Biology, Genetics, Tropical Biology and Zoology

improve it

Test it
Welcome to the School of Life Sciences. We invite inquisitive minds to join us and discover the science behind life.

Students at Nottingham are encouraged to investigate problems and find solutions to real-life issues affecting people, animals and the environment.

The School of Life Sciences is home to our biology, genetics, tropical biology and zoology courses. Our school is a combination of biologists and biomedical scientists, and we believe in both excellence in education and research-led teaching.

Our academics are experts in different areas of the life sciences and bring their research expertise to their teaching. In the latest (2014) Research Excellence Framework results, 95% of the school’s research was deemed to be of international quality.

We hope that you find the information about our courses helpful, and look forward to welcoming you in the future as you join our school.

Professor Ian Macdonald
Head of School

To find out where a degree in life sciences could take you, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences
Studying in the School of Life Sciences

These subjects will feed your curiosity about the living world around us and help you make ground-breaking discoveries towards understanding animal and plant diseases, obtaining or producing useful biological materials, or preserving our natural environment.

Study what you love

A wide-ranging collection of optional modules are available across the courses we offer, so you can tailor the course to your interests and career aspirations.

The unique Biological Photography and Imaging module is available for some courses, which combines science with the arts. You will learn photography skills as well as science communication.

Other popular modules include the field courses. For the Behavioural Ecology Field Course, students spend the Easter holiday in Portugal. You will work in small groups to study projects in animal behaviour, ecology and parasitology. There is also the Biodiversity Field Course which is based in the Peak District, where you will learn about the variety of animals and plants that inhabit the UK. Please note that there is an additional cost for field courses, but the school does subsidise this.

Flexible degrees

We have developed a common first year, so you have the option to transfer degree subjects at the end of year one if you feel a particular area of life sciences interests you more. You can also transfer from the BSc and MSci routes up until the third year, as long as you meet the academic attainment required (usually 55%).

At a glance

- Benefit from substantial laboratory experience from year one
- Contribute to real research during your final-year project, working within our research groups
- Pursue a variety of career paths after studying at a university that is highly regarded by employers

For more information about our courses, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences

Our courses

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<th>Degree title</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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BSc or MSci?

While the BSc degree lasts for three years, the MSci degree is a four-year course designed to provide appropriate training for a future career in scientific research, either in industry or in an academic environment.

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element). For more information and a list of the alternative English language requirements we accept, please see nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements

Developing your academic English and study skills

The Centre for English Language Education (CELE) offers you the opportunity to develop your English language skills at one of the world’s top universities. Accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English, CELE provides high-quality teaching, facilities and support.

Our presessional courses take your English language and academic skills to the level you need to progress to undergraduate study without taking IELTS again. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele

For more information about our courses, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences

* QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017.
BSc | MSci Biology

Providing a comprehensive, modern treatment of microbial, plant and animal (including human) biology, these degrees emphasise many of the specialisms strengthening the impact that biology has on society today.

Year one
In the first year, you will find out more about the biology of animals, plants and microbes, as well as the biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes that underlie their biology.

You have the opportunity to learn about the workings of the human body, the ways that living processes in all organisms are regulated by the genome, and the role that animals and plants play in their environment.

The experimental approach forms a key component of the year, with modules teaching practical skills and the principles of experimental design and analysis.

Year two
A major theme of the second year is health and disease in humans, animals and plants. You will learn about the genetic and developmental basis of disease, the fundamental biology of pathogens and parasites, and what happens when the nervous system doesn't work properly.

Another element is the evolutionary origins and ecological consequences of biodiversity, something you might explore in the wild on one of our field courses.

Transferable skills include researching primary scientific literature and writing according to the rules of scientific convention. This is put into practice with you writing an extended essay on a topic of your choosing.

Year three
The main theme of the third year is diversity, and, in addition to a core module in science and society, you will be able to choose from a wide range of advanced modules to enhance your learning.

Your learning in previous years culminates in a major practical research project, which allows you to carry out your own biological investigation in an area that interests you, either in the laboratory or the field.

Year four (MSci only)
The emphasis of the fourth year is on a year-long masters-level research project. You will work alongside expert researchers in a field you find interesting, with access to enhanced research facilities. The fourth year is a great introduction to what postgraduate study is like.

Several advanced optional modules are also available. These complement your research study and expose you to new ideas that will improve your understanding of science.

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up-to-date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
Genetics studies the way cellular and developmental processes are programmed by genetic information, coded as DNA. With the advent of the complete sequencing of a number of whole genomes – most notably the human genome – the science of genetics is expanding rapidly.

**Year one**
Your first year will be a broad introduction to biology and genetics. You will learn about the biology of animals, plants and microbes, as well as the biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes that underlie their biology.

You will explore the fundamental building blocks of life: genes, molecules and cells, as well as how the genome regulates living processes in all organisms.

The experimental approach forms a key component of the year, with modules teaching practical skills and the principles of experimental design and analysis.

**Year two**
In this year, you’ll be able to focus on your favourite areas of genetics, with a wide range of options to choose from.

You will learn about the genetic and developmental basis of disease, the fundamental biology of pathogens and parasites, and what happens when the nervous system does not work properly. You will also cover the evolutionary origins and ecological consequences of biodiversity.

An extended essay will consolidate your learning so far, introducing transferable skills in researching scientific literature and writing to the rules of scientific convention.

**Year three**
The main component of the third year is a research project. This is your chance to carry out your own practical investigation in an area of genetics that interests you.

Additionally, you will advance your learning by studying the genetics of ageing and how DNA can be repaired, how gene expression is regulated and the influence genetics has on populations.

**Year four (MSci only)**
You will take a set of modules which will expose you to the latest developments in genetics and equip you with the tools to plan and carry out research and present your findings effectively.

You will undertake a year-long masters-level research project, working alongside expert researchers in a field you find interesting.

Several advanced optional modules are also available. These complement your research study and expose you to new ideas that will improve your understanding of science.

For more detailed course content visit [nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences](http://nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences)
BSc Tropical Biology

This exciting course will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of pure and applied tropical biology within a global context. You will spend your second year studying at our Malaysia Campus, offering a unique opportunity to study at a UK university in a tropical country.

Year one
You will begin with a broad introduction to modern life sciences. From micro-organisms to humans, you’ll explore the diversity of life on Earth.

A tutorial and skills module will focus on the use of learning resources, essay writing and oral presentations, providing degree-specific context for the tropical biology programme and key transferable skills.

Year two
The second year is taught at our Malaysia Campus*. As well as conventional study modules, you will have the opportunity to participate in field courses designed to give you hands-on experience of tropical biology.

The Tropical Ecology Field Course is a week spent in the Malaysian rainforest. In small groups you’ll work on research projects and activities to gain an appreciation of the ecological factors that are unique to the tropical rainforest environment.

The Tropical Environmental Science Field Course is a one-week residential course based on Tioman Island. You will be introduced to the diversity of life found in tropical environments, from coral reefs to rainforests. The relationship between diversity and the physical environment will be explored, especially in the context of variations such as climate change and ocean acidification.

Please note that there is an additional cost for the field courses.

Year three
The final year is taught back at Nottingham where you will undertake a year-long research project. This provides an opportunity to consolidate your learning and showcase your knowledge on a topic that you find interesting.

In addition, you will have specialist optional modules to choose from.

For more detailed course content visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences

* The year in Malaysia is subject to obtaining a student visa. If you are unsuccessful in securing a visa you will be guaranteed a place on either the biology or the zoology course.
BSc | MSci Zoology

Zoology studies the biology of animals. Our courses are enriched by cutting-edge research across a range of disciplines, providing you with a wide understanding of zoology. You can cover topics from animal behaviour to parasitology and conservation to genetics.

Year one
The first year begins with an introduction to the fundamental building blocks of life: genes, molecules and cells.

You will learn core skills in zoology, which you will build on during later years. Practical work is a key component, with you practising laboratory skills and experimental design and analysis.

The biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes that underlie all biology are explored, along with the role that animals and plants play in their environment.

Year two
Through core modules, you will learn transferable skills including researching primary scientific literature and writing according to the rules of scientific convention.

The second year has a high degree of choice, and there is a portfolio of optional modules for you to choose from. Here, you can discover more about a topic you already have an interest in or investigate something new.

Year three
The third year is about consolidating your knowledge and showcasing your skills through a year-long research project. You will be supervised by a research-active academic and be able to contribute to the research that a group is working on. The zoological investigation will be in a topic area that interests you, either in the laboratory or field.

In addition to a compulsory module in science and society, where you will learn how science and society influence each other, advanced optional modules are available.

Year four (MSci only)
This additional year focuses on a masters-level research project. You will have more independence and be expected to plan and carry out your own investigation. Supported by a research-active academic, the field you choose to study, you will also benefit from access to specialist research facilities.

Several advanced optional modules are also available. These complement your research study and expose you to new ideas that will improve your understanding of science.

For more detailed course content visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences

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Discover a new country

If you study tropical biology, you will spend your second year at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC). Situated near the town of Semenyih, UNMC is a 45-minute drive from the capital Kuala Lumpur.

Why study in Malaysia?
- Study your subject in a tropical environment with opportunities for hands-on learning
- Improve your adaptability and problem-solving skills that employers look for
- Experience a new culture and develop your language skills
- Reduced tuition fees for the year abroad (£1,350 for 2016/17)
- Low cost of living
- Close to Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand – great for travel

Facilities
Occupying a scenic position overlooking green hills on a 101-acre site, and designed to mirror the attributes of University Park in the UK, the campus is a self-contained and self-sufficient neighbourhood village in a garden environment. Campus amenities include:
- residential accommodation
- a purpose-built sports centre and swimming pool
- a students' association complex
- shops
- library

Find out more about studying in Malaysia at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/tropicalbiology

World-class research

At Nottingham, we research to bring about positive change. Our innovative ideas and discoveries are designed to work in the real world.

Student experiences of research

My project involved synthesising various mutated forms for the protein DEF6 to see how, if at all, this altered the protein function. Through the project I have learned a lot of new skills including PCR mutagenesis and fluorescent imaging. It was incredibly interesting to join an active research group and it is nice to know my results will continue to be used for their research in the future.

George Harrison-Church, BSc Biology

Working alongside a research group, I spent a month surveying trails in known nightjar habitats in Sherwood Forest. I gathered data on human disturbance, accompanied by mist netting and nest monitoring to survey the nightjar population during breeding season. Being able to carry out real research that will hopefully contribute to the conservation of the nightjar population in the future has been so fulfilling.

Georgina Bray, MSci Zoology

The School of Life Sciences provides the main focus for biological and biomedical research at the University. The research that our students do can directly contribute to the impact of the school’s research. Many students have their work published, which is a great achievement.

Find out more about our research at nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences/research
At Nottingham, develop your independence as a learner and a scientist.

Engaging study, incredible results

University study is likely to be very different from what you are used to, but we'll support you through the transition.

How will I study?

Teaching and learning
You will learn through a variety of methods depending on the module. These may include:
- lectures
- seminars
- laboratory classes
- workshops
- problem classes
- residential field courses
- tutorials

You may study in the School of Life Sciences building on University Park Campus and in the Medical School, which is embedded in the Queen’s Medical Centre and connected to University Park by a footbridge.

Assessment
Assessment varies on the module being studied, but is typically a combination of:
- exams
- essays
- dissertations
- laboratory reports
- presentations

Exams happen twice a year at the end of each semester.

Experimental learning
All life sciences subjects contain a high degree of laboratory work. You will learn techniques and see the practical steps by which our knowledge of living organisms and how they work has been obtained and advanced. Practical work can be broadly divided into class practicals – where you will carry out experiments and obtain data – and project work – where you will do individual investigations, asking new scientific questions not previously answered.

Student support
When you start the course, you will be assigned a personal tutor. Personal tutors are members of academic staff in the school and they will:
- monitor your academic progress and check on your wellbeing
- provide exam marks and help you reflect on feedback
- act as a first point of contact for any guidance on academic or personal matters

At Nottingham, we still offer small group tutorials. This ensures you have enough time to build a relationship with your tutor and benefit from their support. Your fellow tutees also provide peer support.

Additionally, the school has a dedicated Welfare Officer and a Student Liaison Officer who are available to help you adapt to university life and provide advice on more complex issues.

Library and computing services
At Nottingham, you will benefit from access to an extensive collection of printed and online library resources. In addition, you will have both on and off-campus access to a wide range of databases, ejournals and ebooks. Life sciences students have access to two specialist libraries:
- George Green Library, which has recently undergone an £18m redevelopment, to provide more study space and additional computers
- Greenfield Medical Library, which is home to health and medical texts, as well as having group study rooms and silent study zones

Key Information Sets
Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students. All KIS data is published on the Unistats website: unistats.co.uk

For more information about studying life sciences visit nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences/teaching

For Nottingham’s KIS data, please see individual course entries at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
How to apply

All applications for an undergraduate place to study at the University of Nottingham, including applications by international students, must be made through UCAS.

Applications should be made online at ucas.com and candidates will be notified of decisions through UCAS using UCAS Track.

Your personal statement
This is the section of your UCAS form that tells us most about you, and you should make the best use of it. Be as specific and detailed as you can – we would like to see that you are a student who can work hard, be self-motivated and make the best possible use of the opportunities that our courses offer you. We would also like to hear about any skills you have gained through extracurricular activities.

Entry requirements
A levels
AAB, including two science subjects, one of which must be biology/human biology and/or chemistry. The second science subject can be from: biology, chemistry, electronics, geography, geology, human biology, maths, physics or psychology. A pass is required in science practical tests, if assessed separately.

Alternative qualifications
In this brochure you will find our A level entry requirements but we accept a much broader range of qualifications. These include:
- Access to HE Diploma
- Advanced Diploma
- Cambridge Pre-U
- International Baccalaureate
- Irish Leaving Certificate
- Scottish Advanced Highers
- Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma

This list is not exhaustive; we will consider applicants with other qualifications on an individual basis. Please contact us to discuss the suitability of your qualification.

Flexible admissions policy
We recognise that some educational and personal circumstances affect achievement. If we judge that you have experienced circumstances that have adversely affected your achievement, we will consider them when assessing your academic potential. Some courses may vary the offer as a result. For the most up to date information about our offers, please see the entry requirements section of our course pages on our online prospectus. For more information about this policy, please see nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

Science foundation programme
The foundation programme provides an alternative entry route onto our life sciences degrees for those students who don’t have the correct subjects to meet our current admission requirements. Applications from mature students or students holding ‘non-standard’ qualifications and/or relevant experience are encouraged.

Students can automatically progress from the foundation stage to year one of any of these courses, providing they have taken the relevant pathway modules and passed them to the required standard. For more information see nottingham.ac.uk/go/foundation

Mature applicants
We encourage applications from mature applicants who have a significant gap in education. You should apply in the normal way through UCAS. More information for mature students can be found at nottingham.ac.uk/mature

International applicants
The University provides a range of information and advice for international applicants. If you are unable to attend an open day, we can meet you in your country at one of our overseas events or arrange an individual visit to the University. For further information please visit nottingham.ac.uk/go/international-applicants

Deferred entry
Applicants who wish to defer their entry by a year will not be at a disadvantage. Please tell us something about your plans for your gap year in your UCAS personal statement.

Equal opportunities policy
The University aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, socio-economic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

To find out how to apply, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying
World class for employability

As a graduate, you will have obtained a broad range of skills valued by employers in sectors such as agriculture, clinical genetics, conservation, epidemiology, food and pharmaceutical. While many graduates pursue a scientific career, others use their skills in professions such as marketing, law and the armed services.

£19,571 was the average starting salary with the highest being £45,000.*

90% of first-degree graduates in the school who were available for employment secured work or further study within six months of graduation.*

Recent graduate destinations:
- Aequus International: healthcare researcher
- Future Science Group: editorial assistant
- Kirkhouse Trust: project administrator (agricultural research)
- Merial: laboratory technician (animal health products)
- NHS: NHS Scientific Training Programme

Careers and Employability Service

Our Careers and Employability Service has a team dedicated to Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences students. They will be on hand to offer you specialist support and guidance throughout your degree and for life after you graduate.

Whether you need help writing a CV, preparing for an interview or exploring career ideas, finding an internship or part-time work, you can book one-to-one appointments or come along to a workshop. Each term there is also an exciting events schedule, bringing you face-to-face with employers offering real-life insight into their professions.

The Nottingham Advantage Award

The award-winning Nottingham Advantage Award recognises and rewards your extracurricular activities. With a choice of over 200 modules, you can hone the key skills employers want. From developing your leadership skills and learning a language to public speaking and volunteering, you will leave university with demonstrable experience that sets you apart from other graduates.

For further information, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/careers/advantage

Further study

Many of our graduates go on to further study, undertaking a taught masters course or research to PhD level. Subjects of further study could include: bioinformatics, biological photography and imaging, business and technology, clinical microbiology, ecology and environmental management, forensic medicine, genetic counselling and oncology.

Find out more about the Careers and Employability Service at nottingham.ac.uk/careers

* Known destinations of full-time home first-degree undergraduates 2014/15. Salaries are calculated based on those in full-time paid employment within the UK.
Experience it in a world beyond ordinary

There’s so much for you to get involved in and explore at the University and around the city. Whether you’re interested in sports, learning a language or just having fun with friends alongside studying, you’ll be spoilt for choice.

Getting involved in your Students’ Union

University of Nottingham Students’ Union (UoNSU) is a brilliant, diverse community, and whether you are an undergraduate or postgraduate, first-year or final-year student, you are a part of it. With 300+ student-led groups, clubs and societies, hundreds of volunteering opportunities and support for every stage of your university journey, your Students’ Union offers something for everyone. Find out more: su.nottingham.ac.uk

Exploring your new city

Nottingham city centre is around a 10-minute bus ride away from University Park Campus, so you’re always close to the action. There are plenty of music venues, from the world-famous Rock City to the Motorpoint Arena or one of the smaller gig venues for a more intimate live show. If you enjoy shopping, there are independent boutiques and vintage shops as well as high street names in our large shopping centres. Nottingham is also a hotspot for dining, with a great choice of cuisines on offer. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife

Your new home from home

At Nottingham we offer a wide range of room types across the campuses in both catered and self-catered accommodation. From standard single rooms with shared bathrooms to large en-suite studios and flats, there’s something to suit every budget and personal choice. For current pricing and to review all accommodation options please visit nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Your support network

Throughout your university journey there will be numerous people on hand to support and advise you, including tutors and dedicated staff. We have Student Service Centres on all three of our UK campuses, which provide a range of support, information and specialist services. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

Sport

The University of Nottingham is one of the UK’s leading universities for sport and is currently ranked 4th in the university sport rankings*. We have one of the biggest portfolios of sports facilities in the country including the brand new £40m David Ross Sports Village. We also have a rich heritage of supporting Olympic medallists and we have more than 70 student sports clubs to choose from. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/sport

*British Universities and Colleges Sport Standings, 2015-16.

Learn a language

The University’s Language Centre gives you the opportunity to study a language alongside your course. All languages are offered from beginners’ level with some going up to near native competency. There are nine languages to choose from: Modern Standard Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Spanish. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/language-centre

Your opportunity to study abroad

We offer a range of study abroad opportunities with many students having the option to live and study in another country as part of their university career. Studying or working abroad is a fantastic opportunity to broaden your horizons, experience different cultures, and develop the key skills that employers are looking for. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/studyabroad

Music

All student musicians at the University of Nottingham are encouraged to get involved with the vibrant musical life on campus. Find out more: nottingham.ac.uk/music/performance
This brochure has been drafted in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of publishing, but changes (for example to course content) are likely to occur given the interval between publication and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check our website for any updates before you apply for the course by following nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence.