



ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS EXPERTISE AND MANAGEMENT

1. The mission of the program of study

The mission of the Master's program Ecological systems expertise and management is to train highly qualified specialists and to conduct scientific research and continuous education in the field of environmental science.

2. The objectives of the program of study

- Ensuring an optimal study framework for graduates of the first cycle of studies, allowing for in-depth learning and the bilateral transfer of information between the academic environment and practical applications.
- Facilitating the acquisition of specialized knowledge within an operational system that ensures professional, cognitive, and value-based affective competencies.
- Deepening specialized knowledge and developing an interdisciplinary, integrative perspective to prepare competent specialists for solving environmental science-related issues.
- Continuously adapting this educational format to the real needs of society by implementing a flexible curriculum aligned with modern requirements for continuous professional training.

3. Premises and Deliverables of the program of study

The program has been operational since 2004 and has been accredited by ARACIS since 2008, according to the ARACIS Council Approval of 26.11.2008. The Master's program in **Ecological systems expertise and management** within the field of **Environmental Science** is part of the professional master's programs category and continues the **Ecology and Environmental Protection** bachelor's program, offering graduates of the first cycle of university studies the opportunity to complete their studies with the second cycle in the same field. The competencies developed by the graduates of the **Ecological systems expertise and management** Master's program qualify them for the following occupations, as per the diploma supplement and registration in the National Register of Higher Education Qualifications (RNCIS): Expert Ecologist 213301; Specialist Ecologist Inspector 213302; Research Assistant in Ecology and Environmental Protection 213147.

4. Teaching activity

Courses	324 hours
Seminars	42 hours
Laboratories	300 hours
Projects	90 hours

5. Student evaluation

Number of evaluation/years of study				
Type of evaluation	First year	Second year	TOTAL	%
Exames	7	6	13	72.22
Colloquium	1	4	5	27.78
Other forms	-	-	-	-

6. Enrollment Methods (Access Requirements). Conditions for enrollment in the following academic year. Conditions for advancing to the next academic year.

The selection methods for candidates in the admission contest are based exclusively on the academic competencies of the candidate. For admission to the Master's program in **Ecological**

systems expertise and management, an oral exam is held, graded as pass/fail. The ranking of candidates who pass the oral exam is entirely based on the grade obtained in the bachelor's exam. The admission regulations outline the admission criteria as well as the criteria for distinguishing candidates with the same grade in the bachelor's exam.

Enrollment in the following year is conditional upon meeting the promotion requirements outlined in the Regulations regarding the professional activity of students.

7. Equal Opportunities

The recruitment, admission, transfer, and mobility of students to the Applied Biology program are carried out transparently, in accordance with the current legislation and procedures approved by the ULBS Senate. Admission is based exclusively on the academic competencies of the candidate and does not apply any discriminatory criteria.

8. Sustainability of the program of study

From an ecological sustainability perspective, the **Ecological systems expertise and management** study program promotes the efficient use of resources through the following measures: organizing study formations to minimize energy consumption associated with teaching activities while ensuring effective professional training; encouraging the use of electronic formats for assignments, reports, or projects; and utilizing electronic support materials to replace biological materials (e.g., plant or animal species). Additionally, the waste generated from practical activities is managed according to the regulations in force and the waste collection system adopted by ULBS.

The need for specialists in environmental sciences has increased in recent decades as new global challenges emerge, and new cutting-edge fields are developed. Graduates of programs in Environmental Science can occupy various positions as ecologists in environmental protection agencies, environmental guard services, administrations of protected natural areas, public administrations, and various companies, among others.

Professional training through the **Ecological systems expertise and management** Master's program thus addresses the needs of society, contributing to the sustainability of social and economic development.

9. Ensuring the Flexibility of Training. Conditions

The flexibility of the study program is ensured through elective courses and optional courses.

The elective courses are offered in a total of 3 packages, one for each of semesters 2, 3, and 4, comprising a total of 3 courses to be chosen from the 7 proposed. In semesters two and three, students will choose one course from each of the two courses in each package. In semester four, a package with three courses is offered, and students will select one course.

Additionally, the curriculum includes four optional courses.

10. Methodology for Competence Evaluation upon Completion of Studies

The conditions for taking the graduation exam are outlined in the applicable Methodology for Completion of Studies, approved by the University Senate. According to this methodology,

eligibility for the graduation exam is conditioned by the successful completion of all courses specified in the curriculum.

GRADUATION EXAM

1. *Period for preparing the bachelor's thesis/dissertation: semesters 3-4.*
2. *Period for registration for the graduation exam: during the month of June.*
3. *Period for taking the bachelor's thesis/dissertation exam: week 40 of the second year.*
4. *Number of credits for taking the dissertation exam: 10 credits.*

11. Preparation for Competing for a Teaching Position

To compete for a teaching position (in middle school, high school, or higher education in the field of the bachelor's degree), the graduate must hold a Certificate of Completion for a psycho-pedagogical training program (which allows the exercise of the teaching profession), coordinated by the Department for Teacher Training at ULBS (or another university).

The psycho-pedagogical training for obtaining the Certificate of Completion is completed by attending two modules:

- (1) **Module I (30 credits)** - which takes place additionally, in parallel with the bachelor's studies or in a post-university format. Upon completion, the Certificate of Completion (Module I) is awarded.
- (2) **Module II (30 credits)** - which takes place after completing the bachelor's studies, in parallel with the master's studies or in a post-university format. It is completed with a Certificate of Completion (advanced level).