BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES MSc
UCAS CODE: C901
2018 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus/biolsci
This four-year MSci offers an additional year on top of the Biological Sciences BSc, which includes a research project, providing extra depth and knowledge which will particularly benefit those interested in further research. Year three may be spent abroad at a university in Asia, Australia, Europe or the USA.

**Key information**

**Programme starts**  
September 2018

**Location**  
London, Bloomsbury

**Degree benefits**

- You will have the opportunity to choose a specialist degree pathway in Biodiversity and Conservation, Genetics, Human Genetics, Cell Biology or Zoology.
- Our excellent facilities include our field station at Blakeney Point in Norfolk, our on-site museum, the Grant Museum of Zoology, and the refurbished UCL Cruciform Hub.
- You will have the opportunity to undertake your final-year research project in collaboration with major London organisations, such as the Natural History Museum, ZSL London Zoo and the UCL Institute of Child Health.
- Our Summer Studentship scheme allows second- and third-year students to experience original research in the laboratory or the field.

**Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014**

The Research Excellence Framework, or REF, is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. The 2014 REF was carried out by the UK’s higher education funding bodies, and the results used to allocate research funding from 2015/16.

- 82% rated 4* ('world-leading') or 3* ('internationally excellent')

Learn more about the scope of UCL’s research, and browse case studies, on our Research Impact website.

**Degree structure**

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 0.5 or 1.0 credits, adding up to a total of 4.0 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 1.0 credit is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The first year of this programme covers a core range of subjects from across the biological sciences, giving you a firm foundation upon which to base your later choices.

In your second year, you can either continue towards a degree in general biological sciences, or you can choose from five specialised degree pathways.

In your third year you have the choice to take modules from many different subjects across UCL. You may also apply to transfer to the International Programme MSci and spend your third year at one of our partner universities in Asia, Australia, Europe or North America.

The fourth year will be largely centred on a supervised research project, occupying 50–75% of your time. You will also take advanced Master’s level courses, providing extra depth and breadth of knowledge.

**YEAR ONE**

- **Core or compulsory module(s)**
  - Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
  - Introduction to Genetics
  - Introduction to Microbiology
  - Cells and Development
  - Life on Earth
  - Quantitative Biology

- **Optional modules**
  - Either Chemistry for Biologists or Fundamentals of Biology

**YEAR TWO**

- **Pathway options**
  - In the second year, you will have the opportunity to either remain on the generalist Biological Sciences programme, or select a specialist pathway in:
    - Biodiversity and Conservation
    - Genetics
    - Human Genetics
    - Cell Biology
    - Zoology
  
  Further information on these specialist degree programmes can be found on the Biological Sciences departmental webpage.

**YEAR THREE**

- **Core or compulsory module(s)**
  - Literature Review

- **Optional modules**
  - You will select 3.0 credits from a wide range of optional modules in your chosen degree and from other approved disciplines within UCL. If you have transferred to the International Programme we will help you select appropriate modules during your year abroad.

**FINAL YEAR**

- **Core or compulsory module(s)**
  - Research Project in Biological Sciences
  - Current topics in Biological Research

- **Optional modules**
  - You will select between 0.5 and 1.5 credits from a wide range of optional modules in your chosen degree and from other approved disciplines within UCL.
Your learning

This programme consists of lectures, seminars, tutorials, practicals, and extensive personal study. You will have the opportunity to take part in UCL’s world-leading research from your first year onwards, either in the laboratory or studying animals and plants in their natural habitats.

Fieldwork

You will have the option of taking field courses based at our Blakeney Point field station in year one and in Spain or in Scotland in year two.

Assessment

Initially you will be assessed primarily by end-of-year examinations, with a smaller component from practical reports or other coursework such as essays. As your programme progresses, research-based coursework exercises will become more important, culminating in your final-year project.

Your career

Biological Sciences opens up a wide range of careers. There is key skills training embedded in our degrees (e.g., in statistics, computing and in giving presentations), which helps make you attractive to employers.

Many of our graduates choose to undertake further studies, aiming for a research career in a university or in industry. As well as careers in scientific fields, such as in the health service, conservation or the pharmaceutical industry, our graduates have also pursued further training or employment in management, teaching, accounting, the civil service and law.

First career destinations of recent (2013-2015) graduates of this programme include:

- Graduate GIS (Geographic Information System) Consultant, Thomson Ecology
- Business Developing Specialist, Genestack
- MPhil/PhD at the Crick Institute (Medicine), King’s College London
- PhD in Neurobiology, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology
- PhD student, Institute of Science and Technology, Austria

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

When we read your application we will be checking not only that you meet our academic entry requirements, but also for evidence of your interest in the subject and your involvement in related activities, for example, through extracurricular science clubs, laboratory visits or participation in summer schools.

If you live in the UK and you receive an offer, you will be invited to attend an open day. This will include talks from staff about the programme and the department, a tour of UCL and a visit to a research laboratory.

Data taken from the ‘Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education’ survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2013-2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Grades
AAA

Subjects
Biology required plus one from Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.

GCSE
English Language and Mathematics at grade B or 6. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA
Points
36 overall.

Subjects
A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects including Biology at grade 6 and one from Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics, with no score below 5.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS
UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)
The Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES
The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2018/19 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2018/19 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2018/19)
// Overseas: £24,040 (2018/19)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

FUNDING
Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT
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EU referendum
For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum

Disclaimer
This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus