Welcome to the School of Life Sciences

Thank you for your interest in the biology, genetics, human genetics, tropical sciences and zoology degrees at Nottingham. Our teaching approaches are varied – integrating lectures, practical classes, seminars and tutorials. Our lecture and teaching laboratory facilities are modern and state-of-the-art, and you will have easy access to computing facilities.

All our degrees include research projects, which will allow you to gain first-hand experience of biological research, typically in one of our research laboratories. Students on all degrees are allocated a personal tutor who will oversee your academic progress and general wellbeing throughout your degree. There is a strong emphasis on transferable skills, such as communication, IT, problem solving and the interpretation of data. You can choose between the three-year BSc degree and the four-year MSci degree, with the latter being recommended to those of you who wish to move into a research career upon graduation.

I hope that you will consider Nottingham for your degree in one of the biological sciences, and visit us at University Park Campus and in the Medical School.

Don’t forget to watch our videos from staff and students from across the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/watch-mhsfaculty

Dr Tom Reader
Course Director

Welcome to the School of Life Sciences, home to our biology, genetics, human genetics, tropical sciences 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. Many of our academics are experts in different areas of the life sciences and bring their research expertise to their teaching.

We are able to offer a whole range of undergraduate degrees (some as four-year integrated masters degrees) in the areas of biochemistry, biology, genetics, human genetics, neurosciences, tropical sciences and zoology, with various other combinations. In addition we also teach on the medicine, pharmacy and dietetics courses. Our undergraduate degrees provide cutting-edge training and education in these disciplines, and many of our students go on to research careers.

Our undergraduate courses are based in the Life Sciences Building on University Park Campus, where we have excellent laboratory facilities. Some of our students also spend a large amount of time in the Medical School, based at the Queen’s Medical Centre. All of our final-year students will join a research laboratory to carry out an original research project, and this is often the highlight of their studies.

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 Ian Macdonald
Head of the School of Life Sciences

Professor Michael Randall
Director of Teaching

Students in the Portland Building, the hub of student life on University Park Campus.
Why study with us?

The School of Life Sciences at The University of Nottingham is one of the leading schools that teaches biology in the UK. It is recognised internationally for its excellence in teaching and its world-class research portfolio, which covers a broad spectrum of the biological sciences. Around 80% of our graduating students achieve a 2:1 degree or higher.

**Research excellence**
Our research interests are wide-ranging and span fundamental studies in ecology, evolutionary genetics and animal behaviour, human genetics, microbiology and genome dynamics, molecular and developmental biology, neuroscience, parasitology, population biology and toxicology. Our academic staff draw substantial research income from the UK research councils and many charities. Our success in teaching owes much to our ability to include leading research in the teaching curriculum.

**Personal Academic Record**
The Personal Academic Record scheme provides a working document for you to develop as you progress through your course in the School of Life Sciences. Combined with the school’s personal tutor system, it provides the main focus of our academic and personal support for undergraduates. The scheme provides a complete record of academic performance, so that progress can be monitored, documented fully and accessible as a basis for tutors’ references. In addition, it encourages reflection and self-evaluation on progress in relation to academic work, leisure interests and general skills. These activities help to improve learning, focus thinking about career options and build up an effective CV.

**Teaching environment**
Teaching takes place in the School of Life Sciences on University Park Campus, and also in the Medical School. We have state-of-the-art lecture theatres and laboratories at both sites, with student projects taking place in our research laboratories. There are numerous opportunities for field work in the UK and abroad.

All students are allocated a personal tutor who will work with you for the whole of your degree programme. Personal tutors are members of academic staff in the school and will:

- take an interest in academic progress and check on your wellbeing
- provide exam marks at the end of each semester and help you reflect on some of the feedback you receive
- act as a first point of contact for any guidance needed on academic or personal matters

We are committed to supporting equality and diversity in our students and staff, and in April 2014 the School of Life Sciences was awarded the Athena Silver Swan award in recognition of this.

**Student societies**
BioSoc is an award-winning student-run society, which is closely linked to the school. The society provides activities including social events, academic support, sports teams, and careers advice. It offers you the chance to pursue your interests with like-minded people and develop valuable skills. Our Students’ Union offers over 250 societies and sports clubs to make your time at university as rewarding and memorable as possible.
Degree courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>A level</th>
<th>IB</th>
<th>Places</th>
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<tr>
<td>Single honours</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Biology</td>
<td>C100</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB-ABB</td>
<td>34-32</td>
<td>85*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>AAB</td>
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<td>14**</td>
</tr>
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<td>AAB-ABB</td>
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<td>4 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35º</td>
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* 85 places across C100 and C101.
** 14 places across C400 and C401.
*** 13 places across C410 and C420.
º 35 places across C300 and C301.

For more detailed information on our entry requirements, including required subjects, please see page 33.

Modular degrees

Almost all undergraduate degree programmes at the University are modular, which means you undertake modules of study with assessment at the end of each semester. Under the modular system, you will normally be required to take modules totalling 60 credits in each semester.

To graduate with a degree from The University of Nottingham you must take 360 credits of modules – 120 in each year of study. Each module is usually worth 10 or 20 credits – the higher the number of credits, the greater the amount of work on the module. The first year is a qualifying year, which means your degree classification will be determined by the work completed in the remaining years of your degree.

