



The University of  
**Nottingham**

UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

**School of Biosciences**

**Plant Science**

**Course Handbook**

**2016-2017**

Please note that all of the information given in this Student Course Handbook was correct at the time of going to press; Schools reserve the right to amend course structures or information and amend, substitute or withdraw modules detailed in this publication. Comments or feedback on the contents of this handbook are welcome, and will be used in the revised edition for 2017-2018. Any comments concerning this publication should be addressed to Kathy Wilson (Sutton Bonington Programme Manager) at the Sutton Bonington Campus or e-mail [Kathy.Wilson@Nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Kathy.Wilson@Nottingham.ac.uk).

This handbook is available in alternative formats. Please contact Kathy Wilson by emailing [Kathy.Wilson@Nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Kathy.Wilson@Nottingham.ac.uk) or telephone 0115 951 6002 to request an alternative format

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# 1 Dates for Your Diary

## **Term dates**

### *Autumn Term*

Monday 26 September 2016 – Friday 16 December 2016

### *Spring Term*

Monday 16 January 2017 – Friday 7 April 2017

### *Summer Term*

Monday 8 May 2017 – Friday 23 June 2017

## **Semester dates**

### *Autumn Semester*

Monday 26 September 2016 – Saturday 28 January 2017

### *Spring Semester*

Monday 30 January 2017 – Friday 23 June 2017

## **Exam dates**

### *Autumn Semester*

Monday 16 January 2017 to Saturday 28 January 2017 – including Saturday 21 January 2017

### *Spring Semester*

Monday 22 May 2017 to Saturday 10 June 2017 – including Saturday 27 May and Saturday 3 June 2017

### *Late summer resits*

Monday 21 August 2017 to Wednesday 30 August 2017 – excluding Saturday 26 August 2017

## 2 Course Handbook

This Manual is designed to give you all the information you need to allow you to progress your studies at Nottingham. It describes the various procedures and practices that are in place which are designed to help you achieve your goals. From time to time these have to be changed to meet new requirements put upon us by the University and changes are also made based on student opinion. Therefore at any time if you have a positive suggestion, which can bring about some improvement in what we do, please bring these to the attention of the Student Guild who are represented on a number of School Committees.

## 3 The School of Biosciences

The School of Biosciences is part of the Faculty of Science and is based mainly on the Sutton Bonington campus; the BSc/MSci Environmental Science and BSc Environmental Biology degrees are located at the University Park campus.

The School of Biosciences has over 80 academic members of staff, 895 undergraduate students and about 550 research and taught postgraduate students. Academic staff are allotted to one of 5 Divisions which reflect specific areas of teaching and research; Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Animal Sciences, Food Sciences, Nutritional Sciences and Plant and Crop Sciences.

You can find full and detailed information about the School and its staff on our Website – [www.nottingham.ac.uk/Biosciences](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/Biosciences)

## 4 Advice

One of the first people you will meet is your Personal Tutor. Your Personal Tutor will be a member of academic staff with whom you have regular meetings, sometimes as part of a group. Your Tutor is there to give you help and support in person as well as guidance in academic matters. You should make every effort to establish a good relationship. Your Tutor will provide you with advice and details of your exam performance so it is essential that you discuss your progress, in confidence, with him/her at regular intervals.

**Here are a few pieces of free advice; they come from fellow undergraduate students and from academic staff who helped us prepare this document.**

- Most lecturers teach at a faster pace than you may be used to from school or college.
- Develop good note taking skills early in your university career.
- Lectures are progressive, i.e. each one builds on the last. Missing lectures is therefore dangerous, as is ignoring things that you didn't fully understand at the time.
- Module Conveners may issue a book list. Check with academic staff and 2nd and 3rd year students which are the most valuable to buy. You may not be able to afford them all. Books on your reading lists can be borrowed from the Libraries.
- You should expect to work outside of class time. This may include reading, rewriting your notes, doing coursework, writing reports, etc.
- Don't be afraid of asking questions in lectures. Lecturers like to know that students are following what they are saying. The question you ask may be exactly what other students were wondering but were afraid to ask. Most lecturers will provide opportunities for questions. You can also ask for help outside of lecture time.

- Don't be afraid to approach staff for help. Their offices are accessible to you and they have telephones and email. They are busy people but a large part of their work involves dealing with students. Please see "office hours" section for further details of how to make appointments with academic staff.
- Make use of their time, advice, experience and expertise.
- Remember that activities continue after the exams and that you are required to remain at the University until the end of each semester.
- Never hesitate to see the lecturer if you are having difficulty with his / her module or don't understand why you were given a particular mark
- Handing in coursework late means losing marks. 5% will be lost for every working day late.
- The School has a Learning Community Forum with staff and student representatives from each year. Use this system to make constructive comments about your course.
- If you become ill and have to miss more than a couple of days, or a coursework deadline, or if your performance in an exam is affected, go to see your tutor and complete an Extenuating Circumstances Form and on the website:  
<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/extenuating-circumstances-policy-and-procedures.aspx>
- Missing an exam for any reason is extremely serious and should be avoided if at all possible. Let your Tutor know IMMEDIATELY and complete an extenuating circumstances form available as above.
- Check your email daily and Moodle updates; otherwise you may miss vital information.

## 5 Student Commitment

Students are expected to access their e-mail accounts regularly as this is the main means of communication. Please do not use any other personal email account which you may have for communication within the University. If you do, you risk losing out on important information

You are required to:

- **Read** this handbook and other documents referred to so that you are clear about the structure of your degree course and what is expected of you.
- **Abide** by University Ordinances, Regulations and other codes of practice (e.g. Computing, Safety etc.).
- Read **notices** placed on official notice boards, these provide an important primary channel of general communication and may advertise such information as re-arrangements to the teaching timetable.

*It is wise to carry a diary in which to note appointments with tutors, module conveners, course diary, etc.*

## 6 Your School and Your Studies

**Teaching Staff** - Lecturers are responsible for teaching components of modules and for setting and marking assignments and examinations.

Each module has a **Convener** who is responsible for its organisation. At the start of the module, the Convener will issue to each student a document describing its aims, content, objectives, transferable skills, methods of assessment, dates for submission and return of coursework and penalties for late submission. Students will be given coursework turnaround details. S/he will also conduct a feedback exercise at the end of the module to gauge student opinion.

Each course has a **Course Director**, responsible for overseeing its structure and smooth running. The Course Director ensures balance between modules and liaises regularly with other staff to ensure that appropriate teaching and learning are provided. The **Course Directors** are directly responsible to the **Assistant Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning** for ensuring that all levels of the teaching management structure operate efficiently. They should be notified of any significant problems. **Heads of Division** are ultimately responsible for the services provided by their staff.

The **Assistant Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning** oversees the organisation and management of teaching across the School.

The **Semester 1 Tutor** is responsible for maintaining a balance of work between the core Semester 1 modules. S/he appoints student representatives and holds meetings at which any matters which students may wish to raise can be discussed. Don't be afraid to make your views known!

A list of the staff who hold these positions are included in this handbook (see Staff Roles section). Students should feel able to approach any of them with concerns they may have about aspects of their education. Your Personal Tutor can advise you and make the appropriate contacts.

## 7 Staff Roles

<b>Role In School</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Location</b> <i>See key at end of table</i>	<b>Tel</b>	<b>Email</b> <b>@nottingham.ac.uk</b>
Head of School	Prof Simon Langley-Evans	MB	16139	Simon.Langley-Evans
School Manager Director of Operations	Dr Sarah Johnson	MB	16000	Sarah.Johnson
PA to Head of School and School Manager (Academic Administration)	Ms Susan Blencowe	MB	16010	Susan.Blencowe
Sutton Bonington Programme Manager	Ms K J Wilson	Barn	16002	Kathy.Wilson
Sutton Bonington Manager	Miss Helen Wells	Barn	86504	Helen.Wells
4-Year Degree Tutor (Euro. Cert.)	Rachel Jessop	BBSB	16162	Rachel.Jessop
Marketing Manager	Ms Helen Rotherforth	MB	16607	Helen.Rotherforth
Sutton Bonington Programme Administration	Mrs Gill Fox	Barn	86501	Gillian.Fox
IT Support Officer	Mr Dave Walters	JCG	16511	Dave.Walters
U21 Co-ordinator	Rachel Jessop	BBSB	16162	Rachel.Jessop
Sutton Bonington Administrator	Mrs E Staves	Barn	86504	Elena.Staves
Sutton Bonington Senior Administrator	Mrs L Eaves	Barn	86508	Linda.Eaves

### Building Locations

BBSB = Bioenergy and Brewing Science Building

GB = Gateway Building

MB = Main Building

SL = South Lab Building

SO = School Office, Main Building

JCG = James Cameron Gifford Library



<b>Heads of Division</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Building</b> <i>See key at end of table</i>	<b>Tel</b>	<b>Email</b> <b>@nottingham. ac.uk</b>
Animal Sciences	Prof P Garnsworthy	SL	16065	Phil.Garnsworthy
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences	Prof S Mooney	GB	16257	Sacha.Mooney
Food Sciences	Prof Tim Foster	FS	16246	Tim.Foster
Nutritional Sciences	Prof Andy Salter	NL	16120	Andy.Salter
Plant and Crop Sciences	Prof M Holdsworth	PCS	16323	Mike.Holdsworth

<b>Key Roles</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Tel</b>	<b>Email</b> <b>@nottingham. ac.uk</b>
Warden Bonington Hall	Dr I Hardy	SL	16052	Ian.Hardy
Senior Tutors	Prof M R Luck Dr L Bailey	SL	16309 16255	Martin.Luck Liz.Bailey
Semester 1 Tutor	Dr K Pyke	PCS	13216	Kevin.Pyke
Exam. Officer	Dr M Elmes	NL	16183	Matthew.J.Elmes
Study Abroad Co-ordinator	Dr Marcus Alcocer	NL	16103	Marcus.Alcocer
Biosciences Director of Learning and Teaching	Dr Fiona McCullough	NL	16118	Fiona.Mccullough
Malaysia School Coordinator	Dr Marcus Alcocer	PCS	16013	Marcus.Alcocer
Industrial Placement Officers & School Placement Officers	Dr J Wayte Rachel Jessop	BioB	16171 14380	Judith.Wayte Rachel.Jessop

### **Building Locations**

BioB = Bioenergy Building  
 FS = Food Sciences  
 GB = Gateway Building  
 NL = North Lab  
 PCS= Plant and Crop Sciences  
 SL = South Lab Building

<b>Course Directors</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Building</b> <i>See key at end of table</i>	<b>Tel</b>	<b>Email</b> <b>@nottingham. ac.uk</b>
Agriculture Agricultural and Crop Science Agricultural and Environmental Science Agricultural and Livestock International Agricultural Science	Prof P Wilson	SL	16075	Paul.Wilson
Animal Science	Dr D Sweetman	SL	16019	Dylan.Sweetman
Applied Biology & Biotechnology	Dr Nagamani Bora (Mani)	PCS	TBC	Nagamani.Bora
Environmental Biology	Dr Ruth Blunt	Gateway Building, SB, or B47, Life Sciences, UP	16288	Ruth.Blunt
Environmental Science	Dr Ruth Blunt	Gateway Building, SB, or B47, Life Sciences, UP	16288	Ruth.Blunt
Food Science & Nutrition and Food Science	Dr D Gray	FS	16147	David.Gray
Microbiology	Dr J Hobman	FS	16166	Jon.Hobman
Master of Nutrition and Dietetics	Dr F McCullough	NL	16118	Fiona.Mccullough
Nutrition	Dr P Jethwa Dr J Majewicz	NL NL	16604 16106	Preeti.Jethwa Jon.Majewicz
Plant Science	Dr Kevin Pyke	PCS	13216	Kevin.Pyke

## **Building Locations**

FS= Food Sciences Building  
 GB = Gateway Building  
 NL = North Lab Building  
 PCS= Plant and Crop Sciences  
 SL = South Lab Building

## 8 Academic Staff and Locations

Name	Room	Telephone Number	Divisions*
Dr R Alberio	B223, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6304	AS
Dr M Alcocer	49E, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6103	NS
Dr R Anand-Ivell	B216, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6298	AS
Mrs A Avery	49D, North Laboratory Building	0115 951 6238	NS
Dr E Bailey	C21, The Gateway Building	0115 951 6255	AES
Dr M Bell	B228, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6056	AES
Ms M Benlloch Tinoco	A18 Biosciences. Main Building	0115 951 6146	MB
Prof M J Bennett	C06, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 3255	PCS
Dr A Bishopp	A15, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6108	PCS
Dr R Blunt	B47, Life Sciences Building <b>or</b> C18 Gateway Building	0115 951 3238	AES
Dr N Bora	B06, Bioenergy and Brewing Science Bldg	0115 951 6011	PCS
Dr J Brameld	43, 1st Floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6133	NS
Prof M Broadley	A05, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6382	PCS
Dr K Brown	B30a, Food Science Building	0115 951 6509	FS
Dr N Chapman	306, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6082	PCS
Dr L Coneyworth	58, 2nd Floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6124	NS
Prof I F Connerton	B28, Food Sciences Building	0115 951 6119	FS
Dr D Cook	C04, Bioenergy and Brewing Science Bldg	0115 951 6245	FS
Prof N Crout	C19, The Gateway Building	0115 951 6253	AES
Prof M J Dickinson	A04, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 3236	PCS
Prof C E R Dodd	B30, Food Science Building	0115 951 6163	FS
Dr S Egan	C21 School of Veterinary Medicine and Science	0115 951 6659	VS
Dr M Elmes	53, 2nd Floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6183	NS
Dr I Fisk	A28, FS Building	0115 951 6037	FS
Dr R Ford	C03, Bioenergy and Brewing Science Bldg	0115 951 6685	FS
Prof T Foster	B29, FS Building	0115 951 6246	FS
Dr M J Foulkes	312, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6024	PCS
Dr R G Fray	C33, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6371	PCS
Dr A P French	C08a, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6108	PCS
Prof P C Garnsworthy	B203, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6065	AS
Dr Z Gonzalez-Carranza	C11, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6335	PCS
Dr N Graham	C30, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6681	PCS
Dr D Gray	A29, FS Building	0115 951 6147	FS
Dr D Greetham	A20 Food Science	0115 951 6578	FS
Prof S E Harding	A15, The Limes	0115 951 6148	FS
Dr I Hardy	C26, The Gateway Building	0115 951 6052	AES
Dr J Harris	C18, Vet School	0115 951 6316	AS
Dr K Harris-Adams	C311, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6066	AES
Dr P J Hill	B21, FS Building	0115 951 6169	FS
Dr S Hill	A28 Food Sciences	0115 951 6145	FS
Dr J L Hobman	B22, FS Building	0115 951 6166	FS

Prof M J Holdsworth	301B, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6046	PCS
Prof J Hort	C10, Bioenergy and Brewing Science Bldg	0115 951 6222	FS
Rachel Jessop	C05, Bioenergy and Brewing Science Bldg	0115 951 6162	FS
Dr P Jethwa	55, North Laboratory Building	0115 951 6604	NS
Miss J Kearns	30, 1st floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6756	NS
Prof I P King	C21, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6372	PCS
Dr J King	C26, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 3205	PCS
Dr B Lomax	C24, The Gateway Building	0115 951 6258	AES
Prof M R Luck	B207, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6309	AS
Dr S Lydon	C08, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6289	PCS
Dr J Majewicz	37, 1st floor, North Laboratory Building	0115 951 6106	NS
Dr S Price	C08 Bioenergy and Brewing Science Bldg	0115 951 6742	FS
Dr K Pyke	C09, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 3216	PCS
Dr D Quain	C08 BABS	0115 951 6160	FS
Dr C Raaff	26 North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6121	NS
Dr S Ramsden	308, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6078	AES
Dr R Ray	303, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6094	PCS
Dr C E D Rees	B23, FS Building	0115 951 6167	FS
Prof K Ritz	C22 Gateway Building	0115 951 6288	AES
Dr T P Robbins	C27, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6329	PCS
Prof J A Roberts	A06, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6339	PCS
Dr A Rosenthal	A24 Food Sciences	0115 951 6038	FS
Prof A M Salter	32A, 1st Floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6120	NS
Dr D Scott	B19, FS Building	0115 951 6221	FS
Prof G B Seymour	A03, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6323	PCS
Prof G Shaw	C29, The Gateway Building	0115 951 3206	AES
Dr C Sietou	C304 South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6306	AES
Prof K D Sinclair	B210, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6053	AS
Dr M S Sjogersten	C27, The Gateway Building	0115 951 6239	AES
Dr D L Sparkes	330, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6074	PCS
Dr D Stekel	C20, The Gateway Building	0115 951 6294	AES
Dr C Stevenson	A57, Vet School	0115 951 6055	AS
Dr R Stoger	B232, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6232	AS
Miss R Stow	40, 1st floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6170	NS
Dr A Swali	A20, Ground Floor, FS Bldg	0115 951 6578	FS
Dr R Swarup	C31, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6284	PCS
Dr D Sweetman	B234, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6019	AS
Dr J A Swift	57a, Second Floor, North Lab	0115 951 6178	NS
Dr R Tarlington	School of Veterinary Medicine and Science	0115 951 6273	VS
Dr M Taylor	52, 2nd Floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 95 16104	NS
Dr A Waterfall	B224, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6307	AS
Dr S Welham	24, North Laboratory Building	0115 951 6129	NS
Dr D Wells	C07, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 6108	PCS
Dr H West	C28, The Gateway Building	0115 951 6268	AES
Mrs E Weston	A22, FS Building	0115 951 6146	FS
Dr G White	B227, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6068	AS
Dr K Whitehead	28A, 1st Floor, North Laboratory Bldg	0115 951 6136	NS
Prof P Wilson	332, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6075	AES
Prof Z A Wilson	A03, Plant Sciences Building	0115 951 3235	PCS
Prof J Wiseman	B205, South Laboratory Building	0115 951 6054	AS
Dr B Wolf	A27, Ground Floor, FS Bldg	0115 951 6134	FS
Dr S Young	C25, The Gateway Building	0115 951 6256	AES

**\*Divisional codes**

AES	Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
AS	Animal Sciences
BBS	Bioenergy and Brewing Science Bldg
FS	Food Sciences
MB	Main Building
NS	Nutritional Science
PCS	Plant and Crop Sciences
VS	School of Veterinary Medicine and Science

# 9 Course Structure, Organisation and Choosing Your Modules

## The Academic Year

The academic year at Nottingham is based on 2 semesters (autumn and spring) spread over three terms.

The following definitions might be helpful to you:

- **Credits** indicate a quantity of assessed learning. They contribute to a cumulative indication of modules which a student has completed. One credit equates to approximately 10 hours of study.
- A **Module** is a specified programme of study which is self-contained and attracts a specified number of credits. Examinations are held at the end of most modules. A ten credit module accounts for approximately 100 hours of your time, of which usually no more than 40 hours will be spent in the lecture room or laboratory
- A **Course of Study** is a set of modules satisfying the requirements for a particular degree and attracting 320 credits for an Ordinary Bachelor degree and 360 credits for an Honours degree.
- The levels in a course of study leading to an Honours degree are as follows
  - Year 1 (120 credits) Level 1
  - Year 2 (120 credits) Level 2
  - Year 3 (120 credits) Level 3

And for a Master of Nutrition and Dietetics or MSci degree

- Year 4 (120 credits) Level 4

Credits achieved in Year 1 are for progression purposes only and will not contribute to the final degree classification.

- A **semester** is a division of the academic year. It consists of twelve weeks of teaching, coursework and revision, plus two (Autumn Semester) or four (Spring Semester) weeks of assessment and consultation.  
Note: Although each academic year is divided for teaching purposes into two semesters, there is still a three-term pattern of attendance, with breaks at Christmas, Easter and during the summer.
- A **year** is period of study consisting of an Autumn Semester followed by a Spring Semester. **Assessment** may be by means of written examination papers, oral examinations or coursework. Progression and/or degree classification are based on the outcome of the assessment.
- A **mark** module a numerical indication of the quality of the assessed work completed by a student in each. Marks awarded are subject to the approval of the Board of Examiners and are ratified by an External Examiner.

## Choosing optional modules\*

At module advisory days you will be asked to complete a module registration form that details your chosen optional modules for ALL PERIODS, i.e. for modules totalling 120 credits. All entries must include the module code. **All optional choices must be approved and signed by your Course Director.** You will have an opportunity at the beginning of the Autumn/Spring Semesters (the "Two week change of mind period") to make adjustments to your choices for that semester; you will also need to check that there are no timetable clashes.

Your choice of modules must normally total 60 credits per semester, and in any event not less than **50 credits** or more than **70 credits** per semester. To determine how a Full Year module contributes to the number of credits in a given semester, check the semester credit split for that module in the Module Catalogue [modulecatalogue.nottingham.ac.uk/Nottingham](http://modulecatalogue.nottingham.ac.uk/Nottingham)

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to see that your combination of modules accords with the Regulations for your course and teaching timetable. **Failure to do so could prevent you from progressing to the next year of the course or from graduating.**

Once you have chosen your optional modules and they have been approved, IT IS YOUR **RESPONSIBILITY** to ensure that you read the Declaration, sign the form and hand it to School Office staff. After that date changes to Full Year and Autumn Semester choices will not be allowed. **Failure to hand in the form by the date displayed may lead to incorrect examination entries and records.**

*\*There are some courses in Year 1 where there are no optional modules; however this information is useful for Years 2 and 3.*

## Modules outside Biosciences

If you wish to register for an optional module from outside the School of Biosciences, you should write the module details on your Module Entry Form and obtain a signature in the "Agreed" box from the School that offers the module, as confirmation that the offering School accepts your registration (or email and provide email confirmation).

A complete list of modules within the University can be found in the Catalogue of Modules at [modulecatalogue.nottingham.ac.uk/Nottingham](http://modulecatalogue.nottingham.ac.uk/Nottingham)

# 10 Plant Science

**Course Director:** Dr Kevin Pyke

**Contact details:** e: [kevin.pyke@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.pyke@nottingham.ac.uk) or t: 0115 951 3216

See “taught” column to check the semester in which modules are taught

## Qualifying Year (Year 1)

### ***Compulsory***

Students must take all modules in this group

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Taught</b>
D211F3	The Biosciences and Global Food Security	10	Autumn
D211P1	Genes and Cells: 1	10	Autumn
D212P5	Plant Science Research Tutorials	10	Autumn
C112P1	Plant Science	10	Spring
D212A1	Grassland Management	10	Spring
D211E5	The Ecology of Natural and Managed Ecosystems	20	Spring
D212P3	Applied Genetics	10	Spring
D21BG1	Biosciences Tutorials (Academic Development) and Foundation Science	20	Full Year
D21BN2	Biochemistry – The Building Blocks of Life	20	Full Year

## Year 2

### ***Compulsory***

Students must take all modules in this group

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Taught</b>
D223P9	Applied plant physiology: from cell to crop	20	Autumn
D224G1	Professional Skills for Bioscientists	20	Spring

### ***Restricted***

Students must take a maximum of **80** credits from this group

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Taught</b>
C123E3	Soil Science	10	Autumn
D223A6	Economic Analysis for Agricultural and Environmental Sciences	10	Autumn
D223E4	Ecosystem Processes	10	Autumn
D223P0	Molecular Biology and the Dynamic Cell	20	Autumn
C12458	Biological Photography and Imaging 1	10	Spring
D224A4	Enterprise Management Challenge	10	Spring
D224E4	Computer Modelling in Science: Introduction (UP)	20	Spring
D224P7	Plant Pests and Diseases	20	Spring
D224P8	Molecular Pharming and Biotechnology	20	Spring



**Year 3****Compulsory**

Students must take all modules in this group

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits Taught</b>	
D23PRO	Undergraduate Research Project	40	Full Year

**Restricted**

Students must take a minimum of 60 and a maximum of 80 credits from this group

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits Taught</b>	
C13569	Fundamental and Applied Aspects of Plant Genetic Manipulation	10	Autumn
C135P2	Molecular Plant Pathology	10	Autumn
C135P3	Basic Introduction to Omic Technologies	10	Autumn
D235P2	Plant Cell Signalling	10	Autumn
D235P6	Plants and the Light Environment	10	Autumn
D236A3	Current Issues in Crop Science	10	Spring
D236A8	Field Crops Cereals	10	Spring
D236P3	Plant Disease Control	10	Spring
D236P4	Sex, Flowers and Biotechnology	10	Spring
D236P7	Plants and the Soil Environment	10	Spring
D23BA7	Genetic Improvement of Crop Plants	20	Full Year

## **11 Table of Modules**

		Agric (Production)	Agric (Business)	iABM	Ag & C	Ag & LS	Ani Sci	Biotech	Dietetics	Env Biol	Env Sci	Food Sci	Microbio	Nutrition	Nutri and Food Sci	Plant Sci
Title	Code															
Biosciences Tutorials (Academic Development) & Foundation Science	D21BG1	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20				10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20
	D211F3	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			10	10	10	10	10
The Biosciences and Global Food Security																
Biochemistry – The Building Blocks of Life	D21BN2	10 of 20			10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20			10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20
Genes and Cells 1	D211P1	10			10	10	10	10	10				10	10		10
Animal Biology	D211A2	10	10	10		10	10									
Introduction to Nutrition	D21BN1					10 of 20	10 of 20		10 of 20			10		10 of 20	10 of 20	
Agricultural Business in the Global Economy	D211A3		20	20												
Microbes and You	D21BF3												10 of 20			
The Physiology of Microbes	D21BF7							10 of 20					10 of 20			
Dietetics Tutorial (academic Development)	D21BN6								5 of 10							
Introduction to Dietetics	D21BN5								5 of 10							
Food Commodities and Primary Processing	D211F4											10			10	
Food Materials and Ingredients	D21BF1											10 of 20		10 of 20	10 of 20	
The Physiology of Microbes	D21BF7															
Introduction to Health Behaviours	D21BN4								10 of 20					10 of 20		
Global Environmental Processes (UP)	C111E1									20	20					
Environmental Geoscience (UP)	C111E5										20					
Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour	C11EEB									10 of 20						
Dissertation in Environmental Science (UP)	C11BE1									10 of 20	10 of 20					
Environmental Science and Society	D212E4										10 of 20					
Life on Earth (UP)	C11LOE									10 of 20						
Social Psychology UP)	C81SOC												10			
Molecules that Changed the World (UP)	F11MCW												10			
Plant Science Research Tutorials	D212P5				10											10

**NB Modules in semesters 2 - 6 may have pre-requisite modules. It is your responsibility to ensure you are taking the appropriate pre-requisites for later modules.**  
**Module choices are subject to timetabling constraints. It is therefore important to check the timetable and pre-requisites when making your module choices.**

			Agric (Production)	Agric (Business)	iABM	Ag & C	Ag & LS	Ani Sci	Biotech	Dietetics	Env Biol	Env Sci	Food Sci	Microbiol	Nutrition	Nutri & Food Sci	Plant Sci
<b>General</b>	Module No																
Biosciences Tutorials (Academic Development) and Foundation Sciences	D21BG1		10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20				10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20
	D21BN2		10 of 20			10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20			10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20	10 of 20
	D212P3						10	10	10					10			10
Introduction to Nutrition	D21BN1						10 of 20	10 of 20		10 of 20			10 of 20		10 of 20	10 of 20	
The Physiology of Microbes	D21BF7								10 of 20					10 of 20			
Microbes and You	D21BF3													10 of 20			
Food Materials and Ingredients	D21BF1												10 of 20		10 of 20	10 of 20	
Contemporary Agricultural Systems	D212A2		10	10	10	10	10	10			10	10	10			10	
The Ecology of Natural and Managed Ecosystems	D211E5		20	20	20	20						20					20
Introduction to Dietetics	D21BN5									5 of 10							
Dietetics Tutorials (academic development)	D21BN6									5 of 10							
Introduction to Health Behaviours	D21BN4									10 of 20					10 of 20		
Grassland Management	D212A1		10	10	10	10	10	10			10	10					10
Microbial Physiology	D212F7												10				
Physiology for Food Scientists	D212F9															10	
Introductory Physiology	D212Z5							20	20	20					20		
Dissertation in Environmental Science (UP)	C11BE1										10 of 20	10 of 20					
Life on Earth	C11LOE										10 of 20						
Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour	C11EEB										10 of 20						
Integrated Agri-Food Markets and Marketing	D212A3			20	20												
Managing Tourism & the Environment: Conflict or Consensus (UP)	N12122											10					
Environmental Science and Society	D212E4										10 of 20	10 of 20					
The Anthropology of Human Ecology (UP)	AA1017										10	10					
Microorganisms and Disease (UP)	C51201										10			10			
Plant Science (UP)	C112P1		10			10			10		10	10					10

**NB Modules in semesters 2 - 6 may have pre-requisite modules. It is your responsibility to ensure you are taking the appropriate pre-requisites for your module choices. It is therefore important to check the timetable and pre-requisites when making your module choices.**

Black sections: core    Grey Sections: recommended options    (UP) = Module based at University Park

# 12 Timetable Information

## Academic Year 2016-2017 Week Pattern for the UK CAMPUS

Teaching starts Thursday 29 September 2016 (if your modules are taught on either a Thursday or Friday)

Syllabus Plus Timetable Week	Teaching Week	Week Commencing	Comments
1	1	26/09/2016	<i>Registration/Induction</i>
2	2	03/10/2016	Autumn Semester
3	3	10/10/2016	Autumn Semester
4	4	17/10/2016	Autumn Semester
5	5	24/10/2016	Autumn Semester
6	6	31/10/2016	Autumn Semester
7	7	07/11/2016	Autumn Semester
8	8	14/11/2016	Autumn Semester
9	9	21/11/2016	Autumn Semester
10	10	28/11/2016	Autumn Semester
11	11	05/12/2016	Autumn Semester
12	12	12/12/2016	<i>term finishes Friday 16/12/16</i>
13	Vacation	19/12/2016	Christmas
14	Vacation	26/12/2016	Christmas
15	Vacation	02/01/2017	Christmas
16	Vacation	09/01/2017	Christmas
17	Assessment	16/01/2017	Assessment
18	Assessment	23/01/2017	Assessment
19	1	30/01/2017	Spring Semester
20	2	06/02/2017	Spring Semester
21	3	13/02/2017	Spring Semester
22	4	20/02/2017	Spring Semester
23	5	27/02/2017	Spring Semester
24	6	06/03/2017	Spring Semester
25	7	13/03/2017	Spring Semester
26	8	20/03/2017	Spring Semester
27	9	27/03/2017	Spring Semester
28	10	03/04/2017	Spring Semester (ends 07/04//17)
29	Vacation	10/04/2017	Easter (Good Friday 14/04/17)
30	Vacation	17/04/2017	Easter (Easter Monday 17/04/17)
31	Vacation	24/04/2017	Easter
32	Vacation	01/05/2017	Easter
33	11	08/05/2017	Spring Semester
34	12	15/05/2017	Revision/Assessment
35	Assessment	22/05/2017	Assessment
36	Assessment	29/05/2017	Assessment
37	Assessment	05/06/2017	Assessment
38	-	12/06/2017	-
39	-	19/06/2017	<i>term finishes Friday 23/06/17</i>
40		26/06/2017	
41		03/07/2017	
42		10/07/2017	
43		17/07/2017	
44		24/07/2017	
45		31/07/2017	

46		07/08/2017	
47		14/08/2017	
48	Assessment	21/08/2017	Re-sit Period
49	Assessment	28/08/2017	Re-sit Period
50		04/09/2017	
51		11/09/2017	
52		18/09/2017	

# 13 Teaching Methods

## Lectures

Throughout your university career, you will find that lectures are the most common method of teaching. It is most important for you to ensure that you have a set of good clear notes based on the lectures **and** your own reading. As you progress through the second and third years of your degree, you will be expected to do increasing amounts of reading; it is therefore useful to develop your reading skills during your first year. Teaching of some modules is complemented by the use of teaching software.

Hints and tips for making the most effective use of the teaching and learning opportunities available to you are provided in *Study Skills Guide* given to all students at the beginning of their first year).

**NB books which should be purchased will be identified at the start of teaching - you are advised not to buy any books prior to this unless otherwise indicated in the recommended reading lists at the end of each module synopses.**

## Practical Classes

Course requirements may require you to take practical classes. These may involve laboratory experiments or observations and analysis of data obtained during the sessions. Practical sessions provide an opportunity to learn and develop additional skills in techniques, observation and analysis. Practical classes also provide an opportunity to extend your knowledge of topics not covered in lectures. For each practical course you will receive a laboratory manual or collection of schedules which will expand on the learning experience of the course.

Some large first year classes are taught simultaneously in adjacent laboratories. Consult the class lists posted on the notice boards to identify the laboratory you will work in. For each practical class, at least one member of academic staff will always be in attendance. S/he will be accompanied by postgraduate students who work as demonstrators. In some cases, technicians may also be present to assist. The teaching team is present in the laboratory to aid your learning experience, so please seek their help as much as you need, and ensure you carry out your work safely, with no harm to yourself or other students. Practical classes provide a valuable opportunity for you to get to know the academic staff in a less formal way and for them to help you. These classes frequently provide an excellent opportunity for you to raise questions from the lecture course with the member of staff and deal with problems you may have.

For all practical classes, you **MUST WEAR** a suitable full-length laboratory coat, which must be buttoned at all times. You will be given a lab coat and safety glasses during Week 1 and advised about any other items you need to purchase. You **MUST** also **WEAR** safety glasses at all times unless advised to the contrary by an academic member of staff.

Safe working and good laboratory practices are essential in the laboratory environment and all laboratory exercises must be formally assessed under the regulations of COSHH. Details of these assessments are noted in the laboratory manual or schedule to draw your attention to specific hazards and the requirements of safe practice. During the introduction to a practical class, the member of staff in charge will give a verbal statement on safety issues.

Food and drink **MUST NOT** be taken into the laboratory.

## **Assessed Work**

Many modules have an element of student-centred learning, especially in Parts I (Year 2) and II (Year 3) of your course. The work involved in these is assessed and forms part of the overall mark for the module. The proportion of the mark allotted to coursework is identified in each module description. Penalties are applied for late submission of coursework (5% per working day), unless there are extenuating circumstances and appropriate documentation is provided. In general, modules in the School of Bioscience use electronic submission of coursework through Moodle as the means of submission.

## **IT Training**

IT is increasingly important as a basis of learning, communication and the preparation of your work e.g. dissertation, BSc project thesis and laboratory reports. It is important that you develop/improve your IT skills as you progress through your course.

## **Computer-aided Learning (CAL)**

Several modules include computer-based teaching material, quizzes, exercises, simulations. In order to use these, you must be registered on the School of Biosciences Network. You may be assessed on some of these packages while using them or in the form of a conventional write-up. You should be prepared to take notes as you work through material on computers.



# 14 Assessment, Progression, Compensation and Reassessment

The University Undergraduate Course Regulations apply to all the School's BSc, MSci and MNutr degrees.

The regulations can be found at:

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/quality-manual/study-regulations/study-regulations-for-undergraduate-courses.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/quality-manual/study-regulations/study-regulations-for-undergraduate-courses.aspx)

You should note that:

- The pass mark for a module is 40%.
- **Progression and Compensation (BSc):** You don't need to pass all modules in order to progress to the next stage of your course. Compensation of failed modules can be achieved in the following ways – if you have:
  - (a) passed modules worth at least 80 credits and have a weighted average for the stage of at least 40% with no module marks of less than 30%;
  - or
  - (b) passed modules worth at least 100 credits and have a weighted average for the stage of at least 50%.
  - or
  - (c) passed modules worth at least 90 credits, have marks of 30% or more in modules worth at least 110\* credits, and have a weighted average for the stage of at least 45%.

**Progression and Compensation (MNutr):** At the Part I, Part II and Part III stage, no core module can be compensated with the exception of optional modules for which university regulations apply. In addition, students must obtain at least 35% in both the examination and coursework components of these modules, although a mark between 35% and 39% in either the examination or coursework may be compensated by the other component of assessment.

**Progression (MSci):** At the end of Part I, students on the MSci degree must achieve an overall average of 55% at first sit in order to progress to Part II.

- **Reassessment:** If you do not reach the criteria for progression at the end of stage of study, you have a right to one re-assessment in each failed module. The form of reassessment is normally the same as for the first sit, with some exceptions (for example some MCQ papers are sometimes replaced with essay-style papers). For modules which are assessed by both coursework and exam, the School of Biosciences requires that, if the module has been failed overall, then you must be reassessed in the examination element of that module, even if that component of assessment has been passed.

In addition, if you have failed the coursework overall (of a module which is assessed by both coursework and examination) you may elect to resubmit remedial coursework. However, if you have passed your coursework overall, you are not entitled to resubmit either the whole coursework or any failed component within your coursework assessments. If you wish to take up the option of remedial coursework, you must make contact with the appropriate module convener (or his/her representative) **within 7 days** of the date of the letter notifying you that you have failed to progress. The module convener will give you a title and submission date for the coursework. Any remedial

coursework must be submitted before the start of the August examination period. However, individual module conveners have the right to set earlier deadlines at the time of setting the coursework.

**Please note: for modules which have both an examination and coursework component, it is not possible for you to be reassessed by resubmitting coursework alone; you are required to retake the examination, even if this element of the module has been passed.**

This policy allows students to maximise their chances of passing the module after reassessment. In Part I (and Part II [Master of Nutrition]), the ORIGINAL marks are carried forward for degree classification purposes. However, reassessment marks may be considered by the examining boards if the candidate is on the borderline between degree classes.

- **Progression after reassessment:** For progression purposes, the higher or highest of the marks obtained in each module (at first attempt or upon re-assessment) are considered and the progression and compensation regulations applied accordingly.
- **Marking Schemes:** see appendices 2-6
- **Progression Charts:** see appendix 6 and can be viewed at <http://goo.gl/N492mp>
- **BSc Degree Candidates**

Award of an Honours degree is dependent on completion and submission of a final year project.

When the overall Part I / Part II mark has been computed, it is rounded to provide a single overall integer mark before any degree classification is assigned. Subject to the exception of borderline candidates and those with extenuating circumstances, who may be awarded a higher degree classification, students shall be awarded the class of degree with their overall mark. The classes of honours degree are as follows:-

- First Class - average of 70%+
- Second Class (Division 1) - average of 60-69%.
- Second Class (Division II) - average of 50-59%.
- Third Class - average of 40-49%.

The standardised weighting for the stages of a Bachelor degree will be 33/67 for Parts I and II respectively, and the standardised weighting for an Integrated Master's degree (undergraduate) will be 20/40/40 for Parts I, II and III respectively.

## **Borderline Profiling**

Classification borderlines will be based on the overall rounded average mark (credit and stage weighted). Borderline overall averages will be as follows:

2:1-1<sup>st</sup>            68, 69

2:2-2:1            58, 59

3rd-2:2            48, 49

A student should be given the higher class if either of the following criteria are met:

- Half or more of the final stage credits are in the higher class;
- Half or more of the final and penultimate stage credits are in the higher class

## **Further Reading**

Full details of regulations can be viewed on the UoN Quality Manual page at

<http://goo.gl/qoQP3>

# 15 Extenuating Circumstances

Policy regarding extensions to coursework on grounds of Extenuating Circumstances, Disability or Specific Learning Difficulties Summary:

- 1) Extensions to coursework will not normally be given unless the student has a specific recommendation from the School's Extenuating Circumstances Committee, or Academic/Disability Support.
- 2) Extensions will not normally be given as a result of short-term illness of less than 7 days unless the module convenor agrees this.
- 3) Students with Academic/Disability referrals allowing the option for coursework extension may arrange for a short extension to coursework submission with the module convenor, on the basis of particular circumstances, without the need to apply for extenuating circumstances.
- 4) Students with approved extenuating circumstances may be granted an extension to coursework submission of usually no more than 21 calendar days.

Full details of the school's implementation of University policy is below. Meeting deadlines is an important part of working life. It is important that students develop time management skills and the ability to meet deadlines before undertaking work placements or entering the workforce on graduation. Coursework deadlines are normally set at the start of the module by the module convenor<sup>1</sup>, and clearly stated in module documents/introductory teaching sessions. This gives students the opportunity to identify periods of high workload within each semester and plan their time accordingly. Whilst course teams will try to adapt deadlines to avoid coursework 'hotspots', deadlines are set as appropriate for each individual module and it is the student's responsibility to plan their time accordingly.

Extensions to coursework deadlines can be given in limited circumstances – for example, if students have extenuating circumstances, disability or specific learning difficulties. These are dealt with in the following way.

- Extensions to coursework will not be given to students unless they have a specific recommendation from Academic/Disability Support, the School's Extenuating Circumstances (ECs) committee or the module convenor (see below).
- Students with specific recommendations from Academic/Disability Support may request one extension in advance of the deadline, giving justification for why they need it. Students should not expect to be offered an extension, and it is acceptable for the Module Convenor not to allow one, if it is not possible within the module structure – for example, if the work is subject to a very tight marking turn-around period, such as laboratory practical write-ups. In these circumstances, students should be given notice in advance of the deadline that no extensions can be allowed. If the module convenor feels that an extension is appropriate, the following extension lengths, which have been endorsed by Academic Support, will be followed:

## Length of Coursework

Up to 2,500 words (or equivalent)  
2,500- 5,000 words (or equivalent)  
Final Year Dissertation

## Extension

Maximum of 2 calendar days  
2-4 calendar days  
Maximum of 5 calendar days

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<sup>1</sup> Where this guidance refers to "module convenor" this can also be taken to include coursework marker/other academic contributor to the module where this person is not the module convenor.

Any further extension would normally only be given on the basis of approved extenuating circumstances.

Any unapproved late submissions will have marks deducted as outlined in the Quality Manual (5% for each working day).

Students who submit coursework late as a result of illness or other circumstances lasting more than 7 days should discuss this with the module convenor or their personal tutor and should submit an EC form in advance of the submission deadline and evidence within 7 days of the submission deadline. If evidence is not available at the time that the form is submitted, it can be submitted within 14 days of the EC form submission. This documentation will be considered via the normal EC process (see: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/extenuating-circumstances-policy-and-procedures.aspx>)

- If ECs are accepted, an extension to the submission will be agreed and any marks that have been deducted for late submission will be reinstated.

Any extension (within a teaching semester) for students with ECs will not normally be for more than 21 calendar days, to ensure that all coursework is submitted prior to the coursework return date. Any submission after the return date will not be accepted but a student may be given a first sit opportunity if they have approved ECs.

# 16 Plagiarism and Paraphrasing

## Plagiarism and Paraphrasing

This section is also covered in the Study Skills book. It draws upon information available at the following University Web sources together with guidance from staff in the School of Biosciences. **As work is now submitted electronically through Turnitin, be aware the plagiarism is readily-detected.**

### USEFUL ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

One good method to avoid plagiarism is to make notes from material you have read and construct your essay / report, in your own words, from these notes. It is tempting (and easy) to copy and paste, but this is unacceptable and constitutes an academic misconduct. It is also poor practice to construct a draft by copying and pasting material from multiple sources, with the intention of then paraphrasing the resulting document. Apart from the fact that the end-product may be disjointed, the paraphrasing is often incomplete and the work submitted may contain elements of plagiarised material. It is, however, acceptable to include relevant figures and tables from published work, as long as you acknowledge their source by citing the primary reference for them.

To make a specific point, there may be rare occasions when you have may to quote an author verbatim; this is acceptable if you put the quotation in inverted commas and give the source, but you should have a good reason why you can't put the material in your own words.

### USEFUL WEBSITES

#### Academic integrity and plagiarism

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively/writing/plagiarism/index.aspx>

#### Quality Manual

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/academic-misconduct.aspx>

#### Studying Effectively

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively/home.aspx>

### DEFINITION OF AN ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Any activity or behaviour by a student which may give that student, or another student, an unpermitted academic advantage in a summative assessment is considered to be an act of academic misconduct and unacceptable in a scholarly community. Such action(s) will be considered under the University's Regulations on Academic Misconduct and this may lead to a penalty being imposed.

### DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM

*The following definition of plagiarism appears in the University Quality Manual:*

Plagiarism: representing another person's work or ideas as one's own, for example by failing to follow convention in acknowledging sources, use of quotation marks etc. This includes the unauthorised use of one student's work by another student and the commissioning, purchase and submission of a piece of work, in part or whole, as the student's own.

Note: A proof-reader may be used to ensure that the meaning of the author is not misrepresented due to the quality and standard of English used, unless a School/Department policy specifically prohibits this. Where permitted, a proof-reader may identify spelling and basic grammar errors. Inaccuracies in academic content should not be corrected nor should the structure of the piece of work be changed; doing so may result in a charge of plagiarism.

**Work in any year of study which is not undertaken in an Examination Room** under the supervision of an invigilator (such as dissertations, essays, project work, experiments, observations, specimen collecting and other similar work), but which is nevertheless required work forming part of the degree, diploma or certificate assessment, must be the student's own and must not contain plagiarised material.

Possible **penalties** for an academic misconduct including plagiarism are:

- a) No marks to be awarded in relation to the specific material which is the subject of the act constituting an academic misconduct (thus leading to a reduced overall mark for the piece of course work, dissertation, examination question or examination script in which the specific material appears)
- b) Award a mark of zero for the entire piece of course work, dissertation, examination question or examination script in which the academic misconduct has occurred
- c) Award a mark of zero for the entire module in which the academic misconduct has occurred
- d) Award a mark of zero for all the assessments in the semester (even where this will lead to a reduction in degree class). In the case of year-long modules, this penalty may affect both semesters
- e) Award a mark of zero for the whole year (even where this will lead to a reduction in degree class)
- f) Require the student to take reassessments (as a result of being awarded zero marks) in the following session before being allowed to progress or complete their course
- g) require the student to register with the University and enrol on modules in which they need to take reassessments (as a result of being awarded zero marks) in the following session before being allowed to progress or complete their course
- h) Terminate the student's course
- i) Withdraw the award of a degree or other qualification from, and issue an amended transcript to, a former student of the University
- j) Full details of possible School and University penalties can be found at:  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/quality-manual/assessment/academic-misconduct.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/quality-manual/assessment/academic-misconduct.aspx)

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Any activity or behaviour by a student which may give that student, or another student, an unpermitted academic advantage in a summative assessment is considered to be an act of academic misconduct and unacceptable in a scholarly community. Such action(s) will be considered under the University's Regulations on Academic Misconduct and this may lead to a penalty being imposed.

Here is a range of cheating behaviours:

1. False citation (i.e. attributing work to the wrong source)
2. Plagiarism
3. Using unauthorised sources or notes in examinations or tests
4. Dishonestly obtaining material or information prior to examinations
5. Copying from other students
6. Permitting other students to copy your work
7. Soliciting work from others (e.g. individuals, 'editors' or essay banks etc)
8. Submitting your own previously assessed work without acknowledgement (auto plagiarism)

**Unauthorised Collaboration, or Collusion**, occurs where:

Collusion: cooperation in order to gain an unpermitted advantage. This may occur where students have consciously collaborated on a piece of work, in part or whole, and passed it off as their own individual efforts or where one student has authorised another to use their work, in part or whole, and to submit it as their own.

Note: Legitimate input from University tutors or approved readers or scribes is not considered to be collusion.

**Fabrication** may take various forms but is essentially concerned with manufacturing aspects of the work produced. For example, the insertion of made-up information, data, sources, quotes, anecdotes or analysis would all amount to fabrication

### **Recycling or unauthorised, multiple submissions.**

The multiple submission by a student of their own material is not, in itself, considered as academic misconduct. Submission of material that has been submitted on a previous occasion for a different summative assessment is, however, unlikely to be academically appropriate. The merit of such material will therefore be a matter of academic judgement and it may attract fewer (or no) marks than would have been the case if it had not been assessed previously

#### **Note:**

**Plagiarism is regarded as a serious academic misconduct by the University and will be penalised accordingly. Plagiarism can be easily identified by entering suspect passages into search engines. Specialist search engines (e.g. Turnitin) are available to check all submitted work against previously published sources, including coursework submitted by students in the current or previous years. The School of Biosciences uses Turnitin to assist academic staff detect plagiarism; students are required to submit all coursework in electronic form to facilitate automatic on-line detection of plagiarism.**

**All BSc Research Projects must be submitted electronically to be checked by Turnitin along with the necessary hard copies (see Guidelines for BSc Research Projects).**



If a student is required to attend an Academic Misconduct interview within the School for any suspected academic misconduct his/her tutor will be informed of this, together with the Head of School (or nominee), module convenor (or nominee) and the School Manager for Academic Administration (or nominee).

## **GUIDANCE TO HELP YOU AVOID COMMITTING PLAGIARISM**

1. You are allowed to use information from other people's work provided you acknowledge the source. This can apply to a statement, Table or Figure. The best way of doing this for Tables and Figures is to add: "After Smith (1988)" or "Modified from Smith (1988)", and include the reference in your reference list.
2. If you are discussing something somebody else has said, you can say, for example: Smith (1987) claimed that coral reefs in the Pacific were damaged by high temperatures in 1975. Or: It has been claimed that high temperatures in 1975 damaged coral reefs in the Pacific (Smith, 1975).
3. It is rarely necessary to quote previous work directly and you should try to avoid doing this. If quotation is unavoidable, you should put the passage in quotation marks, e.g. Smith (1980) described the outcome of unprecedented high temperatures on coral reefs as: "A disaster for the marine communities in the coastal regions of the Indo-Pacific", and then stated that: "The phenomenon appears to be due to unprecedented high temperatures".

**For information on paraphrasing see 8 and 9 below.**

4. Authors should be cited in text either as: Smith (1975), Smith and Allen (1978), Allen (1987, 1989), or as (Smith, 1975; Smith and Allen, 1978; Allen 1987, 1989). Note that these are in chronological, not alphabetic order. When more than two authors are quoted, this should be in the form Allen *et al.* (1993) in the text, but the reference given in your reference list should contain the names of all the authors. Do not use numerically cited or ordered references.
5. In your "References" or "Literature cited" section, the following style (authors, date, title, journal, volume number, page numbers; called the "Harvard" style) should be used and references should be listed alphabetically.

Provided you are consistent, you may also use any other accepted style - see journals in the library – unless instructed otherwise by the member of staff setting the coursework.

**Smith, A. J. and Allen, N. B. (1986). Temperatures and coral reefs. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association* 86: 101-123.**

**Smith, A. J., Jones, K. L. and Allen, N. B. (1988). Death of corals due to high temperatures. *Thermal Biology* 27: 19-34.**

If the source is only available electronically or is being published "ahead of print", give the DOI number in your reference.

Some electronic journals do not use page number

6. For books, the following style (author, title underlined or in italics, publisher, place of publication) applies:  
  
Allen, N. B. (1992). *Coral Reef Biology*. Blackwells, London.
7. For chapters in edited volumes, the following style (author, date, title of chapter, title of book underlined or in italics, editors, page numbers, publisher, place of publication) applies:  
Smith, A. J. (1987). Temperature and bleaching in corals. In: *Coral Reef Biology* (N. B. Allen and C. K. Hodges, eds.), pp. 65-90. Clumber Press, New York.
8. **Paraphrasing**, i.e. verbatim or almost verbatim restatement of a passage is a form of plagiarism frequently used in essays and dissertations. The following is paraphrased from C. H. Gordon, P. Simmons and G. Wynn (date unknown). *Plagiarism - What It Is And How To Avoid It*. University of British Columbia.

Students often ask "How much do I have to change a sentence to be sure I'm not plagiarising?" If you have to ask, you are probably about to commit plagiarism! There is no set number of words that you need to change or add to make a passage your own – the originality must come from the development and expression of your own ideas.

Original work demands original thought. You should try and separate your ideas from those of others. If you use another author's conclusions then acknowledge them. If you come to the same conclusions as another author you should still acknowledge them. Once a piece of work is complete, look at each part and ask yourself if the ideas expressed are entirely your own, and whether the general language or choice of words is your own. If the answer to either is "no" the work should be credited to the original author.

9. Examples.

### 9.1 Original

From Smith (1992):

The author has found that corals respond to high temperatures by expelling their zooxanthellae. This causes them to go white, a phenomenon known as "bleaching." Such corals soon become covered in algae, which makes it difficult for new coral planulae to settle and start a new colony (Davies, 1980). The phenomenon of bleaching is similar to the effect of a crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) attack where the polyps are digested by enzymes secreted onto the colony surface (Brown, 1990). As Jones (1972) found, *A. planci* poses a severe threat to corals in the Indo-Pacific. The recent occurrence of high numbers of these starfish on reefs has been correlated to run-off from land which contains high levels of plant nutrients (Jones, 1986). The subsequent increase in the number of algae apparently enhances the survival of the filter-feeding larvae of the starfish.

**To include this text verbatim in your own work, *without* placing the entire paragraph in quotation marks and acknowledging Smith (1992) (see 3 above) would constitute plagiarism.**

## 9.2 Paraphrased version

Paraphrased from Smith (1992):

Smith (1992) has found that corals respond to high temperatures by expelling their zooxanthellae. This phenomenon, known as "bleaching", causes them to go white. Such corals quickly become covered in algae and this makes it difficult for new coral planulae to settle and begin developing a new colony (Davies, 1980). Bleaching is similar to the effect of a crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) attack. Brown (1990) note that this is where the polyps are digested by enzymes secreted onto the colony surface. Jones (1972) found that *A. planci* may be a severe threat to corals in the Indo-Pacific. Recently high numbers of these starfish on reefs has been correlated to run-off from land with high levels of plant nutrients (Jones, 1986). The increase in the number of algae apparently enhances the survival of the filter-feeding larvae of the starfish.

**To include this text in your own work, even *with* the initial acknowledgment Smith (1992) would constitute plagiarism since it reads as if only the first sentence is taken from Smith, and the rest of the references (Davies, Brown and Jones) have been sourced and read by you and that the development and expression of the text is your own original work.**

## 9.3 Unacknowledged version (i.e. submitting this as if it were your own thoughts or work)

The presence of high numbers of crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) on reefs has been connected to run-off from land containing high levels of plant nutrients. This causes an increase in the number of algae which results in better survival of the filter-feeding larvae of the starfish. The starfish kills corals by secreting digestive enzymes onto their surfaces. *A. planci* poses a severe threat to corals in the Indo-Pacific and their effect is similar to that caused by "bleaching", a phenomenon caused by high temperatures which results in zooxanthellae being expelled. Subsequently the dead corals become covered in algae which makes it difficult for a new colony to start.

**To include this text verbatim in your own work, would constitute plagiarism since there is no acknowledgment of Smith (1992).**

## 9.4 Acceptable version (based on information from Smith, reading the cited references yourself and drawing upon other work)

Smith (1992) quoted Jones (1972, 1986) in suggesting that the crown-of-thorns starfish poses a threat to corals in the Indo-Pacific, and that their recent upsurge may be due to an increase in plant food levels caused by an input of nutrients from land. Brown (1990) found that these multi-armed starfish killed corals by everting their stomachs onto the coral colony surface and secreting an enzyme to digest the tissues externally. The resulting "bleaching" effect is similar to that which occurs when corals are exposed to high temperatures and the zooxanthellae are expelled (Smith, 1992). Davies (1980) found that the settlement of algae on the colony surface made it difficult for new coral larvae to settle and, although fish often grazed the algae continually, he found they could not keep these under control. Recent studies have shown that plagues of crown-of-thorns starfish may be a natural phenomenon, as the fossilised remains of previous outbreaks have been found in rocks millions of years old (Cromer, 1994).

**To present your work like this would not constitute plagiarism.**

Note that all the references and authors used in this document with the exception of Gordon *et al.* are fictitious.

**PLEASE CONSULT YOUR TUTOR IF YOU ARE STILL IN DOUBT ABOUT  
PLAGIARISM**

# 17 Personal Academic Development

This table sets out the goals that you should strive for as you progress through your degree. If you can achieve these you will be well prepared for the diverse opportunities that lie ahead

	<b>Qualifying year Year 1</b>	<b>Part I Year 2</b>	<b>Part II Year 3</b>
Learning experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a strong factual base</li> <li>Learn the basics of the scientific method and develop a questioning approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link knowledge from diverse sources and develop an ability to relate information</li> <li>Develop a critical and analytical approach to information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the ability to handle complex information</li> <li>Evaluate information and synthesise ideas</li> <li>Develop a creative approach to problem solving</li> </ul>
Skills acquired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cope with varying lecture styles</li> <li>Make effective use of library and IT facilities</li> <li>Acquire basic laboratory skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidate information skills with extensive use of library and IT</li> <li>Enhance practical skills</li> <li>Enhance presentation skills</li> <li>Organise study and manage time to meet deadlines</li> <li>Appreciate the importance and value of team work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a mature approach to study</li> <li>Exhibit strong self-discipline and commitment</li> <li>Clearly articulate knowledge and understanding</li> <li>Respect the views of others and engage in reasoned argument</li> </ul>
Developing independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn to combine teacher-driven study with work based on individual initiative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make independent use of library and other information resources</li> <li>Acquire experience in a range of learning styles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take responsibility for self-learning</li> <li>Demonstrate individual style and flair</li> <li>Exhibit professionalism and ownership of subject</li> </ul>

# 18 Academic Tutoring

Academic tutoring is the support which the school provides to students in addition to formal teaching. It is complementary to the University's central support services and pastoral care provision.

The objectives of Academic Tutoring are to:

- Help you acquire the necessary study skills to pursue your studies successfully.
- Address problems of lack of knowledge and understanding of the subject.
- Address any problems with aspects of a module or your studies in general.
- Provide you with an overview of your academic progress at module and programme level.
- Assist you in making academic choices e.g. module enrolments, programme pathways.
- Provide assessment feedback to help you improve your future performance.
- Contribute to the acquisition of key employability skills.
- Assist and encourage you to gain employment or continue your education after you graduate.

The School takes its responsibility for academic tutoring very seriously and provides the following to ensure that you are properly supported:

- One-to-one meetings with your personal tutor for personal development, pastoral support and guidance (e.g. on module choices).
- Meetings with course directors for module guidance, either informally or at module enrolment days.
- Tutorials/seminars within modules comprising your degree programme.
- Provision of specific credit-bearing academic tutoring and study skills modules D21BG1: Biosciences Tutorials (Academic Development) and Foundation and, C11BE1 Dissertation in Environmental Science and also through skills embedded in other academic modules including project and dissertation modules.
- Drop-in support sessions for mathematics and statistics.
- Written feedback on assessments including;
  - individual written or verbal feedback on coursework and mark allocation based on a transparent marking scheme,
  - generic feedback one week after exam results,
  - constructive comments provided by markers through individual appointments with module conveners
  - students' evaluation forms collated from students' comments, available through Moodle.
- Student led-seminars.
- Peer support groups, including mentoring.
- 'Office hours' system for appointments with module coordinators/tutors.
- A flexible and comprehensive virtual learning environment (Moodle).
- Links to central support services e.g. Academic Support, the Counselling Service and the Student Services Centre.
- Assistance and guidance on academic administrative matters through the school office.
- Encouragement to make use of central on-line study skills resources e.g. 'Study Skills' [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively)
- Assistance with personal support or guidance from the School Senior Tutors.

## School of Biosciences Tutoring Statement

The full Biosciences tutoring statement can be found in appendix 8 and at <http://goo.gl/dPpFjU> Students are encouraged to read the statement.

## 19 Attendance Monitoring

Students must attend all teaching activities necessary for the pursuit of their studies, undertake all associated assessments and attend meetings and other activities as required by their School or the University. Where students face difficulty in attending sessions or undertaking assessments and examinations, it is their responsibility to inform their School of this fact and to provide a satisfactory explanation. Please see

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/quality-manual/registration-attendance-and-study/regulations-governing-attendance-and-engagement.aspx> for further details on attendance regulations at the University.

Two weeks is considered a significant period of absence and students are encouraged to consider interrupting their studies if they will miss this length of time. See for further details on voluntary interruption of studies.

The School will consider all extenuating circumstances relevant to attendance and engagement with a student's studies. Students should make the School aware of any extenuating circumstances as soon as possible to ensure full support can be provided and any alternative arrangements such as coursework extensions can be applied within the approved timescales. See the Quality Manual <http://goo.gl/yX4aTC> or further details on extenuating circumstances.

Individual Schools and Departments have systems in place to monitor attendance during the academic year. Example includes taking registers in lectures, monitoring coursework submission and tutorial attendance, etc. Unauthorised absences are reported to Academic Services and recorded as appropriate. Where students are absent without authorisation, to the point that it is not possible to continue with the course, Academic Services will write to the student stating that they will be deemed to have withdrawn from the University and their student record will be amended to show that they have withdrawn.

Students who are identified to be poorly engaging with their studies or poorly attending teaching activities will be asked to meet with the Student Experience and Support Officer or their Personal Tutor.

Where required the University will report non-attendance and poor attendance to appropriate authorities including the UK Border Agency and Student Finance.

## 20 Complaints and Appeals Procedures

Details of the University's Complaints and Appeals Procedure can be found at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/academic-appeals-policy-and-procedure.aspx>

The procedure regarding a complaint concerning your course is that in the first instance you should contact the lecturer concerned. If the matter cannot be resolved, the next points of contact would be:

- Module Convener
- Course Director
- Teaching Manager
- Head of Division
- Head of School
- Student Year Representative (names are on the Learning Community Forum notice board together with the Module Convener)

Students are encouraged to involve their Personal Tutors at any stage, whether the matter of concern is of an academic or personal nature. Students also have the right to bring matters of concern before Learning Community Forum.



## 21 Industry Placements

As an undergraduate student in the School of Biosciences, the vast majority of you can undertake an optional industry placement, between years two and three of your degree, extending your degree to a four year programme.

The year-long placement is open to you if you are studying one of the following degree programmes:

- BSc Agriculture
- BSc Integrated Agricultural Business Management with Industrial Placement Award <sup>1</sup>
- BSc Agricultural and Crop Science
- BSc Agricultural and Livestock Science
- BSc International Agricultural Science <sup>2</sup>
- BSc Animal Science
- BSc Biotechnology
- BSc Environmental Science
- MSci Environmental Science <sup>3</sup>
- BSc International Environmental Science <sup>2</sup>
- MSci International Environmental Science <sup>2 3</sup>
- BSc Environmental Biology
- BSc Food Science
- BSc Microbiology
- BSc Nutrition
- BSc Nutrition and Food Science
- BSc Plant Science

You apply for placements during your second year. The School Placement Team help and support you by organising a range of employer presentations on campus, sending email alerts of placement opportunities, running drop-in sessions and one-to-one meetings, and providing online resources.

Further information, profiles of student experiences and useful links can be found here: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/placements](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/placements)

If you have any questions or want to find out more, contact the School of Biosciences Placement Team, Dr Judith Wayte and Mrs Rachel Jessop, on [biosciplacements@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:biosciplacements@nottingham.ac.uk)

<sup>1</sup> If you are studying BSc Integrated Agricultural Business Management with Industrial Placement award, then a year long industrial placement during year 3 is built into the 4 year degree programme.

<sup>2</sup> If you are studying a degree with an international pathway where you study abroad at the University of Sydney for your second year, you can still undertake an industrial placement. You will need to apply for your placement whilst studying in Sydney. You should be aware that some companies will require you to attend an interview/assessment centre in person, whereas

others will be more flexible and will be able to interview you remotely. You can work together with the School Placement Team by email from Sydney.

<sup>3</sup> If you are studying for an MSci degree course, adding a year in industry will mean that the total length of your degree course is 5 years. If you are an international student on an MSci degree course studying in the UK on a Tier 4 visa, and you wish to undertake a year in industry, you need to be aware of the following:

- Once you have secured an industrial placement, you will need to change degree course and apply for a visa extension.
- You may need to make your application for a visa extension from overseas.

The maximum length of time you can study in the UK on a Tier 4 visa at undergraduate level is 5 years. An MSci course with a year in industry is therefore at the maximum length, so if you were to fail one or more modules, you would not have the opportunity of resitting a year in the UK.

If you have any questions or want to find out more, contact the School of Biosciences Placement Team, Dr Judith Wayte and Mrs Rachel Jessop, on [biosciplacements@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:biosciplacements@nottingham.ac.uk)

## 21.1 Year Out and Erasmus

The School of Biosciences has established an ERASMUS programme of Student Exchange with a number of European Institutions in France, Germany and Spain.

All students taking honours degrees in the School (except MNutr) are able to take an additional Certificate in European Studies (normal entry requirement is at least a grade B in the second language that the student intend to improve at GCSE level). The Certificate consists of an additional year over and above your 3-year BSc degree programme and commences after the second year in September of Semester 5 and concludes at the end of Semester 6. You will then re-join the normal 3-year programme at the beginning of Semester 7.

Students entering the School need to apply to take the Certificate following a meeting which outlines the principles of the Certificate. Once the application is confirmed, students must submit their application in writing to the School Office.

Students taking the Certificate follow preliminary language training during Year 2 (Part I) by taking 10 credits of French, German or Spanish languages (held in the Language Centre, University Park) and 50 credits of Science modules in each of semesters 3 and 4. In Semester 5 and 6; students will be on placement in an academic Institution in another European country where they will follow courses, including language modules in both of the semesters in placement; the courses must be taken in the language of the chosen Country. Students will also need to complete a European Placement module during semester 5 and 6.

The ERASMUS programme is on an exchange basis. Thus it is suggested that students make contact with ERASMUS students within the School who are from the host University together with those Biosciences students who were at the host University in the previous year. Both these contacts can be invaluable in providing assistance and information.

Further information about the scheme is available from Ms Elena Staves (Student Services Centre, A10, The Barn) or Rachel Jessop (C05, Bioenergy and Brewing Science Bldg, SB).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN CERTIFICATE**

*In addition to the normal progression rules for undergraduate study, the following progression rules apply to the European Certificate element.*

Part I candidates achieving a mark of 50% or more in each of the Autumn and Spring Semester language modules will progress to the language module in the Autumn of the year of the Certificate in European Studies (Biosciences). Part I candidates achieving a mark of 40-49% in the Autumn and/or Spring Semester language module(s) will normally be advised to discontinue with the Certificate in European Studies (Biosciences). Candidates achieving a mark of less than 40%, at first attempt, in the Autumn and/or Spring semester language module(s) will be advised to discontinue with the Certificate in European Studies (Biosciences). If, after reassessment, candidates do not achieve a mark of at least 50% in the Autumn and/or Spring Semester language module(s) they may not continue with the BSc with a Certificate in European Studies (Biosciences).

The above regulations as specified for candidates obtaining marks at first attempt. Candidates on the year of the Certificate in European Studies (Biosciences) between Part I and Part II who obtain a mark of less than 40% in the language module cannot progress onto placement in the following semester. Such candidates are offered the opportunity either:

- 1) to transfer to the equivalent 3-year BSc degree without European Studies at the start of the next academic year and thus do not take any further language modules.

or

- 2) to be reassessed in the Autumn semester language module in the August / September reassessment period.

If, after reassessment, a mark of 50% or more is achieved candidates may re-join the Certificate in European Studies (Biosciences) in the following academic year. If a mark of less than 50% is achieved at reassessment candidates will be offered 1) above.

In order to proceed to Part II of the degree BSc with a Certificate in European Studies (Biosciences) candidates must attain pass marks in assessments related to the European Year. Candidates who fail to attain satisfactory marks in the assessment undertaken during the European Year shall be offered the opportunity to transfer to the 3-year equivalent BSc degree without European Studies.

Candidates who fail to achieve the criteria for progression onto the three year equivalent degree without European Studies shall not be permitted to continue on this degree but may be offered the opportunity to transfer to the Ordinary degree.

## MARKING SCHEME FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR

### European Placement Module:

**Fifty percent of the mark correspond to the attendance and assessment of the courses taken abroad. The other fifty percent correspond to one scientific review, one cultural essay and one translation (see below for information).**

**50%: Attendance and assessment of courses taken abroad.**

**50%: Essays and translations.**

<i>Activity Type</i>	<i>Information</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Attendance and assessment of courses abroad	Students must attend and sit the exams abroad	Not applicable	50%
Essay 1	Scientific review	4000 words	17%
Essay 2	Culture research paper	4000 words	16%
Translations	Science into English	10 * 400 words	17%

## 21.2 Studying Outside the UK

### Malaysia Campus

Students on the BSc Biotechnology, BSc Agricultural and Crop Science, BSc Nutrition, BSc/MSci Environmental Science, BSc Environmental Biology and BSc Plant Science courses may have the opportunity to study for one semester or full academic year at our Malaysia Campus as part of their three-year degree programme. All teaching at our Malaysia Campus is in English and the modules and exams are very similar to those in Nottingham. Students from the UK campuses pay a reduced tuition fee during their time abroad and living costs in Malaysia are lower than in the UK.

See link: [www.nottingham.edu.my/index.aspx](http://www.nottingham.edu.my/index.aspx)

### Universitas 21

Nottingham is a founder member of Universitas 21 which is a global alliance of key universities. You will be able to apply to spend one semester (the first of your second year) studying in one of our partner institutions (including Australia, China, Korea, Mexico, North America, New Zealand, Singapore). Competition for these placements is high but the rewards are considerable.

Find out more about study abroad opportunities at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/exchanges/index.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/exchanges/index.aspx)

### Interested? What to do next

Don't miss the Study Abroad Fair, organised by the International Office, which will take place in November 2016. Here, you will learn about all the study abroad options open to you and how to apply. You will also be able to meet with students who have already studied at overseas campuses.

Interested students are advised to find the Study Abroad Team on Facebook to be kept updated with deadlines and events at: [www.facebook.com/UoNStudyAbroad](https://www.facebook.com/UoNStudyAbroad) and the International Office website:

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/exchanges/index.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/exchanges/index.aspx)

## 22 Channels of Communication

Dissemination of information is an on-going process during the academic year; this will come from both the School Office and academic staff. We use several ways to give out information.

- **Email** - Email is the normal means of communication to individuals or class groups; your tutor and module conveners will email regularly and it is also a good way for you to contact academic staff. However, this and other media should not detract from personal meetings, which are necessary for the communication of several matters including the conveyance and discussion of examination.
- **Moodle** - Moodle is the online learning environment across the University. The resource allows you to access lecture notes, find links to external learning resources, access self-test exercises and assessments, participate in online learning activities, submit assignments and collaborate on group projects. You can log in using your University username and password the day after you have completed your registration online. w: [moodle.nottingham.ac.uk](http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk)
- **The Student Portal** - The Portal is a central part of the University's communication system for staff and students. Make sure you have access to it at: <https://goo.gl/dFwTwP>
- **Social Media** - The University of Nottingham uses the latest technology to bring Nottingham to life and to ensure that you can experience and interact with the University community at any time, see: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect/nottinghamconnect.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect/nottinghamconnect.aspx)
- **Blue Castle website** - students can view their marks, progression status and final award information electronically at: <https://goo.gl/txm85c>

## 23 Students/Staff Consultation

The courses you are taking have evolved over a number of years and incorporate many features arising from student feedback and evaluation. Each department has its own procedures for allowing students to participate in the evaluation and future development of courses.

Broadly, two channels exist:

- feedback evaluations which enable you to comment on the content, style and objectives of modules; we urge you to take the time and effort to complete these so you and future students can play a role in improving our teaching
- The Learning Community Forum (LCF) consists of course representatives of undergraduate students and teaching staff who discuss a wide range of academic and non-academic matters. Anyone who has comments, criticisms or suggestions that they wish to be discussed should contact one of the representatives, whose names will be notified to you during the first semester. Minutes of the Learning Community Forum will be made available electronically.
- The Student Guild also elects student representatives to the School Board and other School committees. If you want to influence academic procedures in the School and University on behalf of your fellow students, you must join the Guild first.

## **24 Students' Access to Academic Staff policy**

Appointments for meetings with staff should be requested by students by email or in person (by phone or office notice board). Requests by email can be made at any time. Staff should respond to such requests by email within two working days (both during term and outside term-time). Staff are not obliged to send their responses outside of normal working hours, nor during official University holidays, nor when on vacation. They should put out-of-office messages on their emails during vacations and respond within two working days upon return.

Following a request, appointments should be arranged with the student at a mutually convenient time, normally to be held within three working days of the request.

Once an appointment has been made, both the staff member and the student are expected to honour the appointment. Should either be unable to attend they should email to cancel prior to the meeting.

Staff have the option of restricting their availability to students to particular days or times of day (other than in emergencies). In this case, they will communicate their preferred availability to their tutees and to other students they see on a regular basis.



## 25 Quality Assurance

The primary aim of the University of Nottingham is to sustain and improve the high quality of its provision as one of the leading research-led universities in the United Kingdom. It is also committed to providing a learning environment of the highest quality for students, in which first class teaching is underpinned by excellent research. The School of Biosciences endeavours to maintain these goals in the Biosciences, where relevant in collaboration with other schools, in the following ways:-

- by recruiting motivated students with a proven record of high level of learning;
- by providing a broad education across the discipline;
- enabling the development of an analytical and critical appreciation of scientific ideas and problem solving;
- providing a learning experience enriched by an active research environment;
- enabling the development of independent learning and skills for a wide range of careers within and outside the biological sciences;
- to ensure that students receive appropriate support and guidance in their academic development and career planning;
- to identify and support the academic and pastoral needs of individual students;
- to provide a flexible, effective and adequately resourced learning environment, and
- to maintain and improve teaching and learning through effective management structures in line with the University Quality Manual.

As part of an ongoing process of improving quality, some of our teaching facilities have been recently refurbished and modernised. We look to our students to help us maintain these areas in good condition for the benefit of future generation.

## 26 Coursework and Examination Feedback

Feedback is provided in three main forms on i) assessed coursework, ii) examination performance and iii) general aspects of each module. In addition to individual marks given for assessed coursework in each module, you will receive an overall module mark and the end of each semester and a full set of module marks will be made available to you through Blue Castle (<https://bluecastle.nottingham.ac.uk>). Your module marks are confidential and not shown to other students. Individual mark components (e.g. coursework marks) are also confidential; the only exception to this is when you receive a mark for a piece of 'group work' in which all members of your group receive the same mark. The sections below provide further details about feedback.

### Coursework Feedback

Coursework feedback is normally provided through written comments on your work. For many pieces of coursework, a cover sheet will be returned with your work to explain the mark received and give advice on how your work could be improved. For other pieces of non-examination assessed work, it may not be feasible to provide written comments on your work, for example, a group oral presentation; in such cases, feedback may be provided verbally or by email. Feedback for other assessed work e.g. laboratory practicals, may be provided in other ways as appropriate to the assignment set. Whilst the manner by which you receive coursework may vary depending on the type of coursework set, the purpose of the feedback is to provide a mark for the work together with constructive comments to help improve your performance in future assignments. If you wish to discuss your performance in any assessed work, you should contact the module convenor.

Module convenors will set a deadline by which you must submit coursework and a date when you can expect to receive feedback on your work. This information will be provided when the module convenor sets the piece of work. In normal circumstances, marked coursework and associated feedback should be returned to students within 21 days of the published submission deadline, i.e. students submitting work before the published deadline should not have an expectation that early submission will result in earlier return of work. See [detailswww.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/feedback-to-students.aspx](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/feedback-to-students.aspx)

### Examination Feedback

After each examination period, general examination feedback from each module will be posted on Moodle. This will include: i) feedback on examination questions where students' performance could be improved, ii) suggested strategies for improving performance in those questions and iii) general comments about examination technique. Students wishing to discuss their examination performance should contact the relevant module convenor(s)

## **General Feedback**

A copy of the Module Report Form, which is a summary of the discussion/feedback with students at the end of each module, can be found within a folder for the module in Moodle. This feedback sheet is used by module convenors to identify which areas of the module students felt worked well, and others that could be improved; in the latter case, the module convenor will make appropriate academic adjustments to the module for the following academic session. The areas of feedback covered by the module report form follow the headings detailed in the Module Report Form.

The University's Quality Manual provides information on good practice for feedback on assessed work and what you can expect to receive as a student at the University of Nottingham – see <http://goo.gl/DI1Gqo>

## 27 Student Services/departments

### 27.1 Student Services Centre

The Student Services Centre can provide you with information and support throughout your student life. They are approachable, knowledgeable and most of all they are there to help. Student Services Centres are based at Sutton Bonington, University Park, QMC and Jubilee Campuses. Further details of support services to be given to you on arrival.

### 27.2 Libraries

The James Cameron-Gifford Library on SB Campus, together with Hallward Library (at UP), George Green Library (UP) and the Medical School Library (QMC and Derby) provide information on all subject areas covered by the School, plus study areas and computing facilities. The on-line catalogue (NUsearch) enables you to search for material held at all branches of The University of Nottingham library. Material from the other campuses can be obtained swiftly for you through the intersite delivery service. During Semester 1 you should attend an introductory lecture provided by the library's Teaching and Learning Support Team. This will be followed up by a tutorial providing an introduction to key resources and discussion on the critical interpretation of published materials as part of the Academic Development and Employability module.

Learning these basic information retrieval and evaluation skills is essential - you will need them for essays and projects throughout your course. As you progress, more specialised studies are undertaken and you must become familiar with the experimental data published in various journals. Acquaintance with published research provides the foundation for most final year research projects. You should not forget to read the more popular scientific press such as *New Scientist* or *Scientific American*, as well as those appropriate to your discipline.

The James Cameron-Gifford Library at Sutton Bonington has over 100 reading places, including quiet areas, bookable/non-bookable study rooms and a number of PCs (see below); it links with several of the Computer Rooms. The Library stock has been developed to support teaching and research in the Schools of Biosciences and Veterinary Medicine, and the library service also provides access to a wide range of databases, electronic journals, and e-books.

Your University Card is also used as a Library borrower's card, and is required for entry to the libraries at University Park campus.

The James Cameron-Gifford Library is open  
Monday to Friday 8.00 am 9.45 pm

Saturday 9.00 am - 4.45 pm  
Sunday 9.30 am - 4.45 pm

The library is open 24/7 during exam periods. More information can be found on our website at: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/library](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/library)

## 27.3 IT Facilities

### Help and advice

Advice and information for new users of the IT facilities can be found on the University web pages – go to [www.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk) and search for 'Student Essentials'. Several on-line guides can be found, and many of them are available as hard copy booklets in the libraries.

### Getting online

Your username and password will get you access to most of the services you will need during your time at the University. Make sure you set a strong password and *never* share your password with someone else. The University will *never* ask you to reveal your password, and you should be suspicious of any request to tell someone your password.

Be sure to check your University email regularly, otherwise you may miss important information.

### Computer rooms

There are a number of Information Services (IS) computer rooms on the Sutton Bonington campus which can be used by students, but some are also used for teaching classes. Please look out for notices stating times when the rooms are unavailable due to teaching bookings

There is a large (120 seat) computer room in the Gateway building (room A07); and smaller rooms in the Main Building (rooms B05, B08, B09, and B10). Further computers are available in the James Cameron Gifford Library, including some with large screens for collaborative or group work.

All IS Computer Room computers are set up in an identical manner, with the same selection of software installed or available (Windows, Microsoft Office, EndNote, PDF Creator; and a range of statistical, graphical and course-related software applications).

### Computer loans

The JCG library counter offers a short-term laptop and tablet loan service, with loans restricted to use within the Library and Learning Hub areas only.

Students may also make use of the Information Services Laptop Loan service, where longer-term loan periods are possible. This service operates from an office at University Park (Pope Building).

### The Portal; and Virtual Learning Environment

The **Portal** (linked from the University's home page) is the main point of access for students, through which you can access most of the services you will need. From the Portal you can connect to your email service, module information, Library services, timetables, and other essential information. You can also connect to **Moodle**, which is the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and is where you will find course information, module documents, lecture notes, reading lists, assignments, etc.

## **Saving your files and backing up your data**

It is the responsibility of each student to save their work safely and securely! Each student has 4GB of personal file storage available on the University's networked servers. This is available as the 'Home Drive' from any IS Computer Room computer, as well as via the web at [files.nottingham.ac.uk](http://files.nottingham.ac.uk).

Never save your work onto the hard drive of Computer Room computers – files will be deleted when you log off! Save files to the Home Drive or to an external device.

Any work done on your *own* computer should be backed up – either onto *at least* one external hard drive or onto one of a number of cloud storage options available widely.

## **Printing**

Students can print from any IS computer to the University Print Service. Printing is held in a queue and can be printed off and collected at Print Service printers which are situated close to all IS computer rooms and in the libraries.

You can also print from your home computer, laptop or mobile device using the Mobile Print Service. Simply email your document to [mobileprint@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:mobileprint@nottingham.ac.uk)

## **Wireless**

Good wireless coverage on the **eduroam** service should be available in all of the main teaching and social areas of the campus, and in some outdoor areas. In the halls of residence the wireless service is provided by the Hall management companies.

## 27.4 Accessibility

Teams supporting students with study support, disabilities, specific learning difficulties and long term health conditions are located in the Student Services Centre (SSC), in The Barn on Sutton Bonington Campus, in the Portland Building on University Park, and will be available on all of our other teaching sites.

We can assist with queries regarding:

- Support in making the transition to University, admissions and registration
- Liaison with your School or department about any impact your condition may have on the study elements of your course OR: assessments in relation to disability and dyslexia and recommendations to academic staff about reasonable adjustments in the learning, teaching and assessment environments
- access to alternative formats such as Braille and large print
- residential accommodation – adapted study bedrooms
- accessible transport around and between our Nottingham campuses
- applying for Disabled Students' Allowances
- access to alternative formats such as Braille and large print
- access to specialist technology in libraries
- liaison with libraries for enhanced services such as extended loans
- timetabling arrangements

The Accessibility Team also provides support for students who wish to develop their strategies for academic writing and time management.

The Accessibility Team have online study resources which relate to almost all of the areas you cover in the guide, see

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services/support-for-your-studies/academic-support/study-resources/index.aspx>

If you would like to contact us please phone the Student Services Centre on (0115) 951 3710

e: [disability-support@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:disability-support@nottingham.ac.uk)  
[dyslexia-support@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:dyslexia-support@nottingham.ac.uk)

The University of Nottingham ACCESS Centre (UNAC), in the Student Services Centre, provides assessments for students who have applied for Disabled Students' Allowances.

### **Student Welfare Manager**

The School also has a dedicated Student Welfare Manager, who provides a point of reference, advice and guidance for members of staff and students in the School about student disability issues and student support. The Welfare Manager is part of a large cross campus team of Student Welfare support managers and officers that meets regularly to share information and good practice. The Welfare Manager in Biosciences works closely with the Accessibility Team in working to ensure that all students are supported and advised appropriately and that there is equality of opportunity for all.

If you have any requirements or concerns talk in the first instance to your Welfare Manager – or contact your personal tutor.

## **School Welfare Manager**

The Welfare Manager for the School of Biosciences is located in the Main Building. You will be meet your Welfare Manager during your induction and will be given further details on your arrival at university.



## 27.5 Careers and Employability Service

### Careers and Employability Service

Many first year students think it is too early for them to start thinking about their future career, but in our experience it is never too early. By making the most of your time at university you can develop skills and build experiences that will be of interest to your future employers.

You could:

- join a **society** or **sports team**
- complete an **Advantage Award** module
- find a **part-time job** through Unitemps

For more information about the Advantage Award, Unitemps or other ways to make the most of university life you can visit our webpages [www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers) or speak to a member of the careers team.

Whether you have one or several career ideas or none at all, it is a good idea to start researching possible career options. There are a number of ways the Careers and Employability Service can help you to do this:

- Speak to a Careers Adviser. You can book a one-to-one appointment to discuss your career ideas or questions at Sutton Bonington Campus or at University Park.
- Meet employers on campus. Throughout term time there will be a range of different employers visiting Sutton Bonington Campus and University Park. While you're in your first year you can attend these events to find out about different industries and companies, which will help you with your career planning.
- CV Reviews. Whether applying for work experience, a summer internship or a part-time job you can have your own CV reviewed at Sutton Bonington Campus or University Park.

To book an appointment or CV review, or to book a place at an employer event or workshop, visit: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/login](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/login)

To find out about the workshops and events, check your university email to find your weekly Biosciences Careers bulletin. You can also follow @UoNCareers and @UoNBioscareers on twitter.

If you have any questions or if you would like to find out more about The Careers and Employability Service, please do visit one of the careers offices:

- **Sutton Bonington Campus** – Student Services Centre, The Barn, Sutton Bonington Campus
- **Science Faculty team** – B08, Pope Building, University Park

## 28 Health, Safety & Security

- The research buildings are open to students from 08:30am until 18:00pm, Monday to Friday, except public holidays and University holidays. If for any reason you have to be in the building outside of these times, you must be supervised by an academic member of staff.
- There are lifts available in all teaching buildings for use by disabled students. The other use of the lifts is for movement of goods, and should not be used for other purposes.
- The School has its own Safety Handbook which is available on the web at <http://goo.gl/UASVap>

### Fire

- Fire alarms in the teaching buildings are tested at a regular time (eg Wednesday at 10 am in the Main Building). In the event of fire in the building the alarm will sound continuously. In the event of this the lecturer in charge of your class will organise evacuation of the building to the relevant assembly point. Fire exits are clearly sign-posted. Re-entry into the building after a fire alarm is given by the Fire Monitor.

### Safety

- Safety in the building, especially in the Laboratories is paramount. See further reference to this matter under 'Practical Classes'
- Practical classes are continuously supervised by an academic member of staff with the support of demonstrators and occasionally technicians. You should not enter a laboratory until a member of staff arrives.
- Suitable protective clothing must be worn for laboratory classes (see 'Practical Work').
- Defined procedures must be followed for the disposal of certain types of laboratory waste, such as syringes and syringe needles, broken glass, organic solvents and microbial cultures. Instruction on the correct disposal of these and other items will be given in practical classes.
- Safety in Fieldwork. Field Course safety information and the Code of Practice for students can be found at: <http://goo.gl/IBS6EF>

### Accidents & First Aid

- For minor injuries, first aid boxes are available in all laboratories and certain offices. In such situations it is likely you can deal with such injury yourself.
- Where an injury is more serious a qualified 'First Aider' should be called. Names of First Aiders are listed on the School's web pages.
- If a 'First Aider' is not available or if further treatment is required, you will be taken to the Cripps Health Centre or A&E at Queens Medical Centre in extreme situations.
- All accidents, whatever their severity, must be reported on an accident report form available from the member of staff taking the class at the time of the accident and will supervise completion of the form.

### Food & Drinks

- On no account should food and/or drink be taken into a laboratory, lecture theatre or computing rooms.

# 29 Modules

# YEAR 1 MODULES

# C112P1 Plant Science

**Module Convener:** Dr Kevin Pyke [Kevin.Pyke@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Kevin.Pyke@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 1 Spring Semester 10 credits

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 150

**Target Students:** Primarily available for students taking a degree in Biology, Biotechnology Environmental Science or Environmental Biology. Biotechnology and Exchange Students

**Pre-requisite modules or other requirements:** A level in Biology and Chemistry preferred

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Lecture Programme:** Lectures will cover a variety of topics on modern plant science including plant morphology, photosynthesis and water movement, flowering and seed development biology, plant pathology, plant genetic transformation and the central role of the model organism *Arabidopsis thaliana* in plant science research. The module also has three practical sessions relating to the lecture material.

## Example:

Week	SUBJECT	LECTURER
1	Plant Evolution and Plant Structure	KP
2	Photosynthesis	KP/RF
3	Flowering	ZW
4	Seed Development and Fruit ripening	KP
5	Water relations of plants	KP
6	Plants and Nutrients	MB
7	Plant Pathology	Matt D
8	Arabidopsis and Plant Tissue culture	RS/MD
9	Practical 1	ZW/PC/KP/NG
10	Practical 2	ZW/PC/KP/NG
11	Practical 3	ZW/PC/KP/NG

Staff: KP – Kevin Pyke; RF – Rupert Fray; ZW – Zoe Wilson; MB – Martin Broadley; Matt D – Matt Dickinson; PC – Peter Crittenden; RS – Ranjan Swarup

## Assessment:

Exam 1            75%    1 hour 30 mins examination  
Coursework 1    25%    Coursework essay - 1000 words

**Module Aims:** To provide an introduction to the biology and importance of plants. Lectures will focus on plant form and function, highlighting the ways that genetics and studies on the model plant, *Arabidopsis*, have added to our understanding. Emphasis will also be placed on the ways plants adapt to their surroundings and the potential for use of biotechnology in plant improvement.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

1. Describe the process of plant evolution and place the Angiosperms in the context of different types of plants.
2. Discuss the cellular structure of plants, in particular seeds, leaves, flowers and roots and demonstrate an understanding of how these multicellular tissues are constructed.
3. Appreciate the importance of model plants such as Arabidopsis in the development of modern plant biology and demonstrate knowledge of how this plant's attributes have been exploited.
4. Recognise the importance of plant nutrition and the interaction with pathogens are crucial to plant growth and production
5. Develop professional skills in scientific information retrieval and to work safely in a laboratory situation.

**Recommended reading:**

**Main Text:**

Campbell NA, Reece JB and Mitchell LG (2011) Biology 9th International Edition

**Secondary texts:**

Raven Biology of Plants, Evert RF and Eichorn SE (2012)

All course material including PowerPoint lectures will be available on the web.

Lecturers on this course are members of the Plant and Crop Sciences Division, School of Biosciences, Sutton Bonington  
([www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/plantcrop/index.html](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/plantcrop/index.html))

# D211E5 The Ecology of Natural and Managed Ecosystems

**Module Convenors:** Dr R Blunt [Ruth.Blunt@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Ruth.Blunt@nottingham.ac.uk), Dr H West [Helen.West@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Helen.West@nottingham.ac.uk) and Anne Bishop [sbaab10@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sbaab10@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 1, Spring Semester, 20 Credits

**Pre-requisite(s):** Normal entry requirements for School of Biosciences.

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 65

**Target Students:** Environmental Science and Agriculture students and availability to Exchange Students

**Summary of Content:** This module introduces the principles of ecology at a first year level. The module covers: Evolutionary aspects of ecology. Organisms and their environment: physical, chemical and biotic factors limiting species distribution; capture and utilization of resources by organisms; the niche concept; life cycles and dispersal. Population Ecology: intraspecific and interspecific competition; predation; parasitism and mutualism. Community Ecology: diversity and stability of communities; patterns of species richness; the concept of a climax community; energy flow and nutrient cycling. The module explores definitions of biodiversity and explores the value of biodiversity through different ethical frameworks. The loss of species and habitats is discussed with particular reference to semi natural and managed habitats such as woodland, hedgerows, meadows, and agricultural land.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentsservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentsservices)

## **Lecture Programme** (Provisional):

Introduction to the module, The Nature of Ecology  
Trophic Levels and Food Webs  
4 Lab Practical  
Energy Inputs and Agricultural Systems- Sustainable agriculture  
Plant Ecology  
Genetics and Niche Theory  
Populations and Demography  
Practical: Population Models  
Behavioural Ecology  
Ethics and Ecology  
Habitat Loss Biodiversity and Conservation

## **Assessment:**

Exam 100% 2 hour exam – Rogo

**Aims:** Educational Aims: To give students a general understanding of the interactions of organisms with one another and with the physical and chemical environment. Students will learn about different levels from the biosphere to the population and learn how an understanding of ecology can help us manage our environment.

**Learning Outcomes:** Knowledge and Understanding - to learn of 1) Ecology and its component sub-disciplines. Intellectual Skills - the ability to 1) Critically analyze and interpret information and data 2) Derive and analyze material from a range of sources. Practical/Professional Skills - the ability to 1) Invertebrate identification 2) Work safely in the laboratory. Transferable/Key Skills - the ability to 1) Communicate via poster 2) Team working 3) Find relevant information in the library and the web 4) Time management.

### **Recommended Reading**

Cotgreave P & Forseth I (2002) Introductory Ecology, Blackwell Science (**course book**)  
Townsend C R, Harper J L & Begon M (2002) Essentials of Ecology, Blackwell Science  
Beeby H (1993) Applying Ecology, Chapman Hall  
Krebs C (1987) Ecology, Harper & Row  
Krebs JR & Davies NB An introduction to Behavioural Ecology, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed<sup>n</sup>, Blackwell Science  
Krebs JR & Davies NB (1997) Behavioural Ecology, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed<sup>n</sup>, Blackwell Science  
Stiling G (1996) Ecology: Theories & Application, Prentice Hall. Plus appropriate Journals  
Additional Key literature will be suggested during the lecture course.



# D211F3 The Biosciences and Global Food Security

**Module Convenor:** Dr Kevin Pyke [Kevin.Pyke@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Kevin.Pyke@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 1, Autumn Semester, 10 Credits

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 250

**Target Students** Most first year students studying taking degrees in the School of Biosciences including, Nutrition, Biotechnology, and Food science, Animal Sciences, Plant Sciences.

**Availability to Exchange Students:** Yes - if relevant in the first year.

**Pre-requisite(s):** Normal entry requirements for School of Biosciences.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Summary of Content:** The module will define global food security as a concept and then examine various aspects thereof, including plant growth, evolution of crop crops, agriculture and crop production, agricultural systems and animal production, the food industry and sustainable nutrition.

**Assessment details** There will be several pieces of assessment including a practical questionnaire to be filled in after the practical session, an online assessment for a self-study session (30 minutes), a multiple choice test in week 8 of the module covering all taught material up till then (one hour, 50 questions) and a final exam which will be performed online using ROGO (one hour).

- Practical questionnaire (3 pages) – 500 words 10%
- An online assessment for a self-study session (30 minutes) – 10%
- MCQ test –one hour – 50 questions - 10%
- ROGO exam - one hour (70%)

**Aims:** To provide first year students with an overview of the issues of global food security and show them the level of complexity that exist in different parts of the food generation system, from plant and crop growth, agricultural systems, generating food stuffs and the environmental effects this process entails and sustainable nutrition.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Review new technologies used to combat global food security.
- Describe the impact agriculture and food production has on the environment.
- Describe the challenges being faced in global food production in relation to your subject area.
- Develop professional skills to work safely in a laboratory situation.

# D211P1 Genes and Cells: 1

**Module Convenor:** Dr Nicola Chapman [Nicola.Chapman@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Nicola.Chapman@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 1, Autumn Semester, 10 Credits

**Expected Number of Students taking module:** 300

**Target Students:** all year 1 students enrolled on a School of Biosciences degree

**Lecture Programme:** Lecture programme is provisional and more detailed information will be given to you in the first session.

## Timetable Autumn 2016

Wednesday	Lecture 9 a.m.	Lecture 10 a.m.	Practical 11 a.m.
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Genetics	Animal Cell	Genetics Practical
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Genetics	Animal Cell	Genetics Practical
12 <sup>th</sup>	Genetics	Plant Cell Lecture	
19 <sup>th</sup>	Genetics	Plant Cell Lecture	Genetics Practical

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Summary of Content:** The module will start will examining the ultrastructure of the main cell types; eukaryotic (animal and plant) and prokaryotic; and viruses, along with the structure and function of the main organelles within cell type. An overview of cell growth and development will be outlined including the control of the cell cycle, mitosis and meiosis and cell differentiation. The module will then move into more molecular biology and genetic investigations, examining Mendelian laws of inheritance and gene expression.

### Assessment:

Exam 1	75	1.5hr hour examination
Coursework 1	25	Online portfolio of practical work

**Aims:** This module is designed to give students a broad foundation in the basic functional units of life: cells. The first half of the module will cover the general cell ultrastructure of animal, plant and bacteria cells and also viruses as well as the major organelles essential for their function. A solid foundation in the growth and development of cells will be delivered focusing on mitosis, meiosis, cell division and differentiation. Basic genetic principles will be examined in the second half of the module looking at the Mendelian laws of inheritance and gene expression processes. Application of the basic theories will also be enhanced using practical sessions and workshops.

**Learning outcomes:**

1. Describe the ultrastructure of eukaryotic (animal and plant), prokaryotic cells and viruses outlining the structure and function of the main organelles.
2. Explain the growth and development of cells in relation to the cell cycle and cell differentiation.
3. Explain the regulation of gene expression in eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells highlighting the processes from DNA to protein and the sub-cellular units involved that each stage of the process.
4. Online Mendelian Law of Inheritance (using the correct terminology) and the factors that result in changes in populations
5. Report on several key molecular cell biology techniques examining the principles and functions of cell biology

# D212A1 Grassland Management

**Module Convener:** Dr Matt Bell [Matt.Bell@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Matt.Bell@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** Dr Stephen Ramsden, Prof Paul Wilson

**Module Details:** Level 1 Spring Semester, 10 credits

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 40

**Target Students:** Students registered on BSc Agriculture, Agricultural and Crop Science, Plant Science, Animal Science, Biotechnology, Environmental Biology degrees and Exchange students.

**Summary of Content:** This module is delivered through e-learning, supported by tutorials and farm visits and covers the morphology and physiology of forage grass species, identification of grass species, grassland systems in the UK and worldwide and conservation of grass (hay/silage). The module will consider grassland management within mixed farming systems and specific requirements for environmental stewardship schemes.

Week	Subject	Lecturer
1	Introduction to the module and course work	AP
2	Student centered learning	
3	Student centered learning	
4	Grass physiology practical	AP
5	Student centered learning	
6	Pasture budget tutorials	SJR
7	Student centered learning	
8	Student centered learning	
9	Student centered learning	
10	Student centered learning	
11	Farm visit	AP

**Timetable:** Typically two one-hour timetabled sessions per week (Wednesday mornings from 9 am): twenty-three lectures, regular tutorials/examples classes, forty hours student led studies and revision. Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Coursework:** On-line test on grass morphology; written report on farm visit

## Assessment:

Exam 1	50%	1 hour exam
Coursework 1	20%	Online test
Coursework 2	30%	Farm visit report. 1500 words.

**Aims:** To provide students with an appreciation of the different grassland management systems employed throughout the world.

- To provide students with an understanding of grass morphology and physiology.
- To develop skills in the use of keys to identify plant species.
- To encourage students to develop self-study skills early in their University careers.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Identify the key structures of a grass plant.
- Describe the mechanisms of grass growth, production and utilisation and how these are influenced by management practices.
- Discuss the latest developments in grassland management and the policy issues associated with them.
- Calculate a pasture budget

**Recommended Reading:**

Finch, HJS, Samuel, AM and Lane, GPF (2002) *Lockhart and Wiseman's crop husbandry; including grassland*. (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Woodhead, Cambridge.  
Hopkins, A (2000) *Grass: its production and utilization*. (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Blackwell Science, Oxford.  
Frame, J and Laidlaw, S (2011) *Improved grassland management*. Crowood Press.

# D212P3 Applied Genetics

**Module Convenor:** Dr Zinnia Gonzalez-Carranza [Zinnia.Gonzalez-Carranza@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Zinnia.Gonzalez-Carranza@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 1, Spring Semester, 10 Credits

**Pre-requisite(s):** D211P1 Genes and Cells: 1

**Co-requisite(s):** None

**Expected Number of Students taking module:** 150

**Target Students:** D420 Agricultural and Livestock Science, D320 Animal Science, J700 Biotechnology, C501 Microbiology, C200 Plant Science

**Summary of Content:** This module builds upon the material delivered in semester 1 in which within the core section running throughout the module students will further examine the gene structure, function and regulation and investigate how this knowledge can be applied in recombinant DNA technology through DNA sequencing and genetic engineering. Dependent on the enrolled course there are options on plant, animal and microbial genetics which will deliver specific lectures and practicals essential to that discipline, which will feed into modules delivered in the second and third years.

**Timetable:** Typically a mix of three one-hour timetabled sessions per week; alternated with one hour lecture and a practical session of 2 hours (Monday afternoon from 2 pm): eleven core lectures, and 8 specialist options, regular tutorials/examples classes, forty hours student led studies and revision. The timetable will be finalised at the beginning of the semester, and can be viewed at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/timetable](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/timetable)

**Core Lecture Programme:** Lecture programme is provisional and more detailed information will be given to you in the first session and in each of the specialist options.

- 1 Module introduction, Gene structure (ZHGC)
- 2 Introns (ZHGC)
- 3 Regulatory regions (ZHGC)
- 4 Genetic Variation (ZHGC)
- 5 Mutations (ZHGC)
- 6 DNA and Genome Sequencing (ZHGC)
- 7 Restriction Endonucleases (ZHGC)
- 8 Cloning of DNA (ZHGC)
- 9 Modern Vectors (ZHGC)
- 10 PCR (ZHGC)
- 11 in vitro mutagenesis (ZHGC)

## Assessment:

Exam 1	75%	1.5hr hour Rogo exam
Coursework 1	25%	Specialist option exercise

**Aims:** This module aims to build upon the basics of fundamental biological processes and examine areas of nucleic acid structure; DNA replication; mutation and repair; transcription and translation; control of gene expression. It will then apply the knowledge and explain how this is exploited in recombinant DNA technology; gene cloning, DNA sequencing and genetic engineering.

Specialist options within animal, plant and microbial spheres will allow for subject specific applications of genetic techniques and theories which form an underpinning knowledge base for subsequent modules.

**Learning outcomes:**

- describe the structures and functions of DNA and RNA and how they relate to the mechanisms of DNA replication and repair
- describe the modes of gene expression in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells
- describe the basic methods of gene cloning and recombinant DNA technology
- explain the polymerase chain reaction and DNA sequencing

**Recommended background reading:**

- [1] Beebee, Trevor J. C. and Burke, Julian 1992. Gene structure and transcription. IRL Press.
- [2] Cassimeris, Lynne et al. 2011. Lewin's Cells. Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
- [3] Hartl, Daniel L. 2014. *Essential genetics: a genomics perspective*. Jones & Bartlett Learning.
- [4] Hartl, Daniel L. et al. 2012. *Genetics: analysis of genes and genomes*. Jones & Bartlett.
- [5] Watson, James D. 2007. Recombinant DNA: genes and genomes : a short course. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

# D212P5 Plant Science Research Tutorials

**Module Convener:** Dr Kevin Pyke, [Kevin.Pyke@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Kevin.Pyke@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 1 Autumn Semester 10 credits

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 15

**Target Students:** Students taking degree in Plant Sciences and students taking degree in Agriculture and Crop Sciences.

**Availability to Exchange Students:** Yes - if relevant

**Pre-requisite(s):** Taking degree in Plant Sciences or Agriculture and Crop Sciences

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Summary of Content:** Each weekly session will be with a different academic and their research group, from the Plant and crop Sciences Division, who will explain and demonstrate their research to this particular cohort of students. This would also enable postgraduate students to talk to first year undergraduates about their work and for these students to gain a detailed understanding of the research areas and dynamics of the division to which they are related for their degree. It would also facilitate interaction between these students and academic staff who do not teach normally in the first year and hence improve staff interaction with these students in choosing modules in the second and third year and final year projects.

**Assessment details:** A 2000 word report submitted at the end of the module about a specific area of plant science research and how it may benefit our understanding of plant biology and how such knowledge may benefit society in the short and long term.

**Aims:** To explain and demonstrate to students the research taking place in the Plant and Crop Sciences Division and to enable students to familiarise themselves with the cohort of plant and crop science academic staff and learn about their cutting edge research.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

1. Recognise the breadth of plant science research areas within the Plant and Crop sciences division
2. Appreciate how the research of different groups relates to the needs of society in improving and understanding plant function.
3. Develop an understanding of how research groups function in terms of their hierarchy of Principle Investigator, post-doc, postgraduate student and undergraduate student.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and synthesis of research literature of a chosen topic related to plant science research.



# D21BG1 Biosciences Tutorials (Academic Development) and Foundation Science

**Module Convenor:** Prof Matt Dickinson [Matthew.Dickinson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Matthew.Dickinson@nottingham.ac.uk), and Dr Dov Stekel [Dov.Stekel@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Dov.Stekel@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Detail:** Level 1, Full Year new module, 20 credits

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Summary of Content:** The content is as follows: The tutorials component is intended to enhance the transition into university and guide students through the academic expectations of their degrees. This part of the module is spread throughout the year and will include three generic sessions on 'study skills and plagiarism', 'study opportunities' and 'career and personal development', and a series of small group tutorials with the academic tutor to develop generic skills such as finding crucial information, oral presentation, data handling and presentation of results, preparation for examinations, and essay writing skills relevant to the Biosciences. The Foundation Science content has three elements: Chemistry, Maths & statistics and Physics. The Chemistry element will include: elements and periodic table; atomic structure and bonding; intermolecular attractions, chemical equilibrium; acids and bases, oxidation and reduction; rates of reaction; basic organic chemistry, isomerism, and rings. The Maths and Stats element will include: calculations, algebra, functions and relationships, powers, logarithms, descriptive statistics, significance, regression and presenting data. The Physics element will include: - units and dimensions; power, energy and heat; light and the electromagnetic spectrum; attenuation/absorption; and radioactivity. There is also an IT element, which interfaces with generic IT training for undergraduates provided within the University.

## Assessment Details:

Coursework 1	50%	1500 word essay completed in the Autumn semester
Coursework 2	12%	200 word quantitative exercise completed in the Spring Semester
Coursework 3	13%	300 word abstract of a scientific paper to be completed Spring Semester
Inclass Exam 1	25%	Written - Chemistry tests (45 minutes)
Inclass Exam 2	25%	Written - Mathematics and statistics tests (45 minutes)

**Aims:** The aims of this module are twofold: The Tutorial elements are to enhance the academic and professional development of students via small group work within tutor groups. Working in small groups will encourage active participation and knowledge transfer. This part of the module should equip students with essay-writing, presentational skills (oral and written), critical interpretation of published materials, and other generic skills that should benefit them in modules throughout their degree. It will also provide an opportunity to learn and reflect on opportunities available to enhance their transition from University into the workplace. The Foundation Science element will complement this by providing foundation level knowledge of mathematics, physics and chemistry for undergraduate students entering the School of Biosciences. The module aims to compensate for gaps in knowledge caused by differences in individual prior education and to ensure that all students have the basic knowledge of these key disciplines required to underpin their future studies in the School of Biosciences. The syllabus has been developed in conjunction with degree programme leaders across the School.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Recognise the significance of the core topics in foundation level physics, chemistry and mathematics to their future degree study in the Biosciences.
- Understand a range of fundamental concepts in physics, maths and chemistry which form core knowledge for scientists of all disciplines.
- Understand the importance of using the correct scientific units and be able to convert between different units of measurement (e.g. SI and non-SI units).
- Manipulate mathematical equations and perform calculations designed to improve confidence in dealing with logarithms, exponentials, powers, scientific notation.etc.
- Recognise the basis of fundamental scientific equations, their interpretation and meaning.
- Use Microsoft Excel at a basic level to analyse scientific data, enter formulae and plot graphs
- Summarise key relevant information succinctly in an abstract.
- Give examples of appropriate referencing styles for scientific reporting.
- Identify an appropriate approach for solving a quantitative problem through background and collaborative research.
- Review a given scientific topic in a written report.

# D21BN2 Biochemistry–The Building Blocks of Life

**Module Convenor:** Dr Matt Elmes [Matthew.Elmes@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Matthew.Elmes@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** Dr Matt Elmes (ME), Dr Marcos Alcocer (MA), Prof Andy Salter (AS), Dr Andy Murton (AM), Dr Simon Welham (SM), Dr Ranjan Swarup (RS), Dr Kevin Pyke (KP)

**Module Details:** Level 1 Autumn and Spring Semesters, 20 credits

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 250

**Target Students:** All School of Biosciences students in year 1

**Availability to Exchange Students** Yes - if relevant in the first year

**Note:** This module is a pre-requisite for D224N0 Nutrition, Metabolism and Disease, D223F0 Manufacture of Food (40 credit), D223N8 Principles of Animal Nutrition, D224A6 Endocrine Control Systems & D224G1 Professional Skills for Bioscientists

**Summary of Content:** This module introduces - proteins, carbohydrates, lipids and nucleic acids. The structure and properties of these will be examined in relation to their function. Topics covered include proteins as structural elements and enzymes, lipids as components of cell membranes, carbohydrates as energy stores and nucleic acids as genetic information and genetic engineering. The process of protein synthesis in prokaryotes will be outlined. The nutritional roles of amino acids, carbohydrates and fats will also be considered briefly. The major metabolic pathways in the cell responsible for energy production (respiration) and biosynthesis of cellular components, including the major pathways of carbohydrate and lipid metabolism along with some aspects of thermodynamics will be covered. Photosynthesis and pathways responsible for the assimilation of nitrogen in plants and eventually animals, will be covered along with general nucleic acid metabolism. In addition general mechanisms for the control of cellular metabolism will also be discussed. The practical sessions are designed to introduce students to several key biochemical techniques. In the first semester this will introduce students to the use of spectroscopy and demonstrate two major separation techniques - chromatography and electrophoresis. The practical sessions in the second semester are designed to introduce the concept of sub-cellular fractionation, enzyme assays and metabolite quantification.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## Lecture Programme (provisional):

Week	Subject	Lecturers
2	Nucleic acids - structure	ME
3	Nucleic acids – Properties and Applications	AM
4	Amino acids and protein structure	MA
5	Practical	ME, MA,
6	Practical	AM, ME
7	Practical	MA, AM
8	Protein synthesis	SW
9	Amino acid metabolism	MA
10	Nucleotide synthesis and metabolism	MA
11	Nucleotide synthesis and metabolism	MA
12	Enzymes	SW

19	Bioenergetics and Respiration	ME, RS
20	Bioenergetics and photosynthesis	ME, KP
21	Bioenergetics	ME
22	Practical	ME, MA,
23	Practical	AM, ME
24	Practical	MA, AM
25	Carbohydrates and lipids-structure	ME, AS,
26	Carbohydrates and lipids-structure	ME, AS
31	Carbohydrates and lipids -functions	ME, AS
32	Metabolic control	ME

**Teaching Staff:** Dr Matt Elmes (ME), Dr Marcos Alcocer (MA), Prof Andy Salter (AS), Dr Andy Murton (AM), Dr Simon Welham (SM), Dr Ranjan Swarup (RS), Dr Kevin Pyke (KP).

**Coursework:** One MCQ based online test and a practical report.

**Assessment:**

Exam 1	40%	1.5 hour MCQ exam
Coursework 1	20%	MCQ Moodle assessment
Coursework 2	40%	Practical Write up in Spring

**Aims:** The aim of this module is to introduce students to the basic structure, properties and functions of the four key biological macromolecules namely- nucleic acids, proteins, carbohydrates and lipids. It also aims to introduce the basic metabolic pathways occurring in cells, such as respiration, photosynthesis and the biosynthetic pathways for the key macromolecules. In particular:

1. To provide a basis for the understanding of biochemical processes in living organisms.
2. To provide students with a basic understanding of the structure and key properties of all four major macromolecules.
3. To demonstrate to students how these properties are essential for the biological functions of the macromolecules.
4. To provide students with a basic understanding of the major biochemical pathways in cells and their control.
5. To demonstrate to students how these pathways are essential for the cell.
6. To demonstrate several key biochemical techniques for the separation and analysis of macromolecules and measurement of metabolic processes.

**Learning Outcomes: Knowledge and Understanding – to learn of:**

The structure, properties and functions of proteins, nucleic acids, lipids and carbohydrates  
Handle kinetic data and understand molarity.

Understand the basic principles of key techniques such as electrophoresis and spectrophotometry.

The major metabolic pathways such as respiration, photosynthesis, lipid and protein biosynthesis.

Bioenergetics and the role of energy in metabolism.

Understand the basic principles of key techniques used to study metabolism such as enzyme assays.

**Intellectual Skills – the ability to:**

Analyse simple experimental data

Handle simple mathematical concepts relevant to the biological sciences, such as molarity, calibration curves and kinetics.

**Practical Skills – the ability to:**

Accurately operate simple laboratory equipment, such as pipettes

Collect and record data

Work safely in the laboratory.

**Transferable/key skills – the ability to:**

Communicate experimental results clearly and concisely in a written form

Work productively as an individual and as part of a team

Manage time efficiently.

# YEAR 2 MODULES

# C123E3 Soil Science

**Module Convener:** Dr S Young (SY; Convenor) [Scott.Young@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Scott.Young@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** Dr Helen West (HW), Prof Sacha Mooney (SM)

**Module Details:** Level 2, Autumn Semester, 10 credits

**Pre-requisites:** No pre-requisites

This is an introductory course, which is a pre-requisite for (C124E0) Soil and Water Science.

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 90

**Target Students:** (F900) BSc Environmental Science; (F750) MSci in Environmental Science; (C150) BSc Environmental Biology; (D400) Agriculture; (DF47) BSc Agriculture and Environmental Science; (D409) Agriculture and Crop Science and Exchange Students.

**Summary of Content:** This is an introductory course which provides a basic understanding of the nature and properties of soil and the application of soil chemistry, biology and physics to land management and environmental science. Broadly, the topics covered include: soil formation; clay mineralogy; soil organic matter (microbiology and chemistry); soil texture and structure; characteristic soil reactions (acidity, redox); the major and minor plant nutrients (chemistry and microbiology); soil fauna and flora; water relations (irrigation and drainage).

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## Lecture Programme:

### Week Topic

- 1 Introduction to course (SY); soil clays: mineralogy and function (SY)
- 2 Soil organic matter (SY); Major soil nutrients – nitrogen (SY)
- 3 Major soil nutrients – phosphate and potassium (SY); Soil acidity (SY)
- 4 Redox reactions in soils (SY); Soil trace elements (SY)
- 5 Introduction to life in the soil (HW); Soil biological processes I (HW).
- 6 Soil biological processes II (HW); Soil bioremediation and reclamation (HW)
- 7 Soil texture (SJM); Soil structure (SJM).
- 8 Soil water content (SJM); Soil water potential (SJM).
- 9 Soil aeration (SJM); Soil water movement (SJM)
- 10 Soil erosion (SM); soil compaction (SJM); Course appraisal (SY)
- 11 Reading week

**Assessment:** Exam 1 100% 2-hour multiple choice exam with 100 short questions requiring single choice from 4 options

**Aims:** To provide an understanding of the physical, chemical and biological properties of soils and terrestrial processes. To provide training in the practical interpretation of soil information for land management purposes. At the end of the module, the students should (i) possess quantitative knowledge of the magnitude of common soil parameters; (ii) have a clear understanding of the inter-relationship of soil processes; (iii) be able to offer pragmatic advice on soil management to environmental and agronomic managers.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Discuss the composition and origins of soil geo-colloids and humus and their roles in soil as a medium for plant growth.
- Explain the processes governing nutrient transformations and dynamics in soils.
- Describe the role of soil texture and structure in governing soil physical processes.
- Demonstrate understanding of soil water relations and water movement in soils.
- Outline the nature of soil flora and fauna and their dependency on soil conditions.
- Discuss the functions of soil biota in soil as a medium for plant growth.

**Recommended Reading:**

Rowell, D.L. 1994. *Soil Science; Methods and Applications*. Longman, UK.  
Ashman, M.R. and Puri, G. 2002. *Essential Soil Science*. Blackwell Publishing, UK. Note: All lectures are provided as PowerPoint files within the Blackboard VLE.



# D223A6 Economic Analysis for Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Module Convenor:** Dr Christina Sietto [Christina.Sietto@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Christina.Sietto@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Contributor:** Dr Stephen Ramsden (SR) [Stephen.Ramsden@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Stephen.Ramsden@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module details:** A Level 2, 10 credit module taught in the Autumn Semester at Sutton Bonington. The module consists of lectures, computer-aided-learning, tutorials and a farm visit.

**Pre-requisites:** Successful completion of a year one course within the School of Biosciences.

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 35

**Target Students:** Students interested in management and economics in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

**Summary of Content:** The module theme is the application of economic ideas to problems of concern to Agricultural and Environmental Scientists. Demand analysis is used to explain how changes in prices and incomes affect consumer purchasing decisions; marginal analysis is used to show how inputs and outputs can be allocated profitably and supply analysis is used to show how prices and technology influence production. Supply and demand are combined to show how market prices are determined and the idea of an 'efficient market' is introduced and contrasted with 'market failure'. Emphasis is placed on two problems arising from market failure - nitrate pollution and low farm incomes - and the arguments for government intervention to correct market failures are discussed with reference to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Current and potential future CAP support mechanisms and their impact on arable and animal production are then described. Using CAL, business planning techniques are introduced to analyse the impact of the above market and policy environment on business performance (profitability\_ and stability (cash flows and balance sheets). Practical applications of the ideas introduced in the module are considered in relation to a local farm through a field visit.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## Lecture Programme:

Week 1		Introduction and aims of the module, methods of teaching, procedures for module evaluation and student feedback.
	... Lecture 1.	<i>Demand for Agricultural Products</i>
Week 3	Lecture 2:	<i>Agricultural Production</i>
Week 4	Lecture 3:	<i>From Production to Supply</i>
Week 5	Lecture 4:	<i>The Market Solution and the Role of Government</i>
Week 6	Lecture 5:	<i>The Common Agricultural Policy: Past, Present and Future</i>
Week 7	Lecture 6:	<i>Guest Lecture - Economic Adviser from Defra. How and why economic analysis is important to agriculture and agricultural policy</i>
Week 9	Lecture 7:	<i>How can we apply Economics to Business? Profit and Gross Margins</i>
Week 10	Lecture 8:	<i>Planning for Stability – Balance Sheets and Cash Flows</i>

## Non-Lecture Programme:

The module is supported by a programme of post-lecture tutorials, Computer-Aided-Learning (CAL) and a Farm Visit.

**Coursework:** Coursework accounts for 25% of the overall mark for this module. Coursework consists of a report in which students calculate production, environmental and short run and long run profitability impacts of decisions relating to agricultural fertilisers.

**Assessment:** Exam 75% 1 hour 30 mins. Coursework 25% essay - 1500 words

**Aims:** The module aims to equip students with an understanding of economic ideas and principles and to show how these can be used to explain a range of economic problems of interest to Agricultural Scientists.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Explain the concepts of demand, supply and market efficiency within an agricultural context
- Appreciate the concept of marginality and apply this to agricultural and environmental decision making problems
- Identify why and where markets may fail, with particular reference to agricultural pollution
- Recognise and appraise arguments for government intervention in agriculture
- Demonstrate understanding of the historical development of the Common Agricultural Policy within the context of market failure
- Understand and differentiate between the core business management measures: profit, gross margin, cash flow and balance sheet

**Recommended Reading:** Nix, J. (2015). Farm Management Pocket book (46<sup>th</sup> Edition), The Andersons Centre. Hill, B. (2006). An introduction to Economics – Concepts for students of Agriculture and the Rural sector. (Third Edition) Wollingford: CABI.

# D223E4 Ecosystem Processes

**Module Convenor:** Dr Sofie Sjogersten [Sophie.Sjogersten@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Sophie.Sjogersten@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturer:** Dr Sofie Sjogersten Turner [Sofie.Sjogersten@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Sofie.Sjogersten@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 2 Autumn Semester, 10 credits

**Pre requisites:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 50

**Restriction for Cap:** Environmental science and related areas, especially those wishing to take arctic ecology field course.

**Target Students:** Availability to Exchange Students

**Summary of Content:** The course will focus on the processes that govern terrestrial ecosystem function. We will identify key ecosystem drivers and processes and explore how these have shaped the biosphere. Students will gain an understanding of the mechanisms that control changes in the physiochemical environment and their impact upon communities. Particular topics will include primary productivity, decomposition, herbivory, biodiversity and human impact on ecosystems. Classes comprise a mix of lectures, laboratory practicals, a computer practical, a seminar and fieldwork.

**Timetable:** Typically two one-hour timetabled sessions per week (Monday mornings from 9 am): twenty-three lectures, regular tutorials/examples classes, forty hours student led studies and revision. Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Lecture Programme:** Lecture programme is provisional and more detailed information will be given to you in the first session.

<i><b>Week</b></i>	<i><b>Class</b></i>	<i><b>Topic</b></i>	<i><b>Staff</b></i>
1	Lecture	NPP	SS
2	Practical (lab)	Impact of N on chlorophyll content + start of litter decomposition experiment ***ASSESSED LAB REPORT***	SS/DH
3	Lecture	Biodiversity	SS
4	Practical (outdoor)	Plant and insect biodiversity	SS/DH
5	Lecture	Herbivory	SS
6	Practical (field)	Herbivory exclosures	DH

7	Lecture	Decomposition	SS
8	Lecture	Human impacts on ecosystems	RB
9	Practical (computer)	Soil C - Modelling exercises	SS
10	Seminar	TBC	SS
11	Practical (lab)	Completion of Litter decomposition experiment ***ASSESSED LAB REPORT***	SS/DH
12	Lecture	Oil palm case study	SS

**Assessment:**

Exam 1            75%      1 x 2hr Examination (Rogo)

Coursework 1   25%      Laboratory reports - 400 words

**Aims:** To gain a broad knowledge of the major biomes. To identify key ecosystem drivers and processes and explore how these have shaped the biosphere.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Discuss the key processes that govern ecosystem function
- Explain how humans can impact ecosystems
- Measure a number of key ecosystem processes, in the laboratory and field
- Simulate soil carbon stocks using simple mathematical models

# D223P0 Molecular Biology and the Dynamic Cell

**Joint Module Convenors:** Kevin Pyke (KP) [Kevin.Pyke@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Kevin.Pyke@nottingham.ac.uk) and Ranjan Swarup (RS) [Ranjan.Swarup@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Ranjan.Swarup@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 2 Autumn Semester, 20 Credit

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 70

**Target Students:** Biosciences and Life Sciences students. Availability to Exchange Students.

**Summary of Content:** A detailed study of the core molecular processes that enable cells to function such as DNA biochemistry, gene expression, protein synthesis and degradation. These sessions will complement lectures on basic eukaryotic cell biology covering a range of organelles and cell structures including the nucleus, plastids, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi bodies and secretion together with a consideration of cell differentiation.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## (Provisional timetable)

Week		SUBJECT
1	Session 1	An overview of the Cell and its nucleus (Nucleus) (KP)
	Session2	Chromosome packaging, DNA replication and molecular basis of evolution (RS)
2	Session 3	RNA Synthesis, processing and export (RS) Protein synthesis, antibiotics, abnormal protein folding and human diseases (RS)
	Session 4	Regulation of Gene Expression I: Molecular switches, motifs, transcriptional activators, repressors, enhancers and insulators (ZW)
3	Session 5	Regulation of Gene Expression II: Targeted Protein Degradation (ZW) Regulation of Gene Expression III: micro RNA, snRNA, siRNA and artificial microRNA (RF)
	Session 6	Methods of investigating Gene Expression including an overview of gene chips and new generation sequencing (RS/ZW)
4	Session 7	Practical: Immuno detection (RS)
	Session 8	Practical: in situ Immunolocalisation and Confocal demo (RS+KP)
5	Session 9	Regulation of Gene Expression IV: Long non protein coding RNA (RS) Epigenetics: DNA methylation, imprinting and chromatin remodelling (DS)
	Session 10	Mitochondrion, plastids (KP) Extra nuclear genomes: the plastid and mitochondria (KP)
6	Session 11	The cytoskeleton I: IFs and MTs (KP) The cytoskeleton II: MFs and motors (KP)
	Session 12	The endo membrane system I: ER and import (KP) The endo membrane system II: Golgi and export (KP)
7	Session 13	Mitosis and Chromosome movement (KP) The Cell cycle - CDK's, cyclins and checkpoints (KP)

	Session 14	Cell Differentiation (KP/RS) Programmed Cell Death (RS)
8	Session 15	The endomembrane system-Secretion and uptake (KP+RS)
	Session 16	Practical (Vesicle trafficking and cell differentiation) (KP)
9	Session 15	Coursework poster session (ALL)
	Session 16	Coursework poster session (ALL)
10	Session 19	20. Cell in a multicellular context covering cell to cell interactions and mechanisms of long and short distance signalling-Part I (animals) (DS)
	Session 20	21. Cell in a multicellular context covering cell to cell interactions and mechanisms of long and short distance signalling-Part II (plants) (RS)
11	Session 21	Poster Feedback, Examination Guidance and tutorial (KP+RS)
	Session 22	Tutorial (KP+RS)

KP-Kevin Pyke, RS-Ranjan Swarup, ZW-Zoe Wilson, RF-Rupert Fray, DS-Dylan Sweetman

**Coursework:** Two pieces of coursework: one poster and one Lab report and questionnaire.

**Assessment:**

Exam 1	60%	2 hour examination
Coursework 1	15%	Poster
Coursework 2	25%	Practical report and questionnaire (2000 words)

**Aims:** This module aims to teach students about the basic molecular processes that underpin the function of eukaryotic cells and to describe how different organelles within the cell function, with an emphasis on the dynamic nature of cell biology.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to: 1. Explain the mechanisms of key molecular processes taking place within cells associated with DNA, RNA and protein synthesis 2. Distinguish different molecular mechanisms regulating gene expression within cells, 3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the molecular and cellular components of Eukaryotic cells and their function and how cellular components are integrated into cellular function. 4. Appreciate the use of modern imaging technology and marker molecules in elucidating cellular function and recognise the highly dynamic nature of rapidity of cellular function. 5. Demonstrate intellectual skills to evaluate critically molecular and cell biology research papers 6. Develop professional skills in scientific information retrieval and to work safely in a laboratory situation.

# D223P9 Applied Plant Physiology: from cell to crop

**Module Convenors:** Drs Erik Murchie (EM) [Erik.Murchie@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Erik.Murchie@nottingham.ac.uk), Debbie Sparkes (DS) [Debbie.Sparkes@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Debbie.Sparkes@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Other teaching staff:** Dr Kevin Pyke (KP), Dr Rupert Fray (RF), Dr Neil Graham (NG)

**Module Details:** Level 2 Autumn Semester, 20 Credit

**Pre-requisites:** D211F3: The Biosciences and Global Food security; C112P1: Plant Science or equivalent.

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 70

**Target Students:** Students in the Schools of Biosciences and Life Sciences.

**Availability to Exchange Students:** Yes

**Summary of Content:** This module provides a comprehensive understanding of plant physiology with an applied context from the molecular level to the field. There is an emphasis on the mechanisms that plants use to capture and utilise physical resources i.e. solar energy, water and nutrients. The module examines the physiological basis of resource capture and utilisation in growth and development, physical aspects of the plant environment incorporating key processes (photosynthesis, respiration, uptake and transpiration of water, the uptake and role of mineral nutrients). This physiological understanding will be applied in an agricultural context to consider major crop species in the UK and worldwide, and how cropping is affected by soil type. Limitations to resource capture by crops, and how growers overcome these, will be considered in relation to integrated crop management. The module also considers contemporary issues and future developments in agronomy and the role of the agronomist in successful crop management.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services)

**(Provisional timetable)** All lectures unless stated otherwise.

Week	SUBJECT	LECTURER
1	-Photosynthesis: organelle structure and function -Major crop species	KP DS
2	-Photosynthesis: how chloroplasts work - Practical: Major Crop Species	KP,RF DS
3	-Photosynthesis: diversity and ecology -Soils and Cropping Systems	KP,EM DS
4	-How crops capture and 'convert' solar energy to yield -Weed biology	EM DS
5	-Weed management - Practical: weed competition and nutrients	DS DS/NG
6	- Environmental physiology of plants and crops: temperature, photosynthesis, respiration and stress - Practical: photosynthesis	EM EM?RF
7	-How does water move through plants? -Practical: water and photosynthesis (TBC)	EM EM
8	-Stomata: structure and function of a small but globally significant plant organ -Root traits for water and nutrient uptake	EM DS/TBC

9	-Water use efficiency of crops -Group work on conservation agriculture	EM DS
10	-Plant nutrients, uptake and functions	NG
	- Mixed species cropping	TBC
11	- Nutrient, transport, assimilation and use in crops - Integrated	NG DS/EM

**Coursework:** 40%. A written report (1500 words) related to the practical sessions.

**Assessment:** Exam 1 60 %. Short questions and answers on module material using computers running Rogo software. This is timetabled and will take place in an IT lab.

**Aims:** The module is designed to introduce the key processes by which individual plants and plant communities capture and use physical resources i.e. light, water and nutrients, and provides an understanding of the physical and chemical processes and key biological processes involved. This is placed into an applied setting by considering agricultural examples and crop management strategies. By the end of the module, the student should understand not only the individual mechanisms, but also appreciate the importance of their integration into crop processes and the relevance of this to contemporary environmental and agricultural issues.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the physical resources available for plant growth and development
- Explain how soil type and climate affect crop choice
- Explain the physiological mechanisms by which plants capture physical resources and convert them to growth
- Discuss the abiotic and biotic limitations to plant and crop productivity by resource availability and use
- Analyse data accurately and critically and write a referenced scientific report.
- Devise integrated crop management strategies



# D224A4 Enterprise Management Challenge

**Module Convenors:** Dr Stephen Ramsden (Convenor) (SR)  
[Stephen.Ramsden@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Stephen.Ramsden@nottingham.ac.uk), Dr Rumiana Ray (Convenor) (RR)  
[Rumiana.Ray@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Rumiana.Ray@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 2 module taught in the Spring Semester at Sutton Bonington-10credits

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 20

**Target Students:** For students studying Agriculture and related subjects in Year 2.

**Summary of Content:** The module introduces students to a choice of crop or livestock management decision making in practice through team-based activity. Working in small teams, supported by teaching staff and industry consultants, students will be responsible for making management (science and business) decisions relating to the production of crops or livestock, as for commercial purposes. The management inputs and decisions made will be implemented by technical staff, thus in effect students studying this module combine the roles of a professional consultant and farm manager. Each team will document the decisions they make and this will provide material for module assessment. The module assessment also incorporates the extent to which the management decisions made throughout the module constitute a professional understanding and approach to agricultural management.

**Activity Detail:** Six 2-hour formal lectures; three 1-hour formal field site visits; three informal field observation visits by students; one team tutorial per team, student-centred learning, incorporating "field time" 40 hours.

**Timetable:** Typically two one-hour timetabled sessions per week: six lectures, regular tutorials/examples classes, forty hours student led studies and revision. Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## Assessment Details:

Coursework 1	30%	Individual field diary - 500 words
Coursework 2	50%	Individual Report - 1500 words
Coursework 3	20%	Team Research Assessment – in field <i>viva</i> of all team members

**Aims:** The module aims to introduce students to agricultural management decision making in practice through team-based activity. The integration of learning across disciplines (Science, Business and Economics) will be a key aim of this module. Working in small teams, and supported by teaching staff, students will be responsible for making management (science and business) decisions relating to the production of a crop enterprise or a livestock enterprise, based on University Farm, as for commercial purposes. The management inputs and decisions made will be implemented by technical staff, thus in effect students studying this module combine the roles of a professional agronomist and farm manager. Each team will document the decisions they make and this will provide material for module assessment. The module assessment also incorporates the extent to which the management decisions made throughout the module constitute a professional understanding and approach to agricultural management.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Recognize the importance of biological, environmental and commercial elements of agricultural production
- Understand the options available for managing nutrient supply and disease (crops or livestock), including knowledge of standard terminology
- Apply techniques for assessing profitability and managing risk
- Develop appropriate decision making skills in relation to the use of inputs and prices
- Interact and engage with professionals in the industry
- Place knowledge gained from research into practical application and context

**Recommended background reading:** Nix, J. (2015). *Farm Management Pocketbook 2016* (46th Edition), The Andersons Centre. Burdon, J.J. & Leather, S.R. (1990). *Pests, Pathogens and Plant Communities*, Blackwell. Lucas, J.A. (1998). *Plant Pathology and Plant Pathogens* (3rd edition), Blackwell. Parry, D. (1990). *Plant Pathology in Agriculture*, Cambridge University Press. Frame, J. and Laidlaw, A.S. (2011). *Improved grassland management*, Ramsbury: Crowood Press.

# D224E4 Computer Modelling in Science: Introduction (UP)

**Module Convenor:** Dr Dov Stekel [Dov.Stekel@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Dov.Stekel@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 2 Spring Semester, 20 credits

**Prerequisites:** Level 3 students who have already taken C135E9 will not be admitted to this module.

**Co-requisites:** None

**Location:** University Park Campus

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 60

**Target Students:** All School of Biosciences students, Natural Sciences students and Ningbo 2+2 Environmental Sciences students (based in Geography).

**Summary of Content:** Modern biological and environmental science includes the study of complex systems and large data sets, including imaging data. This necessitates the use of computer models and analyses in order to understand these systems. This module contains an introduction to computer programming and modelling techniques that are used in the biological and environmental sciences. Specifically, it contains: (i) An introduction to computer programming and algorithms, using the Python programming language. (ii) An introduction to the construction of mathematical models for biological and environmental systems using difference and differential equations, with a particular emphasis on population dynamics, and the use of computing to simulate, analyze these models and fit these models to data. Throughout the module, the focus will be on relevant examples and applications, e.g. environmental pollution, growth of microbial populations, disease epidemics, or computer manipulation of images of plants, animals or the natural environment. The module will be assessed by a patchwork assessment consisting of write-ups of assignments from during the semester.

**Timetable:** The first week of term is a two hour session, followed by 9 four hour sessions. Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Lecture Programme:** All teaching will be mixed mode (lecture/computer practical) in computer rooms. Lecture programme is provisional and more detailed information will be given to you in the first session.

1. Module introduction (Stekel)
2. Introduction to Python (French)
3. Programming in Python (French)
4. Python modules: NumPy and Matplotlib (French)
5. Modelling: difference equations (Martin)
6. Modelling: simple differential equations (Stekel)
7. Modelling: differential equations and SciPy (Stekel)
8. Modelling: multi-dimensional systems (Stekel)
9. Modelling: steady state analysis (Stekel)
10. Model building and workshop (Martin)

**Teaching Staff:** Dr Sarah Martin (SM), Dr Dov Stekel (DJS), Dr Andrew French (APF)

**On-line material:** Supporting background material on computing and mathematical concepts (e.g. algorithms, calculus) will be posted on-line with on-line exercises to complete.

**Assessment:** Patchwork Assessment (100%) consisting of write-up of related assignments from the whole module.

**Aims:** The aim of this module is to introduce the use of computing programming and modelling in the biological and environmental sciences for model simulation and image processing.

**Learning outcomes:** A student who successfully completes this module should be able to: (i) Transform a series of instructions specified mathematically or textually into a pseudocode algorithm. (ii) Create or modify simple computer program code in order to carry out a set algorithmic task. (iii) Critically evaluate the use and results of suitable computer algorithms or programs in the context of relevant challenges in the biological or environmental sciences. (iv) Construct a simple mathematical model from a set of biological or environmental processes. (v) Simulate and analyse mathematical models using a computer and appropriate software and/or algorithms. (vii) Critically evaluate a mathematical model and its simulation results in the context of relevant challenges in the biological or environmental sciences.

**Recommended Reading:** A full reading list will be provided at the outset of the module.

# D224G1 Professional Skills for Bioscientists

**Module Convenor:** Prof M Dickinson [Matthew.Dickinson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Matthew.Dickinson@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 2, Spring Semester and Summative Assessment all at the end of Semester 4, 20 credits.

**Session availability:** All Biosciences Undergraduates with the exception of students studying the following programmes: Food Sciences, Nutrition and Food Sciences, Environmental Science.

**Pre-requisites:**

1. Successful progression from Qualifying Year of studies of a Biosciences Degree (or equivalent)
2. Submission of draft CV as part of Module D21BP1

**Expected Number of Students taking module:** est 200

**Target Students:** Biosciences Undergraduate Students and available to Exchange Students from other UoN Campuses only.

**Summary of Content** The module is divided in to 2 sections. One half will be focussed on the provision of specific material deemed appropriate for each course programme to prepare their students for their Final Year (in most cases this will be the research project).

The other section is centred on delivery of key core professional skills through timetabled lectures and group activities and self-directed learning.

**Module Web Links:** Moodle

**Module Activities:** Including Lectures, Group Activity Sessions, Self-Directed Learning, Workshops, Group Presentation Session.

**Assessment details**

Coursework 1: 100% - 2 coursework outputs

Final Year Preparation Section

2000 word essay or equivalent output appropriate to the specific degree programme - Summative

Mark for the module - 100% weighting

Professional Skills Section

Submission of a Portfolio with prescribed items -

Pass/Fail for Section and Overall Module (non compensatable)

**Aims:** The aim of the module is to develop and consolidate students' professional competencies and abilities as a Bioscientist.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- LO1 Demonstrate an understanding of the research process within your discipline
- LO2 Identify possible future career pathways reflecting on learnings and wider experiences
- LO3 Demonstrate a range of professional behaviours and competencies associated with your discipline

# D224P7 Plant Pests and Diseases (UP)

**Module Convenors:** Dr Ruth Blunt [Ruth.Blunt@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Ruth.Blunt@nottingham.ac.uk) and Ann Bishop [sbaab10@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sbaab10@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 2, Spring Semester, 20 credits

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 35

**Target Students:** Biosciences students studying Agriculture, Agriculture and Crop Science, Environmental Biology, Biotechnology, Plant Science and students in Life Sciences studying Biology.

**Summary of Content:** This module is core for agriculture and crop science students and for non-molecular plant science students and is a recommended option for other agriculture and plant science students, biotechnologists, environmental biologists and biologists. It will introduce students to the importance of interactions between plants, microbes and insects. It will explain the importance and the nature of the organisms that are pests and diseases of plants, including population dynamics and epidemiology. It will also explore the main approaches for control and management of pests and diseases, including chemical interventions, resistance breeding in plants and biological control. Lecture material will be complemented by practical sessions, videos, demonstrations and self-study.

**Timetable:** Typically one three-hour timetabled session per week (four hours in those weeks that include practical sessions): twenty-five lectures, 12 hours practicals/demonstrations. Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Lecture Programme:** Lecture programme is provisional and more detailed information will be given to you in the first session.

Week	Subject	Format	Staff
19	The concept of plant disease Invertebrates as pests	Lectures	MD RB
20	The causes of disease – fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematodes	Lectures	MD
21	The concepts of biotrophy and necrotrophy Plant pathogen diagnostics	Lectures	MD
22	Basic insect morphology, life cycles, identification Insect reproduction	Lectures	RB
23	Insect feeding Practical week 1	Lecture and Practical	RB MD
24	Insects as vectors Practical week 2	Lecture and Practical	RB AB & MD

25	Insect senses & nervous systems Practical week 3	Lecture and Practical	RB AB & MD
26	Insecticides Practical Demonstrations	Lectures	RB
31	Biocontrol Insect monitoring/IPM	Lectures	AB
32	Disease resistance mechanisms, fungicides and biological control	Lectures	NC
33	Termites and bees Module review & revision topics	Lectures	AB AB & MD

### Assessment details

Exam 1	70%	Rogo style exam - Two hours
Coursework 1	30%	Self-study exercise - 1000 word advisory leaflet on a specific pest or disease

**Aims:** This module will explore the nature and importance of plant pests and diseases, the organisms involved, and the approaches used to control them

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Discuss the importance of plant pests and diseases in World agriculture.
- Explain how microbes and insects cause disease of plants.
- Discuss the methods used to control plant pests and diseases.
- Relate practical skills to plant pest and pathogen identification.

# D224P8 Molecular Pharming and Biotechnology

**Module Convenor:** Dr Rupert Fray [Rupert.Fray@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Rupert.Fray@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 2, Spring Semester, 20 credits

**Pre-requisites:** A suitable range of genetics /molecular biology and/or plant sciences modules

**Co-requisites:** None

**Target Students:** Students in the Schools of Biosciences and Exchange Students

**Expected Number of Students taking module:** 50

**Summary of Content:** Transgenic research and "Synthetic Biology" approaches have the potential to enable plants to be used as "green factories" for the production of novel products. In addition, the creation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are having a major impact on modern agriculture. The course will provide theoretical and practical knowledge as to how transgenic organisms are engineered. We will assess the technologies used to generate transgenic plants then describe examples currently being developed for commercial uses. Following this comprehensive briefing on the 'nuts and bolts' of generating GMOs, ethical, commercial and environmental concerns will be debated with invited experts. Alongside genetic modification approaches, production of traditional plant products and their uses in biotechnological industries will also be discussed as will the use of marker assisted breeding techniques.

**Timetable:** Typically three one-hour timetabled sessions per week: twenty-six lectures, four four hour practicals, one full day site visit, tutorials/examples classes, forty hours student led studies and revision. Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Lecture Programme:** Lecture programme is provisional and more detailed information will be given to you in the first session.

- 1 Module introduction (RGF); Gene structure and plant transformation (RS)
- 2 Genome sequencing (GS): RNAi, switching genes off (RGF)
- 3 Gene disruption technologies (RGF); Coursework guidance tutorial (RGF)
- 4 Chloroplast transformation (RGF); Commercial development of GM (External)
- 5 Nutritional improvement (External)
- 6 Biofuels and feed stocks (GL)
- 7 EdAntibodies, edible vaccines and medical secondary metabolites (RGF)
- 8 Using plant viruses (external)
- 9 ROGO exam
- 10 Synthetic Biology and the future (RGF)

## Assessment:

Exam 1	60%	Two long answer questions in a 1.5 hour exam Short answer open book questions on a selected primary research article related to the practical class. Short answer questions related to the practical sessions.
Coursework 1	40%	



**Aims:** This module provides a detailed analysis of the applications of technologies for the production of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). It describes how transgenic plants are generated; provides practical examples of commercial products created using GM technologies; and addresses the regulatory and societal issues raised by GMOs. In addition, various non-GM approaches for crop improvement are also discussed. The course benefits from the input of a range of experts based at Nottingham and other leading UK research organisations.

**Learning outcomes:** On Successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Explain the key technologies and approaches used for generating transgenic.
- Critically analyse and summarise information drawn from a variety of sources, including original published research papers.
- Discuss examples of GM-plant derived novel products
- Compare different methods for regulating the expression of endogenous plant genes.

**Recommended background reading:**

**Plant Biotechnology**, The genetic manipulation of plants; Second Edition. **Adrian Slater, Nigel Scott**, and **Mark Fowler**. **Oxford University Press**. ISBN: 9780199282616

Recent research papers that will be indicated and made available via Moodle.

# C12458 Biological Photography and Imaging 1

**Module Convenor:** Mr David McMahon [david.mcmahon@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:david.mcmahon@nottingham.ac.uk)

**School:** Life Sciences, University Park

**Module Details:** Level 2 Autumn Semester, 10 credits

**Pre-requisites:** Previous knowledge of photography is not essential

**Co-requisites:** None

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 160

**Target Students:** (C100/C101) Biology; (C300/C301) Zoology; (F900) Environmental Science

**Summary of Content:** There is a limited number of places on this module. Students are reminded that enrolments which are not agreed by the Offering School in advance may be cancelled without notice. This is a techniques module, biological photography application being the core component. During the practical sessions students will demonstrate practical competence in the techniques of biological image production and manipulation, including the ability to generate biological images of the highest technical quality and scientific value. Students will gain an understanding of how biological imaging helps the professional biologist. Evaluate critically the scientific 'content' and 'value' of any biological image or series of images. Assess how different lighting conditions can modify the final image produced and so enhance the nature of the biological information being communicated.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## Assessment Details:

Project 1 100%

**Aims:** To enable students to acquire skills and techniques in Biological Photography and Imaging, and apply this knowledge to the development of scientific visualisation of biological concepts. To emphasise the importance of the medium and communication of digital imaging as a research tool for biologists. The module is practically based to encourage teamwork and communication skills to produce high quality biological imaging and application. We will provide training and sufficient resources to enable you (the student) to acquire the following skills: 1. Professional level transferable skills in the subject area of Biological Photography and Imaging. 2. To foster an atmosphere of creative learning through experience and discussion. 3. Enable students to use different lighting conditions in order to modify and enhance the photographic image in order to communicate the significance of the biological information required.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Knowledge and understanding

A1. the relationship between the life and environmental sciences and other disciplines and forms of knowledge (t,l,p,a)

Intellectual skills - the ability to:

B1. critically analyse and interpret published information and data (l)

B2. think independently while giving due weight to the arguments of others (l,p,a)

B3. understand complex ideas and relate them to specific problems or questions (t,p,a)

B4. acquire substantial quantities of information systematically, process it effectively, and draw appropriate conclusions (t,l,p,a)

B5. make and record accurate observations and measurements (l,p)

Practical skills - the ability to:

C3. write and construct scientific documents (e.g. papers, reports, posters etc) using appropriate styles, conventions, and terminology (t,l,p)

C4. work safely in the laboratory and the field and to assess related safety issues (t,l,p,a)

C6. undertake practical experimental work using appropriate equipment and instruments (t,l,p,a)

Transferable/key skills - the ability to:

D1. work productively with others (t,l,p,a)

D2. communicate effectively in writing (l,p,a)

D4. organise and manage your working time, schedule tasks, and meet deadlines (t,l,p,a)

D5. use and access information and communication technology (l,p)

D6. reflect upon and assess your own progress, strengths and weaknesses (l,p,a)

# YEAR 3 MODULES

# C13569 Fundamental and Applied Aspects of Plant Genetic Manipulation

**Module Convenor:** Dr Tim Robbins [Tim.Robbins@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Tim.Robbins@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Total credits:** 10

**Module Details:** Level 3, Autumn Semester,

**Availability to Exchange Students:** Yes

**Module Aims:** Lectures and discussion groups will cover the latest, innovative techniques and approaches to genetic engineering in higher plants. These will be presented against a background of a continuing need for plant improvement in the key areas of agriculture, horticulture and forestry. This will include the use of tissue culture systems and cell fusion technology to study plant and somatic cell hybridisation. Detailed consideration will also be given to the development of plant transformation systems including those based on *Agrobacterium* - mediated gene delivery, direct DNA uptake into protoplasts, micro-injection and biolistics. Current uses of molecular biology in crop improvement will be discussed.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentsservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentsservices)

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Compare the strengths and weaknesses of different technologies for producing transgenic plants
- Explain the methods for production of somatic hybrids
- Analyse the extent to which the above technologies are now being applied and how they might be applied in future
- Explain the above in several different oral, visual and written media, alone or in groups

**Synopses of Lectures (provisional at time of printing). The order of lectures may vary with availability of lecturers**

## Week 1

Course introduction: general overview, aims and objectives, module structure and organisation. Transformation in plants. *Agrobacterium*-induced plant tumours. Crown gall disease. *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* as the causative agent; physiology of crown gall tumours; opines; *A. rhizogenes* as the causative agent of hairy root disease; culture of transformed roots; plant regeneration; morphology and physiology of transgenic plants. Molecular biology of crown gall disease; Ti and Ri plasmids; T-DNA inserts in crown galls; copy number; mutagenesis of T-DNA. (GWL)

## Week 2

Cloning of genes. PCR, RT-PCR, iPCR, plasmid vectors, cassettes. lambda vectors, library Screening TL and TR-DNA genes; T-DNA borders; bacterial plant interaction, acetosyringone, T-strand generation, T-DNA transfer from bacteria to plants; Nuclear import of T-strand; role of chromosomal and plasmid virulence genes. (GWL)

## Week 3

Ti plasmid as a gene vector; reporter genes; chimaeric genes; dis-armed co-integrate Ti vectors; binary vectors. Experimental systems for introducing genes into plants explants, protoplasts; leaf disc transformation; direct DNA uptake; PEG; electroporation electrophoresis; micro-injection; biolistics.

Introduction of agronomically useful genes into plants - herbicide, viral, fungal, insect resistances; flower and fruit-specific genes. Merits and limitations of gene delivery methods for plant improvement. (GWL)

#### Week 4

Theory and application of cereal transformation

Plasticity, totipotency and cereal tissue culture; Pros & cons of different DNA-delivery methods; Germ line (*in planta*) methods for cereal transformation; Target genes/traits for transgenic cereals; Design of transformation cassettes, promoters; Plastid transformation in cereals. (HDJ)

#### Week 5

Somatic hybridisation as an alternative for genetic transformation; principles, protoplast fusion and the history of protoplast fusion, spontaneous fusion, induced chemical fusion and electrofusion of protoplasts; the need for selection systems for somatic hybrids. (MRD)

#### Week 6

Selection strategies: tumourous cell lines, differential growth systems, single heterokaryon isolation, nitrate reductase deficient mutants, (gametosomatic hybridisation), albino mutants, light sensitive mutants, antimetabolites and resistance mutants, double mutants, morphological markers. (MRD)

#### Week 7

Selection strategies: use of transgenic cells, electroporation, regeneration pathways. Features of somatic hybrids, phenotypes, fertility, characterisation, asymmetric fusion products, cytoplasmic manipulation, and general uses of somatic hybridisation. (MRD)

#### Week 8

Applications of GM technologies Physical and biological containment of GM crops; Applications of GM crops to pharmaceuticals and biofuels. IP & patents; hybrid varieties; patentable technologies, transformation methods, introduced sequences, sequence data; International perspectives; Development of GM; IP and industry structure. (JMD)

#### Week 9

Research Paper Reviews (Coursework)

Working in small groups, students will choose one course-related publication (in the form of a reprint given out earlier) and then present a short (assessed) overview. The talk should be for 10 minutes plus 5 minutes for discussion. Students also prepare a one A4 page abstract of the paper/talk (submitted in Week 8) which will then be copied and distributed (for information) to the other members of the class (see later for details of assessment). (MRD & GWL)

### **Week 10    General discussion (MRD & GWL)**

**Coursework:** Students will be required to prepare a short dissertation style essay (2000 words maximum) on a topic related, in the broadest sense, to the themes of the taught part of the course. Individual choice of topic will be from a list of 30 titles given out in Week 2. Contact and guidance with individual staff will form part of this exercise. Students are expected to devote 3 hours per week (Weeks 1-10) to the preparation of their dissertation to be completed by the final lecture period (Week 11).

Students will also give a group presentation of a research paper supplied to them.

#### **Assessment:**

Exam 1	60%	2 hour exam
Coursework 1	10%	Group Presentation/review of a selected research paper
Coursework 2	30%	Dissertation/essay - 2000 words

**Recommended Reading:** References will be given in association with lectures. These will also underpin the coursework element of this module.

# C135P2 Molecular Plant Pathology

**Module Convenor:** Prof Matthew Dickinson [Matthew.Dickinson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Matthew.Dickinson@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** A level 3 course taught in the Autumn Semester on Tuesday afternoons at University Park. 10 credits

**Pre-requisite(s):** D224P7 (Plant Pests and Diseases)

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 80

**Target Students:** Unrestricted

**Availability to Exchange Students:** Yes

**Summary of Content:** This module will cover the molecular techniques being used to develop an understanding of plant/pathogen interactions. It will then cover the molecular biology of plant pathogens, how these cause disease, and the mechanisms used by plants to defend themselves against such pathogens.

**Timetable:** Typically one two-hour timetabled session per week: twenty-two hours of lectures/tutorials, seventy-eight hours of student led studies and revision. Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Lecture Programme:** Lecture programme is provisional and more detailed information will be given to you in the first session.

- 1 Introduction and Bacterial diseases I (MD)
- 2 Bacterial diseases continued (MD)
- 3 Plant viruses (MD)
- 4 Fungal diseases (John Lucas)
- 5 Fungal genetics (MD) and Fungal sex (Paul Dyer)
- 6 Resistance genes (MD)
- 7 Signalling in disease resistance and Systemic resistance
- 8 Tutorial sessions
- 9 Tutorial sessions
- 10 Tutorial sessions
- 11 Module review and revision session

**Assessment:** Exam 1 100% 2 hour examination.

**Aims:** This module will explore the modern molecular techniques being used to investigate plant/microbe interactions and will examine the way in which pathogens cause disease and the means by which plants defend themselves.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the current models for how plant pathogens cause disease.
- Relate knowledge of pathogens to how plants defend themselves against disease.
- Explain the molecular basis of plant pathogen interactions.
- Evaluate and critically assess recent research in plant pathogen interactions.

**Recommended background reading:** Dickinson M (2003) Molecular Plant Pathology BIOS Scientific Publishers. Lecturers will provide information on the best reviews and primary sources for the information that they cover in their lectures as the module progresses.

# C135P3 Basic Introduction to Omic Technologies

**Module Convenors:** Prof Zoe A Wilson [Zoe.Wilson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Zoe.Wilson@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Total Credits:** Level 3 Autumn Semester, 10 credits

**Co-requisite(s):** None

**Pre-requisite(s):** A suitable range of plant science and/or genetic/bioinformatic modules in previous semesters.

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 15

**Target Students:** Available to JYA/Erasmus students.

**Module Details:** Over the past few years major developments have been made regarding the study of genomes. Sequencing programmes now mean that the complete DNA sequence is now known for many species. Such information is revealing the high degree of similarity and conservation between different species and organisms, which in turn is revolutionising the way in which gene function analysis is carried out. An extensive range of post-genomic technologies have been established based on this information and these are revolutionising the analysis that is possible.

This module will provide a basic overview of recent research in the field of “omics” with emphasis on genomics, proteomics and metabolomics. Case studies will be presented detailing how different approaches have been used to study genomes and how such developments are influencing the way genetic analysis and biotechnological improvement can be made. Particular emphasis will be paid to the importance of bioinformatics and IT in the study of genomes and the commercial biotechnological applications of gene isolation. Hands-on experience of these approaches will be provided via problem-based lab and computer training sessions.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## Assessment Details:

Exam 1	50%	1.5-hour written examination (2 questions from 4)
Coursework 1	35%	Transcriptomic analysis exercise - assessed
Coursework 2	15%	Group presentation (15 - 20 mins)

**Aims and Objectives:** To introduce the student to the fields of genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics, proteomics and bioinformatics. Particular focus will be the use and application of bioinformatics for understanding of the functional roles of genes, metabolites and proteins and how they can be analysed using a variety of new technologies e.g. Deep Sequencing, proteomics, mass spectrometry, transcriptomics.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able:-  
1) To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and practices that underpin genomics, proteomics and metabolomics, and their biotechnological applications. 2) To evaluate current research in -omics and related biotechnological disciplines. 3) To acquire substantial quantities of information systematically and process it selectively and effectively. 4) To discriminate between the different approaches and techniques used in the genomics, proteomics and metabolomics 5) To develop ideas and opinions through the use of information from a wide variety of sources. 6) To communicate effectively knowledge of different -omic technologies and their applications.



# D235P2 Plant Cell Signalling

**Module Convenor:** Dr A Bishopp, [Anthony.Bishopp@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Anthony.Bishopp@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** Prof JA Roberts, Dr TP Robbins, Dr R Swarup, Prof M Dickinson, Prof M Holdsworth, Dr Darren Wells

**Module Details:** Level 3, Autumn Semester, 10 credits

**Pre-requisites:** A selection of genetics and plant science modules at levels one and two.

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 25

**Target Students:** Students in the Schools of Biosciences and Life Sciences.

**Summary of Content:** The module deals with the production and perception of plant signaling molecules. The ways in which these signals are integrated to ensure appropriate responses to environmental conditions or plant pathogen attack are discussed.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Assessment:**

Exam	70%	2 hour exam.
Coursework	30%	1500-word essay. Essay is set at this length because of technical detail required at Level 3 and to give student chance to develop a sufficiently cogent argument with detail.

**General**

- 1 Introduction to the module; types of signals and receptors, basic concepts of receptors and signal transduction cascades (RGF).
  - 2 Auxin transport and signalling (RS)
  - 3 ABA, (MH)
  - 4 Ethylene perception and signal transduction (JAR)
  - 5 Gibberellic acid signalling (RGF)
  - 6 Plant defences – signalling to keep pathogens out (MD)
  - 7 Cytokinin (and Brassinosteroids) (RGF)
  - 8 Phytochromes and perception and response to light. (RS)
  - 9 Signalling in pollen tubes (TPR).  
Practical (DW)
  - 10 Practical (DW)
  - 11 Hormone crosstalk: Integration of signalling pathways (RS)
- Revision and module debriefing (RGF).

**Aims:** The aims are to provide a detailed knowledge of how plants use intercellular and intracellular signalling strategies to provide information about their environment. Particular emphasis will be placed on the way in which molecular genetics is enabling us to determine the nature of the signals, their perception and the cross-talk that takes place between them. The objectives of this module are: - i. To impart an appreciation of the properties of receptors and the transduction chains activated by them. ii. To illustrate the range of genes induced by signals from other cells and external stimuli and how they differ from other plant genes. iii. To develop a range of transferable skills.

**Learning outcomes:** On Successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Compare different mechanisms used by plants to convert a hormone or environmental signal into altered gene expression.
- Evaluate research papers in the general area of plant cell signalling.
- Describe the how plants control the synthesis and turnover of growth regulators.
- Explain how key plant hormones interact to co-ordinate plant growth.
- Discuss the agricultural importance of manipulating plant growth habits.

# D235P6 Plants and the Light Environment

**Module Convenor:** Dr Kevin Pyke [Kevin.Pyke@Nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Kevin.Pyke@Nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** Dr Zinnia Gonzalez and Dr Erik Murchie

**Total Credits:** 10

**Level:** 3, Autumn Semester

**Pre-requisite(s):** Normally two plant science modules in previous semesters.

**Number of Places:** 30

**Module Details:** The module provides a wide-ranging, detailed and modern training extending from the cellular to community level, for those with interest in plant physiology, environmental biology, agronomy and horticulture. The module focuses on the influence of the light environment on the physiology of native and crop species. It considers how this knowledge contributes to an understanding of the causes of variations in crop yields and may be used to assist in the search for improved varieties and increased productivity in agricultural systems.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Lecture Programme:** To be announced

Week	Lecturer	Topic
1	ZG	1.Light: properties and perception 2. Light as an ecological signal
2	ZG	1. Phytochrome and photomorphogenesis 2. Photomorphogenetic mutants and their uses
3		Phytochrome in the natural environment
4	ZG	Phototropism (preparation)
5	ZG	Phototropism presentations and discussion
6	ZG	1. Photoperiodism 2. Light measurement and endogenous rhythms
7	KP	Light and leaf development
8	KP	Photosynthesis and the light reactions
9	KP	1. C3 photosynthesis and its regulation 2. C4 photosynthesis and its regulation
10	KP	1.CAM photosynthesis and its regulation 2. Environmental factors regulating photosynthesis
11	EM	Crops and the Environment

**Teaching Staff:** ZG – Dr Zinnia Gonzalez; KP - Dr Kevin Pyke; EM – Erik Murchie

**Non Lecture Programme:** Student centred exercise

**Coursework:** Essay and oral presentation

**Assessment:** Exam 1 75% 2-hour examination. Coursework 1 15% 1,500-word essay.  
Coursework 2 10% Group presentation

**Aims:** The module focuses on the influence of the light environment on the physiology of native and crop species. It considers how this knowledge contributes to an understanding of the causes of variations in crop yields and may be used to assist in the search for improved varieties and increased productivity in agricultural systems. The module provides a detailed and modern training extending from the cellular to the whole plant and community levels for those with interests in plant physiology, environmental biology, environmental science, applied biology and crop science.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

1. Synthesise information about how light interacts with plants at a variety of levels; organ, tissue, cell and molecule.
2. Explain how light is absorbed by plants to initiate energy transfer systems and to stimulate developmental pathways of photomorphogenesis.
3. Analyse literature and produce a coherent argument to support or disagree with the Cholodney-Went theory of phototropism.
4. Differentiate between different light signalling pathways in plants and demonstrate how these pathways function in plants.

**Recommended Reading:** Information to be provided with lectures

# D236A3 Current Issues in Crop Science

**Module Convenor:** Dr MJ Foulkes [John.Foulkes@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:John.Foulkes@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** plus various speakers from industry and research. Dr S Ramsden.

**Pre-requisites:** D223P9 Applied plant physiology: from cell to crop

**Module Details:** Spring, 10 credit module

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 20

**Availability to Exchange Students:** Yes

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Summary of Content:** This integrative module considers future options and possible strategies for crop production in UK and world agriculture. Students are introduced to a number of issues that have current or possible future impacts on crop production systems and the environment. Examples of issues that will be addressed include: the future of genetically modified crops, impact of crop production on biodiversity and prospects for organic crop production. The content will change every year to reflect current issues in crop science. This module is suitable for students interested in applied plant science, crop science agriculture and the environment.

Changes to the module introduced this session: The content will change each year depending on current issues.

## **Lecture Programme: (provisional)**

Introduction to the module and course work  
Impact of crop production on biodiversity  
The future of genetically modified crops  
Prospects for organic crop production  
Climate change  
Energy crops  
Biological control in cropping systems

## **Non- Lecture Programme:**

Week 9      Paper review exercise  
Week 11     Research and presentation exercise

**Coursework:** This module is assessed entirely by coursework: essay 40%, paper review 30%, research and presentation exercise 30%.

**Assessment:** Coursework 1 40% Essay 2500 words. Coursework 2 30% Paper review exercise 10 minute presentation + 500 words, individually. Coursework 3 30% Research and presentation exercise - 20 minute presentation + 500 words, in pairs.

**Aims:** To raise awareness of students to current issues in crop science. To enable students to analyse the advantages and disadvantages of a range of current and future developments in crop science.

**Learning Outcomes:** Knowledge and Understanding - to learn of 1) Appropriate terminology and nomenclature to appreciate and express knowledge of contemporary issues in crop science 2) A diverse range of the essential information, major concepts, principles and theories associated with current issues in crop science, including genetically modified crops, organic production, biodiversity 3) The latest trends and developments within crop science, and the philosophical, ethical and policy issues associated with them 4) The ability to acquire, interpret and critically analyse biological and/or management data and information data derived from a variety of sources. Intellectual Skills - the ability to 1) Recognise and use appropriate theories, concepts and principles from a range of relevant disciplines and use these to critically analyse current issues associated with crop science 2) Collect and integrate several lines of evidence and apply them in a balanced manner to support an argument, taking ethical considerations into account where appropriate 3) Apply subject knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems 4) Critically analyse, synthesise and summarise information drawn from various sources, including published research papers and reports 5) Demonstrate the provisional nature of facts and principles associated with the latest developments within crop science. Practical/Professional Skills - the ability to 1) Collect, record and analyse information and data in the library, and to summarise it using appropriate techniques. Transferable/Key Skills - the ability to 1) Communicate accurately, clearly, concisely and confidently to a variety of audiences in written, verbal and visual form 2) Work productively as an individual or as part of a team including identification, allocation and assessment of individual and collective roles and responsibilities 3) Listen to, appreciate and evaluate views of others and contribute to group discussions 4) Manage and organise time efficiently and work to deadlines by using flexible and effective approaches to study 5) Process, analyse and present data using a variety of methods, including the use of computer based information handling and data processing tools where appropriate 6) Use the internet and other electronic means critically for communication and as a source of information.

**Recommended Reading:** The nature of this module means that there are no key texts associated with it. However, students will be expected to read widely around the issues discussed. It will be particularly important for students to be aware of recent publications, both in terms of refereed papers and of articles in New Scientist etc.

**Reading List:** To be given to students at the beginning of the module.

# D236A8 Field Crops Cereals

**Module Convenor:** Dr John. Foulkes [John.Foulkes@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:John.Foulkes@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** Dr D Sparkes, Dr Erik Murchie

**Module Details:** A level 3 module taught in the Spring Semester. The module will consist of lectures, seminars, practicals and field classes. 10 credits

**Pre-requisites:** D223P9 Applied plant physiology: from cell to crop or equivalent

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 20

**Target Students:** Crop Science and agricultural students

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**Summary of Content:** Plant structure and methods of quantifying morphological development and the sequence of apex differentiation from vegetative to reproductive. Influence of the environment on development, growth and yield formation. Crop improvement through breeding. Production strategies for the major grain cereals grown in contrasting environments with particular emphasis on factors controlling yield and quality.

**Changes to the module introduced this session:** Update of module content

## Lecture Programme: (provisional)

Week 1	Introduction to the module and course work
	Principles of cereal growth and development I
Week 2	Principles of cereal growth and development II
Week 4	Seed rate, sowing date and sowing depth
Week 6	Cereal nutrition
Week 7	Cereal quality
Week 8	Lodging
Week 9	Species and variety selection

## Non- Lecture Programme:

Week 3	Field class
Week 5	Practical class
Week 10	Cereal diseases

**Coursework:** The coursework will contribute 30% of the total module mark.

## Assessment:

Exam 1	70%	2 hour exam
Coursework 1	30%	Cereals practical and write up- word limit 2500 words

**Aims:** This module is designed to provide an analysis of the production of cereal crops. Emphasis will be placed on understanding production strategies for the major grain cereals, with particular emphasis on factors controlling yield and quality. The structure and function of the Gramineae will be presented and the influence of the environment and management practices on crop growth and development examined. This understanding will be used to show how the management of different cereal

crops can be optimised to meet the requirements of specific environments and end-uses.

**Learning Outcomes:** Learning Outcomes: Knowledge and Understanding - to learn of 1) The principles governing the environmental and management factors that influence cereal production and the commercial applications of these principles in agronomy 2) Key features of development and growth (vegetative and reproductive) of cereal crops and their responses to the environment 3) An understanding of the reasons for yield and quality variation from site to site and from year to year 4) An appreciation of how growers utilise information on development and growth of cereal crops to optimise management strategies in a given situation 5) A range of relevant practical techniques and methodologies and their uses, together with appropriate procedures for evaluation of relevant agronomic data sets. Intellectual Skills - the ability to 1) Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in cereals agronomy and production literature 2) Analyse data sets systematically and precisely and interpret them accurately and effectively 3) Integrate information selectively from a variety of sources on environment, crop development and growth and management inputs to predict performance of cereal crops. Practical/Professional Skills - the ability to 1) Collect plant data according to standard protocols to compare measurements of crop development and growth against benchmarks to make informed management decisions 2) Use electronic library resources, print systems and the Internet to access information from a wide range of sources 3) Use management guidelines predictively, recognising the importance of agronomic and physiological influences on decisions 4) Present in a range of written formats data and interpretation of this to a standard and format consistent with that as accepted by the professional crop science community. Transferable/Key Skills - the ability to 1) Communicate effectively in written, verbal and visual forms, including efficient presentation of data (tables v. figures) as in scientific papers 2) Objectively compare experimental results with the scientific literature 3) Critically integrate information from a wide range of sources, including the Internet and other learning resources, to advance to synthesize concepts and advance their own knowledge base 4) Act independently in planning and implementing tasks.

**Recommended Reading:** Azam-Ali, S.N. & Squire, G.R. (2002) *Principles of Tropical Agronomy*. CAB Publishing. Fageria, N.K. (2006) *Physiology of crop production* / N.K. Fageria, V.C. Baligar, R.B. Clark (eds). Hay, Robert K.M. (2006) *The physiology of crop yield* / Robert K.M. Hay, John R. Porter. 2nd ed. 2006.



# D236P3 Plant Disease Control

**Module Convenor:** Dr R Ray [Rumiana.Ray@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Rumiana.Ray@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Total credits:** 10

**Level:** 3 Spring Semester

**Expected number of Students Taking Module:** 60

**Target Students:** Students in the Schools of Biosciences and Life Sciences

**Module Details:** This is a course which deals with the applied aspects of plant disease control, comprising transmission, epidemiology, detection and diagnosis and control options. Control strategies based on application of fungicides, biological control, deployment of disease resistant varieties and biotechnological approaches are described. The relative strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches will be considered.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## Lecture Programme 2016-2017

Week	Topic	Activity
1	Introduction to the module	RR
	Cause of disease, symptoms and assessment	RR
	The concept of IDM	RR
2	Plant health risk and policy	NB
	Molecular diagnostics	NB
	Plant disease epidemiology	RR
3	Dispersal of plant pathogens	BF
	Case study - phoma in OSR	BF
	Coursework brief	RR
4	Cultural control methods	RR
	Disease resistance	RR
	Tutorial	RR
5	Durable resistance	GJ
	Breeding for disease resistance	GJ
	Tutorial	RR
6	Field walk	RR
7	Cereal diseases	RR
	Management strategies	RR
	Chemical control	RR
8	Fungicide mode of action	RO
	Fungicide resistance	RO
	Tutorial	RR

9	Virus transmission and sugar beet diseases Integrated pest management	MS TB
10	Nematodes and potato diseases Independent studies	MB
11	Student presentations MSc, Feedback and module overview	RR

RR= Dr Rumiana Ray, NB= Prof Neil Boonham (Fera), TB= Prof Toby Bruce (Rothamsted Research), MS= Dr Mark Stevens (BBRO), MB= Dr Matt Back (Harper Adams University), GJ= Prof Graham Jellis (formerly HGCA), RO= Prof Richard Oliver (Curtin University), BF= Prof Bruce Fitt (University of Hertfordshire)

**None Lecture Programme:** Practical exercise to support taught material on diagnosis.

**Assessment:** Exam 1 100% 2 hour examination

**Aims and Objectives:** The module aims to instruct students in the current practices, which are available for crop protection, and to provide an understanding of how new measures are developed. The objectives of this module are to enable students to: i) appreciate the problems associated with plant disease ii) develop an understanding of the crop protection options available iii) develop laboratory skills associated with disease diagnosis iv) understand the commercial considerations associated with crop protection

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Compare the strategies used by plant pathogens to spread between plants and cause disease epidemics
- Critically analyse methods available for disease diagnosis in different situations
- Explain the range of approaches used in plant disease control
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these methods when used in crop protection

# D236P4 Sex, Flowers and Biotechnology

**Module convenor:** Prof ZA Wilson (convenor) [Zoe.Wilson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Zoe.Wilson@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** Dr RG Fray, Prof S Owen (RHS Kew), Dr TP Robbins , Dr D Dietrich

**Module Details:** Level 3, Spring Semester, 10 credit

**Pre-requisites:** A suitable range of plant science and genetic modules in previous semesters.

**Availability to Exchange Students:** Yes

**Summary of Content:** The processes of floral development and reproduction are some of the most critical stages occurring during plant growth and development. They are fundamental for plant breeding, crop productivity and horticulture. The significance of plant reproduction is particularly pertinent to issues of food security and the future development of high yielding crops. This module will focus on recent developments that have been made in the understanding of floral development, reproduction and seed production. Topics will focus on how such processes can be manipulated for commercial exploitation and to provide an understanding of the current goals, methods and achievements in the genetic engineering of crop and horticultural plants.

## Lecture Programme 2016-2017

- 1 The goals and problems for plant biotechnology- how can we achieve food security? The importance of flowering and fruiting in crop production. (ZAW)
- 2 Genetic control of floral initiation 1: Flowering time signals: the influence of environmental stimuli. (ZAW)
- 3 Genetic control of floral initiation 2: Vernalization and epigenetic control of flowering. (ZAW)
- 4 Floral development and floral organ identity genes: Homeotic mutants and models of flower development in *Arabidopsis* and *Antirrhinum*. (TPR)
- 5 Cell and Molecular Biology of sexual reproduction in plants. (SO)
- 6 Applied aspects of flowering and reproduction: Pollen development and male sterility in plant breeding and commercial production of hybrid seed. (ZAW)
- 7 Molecular basis of self-incompatibility in gametophytic and sporophytic systems. Model systems for the study of cell-cell signalling in plants: the RNase system of *Solanaceae*; receptor kinases in Brassica. (TPR)
- 8 Student Seminars: Small group presentations relating to key areas of plant developmental biology. (ZAW)
- 9 Floral senescence and cell death: Processes associated with programme cell death during plant reproduction. (ZAW)  
Seed development and germination. Hormonal aspects of regulation of seed development. (DD)
- 10 Physiological, biochemistry and molecular biology of fruit ripening. (RF)

**Coursework:** A small group assessed (10%) presentation of library work. Assessed (15%) journal style reviews (1000 words) summarising the individual group's presented topic

**Assessment:** 2-hour written examination (75%) Answer 2 essay style questions out of 5 in 2 hours. Continuous assessment (25%) see coursework.

Exam 1	75%	2-hour examination.
Coursework 1	10%	15-20 minute group presentation
Coursework 2	15%	Journal style report of presentation - 1000 words

**Aims:** Advances in molecular biology and genetics have provided the basis for improving crop quality and performance. This module will explore recent innovative research in plant developmental biology and genetics, and demonstrate how such processes can be manipulated to optimise horticultural and crop production. Particular emphasis will be placed on floral and reproductive pathways in higher plants and how such information can be utilised to minimise the ecological impact of genetically modified crops. The significance of plant reproduction is particularly pertinent to issues of food security and the future development of high yielding crops.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able:-

- 1) To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and practices that underpin plant reproductive development.
- 2) Synthesise specialist information focusing on floral and reproductive development and its biotechnological applications.
- 3) Develop an appreciation of the targets of the Agro-industry and the approaches that can be used to meet these targets.
- 4) To communicate effectively knowledge of different aspects of floral and reproductive development.

# D236P7 Plants and the Soil Environment

**Module Convenor:** Prof MR Broadley [Martin.Broadley@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Martin.Broadley@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Lecturers:** Dr MJA Foulkes, Dr A French, Dr NS Graham, Dr D Wells, Professor PJ White

**Total credits:** 10

**Level:** 3, Spring Semester

**Pre-requisite(s):** D223P9 Applied plant physiology: from cell to crop

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 40

**Target Students:** Students in the Schools of Biosciences and Life Sciences.

**Module Content:** This module provides a detailed study into below-ground biological processes which influence the uptake of water and nutrients by plants. The module considers the acquisition of water and nutrients by plants in both agricultural and natural systems, and how plants interact with the soil environment. Consideration is given to using this knowledge to improve crop productivity and resource management and to understanding how resource capture by plant roots has influenced plant evolution over wider timescales. The module includes a practical study component on the development of new methods and technologies for below-ground phenotyping of roots. The module provides a detailed and modern training extending from cellular to whole organism level. It is highly suitable for those with interests in plant physiology, environmental biology, environmental science, biology, and crop science.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

## Module Synopsis:

- 1 Soil structure, movement of water in soils, plant root growth in soils (MB)
- 2 Water uptake by plant roots, shoot factors controlling water transport, plant adaptations to drought/waterlogging (MB)
- 3 Nutrition: movement of macro and micronutrients to roots in soils, root uptake mechanisms, transport (MB) Nutrition: plant adaptations to hostile mineral soils (salinity and metals) (MB)
- 4 Nutrition: evolutionary and ecological aspects of nutrient capture by plants (MB, PW)
- 5 Breeding crops for improved resource-use efficiency (water and nutrients) (JF)
- 6 Plant root phenotyping practical and data analysis (AF, DW, MB, NG)

**Assessment:** Exam 1 75% 2 hour examination - 2 essay style answers from 4 or 5 questions in two sections covering the water relations and nutrition elements of the module. Coursework 1 25% – Data analysis/report on phenotyping plants in the soil environment (1000 words or equivalent).

**Aims and Objectives:** To provide a fundamental understanding of how water and nutrients are acquired by plants from the soil environment, and their influence on plant growth and development. By the end of the module, students should understand: (i) the pathways and mechanisms involved in the uptake, transport and use of water and nutrients; (ii) the impact of water and nutrient availability on plant growth and development and crop productivity; (iii) plant adaptive responses to water and nutrient stress; (iv) methods to study roots in the soil; (v) how knowledge of water and nutrient uptake by plants can be used to improve crop productivity and resource management.

**Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Describe how water and nutrients are acquired by plants from the soil.
- Describe the evolution of root adaptations which enable plants to thrive in environments with limited or excess water and nutrients.
- Explain how knowledge of water and nutrient uptake by plants can be used to improve crop productivity and resource management, and the phenotyping techniques used to do this.
- Analyse high-throughput phenotyping data, including computer-based image analysis techniques.

**Recommended Reading:** Reference lists are provided by each lecturer at the beginning of their section of the module.

# D23BA7 Genetic Improvement of Crop Plants

**Module Convenor:** Dr Sean Mayes [Sean.Mayes@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Sean.Mayes@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Module Details:** Level 3 Autumn and Spring, 20 credits

**Target Students:** Students registered on the undergraduate courses Students interested in Plant Breeding and biotechnology

**Summary of Content:** The genetic improvement of crop plants is critical to address issues of food security for a growing world population. It is also the key to tackling environmental degradation and to meeting the increasing strict regulations on agricultural pollution which are coming into force in many Western countries. While these issues are not identical, they are linked and efficient plant breeding can be part of the solution to both. The module will use lectures, case and literature studies, research plan presentations, external expert seminars and practical exposure to crop breeding and molecular techniques to provide a firm basis for future crop breeding. The emphasis is the application of Biotechnology to conventional breeding, but the place of Genetic Modification in the genetic improvement of crops is also addressed. Crops covered include temperate and tropical, annual and perennial, in-breeding and out-breeding with emphasis on how genetic improvement will be achieved in the near future, while recognizing the potential of novel techniques and the existence of varying priorities, in the face of a changing climate.

**Timetable:** Personal timetables will be available to all students via [www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services)

## Lecture Programme: Example:

Week	SUBJECT	LECTURER
1	GMOs: ethics, commercial interests, consumer concern and environmental impact.	TBC
2	Engineering transgenic plants: transgene delivery strategies.	RS
3	Expressing transgene products in chloroplasts.	RGF
4	Post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression.	RGF
5	Revision	RGF

**Teaching Staff:** Mike Holdsworth (MH), John Foulkes (JF), Erik Murchie (EM); Tim Robbins (TM); Mike Davey (MD); Rumiana Ray (RR); Martin Broadley (MB); Debbie Sparkes (DS); Chungui Lu (CL); Martin Blythe (MBI) (PM) Penny Maplestone (British Society of Plant Breeders); (DF) David Feuerhelm (Syngenta seeds); Alastair Clemence (Consultant on GM regulation)

**Assessment Details:**

Exam 1	45%	2 Hour examination- Spring semester
Practical	25%	Lab amplification of marker loci in a wheat population, write up and analysis (max 1500 words)
Presentation	30%	Groups investigate a topic in genetic improve and report a minute presentation to the wider group and assessors, plus a one-page executive summary.

**Aims:**

- To provide students with an understanding of crop genetic improvement through lectures, practicals and case studies
- To provide students with an appreciation of how modern and technological approaches can enhance crop breeding programmes and be able to assess the limitations of these approaches
- To give students the intellectual and practical skills to form a basis for a potential career in biotechnology as applied to crop breeding.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Explain the domestication of crops, the genetics of traits and how crops are bred.
- Describe the application of molecular markers as a way to assist crop breeding and their use for the development of genetic maps.
- Identify major traits and issues which will need to be tackled by crop breeding and improvement.
- Compare multiple approaches that are currently being used in genetic improvement programmes.
- Test the use of genetic markers for genetic linkage in wide cross mapping populations.



# D23PRO Undergraduate Research Project

**Module Convenor:** Dr S Lydon [Sussie.Lydon@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Sussie.Lydon@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Total Credits:** 40

**Level:** Level 3, Year-long module

**Summary of Content:** The project is a year-long level 3 module. The topic of the project will be chosen from a list of suggestions, and will be finalised after consultation with the student's Course Manager and a member of academic staff who will act as the supervisor. It involves detailed research on the topic chosen after discussion with the supervisor. Each project will involve collection of data by means such as experiment, questionnaire, observation and/or literature search as well as the analysis and interpretation of the data in the context of previous work. Reading and summarising previous research by other scientists working in the area, and writing a clear concise final report are essential components of the project.

**Module details:** This module consists of an extended programme of research under the direction of an individual member of staff. Students are expected to undertake a challenging piece of work, in which emphasis is placed on self-motivation and self-learning. Detailed guidelines will be provided by the Division.

**Expected Number of Students Taking Module:** 250

**Target Students:** All Biosciences students registered for Honours Degrees in the School of Biosciences apart from those studying Microbiology, and Environmental Sciences degrees.

**Non-lecture programme:** Private study using library, Internet, laboratory, or field facilities supported by regular tutorials with the project supervisor.

**Target Students:** All Biosciences students registered for Honours Degrees in the School of Biosciences apart from those studying Microbiology, and Environmental Sciences degrees.

**Assessment:** The module will be assessed by coursework only; this will take the form of a 15 minute oral presentation of the research findings (10%), an objective assessment of project planning and execution (30%) and a 5,000-word written report (60%). Details of the precise format required for the oral presentation and written report will be provided to students by the School Office.

**Module aims:** The module aims to provide a detailed training in research work. At the end of the module, students should be familiar with the relevant published literature in the field, have become familiar with some of the fundamental techniques necessary to do the prescribed research and published their findings as both an oral report and a comprehensive written report.

**Module objectives:** The objectives are to enable students to:

- i) Identify and analyse problems
- ii) Undertake good experimental design
- iii) Search for, analyse and interpret relevant literature
- iv) Carry-out competent laboratory, field or survey research
- v) Analyse data using appropriate methods
- vi) Write and deliver an oral presentation
- vii) Prepare and write a detailed report

**Transferable skills**

Transferable skills associated with this module include:

- i) Literature searching using a range of databases
- ii) Use of relevant laboratory, field or survey research methods
- iii) Statistical analysis as appropriate
- iv) Computing and word processing skills
- v) Problem solving
- vi) Oral communication skills
- vii) Time management

**Subject specific information**

In some project areas, it is necessary to begin project work in semester 4 because of factors such as seasonal availability of crops or farm animals. This phase of the project forms a discrete, 10-credit, Part I module

## **30 Appendices**

- 1 Qualitative Assessment Criteria - General Guidelines for Examinations
- 2 Qualitative Assessment Criteria - General Guidelines for Essays & Reports
- 3 Qualitative Assessment Criteria - General Guidelines for Posters
- 4 Qualitative Assessment Criteria - General Guidelines for Oral Presentations
- 5 Qualitative Assessment Criteria – Research Project Experimental Work
- 6 Progression and Compensation Charts
- 7 Marking at Different Levels within Degree Programmes
- 8 School of Biosciences Tutoring Statement