Foundation Science

Challenge it

Succeed it

nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences
Undergraduate guide 2018
Where could foundation science take you?

Foundation science at the University of Nottingham was established in 2008 and has provided excellent students access to a range of science degree subjects. We encourage a range of high-level applicants from a variety of backgrounds.

The course is taught by highly experienced teachers who help students gain the necessary skills to progress to degree level study. We promote the mixing of a variety of nationalities; home, European Union, and international, and offer students the chance to blend in with university life in the same beautiful location as other students.

Foundation science offers you a chance to progress to a range of different degrees in the Schools of Life Sciences, Biosciences, Chemistry, Health Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy and Psychology. More detail is provided in this brochure and if you have any queries, please feel free to get in touch.

Gill Coburn
Course Director and Admissions Tutor

To find out where foundation science could take you, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences
Studying foundation science at Nottingham

Foundation science is for talented students who do not have the right subjects to meet our entry requirements for undergraduate courses.

You will study a range of modules designed to bring your subject knowledge and skills up to the required level for undergraduate study. If your qualifications prevent you from applying directly to an undergraduate programme, a foundation year could be your path to degree-level study.

Is the foundation year for me?
The foundation year is ideal for:
- students who have good A level grades (BBB) but not in the right subjects for direct entry
- international students who have qualifications that are not accepted for direct entry
- mature students who have decided to return to education, and have evidence of recent study

Foundation science at Nottingham
The course is taught by highly experienced teachers who contribute to science teaching in a variety of different schools. They will help you gain the necessary skills to progress to degree study.

We ensure that the foundation course is fully integrated into your degree programme, and that the skills gained during the foundation year are an advantage to subsequent stages of your degree. For this reason, the success rate for students progressing from the Nottingham foundation programme is very high.

Based on the main University campus, you’ll be part of the student community from day one. You’ll have access to the same academic and social facilities on campus as other undergraduate students.

Progression opportunities
The foundation science pathway is designed to allow progression on to your desired undergraduate degree. There are over 50 courses to choose from across seven schools. A full list can be found online at nottingham.ac.uk/foundationscience

Award winning campus
You’ll study on University Park Campus, one of the most beautiful campuses in the UK and winner of 14 Green Flag Awards. The 300-acre landscaped site is set around a large boating lake.

With libraries, 12 halls of residence, outstanding sports facilities, a hotel, health centre, banks, hair salon, art galleries, museum, recital hall, the Students’ Union, bars and two theatres, it really is the hub of student life.

To make it even better, campus is around 10 minutes from Nottingham city centre by bus or tram.

Science with foundation year taught me the essentials I needed to know about university life, such as how to write an essay, how to research and how to manage my time. One thing I am sure of, is that the University made me more mature and responsible.

Peyman Ince, BSc Biochemistry

*Progression requirements apply. See page 10 for more information.  
**QS World University Rankings 2016.

For more information about our courses, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/foundationscience
Our courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>A levels</th>
<th>IB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single honours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Science with Foundation Year</td>
<td>CGF0</td>
<td>4 years (1 year</td>
<td>BBB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>foundation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSci Science with Foundation Year</td>
<td>CFG0</td>
<td>5 years (1 year</td>
<td>BBB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>foundation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Foundation Certificate</td>
<td>CFGZ</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>BBB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our courses

- **BSc and MSci courses**
  These courses are open to United Kingdom and European applicants only.

  - BSc degrees are four years long (including the foundation year) and MSci degrees are five years long (including the foundation year).
  - MSci courses are undergraduate masters-level degrees. They give you the opportunity to explore a subject in more depth and provide a good base for a career in research.

- **Certificate**
  The Science Foundation Certificate is open to international (non-EU) applicants only. On successful completion, you may progress to an undergraduate course.

  If you don’t meet the academic or English language requirements for this course, you may wish to consider the foundation course run by The University of Nottingham International College. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/internationalcollege

Course content

- **The main subjects you will study** are biology, chemistry, and mathematics. This will provide you with the best possible background to enter the first year of your chosen degree programme.

  - European and international students also have the opportunity to improve their written and spoken English skills at the University’s Centre for Language Education (CELE). Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele

    - **English language requirements**
      Students who score 5.0 in any element of their IELTS (irrespective of the overall score) will need to take an additional 20 credits of English language modules (X10ESA and X10ESB) and will be required to achieve 65% to 65% in each module, depending on which degree they wish to progress to. For example, progression to pharmacy will require 65% in each module.

