The BSc Biological Sciences offers you an extremely wide choice of optional modules ranging from molecular genetics to behaviour and ecology. Structured to provide a very flexible programme that will allow you to change the emphasis of your degree without compromising on the foundation. Taught across the Faculty of Life Sciences, we offer a breadth of biological education unmatched in almost any other UK university.

## Key information

**Programme starts**
September 2020

**Location**
London, Bloomsbury

## Degree benefits

- In the second year, you will have the opportunity to stay on the Biological Sciences degree or transfer to one of the following specialist degree routes: Biological Sciences: Cell Biology, Biodiversity and Conservation, Genetics, Human Genetics or Zoology.
- Our teaching takes advantage of the broad range of research activity in the Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment (GEE) and of our research centres within GEE.
- You will have the benefit of our excellent facilities, the field station at Blakeney Point in Norfolk, our on-site museum, the Grant Museum of Zoology and the UCL Cruciform Hub. Our research-led teaching takes advantage of our links with the Natural History Museum, ZSL London Zoo.
- Our Summer Studentship scheme allows second-year students to experience original research in the laboratory or the field.

## Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 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 30-credit module 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 spectrum of 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 routes.

In your third year you have the choice to take modules from many different subjects across UCL. You can choose a research or an investigative project based with one of UCL’s research groups.

### Specialist degree programmes

You can stay on the Biological Sciences degree or transfer to any of the following specialist degree programmes after year one:

- **Biological Sciences: Cell Biology** focuses on cell function and its role in major human diseases;
- **Biodiversity and Conservation** focuses on the interactions between organisms and populations with the environments they inhabit;
- **Genetics** focuses on evolutionary, genomic and population genetics;
- **Human Genetics** focuses on a range of areas in which genetics intersects with other aspects of biology and medicine;
- **Zoology** focuses on the study of animals in all their complexity and diversity.

After the second year, you could also transfer to the specialist route (year 3 entry), Biological Sciences: Computational Biology. This option is only available as MSci (our four-year MSci Biological Sciences programme).

### 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
- Methods in Ecology and Evolution

#### Optional modules

- Either Chemistry for Biologists or Fundamentals of Biology
YEAR TWO

Route Options

- In the second year, you will have the opportunity to either remain on the generalist Biological Sciences degree programme, or select a specialist degree route in:
  - Biological Sciences: Cell Biology
  - Biodiversity and Conservation
  - Genetics
  - Human Genetics
  - Zoology
- Each degree route has a range of compulsory and optional modules.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Advanced Research Project in Biological Sciences
- Advanced Investigative Project in Biological Sciences

Optional modules

- You will select between 75 and 90 credits (depending on the project selected) from a wide range of optional modules in your chosen degree programme and from other approved disciplines within UCL.

Your learning

The programme consists of lectures, seminars, tutorials, practicals, problem-based learning, e-learning and supported 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 a final-year project.

Your career

Biological Sciences can lead to 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.

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 involve talks from staff about the programme and the department, a tour of UCL and a visit to a research laboratory.
Entry requirements

**A LEVELS**

**Standard Offer:** AAA. Biology required plus one from Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.

**Contextual Offer:** ABB. Biology at grade A 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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs)

**IB DIPLOMA**

**Standard Offer:** 38 points. 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.

**Contextual Offer:** 34 points. A total of 16 points in three higher level subjects including Biology at grade 6 and one from Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics, with no score below 5.

**CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME**

As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see [www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus)

**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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals)

**UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)**

UCL 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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/upc).

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**TUITION FEES**

The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2019/20 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2019/20 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

- **UK & EU:** £9,250 (2019/20)
- **Overseas:** £24,760 (2019/20)

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

**Additional costs**

If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

**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](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus) for more details.

**CONTACT**

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Department: Division of Biosciences

**Brexit**

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/brexit](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit)

**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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus)