept a maximum of 30 ECTS credits obtained from other Master’s level courses, provided they demonstrate attainment of the learning outcomes that equate to the objectives of the MLS course. The Admissions Committee receives preliminary advice from the Head of the degree programme.

3The programme from which these credits are obtained must have been followed within the preceding three years.

4The Master’s thesis may not form the basis of a request for equivalence.
Registration and fees

Art. 14 Once admitted, candidates are registered at the HES-SO. They must pay the fees and contributions to the study costs due, as specified by the HES-SO.

2 Registration becomes effective on the first day of the academic year, provided the student has paid the study fees and all the documents connected with the admission have been completed correctly. The student is then entitled to a student card with a validity period of one academic year.

III. Organisation of the degree programme

Duration of studies and ECTS credits

Art. 15 1 The course is available on either a full-time or part-time basis.

2 In order to obtain the HES-SO MLS degree, students must acquire a total of 90 ECTS credits as specified in the study plan.

3 For full-time students, the duration of the programme is generally 3 semesters.

4 For part-time students, the duration of the programme is generally 5 semesters. During the last semester, students will usually undertake their Master's thesis on a full-time basis.

5 The maximum duration of the programme is 6 semesters. Exceeding this period will lead to permanent exclusion from the programme.

6 If a student submits a request in writing, and if the reasons are justified and acceptable, the Head of the degree programme may as an exception grant an extension to the maximum duration of the programme.

Leave

Art. 16 1 Students who wish for a temporary break in their studies may apply to the Head of the degree programme for leave.

2 Leave of absence may be granted for a period of one semester or one year.

3 The grant of leave of absence may be renewed. The total cumulative length of a leave period may not exceed two years.

Organisation of studies

Art. 17 1 The programme is organised in modules. Each module is described in a file specifying in particular the learning outcomes, the number of ECTS credits, the number of supervised periods, the forms of teaching and the evaluation methods.

2 The study plan specifies the organisation of the studies and the number of ECTS credits that should be obtained in the various module categories.

Choice of modules

Art. 18 1 Students are involved in the choice of the modules.

2 Each student is supervised by the head of the relevant major when choosing their course programme and during their studies. The choice of course programme is validated by the head of the degree programme.

Language of teaching

Art. 19 The language of teaching is English.
Teaching location

Art. 20 1Teaching is carried out in Olten, Berne and/or Fribourg, in one of the HES-SO E&A schools or in one of the partner UASs.

2The Master’s thesis is undertaken in the chosen major. With the agreement of the head of the degree programme, the Master’s thesis may also be undertaken in a partner enterprise or a partner university.

IV. Evaluation, graduation, certification, Master’s thesis

Evaluation and grades

Art. 21 1Each module is evaluated in accordance with the specifications set out in the descriptions of the modules.

2Examination sessions are organised at the end of each module or at the end of the semester. Registration for a module automatically includes registration for the evaluations of that module.

3A remedial (reassessment) session is organised under the same terms and conditions for those students who fail, but not definitively, or who have been absent with just cause from the aforementioned evaluations.

4The intermediate assessments carry a grade ranging, in fractions of 1/2, from 1.0 to 6.0; the minimum grade required to pass is 4.0 and the top grade is 6.0.

5The final grade for the module is the weighted average of the module evaluations in accordance with the module description, calculated in percentage points and rounded to the nearest half grade.

Reassessment

Art. 22 1Students who obtain a grade of 3.5 may undergo a reassessment, provided the module description provides for it. The module description specifies the terms and conditions.

2In the case of a reassessment, students may obtain a maximum grade of 4.0. In the case of failure on reassessment, the final grade on reassessment is 3.5.

Repetition

Art. 23 1Students who do not obtain the credits for a compulsory module must repeat the module as soon as possible.

2Each module may only be repeated once. If a module is not completed it is deemed to have been failed.

3If a module is failed on repetition, students will have definitively failed that module.

4If the module failed on repetition is not a compulsory module, students may replace the failed module with another, provided the maximum number of credits they can follow, as set out in Article 28, paragraph 1 (c), is not exceeded.
Regulations for the Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences – version of 10 July 2018

Registration, withdrawal and absence

Art. 24  

1. Students are registered or register for the modules available to them in accordance with the course programme. No modification is possible after a period of two weeks, counting from the start of the semester. Any modification after this period will be deemed a failure of the modules in question.

2. All students registered for a module are obliged to attend the evaluations for the said module.

3. Students who do not attend, as stipulated, the evaluations of the modules for which they have registered in accordance with the study plan shall be awarded grade 1.0, unless a case of force majeure, as provided in paragraph 4, is accepted. This is without prejudice to the application of the provisions of Article 22.

4. Students who rely on a case of force majeure to justify their absence must submit a written request, accompanied by the relevant proof, to the Head of the degree programme within three days of commencement of the case of force majeure. The Head of the degree programme will accept or reject the request in writing with a copy sent to the Dean of the E&A Faculty. If the request is accepted, the results of any assessments already carried out will remain valid.

Art. 25  Withdrawal

Master's thesis

Art. 26  

1. The Master’s thesis is supervised by a UAS Professor who is approved by the Steering Committee of the degree programme.

2. Students may undertake their Master’s thesis outside the university responsible for their studies. They remain subject to the regulations of the university at which they are registered. They must also adhere to the rules in force at the host institution or enterprise.

3. The Master’s thesis may be the subject of a HES-SO agreement on confidentiality and assignment of intellectual property.

4. The conditions of evaluation and of extending studies in the case of reassessment are set out in the module description. The time schedule and the date of the defence are set out in an ad hoc document.

5. To be authorised to start on the Master’s thesis, students must have obtained at least 54 ECTS credits, and must have validated their X01 and X02 modules, as well as all of the corequisites.

6. Students produce a report and present their results at an oral defence.

7. To be authorised to defend their Master’s thesis, students must have acquired all the ECTS credits, except those for the Master’s thesis, set out in their study plan.

8. The grade is awarded after the defence.

9. Students who fail their Master’s thesis must, if repeating it, change the subject matter and may not be supervised for the repetition by the same UAS Professor.

Cheating

Art. 27  Any cheating or attempt to cheat, including plagiarism, will lead to the perpetrator being awarded grade 1.0 for the module or project in question. This is without prejudice to the right to impose additional disciplinary measures.
Exclusion

Art. 28 ¹ Students will be considered definitively to have failed, and will be excluded from the HES-SO MLS degree programme if they:

a) have not obtained the 90 ECTS credits specified in the course programme within the maximum period described in Article 15, paragraph 5;

b) have failed, after repetition, in a module defined as compulsory in the programme of study;

c) have followed more than 105 ECTS credits, except those for the Master’s thesis, without completing their programme;

d) have not obtained, after repetition, the minimum number of credits in one of the categories of module specified by the course programme.

² The decision to exclude a student is taken by the Head of the degree programme.

Award of the diploma

Art. 29 ¹ Students who have obtained the 90 ECTS credits required for the HES-SO MLS programme will be awarded the diploma Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences, major in [Title of major].

² The diploma is signed by the Rector of the HES-SO and by the Dean of the E&A Faculty.

V. Disciplinary aspects

Duties and penalties

Art. 30 ¹ Students must undertake to respect the rules of the schools in which their teaching takes place, or, if appropriate, the enterprises in which they undertake their Master’s thesis. They must comply with the regulations and procedures that affect them.

² In the case of indiscipline, irregular attendance or abuse, students are liable to penalties, which may extend to exclusion.

³ Depending on the seriousness of the offence, the following penalties may be imposed:

   a) A warning;
   b) Suspension;
   c) Exclusion from the degree programme.

⁴ Before a penalty is announced, students have the right to be heard.

VI. Final provisions

Complaints and appeals

Art. 31 Candidates for HES-SO Master's programmes and students registered with the HES-SO (HES-SO Master unit) have access to complaints and appeals procedures as set out in the rules relating to the HES-SO Master's complaints and appeals procedure.
Art. 32 ¹These regulations came into force on 14 September 2015.
²They supersede the Regulations for the Master of Science HES-SO in Life Sciences, of 15 July 2014.

These regulations were adopted by decision “R 2015/26/72” of the Rector’s Office of the HES-SO at the meeting of 14 July 2015.

These regulations were formally corrected¹ on 13 September 2016.

These regulations were modified by decision “R 2018/25/79” of the Rector’s Office of the HES-SO at the meeting of 10 July 2018. The partial revision came into force on 17 September 2018.

¹Art. 3 (4): change of name of the major