Environmental Sciences

Identify it

Analyse it
The flexibility in this course has allowed me to explore where my passion lies in environmental biology, I am now tailoring my degree to climate change and mitigation. I am currently studying at the Malaysia campus for a semester and I am applying for placements for a year in industry next year.

Sian Selkirk, BSc Environmental Biology
Why study with us?

A place of unlimited potential

Combining extensive fieldwork options and research with the flexibility to specialise in your area of interest, at Nottingham you will build a solid foundation in biological and environmental applied science.

Teaching and research
You will be taught by subject specialists who are active researchers in the most rapidly developing areas of environmental science, incorporating the latest research into their teaching.

Our researchers are collaborating with the UK space industry to apply advances in earth observation to current challenges in international development, these range from water management through to greenhouse gas emissions and peatland monitoring in the tropics. Undergraduate and postgraduate students are routinely involved in all these areas of study enabling them to gain invaluable experience of professional practice.

Industry connections
Our Hounsfield Facility is a major centre for the study of soil and plant interactions. Our research supports the work of national bodies such as the Environment Agency, Radioactive Waste Management and DEFRA. Using non-invasive X-ray imaging of soils we are developing methods to reduce diffuse pollution from soils to water and the atmosphere, and to help understand plant responses to environmental change.

Nottingham’s research on the long term fate of important radionuclides is directly informing the management of the UK's legacy of nuclear waste. We work with a range of environmental consultancies on projects such as developing bioenergy technologies, evaluating unintended consequences of carbon sequestration methodologies and testing novel methods for reducing microbial contamination of wastewater and agricultural run-off.

Study abroad
Being part of a global university, there are a wide variety of study abroad opportunities available to you. You can apply to spend part or all of your second year at the University of Nottingham Malaysia, choose an international degree course, spend a semester at one of our international partner universities, including Australia and Canada, or take part in a summer school as well as a range of field courses abroad.

Year in computer science
You can combine this degree with an extra year (between years two and three) spent in the University’s School of Computer Science. This is designed to provide you with training in software development and computing skills relevant to your final-year research project and to your future career. You will be able to transfer into this programme from your BSc course (subject to progression criteria).

Our courses

Degree title | UCAS code | Duration | A levels | IB
---|---|---|---|---
Single honours
BSc Environmental Biology | C150 | 3 years | ABB-BBB^ | 32-30
MSci Environmental Biology | C192 | 4 years | ABB-BBB^ | 32-30
BSc Environmental Science | F900 | 3 years | ABB-BBB^^ | 32-30
MSci Environmental Science | F750 | 4 years | ABB-BBB^^ | 32-30
BSc International Environmental Science | F753 | 3 years | AAB-BBB^^ | 34-32
MSci International Environmental Science | F752 | 4 years | AAB-BBB^^ | 34-32

^ Including biology and at least one other science-based subject (chemistry, environmental science, geography, mathematics, physics, psychology or equivalent). A pass is required in science practical tests, if assessed separately. Citizenship studies, critical thinking, general studies and leisure studies not accepted. We may also consider ABC depending on predicted grades in specific subjects.

^^ Including at least one science-based subject (biology, chemistry, environmental science, geography, geology, mathematics, physics, psychology or equivalent).

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 6.0 (no less than 5.5 in any element). For details of other English language tests and qualifications we accept, please see nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternaterequirements

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

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

nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences
Fieldwork

Put into practice the skills and knowledge learned in the laboratory and lecture theatre. Gain hands-on experience directly related to skills required in the environmental sector.

Devon and Malaysia (year two)
Both of these courses are residential and involve studying various communities and ecosystems, using a range of field techniques. The Devon field course is based in a coastal habitat in south Devon and the Malaysia field course is based on Tioman Island, which is off the western coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

You will learn how abiotic and biotic factors determine the distribution and function of living organisms. On the Devon course, particular focus is on understanding the impacts of local agriculture and tourism, and the strategies used to manage a national nature reserve and SSSI (site of special scientific interest). Activities in Malaysia include the deployment of camera traps to describe the community of terrestrial mammals in a tropical forest.

Czech Republic (year three)
The Environmental Pollution Field Course involves one week’s field study in the Czech Republic and takes place in September between years two and three. The aim is to provide you with practical experience of a range of environmental pollution issues in a region which was formerly one of the most polluted areas in the world. The focus is on the mining and utilisation of brown coal and the environmental impacts of these activities, past and present. On return to Nottingham, laboratory classes provide analytical data from samples collected in the field.

Sweden (year three)
The Arctic Ecology Field Course involves one week’s field study in Sweden at Abisko and takes place in July between year two and three. Under the midnight sun, you will put ecological methodology into practice in projects that analyse landscape patterns and processes. The course will also address the impact of climate change on arctic ecosystems. You will gain practical experience in ecological methodology, experimental design, data collection and analysis, interpretation and presentation.