Single honours

In your three or four years at Nottingham you will take a combination of compulsory and optional modules, mainly in subjects related to biology but also with a choice of subsidiary modules from outside the school, particularly in your first and second years. It is not possible to take modules from outside the school in the fourth year (MSci students only).

“A lectures relate to lecturers’ own research projects and are represented with great enthusiasm, making them more interesting and memorable.”

Biology student

A biology student is pipetting microbes in the Life Sciences Building.
Single honours

BSc/MSci Biology
Biology is a science for those with adventurous minds. It extends from the complexity of interactions in natural environments to the microscopic world of the cell, and the sub-microscopic realm of genes and the biochemical machinery they control. The unifying principle linking these different levels of enquiry is Darwin’s theory of evolution, which is having ever more important things to say about the diversity of life on earth and the nature and role of our own species within it. Nottingham’s three and four-year biology degrees provide a comprehensive, modern treatment of microbial, plant and animal (including human) biology, with a strong element of student choice.

Year one
In year one you will study the biology of animals, plants and microbes, and the biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes that underpin their biology. The experimental approach forms a key component to the year, with courses teaching practical skills and principles of data design and analysis. A tutorial and study skills module will equip you for your course.

Year two
More advanced courses are available, with a high degree of choice. These include molecular biology and experimental design, bacterial genetics and biotechnology. Throughout the year, you will receive detailed training in investigating and writing about biology and an introduction to bioinformatics.

Optional modules are varied, and include behaviour, biodiversity and behavioural ecology field courses, biological photography, ecology, endocrinology, evolution, genetics, immunology, neurobiology, parasitology, physiology and embryology, and plant biology.

Year three
In the third year, in addition to the compulsory Science and Society module, the broad range of options available include biological photography, cancer biology, conservation, development, ecology, evolution and behaviour, genetics, gene regulation, immunobiology, medical genetics, neuroscience, parasitology, plant biology, and many others. You will also undertake a practical research project which will allow you to carry out your own investigation in biology.

Year four (MSci students only)
In year four, you will take a set of modules which will expose you to the latest developments in your preferred area of biology, and equip you with the tools to plan and carry out research and present your findings effectively. The learning style will be strongly student-centred, culminating in a substantial research project where you will work alongside experts, receive one-to-one supervision and benefit from state-of-the-art facilities.

Typical modules for C100 and C101

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<th>Year one</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core modules:</td>
<td>Core modules:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Core Skills in Biology</td>
<td>• Bioinformatics</td>
<td>• Research Project</td>
<td>• Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Essentials of Genes, Molecules and Cells</td>
<td>• Experimental Design and Analysis 2</td>
<td>• Science and Society</td>
<td>• Research Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Life on Earth</td>
<td>• Investigating and Writing About Biology</td>
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<td>• Presentation Skills</td>
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<td>Optional modules include:</td>
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<td>Optional modules include:</td>
<td>Optional modules include:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Chemistry for Life</td>
<td>• Animal Behaviour</td>
<td>• Advanced Developmental Biology</td>
<td>• Advanced Experimental Design and Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour</td>
<td>• Bacterial Genes and Development</td>
<td>• Advanced Human Genetics</td>
<td>• Cutting-Edge Research</td>
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<td>• Fundamentals of Neuroscience</td>
<td>• Behavioural Ecology Field Course</td>
<td>• Ageing, Sex and DNA Repair</td>
<td>Technologies in Molecular Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Human Physiology</td>
<td>• Biodiversity Field Course</td>
<td>• Applied Environmental Physiology</td>
<td>• Process and Practice in Science</td>
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<td>• Biological Photography and Imaging 1</td>
<td>• Biological Photography and Imaging 2</td>
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BSc/MSci Genetics
Genetics is one of the most exciting and fast-moving areas of the biological sciences. 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 exploding. There is a close connection between teaching and research in the school.

Year one
The first year is a broad introduction to biology and genetics. It will introduce you to the biology of animals, plants and microbes and the biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes that underlie their biology. A tutorial and study skills module will equip you for your course.

Year two
More advanced courses will be available. The autumn semester involves studies of molecular biology and experimental design, while compulsory modules in the spring semester are developmental biology and bacterial genetics. Throughout the year, you will receive detailed training in investigating and writing about biology. Optional modules are varied, and include medical genetics, evolution, behaviour and ecology, parasitology, neurobiology, biotechnology and embryology.

Year three
In the third year, the course will introduce you to advanced-level studies in gene regulation, DNA repair, population and conservation genetics, with a range of options including cancer biology, advanced human genetics, developmental genetics, molecular evolution, human variation and immunology. You will also undertake a practical research project which will allow you to carry out your own investigation in genetics.

Year four (MSci students only)
In year four, 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. The learning style is strongly student-centred, culminating in a substantial research project where you will work alongside experts, receive one-to-one supervision and benefit from state-of-the-art facilities.

Typical modules for C400 and C401

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<th>Year one</th>
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<td>Core modules:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Core Skills in Genetics</td>
<td>• Bacterial Genes and Development</td>
<td>• Ageing, Sex and DNA Repair</td>
<td>• Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Essentials of Genes, Molecules and Cells</td>
<td>• Bioinformatics</td>
<td>• Conservation Genetics</td>
<td>• Research Presentation Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Life on Earth</td>
<td>• Developmental Biology</td>
<td>• General Genetics</td>
<td>Optional modules include:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Experimental Design and Analysis 2</td>
<td>• Gene Regulation</td>
<td>• Advanced Experimental Design and Analysis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Genes, Genomes and Chromosomes</td>
<td>• Population Genetics</td>
<td>• Cutting-Edge Research Technologies in Molecular Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Investigating and Writing About Biology</td>
<td>• Research Project</td>
<td>• Process and Practice in Science</td>
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<td>• Manipulating Genes and Genomes</td>
<td>Optional modules include:</td>
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<td>• Advanced Developmental Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional modules include:</td>
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<td>• Advanced Human Genetics</td>
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<td>• Chemistry for Life</td>
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<td>• Cancer Biology</td>
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<td>• Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour</td>
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<td>• Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fundamentals of Neuroscience</td>
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<td>• Human Variation</td>
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<td>• Human Physiology</td>
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<td>• Molecular Evolution</td>
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<td>• Pathogens</td>
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<td>• Science and Society</td>
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Please note: core and optional modules are subject to occasional changes each year. For the most up to date information see our online prospectus at www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
BSc/MSci Human Genetics
Due to developments over the last decade, especially the Human Genome Project, genetics and genetic technology now have a major impact on the understanding of human biology and disease. These courses provide a background in genetics with emphasis on the study of human disease and variation. In the human genetics degrees, undergraduates benefit from the close connection between the teaching and the research in the school.

Year one
The first year is a broad introduction to biology and genetics. It will introduce you to the biology of humans, other animals and microbes and the biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes that underlie their biology. A tutorial and study skills module will equip you for your course.

Year two
More advanced courses are available. The autumn semester involves studies of medical genetics, molecular biology and experimental design, while compulsory modules in the spring semester are developmental biology and bacterial genetics. Throughout the year, you will receive detailed training in investigating and writing about biology. Optional modules are varied, and include biological photography, biotechnology, embryology, evolution, immunology, neurobiology, parasitology and physiology.

Year three
In the third year, the course will introduce you to advanced-level studies in cancer genetics, gene regulation, human variation and inherited human disease, with a range of options including development, DNA repair, molecular evolution, neuroscience, pathogens and science and society. You will also undertake a practical research project which will allow you to carry out your own investigation in human genetics.

Year four (MSci students only)
In year four, you will take a set of modules which will expose you to the latest developments in human genetics, and equip you with the tools to plan and carry out research and present your findings effectively. The learning style will be strongly student-centred, culminating in a substantial research project where you will work alongside experts, receive one-to-one supervision and benefit from state-of-the-art facilities.

Typical modules for C410 and C420

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<th>Year one</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core modules:</td>
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<td>Core modules:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Core Skills in Human Genetics</td>
<td>• Bacterial Genes and Development</td>
<td>• Advanced Human Genetics</td>
<td>• Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Essentials of Genes, Molecules and Cells</td>
<td>• Bioinformatics</td>
<td>• Cancer Biology</td>
<td>• Research</td>
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<td>• Life on Earth</td>
<td>• Developmental Biology</td>
<td>• General Genetics</td>
<td>• Presentation Skills</td>
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<td>Optional modules include:</td>
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<td>• Chemistry for Life</td>
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<td>• Investigating and Writing About Biology</td>
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<td>Developmental Biology</td>
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Please note: core and optional modules are subject to occasional changes each year. For the most up to date information see our online prospectus at www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
BSc/MSc Zoology
Zoology is the study of the biology of animals. Animals form the majority of species; how they function, their genetics, behaviour and evolution, together with their interactions with each other and their environment, are of central importance in modern biology. Nottingham’s courses are enriched by cutting-edge research across a range of disciplines, from animal behaviour and parasitology to neurobiology and toxicology. We offer modules ranging from conservation to immunobiology.

Year one
The first year is a broad introduction to biology and zoology. It will introduce you to the biology of animals and microbes and the biochemical, evolutionary and genetic processes that underlie their biology. A tutorial and study skills module will equip you for your course.

Year two
More advanced courses will be available, with greater freedom of choice. You can choose animal evolution, experimental design, the biodiversity field course, behaviour, ecology, neuroscience, genetic engineering, immunology, parasitology and physiology. You will receive detailed training in investigating and writing about biology. Further optional modules include the behavioural ecology field course, biological photography, biotechnology, developmental biology and natural systems.

Year three
In the third year, in addition to the compulsory Science and Society module, the broad range of options available include evolution and behaviour, gene regulation, conservation, reproduction, population and conservation genetics, evolutionary ecology, development, immunobiology, parasitology, biological photography and many others. You will also undertake a practical research project which will allow you to carry out your own investigation in zoology.

Year four (MSci students only)
In year four, you will take a set of modules which will expose you to the latest developments in zoology, and equip you with the tools to plan and carry out research and present your findings effectively. The learning style is strongly student-centred, culminating in a substantial research project where you will work alongside experts, receive one-to-one supervision and benefit from state-of-the-art facilities.

Typical modules for C300 and C301

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<th>Year one</th>
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<td>Core modules:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Core Skills in Zoology</td>
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<td>• Essentials of Genes, Molecules and Cells</td>
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<td>• Life on Earth</td>
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<td>• Animal Behaviour</td>
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<td>• Biodiversity Field Course</td>
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<td>• Biological Photography and Imaging 1</td>
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<td>• Cell Biology</td>
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<td>• Environmental Physiology</td>
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<td>• Immunobiology</td>
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<td>• Manipulating Genes and Genomes</td>
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<td>• Microbial Biotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Molecular and Developmental Neurobiology</td>
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<td>• Natural Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Parasitology</td>
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| Core modules: |
| • Bioinformatics |
| • Experimental Design and Analysis 2 |
| • Investigating and Writing About Biology |
| Optional modules include: |
| • Advanced Developmental Biology |
| • Advanced Human Genetics |
| • Ageing, Sex and DNA Repair |
| • Applied Environmental Physiology |
| • Biological Photography and Imaging 2 |
| • Cancer Biology |
| • Conservation |
| • Conservation Genetics |
| • Evolution and Behaviour |
| • Evolutionary Ecology |
| • Human Variation |
| • Gene Regulation |
| • Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience |
| • Molecular Evolution |
| • Parasite Immunology |
| • Pathogens |
| • Population Genetics |
| • Reproduction and Fertility |

Please note: core and optional modules are subject to occasional changes each year. For the most up to date information see our online prospectus at www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy.
BSc Tropical Sciences

This degree provides a comprehensive, modern, treatment of a range of biological sciences in the context of the tropics. It emphasises the particular challenges posed to humans and other organisms (e.g., environmental change, rapid population growth) in tropical environments. There is a focus on emerging specialisms which are strengthening the impact that biological science has on society in the tropics and elsewhere. Coverage of these specialisms—which range from ecological modelling, through the impact of tropical diseases to conservation genetics—prepares graduates for careers in several biological disciplines, often with a tropical focus, and in a wide range of sectors. A particular strength of the degree is its incorporation of The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus in its teaching programme, and the opportunities for tropical biological studies, particularly in the field, which this provides.

Year one

In the first year, you will receive a broad grounding in modern life sciences, with a core tutorial and skills module providing degree-specific context for the tropical sciences programme. Other core modules include Essentials of Genes Molecules and Cells; Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour; and Life on Earth, and these will be augmented from a choice of optional modules that are available.

Year two

The second year, at our Malaysia Campus, offers a unique opportunity to study at a UK university in a tropical environment. As well as conventional lecture and practical modules, including Ecology; Experimental Design and Analysis; Investigating and Writing about Biology; and the Principles and Analysis of Gene Function, you will have the chance to participate in field courses designed to give you hands-on experience of tropical science, particularly tropical biology. For example, you might take the Rainforest Ecology and the Tropical Biodiversity field courses. At the end of the second year, you will be able to participate in summer field work collecting data for use in the final-year research project.

Year three

In the final year, you will return to Nottingham where, as well as the year-long research project module, which may be laboratory-based, or based on field work, you will take a number of specialist modules from relevant biological disciplines, such as Applied Environmental Physiology; Conservation; Conservation Genetics; Evolution and Behaviour; Evolutionary Ecology; Molecular Evolution; Pathogens; Remote Sensing of the Environment; Science and Society; Tropical Ecosystems; and Tropical Parasites and Disease.

Typical modules for C911

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<th>Year one</th>
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<td>• Ecology</td>
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<td>• Life on Earth</td>
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Please note: core and optional modules are subject to occasional changes each year. For the most up to date information see our online prospectus at www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstu/
How will I study?

Teaching includes lectures and practical classes, with coursework, workshops, residential field courses and problem classes, all supported by the tutorial programme. The aim is to stimulate your curiosity and provide you with essential information by means of lectures in the first instance to establish a solid grounding in the core of the subject. In addition, all tutors have office hours when you can talk privately with them about your work.

Lectures
Lectures are the most formal type of instruction and are valuable in that they:

• present information which is not readily available in books
• can give you an opportunity to hear a specialist develop a significant (perhaps as yet unpublished) argument
• show visual material – for example, slides, CDs, PowerPoint images and DVDs or video clips

Laboratory sessions
Biology, zoology and genetics are experimental sciences, and these degrees have a strong core of laboratory work. You will learn techniques and see the practical steps by which our knowledge of living organisms and how they work have been obtained and advanced. Practical work can be broadly divided into class practicals – where students will carry out experiments and obtain data, and project work – where students will do individual investigations, asking new scientific questions not previously answered.

Your week
Your typical week’s work will feel strange at first after school or college since there are fewer timetabled teaching hours. In the first and second years, scheduled lectures and practical classes will typically take 18 hours’ per week, a figure which reduces in the third and fourth years, because of the increased emphasis on private study and research. In the third year, you will have the opportunity to undertake a research project which will typically involve two days’ work a week for one semester. The larger research project in the fourth year of the MSci will be full-time for approximately half of the year.

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: www.unistats.com

For Nottingham’s KIS data, please see individual course entries at www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
How will I be assessed?

Our degree programmes are modular, which means you undertake modules of study with assessment at the end of each semester.

The teaching year
The teaching year is divided into two semesters. The first semester lasts for 14 weeks, with 12 weeks for teaching and revision and two weeks for assessment. The second semester follows the same pattern, but there are an additional two weeks at the end to complete the assessment process and to enable returning students to discuss their results with tutors and begin to plan the next session’s work.

Although the teaching year is divided into two semesters for organisational purposes, this is fitted into the traditional pattern of three terms: one before Christmas, one between Christmas and Easter, and one after Easter.

Assessment methods
Examinations still form a sizeable component of our assessments, but coursework, including the field course, the creation of practical reports and dissertations based on private study, represents a significant part of assessed work. Projects are assessed through presentation of a thesis.

Where a module lasts for one semester, assessment is undertaken at the end of that semester. Where a module fills two semesters, assessment is at the end of the second semester, although your progress will be measured throughout the year.

Your final degree classification
Your second and third year results respectively count for 30% and 70% of your final, overall grade.

The first year is a qualifying year, which means you must pass this year to progress to the second year, but your mark will not contribute to your degree classification. On the four-year MSci degrees, marks are weighted at 20% for the second year and 40% for the third and fourth years.

“...The campus is stunning and buzzing with activity. The city itself has everything as far as clubs, pubs and shops are concerned. The facilities are more than adequate and the opportunities for getting involved in sports and activities are numerous...”

Zoology student
Career and employment prospects

The University of Nottingham is consistently named as one of the most targeted universities by Britain’s leading graduate employers*. In addition, we were ranked as the number one university for job prospects at the 2015 Whatuni Student Choice Awards. There is a strong demand for graduates trained in biology and genetics, and our graduates are well qualified for a variety of rewarding and interesting careers.

Further training
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, ecology and environmental management, forensic medicine, genetic counselling and oncology.

Graduate career destinations
After graduation, our students have gone on to pursue careers in advertising, the armed forces, medicine, the pharmaceutical industry, public health, scientific administration, and wildlife and conservation management. Other paths include business and technology, the civil service, financial services, forensics, law and teaching.

Average starting salary
In 2014, 88% of first-degree graduates in the school who were available for employment had secured work or further study within six months of graduation. The average starting salary was £18,649 with the highest being £30,000.**

The University’s Careers and Employability Service
Our Careers and Employability Service, which is based on University Park Campus, offers an extensive range of careers-oriented services, including CV-writing sessions, interview advice, presentations by major employers and general career advice. As a University of Nottingham graduate, you will receive lifelong support from the service. This means that you can ask a careers adviser to look over your job application by email or Skype, or in person, and you can also access a database of graduate vacancies. For more information see www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers

The Nottingham Advantage Award
The University’s Advantage Award is a programme of activities developed to recognise and reward extracurricular responsibilities. It allows you to gain recognition for participating in a wide range of activities accredited by the University and delivered by top graduate employers, professional services and members of staff of the University. It also shows employers that you have gone above and beyond your degree and gained valuable transferable skills. For further information, please visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/advantage

Data sources:
* The Graduate Market in 2013, 2014 and 2015, High Fliers Research.
** Known destinations of full-time home and EU first-degree graduates, 2013/14.
“The standard of teaching is very high. It’s a massive step up when you come from school to go to university – you’ve got these internationally renowned lecturers who know an awful lot about their subject. And lecturers come in from all across the country to tell you about their research.”

Harry Clifford/MSci Human Genetics

Find out more about Harry’s experience at www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/harryclifford

Scan the code to watch this video on your smart phone.
Graduate profiles

“After graduating, I took a place as a participant on a programme run by Teach First, an independent charity that aims to reduce the correlation between parental income and educational attainment of pupils by taking graduates and training them to be teachers. The programme consists of six weeks of intensive training and then a minimum of two years’ teaching in a challenging school.

I spent two years teaching science at Djanogly City Academy and now work for Teach First as a leadership development officer, helping participants who are currently on the scheme develop to their full leadership potential.

My degree has helped me throughout this journey – obviously a science degree prepares you to teach science but more important were the transferable skills I gained. One of those would be adopting a critical approach to innovation, by which I mean the ability to take a step back and analyse a process to see how it could be made more efficient or effective. Studying biology at Nottingham also greatly enhanced my ability to handle data, meaning that I always had a strong grasp of how my pupils were progressing to meet their targets.”

Karl Edwards
BSc Biology

“While at The University of Nottingham, I loved exploring the city with all the friends I made and the fact that there was always something going on to get involved with. On my course, I enjoyed the variety of areas available to specialise in and all the support we were offered throughout the programme.

I’m currently on a Brand, Buying and Marketing Graduate Scheme at Boots in Nottingham. The key skills gained during my degree, such as project management and working within teams were really valuable when applying for jobs and having a science degree from Nottingham seemed to impress a lot of employers. The great experience I’d had in Nottingham as a student made me jump at the chance to return for my job!

In the future, I’d really like to progress within Boots as I think I could have a really enjoyable career there. On a personal level, I want to travel and see the world, possibly moving abroad one day.”

Amy Birch
MSci Biology

“After graduating, I moved to South Africa to train as a professional safari guide. During my placement at the African Elephant Research Unit I was offered a job as a researcher, volunteer coordinator and educational development officer.

I am teaching handlers and school groups about elephants as well as designing and conducting preliminary research and analysis on elephants, zebra, jackal and giraffe at various parks. It’s amazing being able to see elephants outside my window every day!

My zoology degree gave me the skills to design and conduct research projects: for instance, the Conservation module is relevant to my working in mapping distributions of zebra harems and elephants. Due to modules such as Biological Photography, I have been commissioned to sell elephant pictures and create displays for the museum. I can’t thank my tutor and all my lecturers at Nottingham enough – without them I would not have made it here to my dream job.”

Abigail Hearn
BSc Zoology

“My interest in genetics, specifically in reference to genetic diseases, started in high school following a lesson on DNA sequencing. When planning my higher education, I discovered The University of Nottingham was one of the few places that offered a degree in human genetics. Due to the wide range and high quality of research at the University, I was able to develop my research interests and knowledge of the field. The beautiful, green campus and thriving student community was an ideal setting for a young adult.

After graduating with a BSc in Human Genetics, I continued onto an MRes in biomedicine at University College London. My BSc provided a sound background in genetics, which allowed me to pursue a focused research project in neuronal apoptosis. I have recently completed the MRes and I am currently working for Klucze publishing house in Poland.

Next year, I am looking to start a PhD in cancer research. As my passion for research and development grows, I plan on staying in science long-term, either in academia or in the biotechnology sector.”

Klaudyna Schmidt
BSc Human Genetics
Your student experience

You’ve read lots about the degree programme you’re interested in, now it’s time to explore life outside the lecture theatre. There’s so much for you to get involved in and explore at the University and around the city. We are proud to be one of the leading universities for student experience in the UK*, which will ensure that you have a university experience you’ll never forget.

Your University of Nottingham – at home and around the world

We are proud of our stunning campuses and are continually investing in our grounds, buildings and amenities to ensure that you only have the best surroundings in which to live and study. Our main UK campuses have a mix of state-of-the-art facilities, including sports centres, places to eat and excellent learning facilities on every campus. We’ve made getting from campus to campus as easy as possible and students can benefit from our free inter-campus Hopper Bus, so you’re never far away from the striking architecture and innovative technology of Jubilee Campus, the rolling parkland and period buildings at University Park, or the cutting-edge features of Sutton Bonington.

The University of Nottingham is Britain’s global university with campuses in the UK, China and Malaysia. We also have links with more than 300 universities in over 40 countries, adding a truly global flavour to your degree and giving you the chance to explore the world. Find out more: www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/campuses

Your new home from home

At Nottingham we offer a range of different accommodation options, rooms are available as single or shared, en suite or shared bathroom, all the way through to studio flats, and vary from self-catered to fully catered (19 meals per week). We also offer a guarantee of University accommodation for one year to all new full-time undergraduate students, subject to the following conditions: you firmly accept your course place at Nottingham, accept your offer of accommodation by the deadline given in your offer letter, and have an unconditional status no later than 31 August in the year you intend to begin your studies. If you are a new, full-time undergraduate student who is classified as international for fee purposes, this guarantee applies for three years**. For more information, including a breakdown of pricing, see www.nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Your opportunity to study abroad

As a University of Nottingham student, you will be able to apply for a variety of study abroad options. Whether studying at a partner institution or undertaking a work experience placement, spending time abroad is a fantastic opportunity to broaden your horizons, experience different cultures, meet new people and develop skills that will prove invaluable in the future and look good on your CV.

If you do decide to apply to study abroad, the University will offer support from the application stage right through to your return to the UK, with advice on everything from immigration to possible sources of financial support. Find out more: www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyabroad

Your support network

Throughout your university journey there will be numerous people on hand to support you, including tutors and dedicated staff who will be able to advise you on various aspects of life as a student. We have a Student Services Centre on all three of our UK campuses, which provide a range of support, information and specialist services to enhance your student experience. This support includes:

• Academic Support – can provide practical advice on areas of academic study; the service also provides specialist academic support for students with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other specific learning difficulties
• Disability Support – coordinates support and access arrangements for students with a disability or long-term medical condition
• Financial Support – provides information on the sources of finance available from government agencies and the University itself, and gives advice about financial matters
• Student Services – also advise on issues ranging from childcare, counselling and health to international student support, chaplaincy and faith support, as well as offering advice on paying your tuition and accommodation fees

Whatever you may need support with, they will either be able to help or point you in the direction of someone who can. Find out more: www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

** Providing you submit your returns’ application in line with the requirements of accommodation providers.
Getting involved in your Students' Union

As soon as you start at The University of Nottingham, you are automatically enrolled as a member of our Students’ Union, which is considered to be one of the best in the country. There are hundreds of activities that you could be part of, providing you with the perfect opportunity to take up a new hobby or pursue existing interests. Choose from over 200 student-run societies, covering all interests and abilities, as well as local and national volunteering projects, to which you can commit as much or as little time as you wish.

Our Students’ Union is home to a number of award-winning student-run media groups, which give you the chance to gain practical work experience both behind the scenes or centre stage as a presenter, actor or journalist. The Nottingham New Theatre, Impact magazine, Nottingham Student Television (NSTV) and University Radio Nottingham (URN) have all been recognised as the best in their field, winning a clutch of awards for outstanding achievements.

However you decide to become involved in the Union, you can be sure you will make new friends and learn new skills, all while having a lot of fun! Find out more: www.su.nottingham.ac.uk

Exploring your new city

With Nottingham city centre just a 10-minute bus ride away from University Park Campus, our students are always close to the action. Buses run through campus regularly and many run late-night services too, which is handy if you’re a night owl.

For music lovers, you can take your pick from the world-famous Rock City, Capital FM Arena or one of the smaller gig venues for a more intimate live show. Nottingham is rich in performance venues, with comedy clubs and theatres catering for lovers of drama, musicals, ballet and panto. We are very proud of our sporting heritage, and with football clubs Nottingham Forest and Notts County in the city, as well as Trent Bridge cricket ground and the National Ice Centre on your doorstep, you might just become a sports fan if you’re not one already.

History and culture can be found in all corners of the city, with Nottingham Castle, Nottingham Contemporary arts centre, the Galleries of Justice Museum, Nottingham Lakeside Arts – the University’s public arts centre located on our University Park Campus – arthouse cinemas and three of the world’s oldest pubs all providing points of interest. If you enjoy shopping, Nottingham is perfect for you; independent boutiques and vintage shops in the bohemian area of Hockley mix with high street names in our large shopping centres to make Nottingham a veritable shopping haven.

Find out more: www.nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife

Download our city guide: www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/cityguide

Sports

We offer sport at all levels and an excellent all-inclusive student membership offer, so whether you enjoy sport as a hobby or are an elite athlete we will have just what you need. We have over 70 sports clubs, which means we have the 2nd highest number of sports clubs of any UK university. If you’re not interested in joining a team but want to stay fit, we have sports centres on all of our main UK campuses.

Find out more: www.nottingham.ac.uk/sport
Applying for a place

We are looking for students who have the ability and motivation to benefit from our courses, and who will make a valued contribution to the school and the University. Candidates for full-time admission are considered on the basis of their Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) form. For more information on how to make your application stand out, have a look at our online prospectus: www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

Application process
All applications for an undergraduate place to study at The University of Nottingham (including applications by overseas students) must be made through UCAS. Applications should be made online at www.ucas.com. Candidates will be notified of decisions through UCAS Track at track.ucas.com

Applying with achieved A level grades
If you apply to us having already completed your A levels, your application will be considered in exactly the same way as those from candidates with predicted grades.

Your personal statement
This is the section of your UCAS form that tells us the 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-motivating and make the best possible use of the opportunities this course might have to offer you.

Entry numbers
For information on how many students the department plans to admit on each course, please see the table on page 6.

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.

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. If you wish to mention information about your experiences in your personal statement, then you should ask the teacher or tutor writing your reference to confirm what you have written. We may ask for further evidence and may consider a range of factors. For more information, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/admissionspolicies

Science Foundation Programme
This programme provides an alternative entry route onto our degree programmes for those students whose school-leaving qualifications do not meet our current admission requirements.

Applications from mature students or students holding non-standard qualifications and/or relevant experience are encouraged. Students can automatically progress from the foundation stage to year one of any of our degrees providing they have taken the relevant pathway modules and passed them to the required standard.

All foundation programme teaching is carried out on University Park Campus by academic staff from the Faculty of Science. For more information, see www.nottingham.ac.uk/foundationcourses

Entry requirements
All applications are assessed individually, but the following guidelines give an idea of the offers that might be expected.

Biology
Typical A level offer:
C100 – AAB/ABB; C101 – AAB
Typical IB offer:
C100 – 34/32; C101 – 34
Entry requirements: Three A levels to include biology and a second science subject, preferably from chemistry, physics or mathematics. Geography may also be considered if in combination with a second science subject at AS level.

Genetics
Typical A level offer:
C400 – AAB/ABB; C401 – AAB
Typical IB offer:
C400 – 34/32; C401 – 34
Entry requirements: Three A levels, which must include biology and a second science subject, and chemistry to at least AS level. GCSE mathematics grade C if not taken at A2/AS level.

Human Genetics
Typical A level offer:
C410 – AAB/ABB; C420 – AAB
Typical IB offer:
C410 – 34/32; C420 – 34
Entry requirements: Three A levels, which must include biology and a second science subject, and chemistry to at least AS level. GCSE mathematics grade C if not taken at A2/AS level.

Tropical Sciences
Typical A level offer:
C911 – AAB-ABB
Typical IB offer: 34/32
Entry requirements: Three A levels, which must include biology and a second science subject, which can include geography. GCSE mathematics grade C if not taken at A2/AS level.

Zoology
Typical A level offer:
C300 – AAB/ABB; C301 – AAB
Typical IB offer:
C300 – 34/32; C301 – 34
Entry requirements: Three A levels to include biology and a second science subject, preferably from chemistry, physics or mathematics. Geography or psychology may also be considered if taken with a second science subject at AS level.

Alternative qualifications
In this brochure you will find our A level entry requirements but we accept a much broader range of qualifications.

These include:
• Access to HE Diploma
• Advanced Diploma
• BTEC HND/HNC
• Cambridge Pre-U
• International Baccalaureate
• Irish Leaving Certificate
• Scottish Advanced Highers
• Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma

This list is not exhaustive; we will consider applicants with other qualifications on an individual basis. The entry requirements for alternative qualifications can be quite specific; for example you may need to take certain modules and achieve a specified grade in those modules. Please contact us to discuss the transference of your qualification.

English language requirements
Our English language requirements are IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element).

For more information and a list of the alternative English language requirements we accept, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements
Mature applicants
We encourage applications from mature students (which means all those aged 21 or over when the course begins). You should apply in the normal way through UCAS. While we accept a range of qualifications, you should check our specific requirements on UCAS course entry profiles. If in doubt, please contact the admissions tutor, who will be happy to answer any specific queries you have about applying as a mature student. Please email your questions to life-sciences-ug@nottingham.ac.uk

Disability
In the School of Life Sciences we have students who need support due to disability, dyslexia and/or a long-term medical condition, and we aim to enable students to fulfil the requirements of the course as independently as possible.

