

Zurich University  
of Applied Sciences

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**School of Applied  
Psychology**

Psychological Institute

**Master's Degree in  
Applied Psychology**

# Master's Degree in Applied Psychology

Most students completing the Bachelor's degree in applied psychology go on to enrol in the Master's degree program. The Master's degree programme qualifies graduates to begin a career as a psychologist. Master's students deepen and expand their professional and methodological skills and competencies and specialize in work and organizational psychology, developmental and personality psychology, or clinical psychology. Upon completion of the programme, graduates are awarded a Master of Science in Applied Psychology (MSc), are entitled to use the professional title "psychologist" and are recognized nationally and in Europe.

The science-based Master's degree programme fosters highly competent psychologists with broad thematic interests and strong professional competencies. Individual specialization in work and organizational psychology, developmental and personality psychology, or clinical psychology sharpens the generalist profile. Also, with the additional qualification in applied psychology research, the degree programme enjoys high acceptance in the marketplace. Last but not least, professional success is largely based on well-developed self-competence and social skills, critical self-reflection and the ability to remain agile in social systems and organizations.

Graduates of the ZHAW Master's programme work as psychologists in all fields in the professional world. And with the dynamic social development, these include more and more new fields. For example, graduates work in company- and work-related psychology jobs such as in personnel selection and development or organization development, or in psychosocial jobs in personal development such as vocational and career guidance, couple counselling or school psychology. The MSc also qualifies graduates to work in clinical child, adolescent and adult psychology.

## A degree programme with a distinct profile

The Master's degree programme teaches indepth foundations of scientific psychology. The Master's course of study extends the generalist profile through individual specialization in work and organizational psychology, developmental and personality psychology, or clinical psychology. The programme is more action- and application-oriented than programmes at universities, and it is especially appropriate for students who wish to prepare for concrete professional fields of work.

## Start a career as a psychologist

The Swiss Federal Law on Psychology Professions requires completion of the Master's degree for independent practice as a psychologist. Only holders of the Master's degree are entitled to use the professional title "psychologist". Bachelor's and Master's degrees awarded by universities of applied sciences and by universities are equivalent. Completion of a qualified Master's degree also offers the possibility to earn a doctoral degree.



**“I appreciate the personal atmosphere between students and teaching staff in the applied psychology programme as well as the wide-ranging study contents in all of the specialization areas.”**

Jessica Güntert

Graduate of the Master's degree programme with a specialization in developmental and personality psychology



**“Starting work life solidly prepared and competent – the degree programme at the ZHAW made my start in clinical work possible.”**

Gian Paul Melcher

Graduate of the Master's degree programme with a specialization in clinical psychology

# Degree requirements for the MSc

## **Specialisation & Elective Module (36 ECTS)**

Work and organizational psychology, developmental and personality psychology, clinical psychology

## **Foundation subjects (6 ECTS)**

Topical lecture series 'Applied psychology'

## **Academic skills (33 ECTS)**

Master's thesis and scientific theories

## **Diagnostics and intervention (10 ECTS)**

e.g. distance counselling, integrative diagnostics, system diagnostics

## **Methods and statistics (20 ECTS)**

e.g. quantitative and qualitative methods, project work, test construction

## **Internship and workshop (15 ECTS)**

## Full-time or part-time

The Master's degree programme can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis. Either way, the student is required to have completed 120 ECTS credits. The typical schedule for full-time studies is 2 years, or 4 semesters. The schedule for part-time studies can be set individually.

### Modular structure

The Master's degree programme has a modular structure. Modules are study units on specific topics; modules consist of one or more courses. For an overview of the modules, see: [www.zhaw.ch/psychologie/master](http://www.zhaw.ch/psychologie/master).

In addition to the foundation subjects and methodology, Master's students choose one of the following three specializations:

- Work and organizational psychology
- Developmental and personality psychology
- Clinical psychology

Students are also required to complete further modules in foundation subjects, research methods, diagnostics, intervention, academic skills, experience and reflection (including an internship).

## Admission requirements

Applicants who have a Swiss Bachelor's degree in psychology with a grade of 5.00 or higher are not required to take part in the assessment procedure. The assessment is required for admission to the Master's degree programme for:

- All applicants with a Swiss Bachelor's degree in psychology with a grade below 5
- All applicants with a Bachelor's degree in psychology from a foreign country
- All applicants with a formally recognized degree in special education (Heilpädagogik or Sonderpädagogik)

The individual assessment of candidates for the degree programme has two parts. For application deadlines, see [www.zhaw.ch/psychologie/daten](http://www.zhaw.ch/psychologie/daten). Applicants passing the assessment are guaranteed a place in the next start of the programme or the start after next.



Photo: Hannes Thalmann

## Information events

Information events on the Master's degree programme are held regularly. For dates, see: [www.zhaw.ch/psychologie/daten](http://www.zhaw.ch/psychologie/daten)

## University campus

The university campus on the Toni site is a centre for education and research, art and culture with an international atmosphere. The extensive campus is located in the inspiring former industrial district of Zürich-West and provides a modern infrastructure for 5,000 students, teaching staff and employees. Close spatial proximity to the ZHAW School of Social Work and Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) provides the opportunity for interdisciplinary exchange.

## Information and contact

For more information on the Master's degree programme as well as dates, and costs, see: [www.zhaw.ch/psychologie/master](http://www.zhaw.ch/psychologie/master). For further information, you may also contact the Master of Science in Applied Psychology Office at [info.psychologie@zhaw.ch](mailto:info.psychologie@zhaw.ch) or +41 58 934 83 10.



**“It was easy to combine the Master’s programme in work and organizational psychology at the ZHAW and working in my job, and I benefited a great deal from the practical relevance of the lecture courses and the practical professional experience of the teaching staff. I was also impressed by the wide-ranging curriculum at the ZHAW.”**

Florian Manz  
Graduate of the Master's degree programme  
with a specialization in work and organizational  
psychology

# Applied Psychology

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## Master's degree programme in Applied Psychology UAS Zurich

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Accreditation Agency in Health  
and Social Sciences