* Our field courses to Sweden, the Czech Republic and Devon are subsidised by the University but will incur an additional cost. In 2017, the average cost was £250.

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/biosciences
**BSc | MSci Environmental Biology**

Understand how organisms function and interact with their environment. This knowledge is fundamental for effective management and conservation of natural and agricultural ecosystems.

Our environmental biology course has been designed to provide you with the flexibility to choose the modules that interest you most, including those from other related subjects such as biology and geography.

Building a strong foundation in your first year with core modules, many of which are shared with other degrees in biology and environmental science, you are then able to specialise with a breadth of options as you continue through the degree.

Fieldwork is an important aspect of the course, allowing you to put your learning into practice, and experience various communities and ecosystems. Within the core modules the Environmental Management Field Course is a residential course which takes place in Devon in year two. The degree also offers the opportunity for training, work experience and links to the professional environmental sector.

**Our courses**

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/biosciences](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/biosciences).

### Typical modules

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year one</th>
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<th>Year three</th>
<th>Year four (MSci only)</th>
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<td><strong>Core</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MSci Research only</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate, Atmosphere and Oceans</td>
<td>Soil Science</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>Environmental Biology</td>
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<td>Global Environmental Processes</td>
<td>Environmental Management Field Course</td>
<td>Statistics and Experimental Design for Bioscientists</td>
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<td>Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour</td>
<td>Fieldwork skills – sampling and surveying techniques</td>
<td>Writing and Reviewing Research Proposals</td>
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<td>Tutorials in Environmental Science</td>
<td>Environmental Science in Practice</td>
<td>Project Management</td>
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<td>Environmental Science and Society</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Communication and Public Engagement</td>
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<td>Life on Earth</td>
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<td>Skills for Scientists</td>
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<td><strong>Optional</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MSci Research only</strong></td>
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<td>Managing Tourism and the Environment: Conflict or Consensus?</td>
<td>Tropical Environmental Science Field Course</td>
<td>Environmental Pollution Field Course</td>
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<td>Micro-organisms and Disease</td>
<td>Fieldwork skills – sampling and surveying techniques</td>
<td>Arctic Ecology Field Course</td>
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<td>Plant Science</td>
<td>Climate Change Science</td>
<td>Environmental Pollutants</td>
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<td>Natural Systems</td>
<td>Applied Bioethics 1</td>
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<td>Patterns of Life</td>
<td>Biological Photography and Imaging 2</td>
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<td>Ecosystem Processes</td>
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**Accreditation**

This course is accredited by the Committee of Heads of Environmental Sciences (CHES), the education committee of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES). A programme accredited by CHES is assured to meet high standards, contain a strong component of practical, field and theoretical activities, and has excellent opportunities for training, work experience and links to the professional environmental sector.

[nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/biosciences](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/biosciences)
BSc | MSci Environmental Science

Understand the relationship between humans and the environment. We need scientists with the right skills to identify and solve problems arising from damage to ecosystems, and to deliver a sustainable future.

Our flexible applied science degree will enable you to understand the mechanisms and processes underlying our interactions with the natural environment. By studying a wide range of subjects including geography, biology, maths and geology, you will develop your scientific understanding of the ways in which living organisms interact with their environment.

Fieldwork is an important aspect of the course, within the core modules the Environmental Management Field Course is a residential course which takes place in Devon in year two. The degree also offers the opportunity to conduct fieldwork on Tioman Island, off the west coast of Malaysia, as well as further options to visit Sweden or the Czech Republic.

Year one
You will develop your understanding of key scientific principles within traditional scientific disciplines and how these are integrated and interrelated.

Year two
The science behind climate change and influences on water chemistry are key topics in year two. You will experience problem-based learning and develop real-world skills throughout the course.

Year three
Working closely with a member of academic staff you will design and deliver your project, which can be lab, field or literature based. Recent students have given talks on their research work at undergraduate research conferences to MPs in the Houses of Parliament, including studies on:
- carbon capture and storage
- sustainable management of high-level nuclear waste
- climate change in the Arctic

Year four (MSci only)
This is an advanced research year that enables you to understand and gain a detailed knowledge of environmental science, developing a confident, scientific approach to answering questions through theoretical analysis, the formulation of hypotheses, practical experimentation, data analysis and communication of results.

“...The main draw of studying at Nottingham was the amount of flexibility in both module choices and opportunities at the university. For the modules, you can tailor your degree to your exact interests. It has allowed me to explore where my passion lies and even change my mind; when applying I thought I wanted to specialise in ecology but after my first year I am now tailoring my degree to climate change and mitigation.

Sian Selkirk, BSc Environmental Biology

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/biosciences

Typical modules

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nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/biosciences

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BSc | MSci International Environmental Science

An exciting opportunity to study abroad for a full year as part of a three-year degree programme.

Years one, three and four (MSci only) will follow the same programme as the BSc Environmental Science. Your second year will be spent studying environmental sciences at one of our international partner universities, for example in Australia, the USA or the University's Malaysia Campus (subject to progression criteria).

The School of Biosciences works closely with research-intensive universities around the world in countries such as Australia, the Netherlands, and the USA to deliver an international programme which includes a full academic year studying abroad.

Currently there is a reduced tuition fee paid to the University of Nottingham during the year on exchange.

This course includes a year studying abroad. You can spend a year in industry too.

My year abroad in Australia was an amazing experience; daunting at first, but I knew I would regret it if I didn’t go! My 2nd year abroad taught me skills such as resilience, adaptability and self-reliance, skills I know will be very valuable throughout university and in life.

Kaviya Selvamanickam, BSc International Environmental Science

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/biosciences
Apply your knowledge

A placement year enables you to develop a range of skills and enhance your employment prospects, while, in the majority of cases, being paid a salary.

During the year in industry you can put your learning into practice, giving you a better understanding of your studies and the chance to solidify your knowledge in an industry setting.

The year’s work experience which can be in the UK or abroad will significantly improve your employment prospects: some students even secure a graduate job as a direct result of their placement year.

You are treated by your host company just the same as any other employee, being given real responsibility and the opportunity to work independently in a professional setting. A year in industry gives you the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills in a real-world environment. You can gain experience of how to communicate with people from a range of backgrounds, work to tight deadlines, manage multiple projects and deal with conflicting priorities.

It’s a unique opportunity for you to learn about what you enjoy doing, your strengths and weaknesses, and the kind of environment you like working in, which will put you in a strong position when considering your future career.

The dedicated School Placement Team works with you in partnership to help you search, apply for and secure a placement, as well as supporting you throughout your placement. Some examples of relevant companies include the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, ADAS, Delta-Simons, Mott Macdonald, PepsiCo and Gatwick Airport.

I'd really recommend a placement at Dartmoor Zoo, the experience I've got from this is so valuable. I've learnt so much about the animals and data analysis that you can't learn elsewhere. I'm also hoping to use the data from my tiger study in my final year project, I'll have a big data set which will be really useful.

Matthew Smith,
Dartmoor Zoo
BSc Environmental Science

I completed a year abroad studying in Göttingen, Germany. Throwing myself in head first going to a country in which I didn't know a single person and to a city I had never heard of was so daunting and terrifying at first. However, I flourished there, my language skills increased tenfold, my confidence skyrocketed, and I gained a love for travelling and meeting new people.

Michael Baird-Parker,
BSc Environmental Science

nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/placements

Expand your horizons

Studying at the University of Nottingham Malaysia or one of our highly ranked university partners abroad, will give you the unique opportunity to see your degree from a different perspective.

Studying abroad takes you out of your comfort zone, helping you to develop valuable skills, such as independence and resilience, which are attractive to future employers.

University-wide exchange programme
This prestigious programme gives you the opportunity to apply to study abroad for the first semester of year two. Successful candidates will study at one of our highly-ranked partner universities in a variety of locations, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Malaysia Campus
You can apply to spend a semester, or full academic year, at our Malaysia Campus during year two as part of your standard degree programme. Teaching is in English and the modules and exams are very similar to those in Nottingham.

International year
Combining environmental science or biology with an additional international year offers the opportunity to study abroad at one of our partner universities, in France or Spain for example. You can transfer to this route in your first semester of study.

Finance
Studying abroad need not be any more expensive than studying in Nottingham. The University offers a number of bursaries and scholarships to students studying abroad depending on your destination.

All students who participate in one of the University’s exchange programmes pay a reduced tuition fee to the University of Nottingham UK during the academic year when they study abroad. No tuition fees are paid to the host university or overseas campus.

There will be additional costs including visa, travel and insurance which vary according to your host country.

nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/studyabroad
Be inspired by the brightest minds

Dr Sofie Sjogersten
With degradation of natural ecosystems being a strong driver of climate change, Sofie and her team are researching greenhouse gas emissions from natural and altered forest ecosystems. They are delivering data to policy makers and land users to improve both policy and management of tropical forest ecosystems. Sofie hopes that this work will contribute to mitigate climate change. Sofie’s next research project will investigate carbon storage and greenhouse gas emissions from the recently discovered large peatlands in the Congo. Sofie teaches undergraduate modules on climate change and ecosystems and their function drawing strongly from ongoing research in the field.
Associate Professor in Environmental Sciences

Matthew Ashfold
Matt’s research encompasses atmospheric and climate sciences, often with a focus on tropical Asia, and employing a combination of computer models and observational datasets. Recently he has highlighted the rapid long-range transport of atmospheric pollution from East Asia towards the tropics with important implications for regional air quality and for the stratospheric ozone layer. He is course director for the environmental science programme at the Malaysia Campus and teaches Global Environmental Change and Environmental Modelling.
Course Director, Environmental Sciences University of Nottingham Malaysia

Engaging study, incredible results

We want you to have the best possible learning experience, whatever your chosen course of study. In the School of Biosciences, you’ll experience an integrated range of teaching and learning styles.

Modules
Modules are self-contained units of study that usually run for one semester but some are year-long. All our undergraduate programmes are modular with assessment at the end of each semester. Although some modules are core, you can choose from a range of other optional modules. Depending on your timetable you may also be able to take modules from other schools across the University.

Your research project
One of the strengths of all our degrees is the final year individual research project. During your project you will further develop your ability to use scientific literature and collect, analyse and interpret data. The project also develops significant transferable skills, including time management, project planning, critical thinking and communication skills. The school maintains close contacts both with industry and research institutions. Some of our courses feature site visits and field trips. Presentations from guest speakers strengthen our links with both the commercial and research worlds.

Your personal tutor
Throughout your degree you will have a personal tutor on hand to offer support with your academic progress and general wellbeing.

How will I be assessed?
Our courses are assessed in a variety of ways, including exams, coursework assignments, a dissertation, computing assignments, essays, oral presentations, posters and laboratory reports. The final degree classification is based on marks gained for year two and subsequent years of study.

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/biosciences
On completion of my environmental science degree I got a job as an arable crop pathologist with RSK ADAS Ltd. My job involves managing projects for a range of clients, predominantly agrochemical companies but also a few government organisations.

I chose an environmental science degree because I enjoyed science and this degree covered a wide range of topics. At the time I didn’t know what career path I wanted to take so the flexibility within this course allowed me to explore different areas and then specialise in the ones I enjoyed.

For my placement year, I approached ADAS as I was interested in agricultural research. This role involved setting up and maintaining the trials and collecting data. I learnt a lot about crop production and disease identification. The role of an arable crop pathologist at ADAS was advertised while I was completing my final year. Having hands on experience in the field team allowed me to show that I had a good understanding of the job role. Without my placement year I would never have applied for this role and would not have had a job to step into straight after university.

Research Scientist at RSK ADAS Ltd

Sachin Gosai

Upon leaving Nottingham, I initially worked as a programmer for a small start-up company before realising that a purely desk based job was not for me. I subsequently joined Southern Testing Laboratories as a graduate geoenvironmental engineer. There I worked on site during investigations, in the soils laboratory and in the office carrying out interpretive reporting. After two years, I returned to education by enrolling on an MSc in Soil Mechanics and Environmental Geotechnics at Imperial College London. Following completion of my MSc, I joined Ove Arup & Partners as a geoenvironmental engineer. Here I worked on a variety of multidisciplinary projects including landfills, chemical works, mines and nuclear power plants across the world in a range of different sectors.

Geotechnical Engineer at Arup

Matt Bridgman

I graduated from Nottingham in 2015 with an MSci in Environmental Science. After spending a few months working as an assistant ecologist at a micropropagation company I was offered a job with an environmental services company based in Dubai as Production/R&D Manager. Our clients are mostly hotels, malls and restaurants and I’ve been involved in designing new products. Recently I’ve taken on more of an operational role and I’m now looking after the operations of our environment and facilities management divisions. I’m still grateful for the opportunities presented by my environmental science degree from Nottingham.

R&D Manager at Tetra Axia LLC
Outstanding careers support

Our degree courses offer a thorough preparation for a wide range of careers. Many graduates take on roles in management, sales, marketing, finance and teaching, while others take up research posts in industrial and government organisations and universities in the UK and overseas.

95% of undergraduates from the School of Biosciences secured work or further study within six months of graduation*

£22,000 was the average starting salary, with the highest being £30,000*

Recent graduate destinations:
- Environmental biology
  - Conservation organisations
  - Environmental consultancies
  - Local authorities, government agencies
  - Industry, including agrochemicals and water resource management
  - Teaching or scientific journalism
  - Research degrees
- Environmental science
  - Environmental consultancies
  - Agricultural and rural loss adjusters
  - Engineering consultants
  - Alternative energy companies
  - Hydrology
  - Waste recycling
  - Research degrees

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

Further study opportunities

Many of our graduates choose to continue their studies and undertake further research to MSci, MSc, MRes, MPhil or PhD level at the University of Nottingham or elsewhere.

* Known destinations of full-time home undergraduates who were available for work 2016/17. Salaries are calculated based on the median of those in full-time paid employment within the UK.
How to apply

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

You can apply online 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 students, who are defined as 21 years old and over. You should apply through UCAS. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/mature

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

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

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

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

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

* To eligible home fee status students.