The Disability Liaison Officer (DLO) for the School of Life Sciences is Mrs Gail Gomez. She has experience in helping many students with dyslexia, physical or psychological conditions to find University support that allows them to continue with their academic studies and university life.

You are encouraged to make the University aware of your individual requirements as early as possible. You can do this by specifying a disability code on your UCAS application. You will then be sent a letter in confidence by the school’s DLO offering any assistance or information that you may need. Letting us know what you might need at an early stage will help us provide the right support for you. If you have a disability, we advise you to visit the University before applying.

The University’s Disability Statement, which lists services, facilities and opportunities available throughout the University, can be viewed at www.nottingham.ac.uk/disability

International applicants
We welcome applications from international students and have students from many parts of the world studying with us at undergraduate and postgraduate level. All international candidates for undergraduate courses should apply through UCAS. The University’s International Office offers guidance and advice on matters such as visa and immigration regulations, working and living in the UK, entry requirements and preparing for coming to Nottingham – and arranges a Welcome Programme for new international students each September. If you would like to visit the University and are unable to attend an open day, the International Office will be happy to arrange an individual visit for you. For further information please visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/international-applicants

Preparing to study in English – academic English preparation and support
For those whose English qualifications do not meet the University requirements, The University of Nottingham Centre for English Language Education (CELE) offers high-quality academic English and study skills (presessional) programmes to prepare you to study your degree in English. Our programmes are designed to give international students excellent preparation for their academic studies and are taught by experienced, professional tutors.

CELE provides a range of programmes throughout the year, including five-week subject-specific courses (in some subjects) and a four-week course in September for students with unconditional offers, with a focus on academic study skills. You can continue to benefit from academic English support with free classes and one-to-one consultations throughout your study (in sessional programmes). For more information about CELE, please visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/cele

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.
Frequently asked questions

How much are the fees?
Like many universities in England, Nottingham charges full-time UK and EU students an annual tuition fee of £9,000. However, you will not have to pay your fees while studying – the government will lend eligible students the money, which you will start to pay back once you have left university and are earning at least £21,000. For more information: www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees

What bursaries are available?
Although bursary figures for 2016/17 are yet to be finalised, the University will continue to offer a generous package of bursary support to students from lower income households. These are in addition to any support you may receive from the government. For more information please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport or take a look at the funding tab on the relevant course entry in our online prospectus: www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy

If you are an international applicant (outside of the EU), please see the “New international students” section on www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees

What is the difference between the BSc and the MSci degrees in biology, zoology, genetics and human genetics?
The four-year MSci degree differs from the three-year BSc degree in its specialised training in research skills in the fourth year, particularly the intensive full-time project which occupies half of the year. The BSc degree also includes a project, but this is taken along with lecture modules and would normally involve two days’ work a week. While the MSci degree is designed for those who intend to start biological research on graduation, many of our BSc students currently go straight into a PhD course by research after their three years, and we expect that this will continue.

How much practical work does the course entail?
You will take some lab-based practical sessions and computer-based informatics practical sessions as part of first and second-year modules.
During the final year you will undertake a research project. Most people choose to take a lab-based research project. This involves working in a research lab for two days a week in the autumn, when you will be supervised by the lecturer running your project and receive lab training from PhD students working in the lab.
The fourth-year research project in the MSci degree is much more intensive, being full-time laboratory research for half the year.

Is there a year of industrial placement?
We do not require you to take a year of industrial experience, but we are happy for you to do so. We will be supportive and tutors will try to help where possible.

What support is available for students with children?
There are a range of services provided to support students with children, including a University day nursery, a playscheme and playcentre day care. There is also a scheme to help students fund childcare. For more information, see www.nottingham.ac.uk/childcare

Visit our website for more frequently asked questions: www.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs
Open days
If you’re considering applying to The University of Nottingham we recommend that you try to attend one of the University-wide open days, which are held in June and September each year and attract around 30,000 visitors. Find out more:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/opendays

Mini open days
Mini open days are much smaller than the main open days but offer the same opportunities to attend various talks and tours as well as speak to current students and academics. Find out more:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/miniopendays

Virtual open day
If you can’t attend one of our open days in person, or would like to explore our campuses before visiting, take a look at our virtual open day:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/virtualnottingham

UCAS visit days
Once you’ve been offered a place at Nottingham, you may be invited to attend a UCAS visit day, which is an opportunity for you to visit the school and to find out more about your chosen course. You will also be given a short tour of the campus by current students.

Other visits
If you wish to make an informal visit to the University prior to applying here, you are welcome to do so, but you should contact us in advance if you wish to visit the school or speak to an admissions tutor, and we will do our best to oblige.

Contact us
School of Life Sciences
The University of Nottingham
University Park
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

t: +44 (0)115 951 3300
f: +44 (0)115 951 3251
e: life-sciences-ug@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/life-sciences

For international student enquiries, please contact:
The International Office

t: +44 (0)115 951 5247
f: +44 (0)115 951 5155
e: international-office@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/international

You can also connect with fellow applicants and current students on our applicants’ Facebook and Twitter pages:

UoNApplicants
@UoNApplicants

This publication is available in alternative formats.
t: +44 (0)115 951 5559

The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this brochure was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive. You should check the University’s website for any updates before you decide to accept a place on a course.

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Printed May 2015.