Biological Sciences MSci

This four-year MSci offers an additional year on top of the Biological Sciences BSc, which includes an extended research project in the fourth year, providing extra depth and knowledge which will particularly benefit those interested in further research. You will have the option to choose the MSci Biological Sciences (International Programme), which offers you the possibility to spend your third year abroad in Asia, Australia, Europe or the USA.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

- You will have the opportunity to choose a specialist MSci degree route in Biological Sciences: Cell Biology, Biological Sciences: Computational Biology, Biodiversity and Conservation, Genetics, Human Genetics, Zoology.

- Our teaching takes advantage of the broad range of research activity in the Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment (GEE) and the research centres within GEE www.ucl.ac.uk/biosciences/departments/gee

- Your final year project will form the majority of your final year - you will be an active member of the GEE Research Department.

- Our Summer Studentship scheme allows second- and third-year students to experience original research in the laboratory or the field. Also, our excellent facilities include the field station at Blakeney Point in Norfolk, our Grant Museum of Zoology and the UCL Cruciform Hub.

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 biological sciences, giving you a firm foundation upon which to base your later choices.

In your second year, you can either continue towards an MSci degree in general biological sciences, or you can choose from six specialised MSci degree routes.

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 75% of your time. You will also take advanced Master’s level modules, 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
- Methods in Ecology and Evolution

Optional modules

- Either Chemistry for Biologists or Fundamentals of Biology

YEAR TWO

Route Options

- After the first year, you will have the opportunity to either remain on the general MSci Biological Sciences degree programme, or transfer to one of our specialist MSci degree routes in:
  - Biological Sciences: Cell Biology
  - Biological Sciences: Computational Biology (only available after the second year)
  - Biodiversity and Conservation
  - Genetics
  - Human Genetics
  - Zoology

- The compulsory modules will vary, depending on the specialist degree route you will choose. Further information on these specialist degree programmes can be found on the above Biological Sciences departmental webpage.

- A wide range of optional modules, depending on the specialist degree route you will choose.

YEAR THREE

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Literature Review

Optional modules

- You will select up to 90 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.
Your learning

This programme consists of lectures, seminars, tutorials, practicals, problem-based learning 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 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 include 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 2020/21 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 2020/21 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

- **UK & EU:** £9,250 (2020/21)
- **Overseas:** £26,490 (2020/21)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the [UCL Students website](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/people/students/).

**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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/) pages 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).