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A member of the prestigious Russell Group and founding member of the global Universitas 21 network

Gain substantial laboratory experience from your first year

The option to add on a placement year to your studies

Study a course accredited by the Royal Society of Biology

Contribute to real research during your final-year project

Graduate with excellent prospects and discover a range of career options

Tailor your studies with our wide range of optional modules

Join a global community of over 456,000 students, from more than 150 countries
Where could life sciences take you?

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 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 Research Excellence Framework (2014) 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 James McInerney
Head of School

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>BSc Biology</td>
<td>C100</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSci Biology</td>
<td>C101</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Genetics</td>
<td>C400</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSci Genetics</td>
<td>C401</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Zoology</td>
<td>C300</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSci Zoology</td>
<td>C301</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Biology and a second science subject are required at A level, preferably from chemistry, physics or maths; geography and psychology are also accepted. A pass is required in science practical tests, if assessed separately; GCSE English language and maths at grade 4 or above also required.

Welcome

BSc or MSci?

MSci degrees are undergraduate-level courses which last for four years and have an integrated masters qualification. They are the equivalent to a bachelors degree plus a masters level qualification. These courses provide additional research experience to enhance your future prospects. An MSci is excellent preparation for further study such as a PhD.

If you choose to study an MSci, your student loan will cover tuition fees and living costs for the additional year too (home/EU students only). If you are unsure on whether to choose an MSci or BSc, we recommend you choose the MSci to secure your funding. Transfer to the BSc is straightforward.

Foundation courses

Applicants who are not eligible for direct entry to undergraduate study may be able to apply for a foundation course. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/foundationcourses

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element). For details of other English language tests and qualifications we accept, please see nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements

Academic English preparation

If you require additional support to take your language skills to the required level, you may be able to attend a presessional course at the Centre for English Language Education, which is accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English in the UK.

Students who successfully complete the presessional course to the required level can progress onto their chosen degree course without retaking IELTS or equivalent. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele
BSc | MSci Biology

Our Biology course involves the scientific study of all aspects of the natural world: from genetics and zoology, to neuroscience, plant science and microbiology.

**Year one**
In the first year, you will study the diverse biology of animals, plants and microbes and the underlying biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes of life on Earth.

Through compulsory and optional modules, you will discover new life science topics and have the chance to explore your personal interests.

Laboratory experience begins in year one, with courses teaching practical skills and the principles of experimental design and analysis.

You will also develop wider transferable skills in this year, including the use of learning resources, report writing and oral presentations.

**Year two**
In this year, you can focus on your favourite areas of biology through a wider range of optional modules.

You can 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.

There is the opportunity to explore imaging techniques in a range of biological situations, from wildlife photography to microscopy. You can also explore the evolutionary origins and ecological consequences of biodiversity in the wild on one of our field courses.

**Year three**
Alongside a compulsory module in science and society and advanced optional modules, you will demonstrate your skills and knowledge through a year-long research project – collecting data, carrying out detailed analysis and communicating your findings.

This project is an exciting opportunity for you to put what you’ve learned into practice and contribute to the research that the school produces. Guidance is provided by a research-active supervisor. Some students have even had their work published in scientific journals.

**Year four (MSci only)**
This additional year focuses on a year-long masters-level research project. A great introduction to postgraduate study, you will work alongside expert researchers in a field you find interesting, with access to enhanced research facilities.

You will gain further experience in scientific writing and preparing a research grant proposal, while also increasing your confidence in presenting findings and carrying out statistical analysis.

Advanced optional modules will complement your research study and expose you to new ideas.

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**Typical modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Year one</th>
<th>Year two</th>
<th>Year three</th>
<th>Year four (MSci only)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Skills in Biology</td>
<td>Core Skills in Biology</td>
<td>Core Higher Skills in the Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Core Research Project</td>
<td>Core Research Presentation Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genes, Molecules and Cells</td>
<td>Genes, Molecules and Cells</td>
<td>The Genome and Human Disease</td>
<td>Science and Society</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life on Earth</td>
<td>Life on Earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Optional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Neuroscience</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Neuroscience</td>
<td>Bacterial Genes and Development</td>
<td>Bacterial Genes and Development</td>
<td>Ageing, Sex and DNA Repair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>Behavioural Ecology</td>
<td>Behavioural Ecology</td>
<td>Biological Challenges in the Tropics</td>
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<td>Field Course</td>
<td>Field Course</td>
<td>Biological Challenges in the Tropics</td>
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<td>Biological Challenges in the Tropics</td>
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<td>Biological Photography</td>
<td>Biological Photography</td>
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<td>and Imaging 1</td>
<td>and Imaging 1</td>
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<td>Building Brains</td>
<td>Building Brains</td>
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<td>Developmental Biology</td>
<td>Developmental Biology</td>
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<td>Ecology</td>
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<td>From Genotype to Phenotype</td>
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<td>Infection and Immunity</td>
<td>Infection and Immunity</td>
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<td>Microbial Biotechnology</td>
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<td>Molecular Imaging</td>
<td>Molecular Imaging</td>
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<td>Neurobiology of Disease</td>
<td>Neurobiology of Disease</td>
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<td>Neurons and Glia</td>
<td>Neurons and Glia</td>
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<td>Pharmacological Basis of</td>
<td>Pharmacological Basis of</td>
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<td>Therapeutics</td>
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<td>Signalling and Metabolic</td>
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<td>Regulation</td>
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<td>Structure, Function and</td>
<td>Structure, Function and</td>
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<td>Analysis of Genes</td>
<td>Analysis of Genes</td>
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<td>The Green Planet</td>
<td>The Green Planet</td>
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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/lifesciences](http://nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences)
BSc | MSci Genetics

Genetics is the study of how cellular and developmental processes are programmed by genetic information, coded as DNA. The science of genetics is expanding rapidly, through exciting developments in genome sequencing.

**Year one**
Your first year will be a broad introduction to biology and genetics. You will learn about the diverse 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.

Laboratory experience begins in year one, with modules teaching practical skills and the principles of experimental design and analysis. You will also develop wider transferable skills in this year, including the use of learning resources, report writing and oral presentations.

**Year two**
In this year, you will learn about the genetic and developmental basis of disease as well as exploring how natural selection and domestication has influenced the evolution of the genome.

You will take a set of modules which focus on developing your key research skills, gaining further experience in scientific writing and preparing a research grant proposal, while also increasing your confidence in presenting findings and carrying out statistical analysis.

Advanced optional modules will complement your research study and expose you to new ideas.

Transferable skills that we focus on in year two include researching primary scientific literature and how to communicate effectively in your own scientific writing.

**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)**
This additional year focuses on a year-long masters-level research project. A great introduction to postgraduate study, you will work alongside expert researchers in a field you find interesting, with access to enhanced research facilities.

You will take a set of modules which focus on developing your key research skills, gaining further experience in scientific writing and preparing a research grant proposal, while also increasing your confidence in presenting findings and carrying out statistical analysis.

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Enriched by cutting-edge research, this course explores topics ranging from animal behaviour and ecology, to neurobiology, parasitology and developmental biology.

**Year one**
In the first year, you will study the diverse biology of animals, plants and microbes and the underlying biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes of life on Earth.

Through compulsory and optional modules, you will discover new life science topics and have the chance to explore your personal interests.

Laboratory experience begins in year one, with courses teaching practical skills and the principles of experimental design and analysis. You will also develop wider transferable skills in this year, including the use of learning resources, report writing and oral presentations.

**Year two**
In this year, you can focus on your favourite areas of zoology through a wider range of optional modules.

You can 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.

There is the opportunity to explore imaging techniques in a range of biological situations, from wildlife photography to microscopy. You can also explore how natural selection and domestication has influenced evolution on one of our field courses.

**Year three**
Alongside a compulsory module in science and society and advanced optional modules, you will demonstrate your skills and knowledge through a year-long research project – collecting data, carrying out detailed analysis and communicating your findings.

This project is an exciting opportunity for you to put what you’ve learned into practice and contribute to the research that the school produces. Guidance is provided by a research-active supervisor. Some students have even had their work published in scientific journals.

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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

nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences/research

Example timetable

Below is an example first-year timetable. This will give you an indication of how your time will be spent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>9-10am</th>
<th>10-11am</th>
<th>11am-12pm</th>
<th>12-1pm</th>
<th>1-2pm</th>
<th>2-3pm</th>
<th>3-4pm</th>
<th>4-5pm</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>FP*</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Practical</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>No teaching – sport/leisure time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Practical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Free periods are provided for students to carry out self-directed study. This includes tasks such as reading around key topics and developing coursework.
Engaging study, incredible results

Our teaching is delivered by staff who are actively involved in world-class research and is shaped by the latest discoveries.

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 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 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
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 recently underwent 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 Nottingham’s KIS data, please see individual course entries at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
Careers and employability

Outstanding careers support

As a graduate, you will have a broad range of skills valued in sectors such as agriculture, clinical genetics, conservation, epidemiology, food and pharmaceutical.

Many of our graduates pursue a scientific career, others use their skills in professions such as marketing, law and the armed services.

£21,037 was the average starting salary of our graduates in 2017 with the highest being £42,000.*

96.5% of undergraduates from the School of Life Sciences secured work or further study within six months of graduation.*

As a graduate, you will have a broad range of skills valued in sectors such as agriculture, clinical genetics, conservation, epidemiology, food and pharmaceutical.

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Amplify your potential

Whether you already have a plan or need some inspiration, your Careers and Employability Service is here to help.

Academic excellence and employability go hand in hand at Nottingham. Your course, and the diverse student experiences we offer, will enable you to develop the skills and professional competencies required to thrive in the job market of the future.

We will help you explore your options, so you feel confident making choices about what you want to achieve. Our team will support you as you build your CV, search for jobs, prepare applications, practise your interview technique, and much more.

Get the Advantage

The career-enhancing Nottingham Advantage Award recognises and rewards your extracurricular activities. With a choice of over 200 modules, you can hone the key skills employers are looking for. 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, visit nottingham.ac.uk/careers/advantage

Recent graduate destinations

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

Study abroad and placements

We can offer you the chance to study at an approved partner university in a range of locations across the world. This is a great chance to gain valuable communication skills, a global perspective of science and immerse yourself in a new culture.

You can also obtain work experience with an optional placement year in industry, to gain an insight into the sector you will be working in and enhance your career prospects.

Further study

Many of our graduates go on to study taught or research masters, or PhDs in areas such as: bioinformatics, biological photography and imaging, business and technology, clinical microbiology, ecology and environmental management, forensic medicine, genetic counselling and oncology.

* Known destinations of full-time home undergraduates who were available for work 206/17. Salaries are calculated based on the median of those in full-time paid employment within the UK.
How to apply

All applications for full-time undergraduate study at Nottingham, including applications by international students, must be made through UCAS.

You can apply online atucas.com and will be notified of decisions through 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.

Minimum entry requirements
Unless otherwise stated in individual course profiles, all UK applicants should have GCSE English grade 4 (C) as a minimum.

Alternative qualifications
In this brochure you will find our A level and International Baccalaureate entry requirements but we accept a much broader range of qualifications. For more details, visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

Flexible admissions policy
In recognition of our applicants’ varied experience and educational pathways, we employ a flexible admissions policy. If we judge that your situation has adversely affected your achievement, then we will consider this when assessing your academic potential. Some courses may make a slightly lower offer. For more information about this policy, see nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

Mature applicants
We encourage applications from mature applicants who have a significant gap in education. You should apply through UCAS. Find out more 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/international

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.

If you wish to declare a disability, please ensure that you have ticked the appropriate box on your UCAS application form. Disclosure of this information will not affect your application.

In 2019/20, the Core Bursary will offer up to £2,000 for each year of undergraduate study. For details, including eligibility, see nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport

How to apply

All applications for full-time undergraduate study at Nottingham, including applications by international students, must be made through UCAS.

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For undergraduate enquiries contact:
Student Recruitment Support Hub

+44 (0)115 951 5559
nottingham.ac.uk/contact
UoNLifeSciences
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