        - Students who have IELTS 5.5 (no less than 5.0 in any element) will be considered for entry to foundation science but will be expected to complete an English language module.

        - Students who have IELTS 6.0 (no less than 5.5 in any element) will not be required to complete an English language module if they wish to progress to degrees in chemistry.

        - Students who have IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element) will not be required to complete an English language module if they wish to progress to degrees in biosciences, life sciences, or psychology.

        - Students who have IELTS 7.0 (no less than 6.0 in any element) will not be required to complete an English language module if they wish to progress to pharmacy.

  - Laboratory and project work is fundamental to the course, allowing you to develop analytical, team working and problem solving skills. The balance of skills and experience among our staff is used to carefully manage the transition between the student-centred learning common in schools and colleges, to the independent way of thinking that characterises our scientists.

  - Each full year at university consists of 120 credits. The below table shows what you’ll study.

    - **Course content**
      The main subjects you will study are biology, chemistry, and mathematics. This will provide you with the best possible background to enter the first year of your chosen degree programme.

        - European and international students also have the opportunity to improve their written and spoken English skills at the University’s Centre for Language Education (CELE). Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele

          - **Module code**
            Module title                                                                Credits
            C10FY3  Foundation Biological Sciences                                      40
            C10FCL  Foundation Year Chemistry                                           40
            C10MFS  Mathematics for Foundation Science                                 20
            C10SS2  Studying Science at University                                      20

            Total = 120

  - For students whose first language isn’t English, there are additional English language modules. Depending on your IELTS score, you may need to take one or both modules:

    - X10ESA  English Language                                                   10
    - X10ESB  English Language                                                   10

  - 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

For more information about our courses, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/foundationscience
Course content

C10FY3 – Foundation Biological Sciences
This module will provide you with an introduction to life at the molecular, cellular, physiological organismal, population and community levels, and provide the background to enable you to enter a range of degree programmes in the biological and environmental sciences.

The first semester is molecular-based and provides essential links for many topics studied in semester two.

During semester two, some topics are studied in more depth than an equivalent A level syllabus, for example:
- biotechnology
- classification
- genetics
- microbiology

Practical work is a vital component of foundation science, and you’ll have the opportunity to develop various laboratory techniques. There are 10 biology practical sessions. Eight are lab-based, and two are field-based, which are carried out at Attenborough Nature Reserve.

You’ll study quantitative aspects of chemistry-based laboratory activities, including appreciation of experimental error.

In this module, you will develop:
- the knowledge and understanding of safe laboratory practice
- familiarity with common techniques and equipment
- an appreciation of physical, inorganic and organic chemistry
- the need for careful recording of observation and measurements
- an awareness of sources of error
- conventional approaches to reporting experimental work

C10FCL – Foundation Year Chemistry
You’ll learn to use the periodic table to make predictions about elements, the basics of chemical bonding and the forces between molecules and their shapes. Experimental work will enhance understanding and skills development.

C10MFS – Mathematics for Foundation Science
This module aims to prepare you with the necessary knowledge and understanding, competence and experience of the fundamentals of mathematics needed for a successful career in the sciences. It will enhance your proficiency in core areas such as basic mathematical techniques and algebra as well as applications of functions, calculus and statistical tools for analysing scientific data.

This module covers:
- algebra and algebraic manipulation
- linear algebra
- functions and trigonometry
- differential calculus
- integral calculus
- simple modelling
- elementary probability
- statistics

You’ll develop these academic skills while studying topics as diverse as genetics, animal behaviour, environmental issues, psychology and human health.

X10ESA/X10ESB – English Language
Students who require extra support for English language during the foundation programme will study these modules. Topics covered include essay writing, laboratory reports and presentation skills.

Below is an example timetable for year one to give you an idea of how you will spend your time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>9-10am</td>
<td>Studying Science</td>
<td>Mathematics for Foundation Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-11am</td>
<td>Foundation Biological Science</td>
<td>Mathematics for Foundation Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>Studying Science</td>
<td>Mathematics for Foundation Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-1pm</td>
<td>Foundation Year Chemistry/Biology</td>
<td>No teaching – sport/leisure time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-2pm</td>
<td>Mathematics for Foundation Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2-3pm</td>
<td>Studying Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-4pm</td>
<td>Foundation Year Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-5pm</td>
<td>English Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about our courses, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/foundationscience
Progression requirements

The table below shows the current progression requirements needed for certain schools or courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Progression routes</th>
<th>Progression requirements</th>
<th>Exceptions and extra requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>All degrees</td>
<td>C1OFY3 55% and C10FCL 55% and 40% overall</td>
<td>Sport and Exercise Science C1OFY3 60%, C10FCL 60% and 60% overall average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biosciences</td>
<td>All degrees</td>
<td>C1OFY3 55% and C10FCL 55% and 40% overall</td>
<td>Nutrition/Dietetics C1OFY3 55% and C10FCL 55% and 55% overall. Subject to interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>All degrees*</td>
<td>C10FCL 60% and overall average 60%</td>
<td>X1OESA 65% and X1OESB 65% (if taken)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>All degrees except those involving physics or a higher level of maths**</td>
<td>C10FCL 60% and overall average 60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Sport Rehabilitation</td>
<td>C1OFY3 55% and C10FCL 55% and 40% overall</td>
<td>Subject to a successful interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
<td>C1OFY3 60%, C10FCL 60% and 60% overall average</td>
<td>Subject to a successful interview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Medical Physiology and Therapeutics</td>
<td>C1OFY3 55% and C10FCL 55% and 40% overall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>All degrees</td>
<td>60% overall average</td>
<td>International only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* International students who wish to be considered for progression to pharmacy are encouraged to apply for the foundation year through UCAS. All students interested in progression to pharmacy may be required to give further information and are not guaranteed selection for interview. If invited for interview, they will be expected to show motivations for being a pharmacist, knowledge of the profession, scientific understanding and demonstration of good communication skills.

** The following courses only: Chemistry BSc F100, Chemistry MSci F101, Chemistry with a Year in Industry MSci F105, Chemistry with an International Study Year MSci F103, Medicinal and Biological Chemistry BSc F017, Medicinal and Biological Chemistry MSci FCH1, Medicinal and Biological Chemistry with an Assessed Year in Industry MSci CF71.

Engaging study, incredible results

Teaching and learning
You will benefit from a wide range of teaching and learning styles. How you will study will vary depending on the module, but you can typically expect:
- lectures
- seminars
- tutorials
- laboratory sessions
- fieldwork
- workshops
- multimedia and internet-based systems

You’ll be encouraged to take part in group discussions and activities. Theoretical-based sessions are usually supported by practical workshops where you can gain hands-on experience.

Assessment
Typically, examinations count for around 60% of the module mark and coursework contributes 40%. Exams happen twice a year at the end of each semester.

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

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

For more information on studying foundation science, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences/teaching
How to apply

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.

Application process
Applications for an undergraduate place at Nottingham can be made in one of two ways, depending on where you are applying from:

Home/EU applicants
Applications should be made online via ucas.com and candidates will be notified of decisions via UCAS Track at track.ucas.com

International applicants
Applicants can apply through UCAS or applications can be made directly to the University using the application form on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/foundation/apply

Those who wish to be considered for progression to MPharm degrees must apply through UCAS using the course code CFGZ.

Entry requirements
A levels
BBB or above, in subjects that do not allow direct entry. Some students may only have one science subject, rather than two.

GCSEs
Five GCSEs 7 (B) or above, including maths plus biology and chemistry, or science (double, or science and additional science, or core and applied science) plus English language, 4 (C)* or above.

In keeping with the reform to GCSEs in England where subjects are to be graded from 9 to 1 instead of A* to G, we can confirm that in accordance with Ofqual recommendations, we will treat GCSEs graded numerically as GCSE grade A=7, B=5, C=4. GCSE qualifications taken outside of the UK will still be graded A* to G.

To find out more about disabled learners, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/apply

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
- BTEC HND/HNC
- 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.

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/aplying

Mature applicants
We encourage applications from mature applicants who have evidence of recent study to enable them to cope with the demands of the foundation year. You should apply in the normal way through UCAS. More information for mature students can be found at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/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.

Over one-third of our UK students receive our means-tested core bursary, worth up to £2,000 a year. For details, see nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport
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.

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.

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

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.

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

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 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
For undergraduate enquiries contact:
Student Recruitment Enquiries Centre

+44 (0)115 951 5559
nottingham.ac.uk/enquire
UoNLifeSciences
@UoNLifeSci

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.