Biology, Genetics, Tropical Biology and Zoology
Gain substantial laboratory experience from your first year

Contribute to real research during your final-year project

Our UK campuses have won 20 Green Flag Awards

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

Our courses
Life in Malaysia
World-class research
How will I study?
Careers and employability
How do I apply?
Experience it

Pursue a variety of career paths after studying at a university that is highly regarded by employers

Tailor your studies with our wide range of optional modules

Join a global community of over 45,500 students, from more than 150 countries

Flexibility to swap from the BSc to MSci routes*

*Students can swap from BSc to MSci until the third year, provided they meet the academic attainment required.
Welcome to the School of Life Sciences. We invite inquisitive minds to join us and discover the science behind life.

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

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

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

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

Professor James McInerney
Head of School

Where could life sciences take you?

Our courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>A levels</th>
<th>IB</th>
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<tr>
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<td>C100</td>
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<td>C301</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
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BSc or MSci?
While the BSc degree lasts for three years, the MSci degree is a four-year course designed to provide appropriate training for a future career in scientific research, either in industry or in an academic environment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up to date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences
BSc | MSci Genetics

Genetics studies the way cellular and developmental processes are programmed by genetic information, coded as DNA. With the advent of the complete sequencing of a number of whole genomes – most notably the human genome – the science of genetics is expanding rapidly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences

Typical modules

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year one</th>
<th>Year two</th>
<th>Year three</th>
<th>Year four (MSci only)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
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<td>Core Skills in Genetics</td>
<td>Core Skills in Genetics</td>
<td>Core Skills in Genetics</td>
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<td>Life on Earth</td>
<td>Life on Earth</td>
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<td>Optional</td>
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<td>From Genotype to Phenotype and Back</td>
<td>From Genotype to Phenotype and Back</td>
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<td>Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics</td>
<td>Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics</td>
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<td>Signalling and Metabolic Regulation</td>
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<td>Structure, Function and Analysis of Genes</td>
<td>Structure, Function and Analysis of Genes</td>
<td>Structure, Function and Analysis of Genes</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up to date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences
BSc Tropical Biology

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences

Typical modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year one</th>
<th>Year two</th>
<th>Year three</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<td>Natural Resources of Malaysia</td>
<td>Biological Challenges in the Tropics</td>
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<td>Professional Skills for Bioscientists</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genes, Molecules and Cells</td>
<td>Research and Professional Skills for Environmental Scientists</td>
<td>Science and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life on Earth</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Optional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Neuroscience</td>
<td>Earth Observations</td>
<td>Biological Photography and Imaging 1</td>
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<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>Environmental Modelling</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Economics</td>
<td>Conservation Genetics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Global Environmental Processes</td>
<td>Evolution and Behaviour</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hydrogeochemistry</td>
<td>Evolutionary Ecology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patterns of Life</td>
<td>Molecular Parasitology</td>
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<td>Physiology and Pharmacology</td>
<td>Parasite Immunology</td>
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<td>Principles and Analysis of Gene Function</td>
<td>Pathogens</td>
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<td>Proteins: Structure and Function</td>
<td>Population Genetics</td>
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<td>Site Investigation</td>
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<td>Soil Science</td>
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<td>Tropical Environmental Science Field Course</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wildlife Behaviour</td>
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BSc | MSci Zoology

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

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

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

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

Year two
Through core modules, you will learn transferable skills including researching primary scientific literature and writing according to the rules of scientific convention. This culminates in you writing an extended essay on a topic of your choosing.

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

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

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

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

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

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up to date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/lifesciences
Discover a new country

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

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

Facilities
Occupying a scenic position overlooking green hills on a 101-acre site, and designed to mirror the attributes of University Park in the UK, the campus is a self-contained and self-sufficient neighbourhood village in a garden environment.

Campus amenities include:
- residential accommodation
- a purpose-built sports centre and swimming pool
- a students' association complex
- shops
- library

The University provides a free shuttle bus from the campus to the nearest bus and rail stations, providing easy access to Kuala Lumpur and the surrounding region.

Accommodation
You can apply for on-campus accommodation which currently costs between RM395-750 a month (approximately £71-£135 depending on the exchange rate).

Culture
Malaysia is home to Malay, Chinese and Indian ethnic groups, which makes the country a melting pot of beliefs, practices and festivals. The diverse culture and natural biodiversity of Malaysia makes for an interesting experience for a student from any other part of the world.

In Malaysia, you can snorkel on a pristine beach one day, and explore the National Mosque on the next. You can shake hands with an orangutan or shop your heart out at designer boutiques. The country is a perfect blend of East meets West and provides a safe and original university experience.
World-class research

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

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

Student experiences of research

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

George Harrison-Church, BSc Biology

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

Georgina Bray, MSci Zoology

nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences/research

Example timetable

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Workshop</td>
<td>No teaching</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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<td>10-11am</td>
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<td>11am-12pm</td>
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<td>12-1pm</td>
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<td>1-2pm</td>
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<td>2-3pm</td>
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<td>3-4pm</td>
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<td>4-5pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Engaging study, incredible results

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Nottingham’s KIS data, please see individual course entries at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
Outstanding careers support

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

**£21,037** was the average starting salary with the highest being £42,000.*

92% of undergraduates from the school secured work or further study within six months of graduation.*

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

Outstanding careers support

Amplify your potential

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

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

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

Get the Advantage

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

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

Study abroad and placements

We are part of the Universitas 21 programme, meaning we offer you the chance to study abroad at an approved partner university in countries all over the world. This is a great chance to gain valuable communication skills, a global perspective of science and immerse yourself in a new culture. You can also obtain work experience with an optional placement year to gain an insight into the sector you will be working in.

Further study

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

Further study

nottingham.ac.uk/careers

* Known destinations of full-time home undergraduates who were available for work 2015/16. Salaries are calculated based on the median of those in full-time paid employment within the UK.
How to apply

All applications for undergraduate study at Nottingham, including applications by international students, must be made through UCAS. You can apply online at ucas.com and will be notified of decisions through UCAS Track.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying for more details on how to apply.

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* British Universities and Colleges Sports Standings, 2016-17.

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This brochure has been drafted in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of publishing, but changes (for example to course content) are likely to occur given the interval between publication and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check our website for any updates before you apply for the course by following nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence.