Zoology
BSc Honours

A world-class university in a world-famous city

UCAS code C300
3 Years
Zoology
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Zoology is the scientific study of all forms of animal life, including how they behave, reproduce, evolve, and interact with other species and their environment.

In the first year, all students study core biology modules, giving you a strong foundation in the subject.

In later Stages, you will study specialist zoology topics, such as:

- animal behaviour
- animal physiology
- entomology
- biodiversity
- ecology and conservation
- vertebrate biology

Through lab and field-based teaching you learn key laboratory skills required by professional zoologists.

You will enjoy a bird and insect identification field course, as well as a week-long project-based residential field course.

Highlights of this degree

Quality and ranking
Biological Sciences at Newcastle ranks in the top 150 universities in the world in the QS World University Rankings by Subject.

Shared first year
The first year is shared with other degrees in the School, providing all students with a thorough foundation in the essentials of the subject.

This shared first year provides you with a thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of biology, through topics such as the diversity of form and function in animals, plants and micro-organisms.

You also study modules in:

- ecology
- evolution
- biochemistry
- cell biology
- genetics
- a topic from a choice in agriculture, marine biology or psychology

You can transfer to one of our other degrees before the second year should your interests change (subject to achieving the appropriate grades).

Boost your employability with a work placement
Apply to spend 9 to 12 months on an optional work placement between Stages 2 and 3. You can apply to spend your placement year with any organisation and will receive University support to do so.

You’ll gain first-hand experience of working in the sector, putting your learning into practice and developing your professional expertise.

It will extend your degree by a year and is subject to availability.

Find out more about Work Placements.

Study abroad
UK and EU students have the opportunity to take part in a study abroad exchange between Stages 2 and 3.

Find out more about study abroad.

Fieldwork
All of our Biology and Zoology degrees are designed to ensure that you gain practical experience. As well as laboratory-based practical classes, you have the opportunity to take part in a number of field courses including the courses detailed below.

Species identification field course
This field course on insects and birds takes place in second year. It provides you with skills that are sought after in the environmental sector.

Residential field course
This project-based residential field course takes place in third year. Current locations include Kielder, Millport and Crete. You can also take an optional mammal surveying skills module in the UK or a tropical conservation research module.

Day excursions
Day excursions take advantage of our unique geographic location close to a variety of natural habitats, from Northumberland National Park to the stunning local coastline.

We also offer a vocational placement module, which enables you to enhance your CV by gaining academic credit for work in biology off campus.

Facilities and support
This degree is run by the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, located in the Agriculture Building in the centre of campus.

Facilities
Facilities include:

- a field station which has a glasshouse complex and dedicated teaching facilities
- two University farms in Northumberland, which are used as demonstration facilities for students
- purpose-built teaching laboratories
an on-campus museum – the Great North Museum – with many interesting and important biological collections

Support
You will have an academic member of staff as a **personal tutor** throughout your degree. They can help with academic and personal issues.

**Peer mentors** will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have.

Social activities
There’s a student-led society, BioSoc, which organises regular social events and trips for its friendly cohort of students.

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Course Details

### Modules for 2017 entry

**Please note**
The module and/or programme information below is for **2017 entry**. Modules may be amended on an annual basis to take account of changing staff expertise, developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback. Modules/programme information for 2018 entry will be published here as soon as it is available (end of May 2018).

Our degrees are divided into Stages. Each Stage lasts for an academic year and you need to complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each Stage.

### Stage 1

**Compulsory modules**
ACE1013 Introduction to Genetics
BIO1001 Cell Biology 1
BIO1002 The Animal Kingdom
BIO1003 Plant Biology 1
BIO1004 Microbiology 1
BIO1005 Evolution
BIO1006 Ecology
BIO1010 Biology In Action
BIO1019 Introductory Biochemistry for Biologists

**Optional modules**
You take one of the following modules:
ACE1022 Crop Pests
BIO1007 Introduction to Marine Vertebrates
PSY1006 Instinct, Learning and Motivation
Other optional modules may also be available.

This first year is shared with Biology BSc Honours (C100), Ecology and Conservation (C182) and Cellular and Molecular Biology (C1C7), allowing for easy transfer to any of these before the second year should your interests change.

### Stage 2

**Compulsory modules**
BIO2003 Field identification Skills*
BIO2013 Animal Behaviour
BIO2014 Animal Physiology
BIO2020 Experimental Design and Statistics for Biologists
BIO2022 Molecular Biology and Development

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Take a virtual tour at [www.ncl.ac.uk/tour](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/tour)
Stage 2

BIO2028 Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation
BIO2029 Vertebrate Biology
BIO2032 Residential Field Course
*BIO2003 is taken prior to Stage 2

Optional modules
You take 20 credits from the following list:
ACE2031 Animal Parasitology
BIO2006 Entomology
BIO2008 Evolutionary and Population Genetics
BIO2021 Employability Skills for Biologists
BIO2025 UK Wildlife
PSY2007 Biological Psychology: Sex, Drugs, Rhythms and Blues
Other optional modules may also be available.

Work Placement (optional)
You can apply to spend 9 to 12 months on an optional work placement between Stages 2 and 3. You can apply to spend your placement year with any organisation and will receive University support to do so. It will extend your degree by a year and is subject to availability. Find out more about Work Placements.

If you choose this option, you take the following:
NCL3000 Careers Service Placement Year Module

Stage 3

Compulsory modules
BIO3016 Mechanisms of Behaviour
BIO3022 Residential Field Course*
BIO3037 Current Zoology
BIO3044 Behavioural Ecology
*BIO3022 is taken prior to Stage 3

Optional modules
You take one of the following modules:
BIO3197 Biological Literature Review
BIO3198 Biological Information Project
BIO3199 Biological Research Project
You choose 40 credits from the following modules:
ACE3049 Companion Animal Behaviour
ACE3208 Zoo Animal Science and Management**
BIO3001 Animal Ecophysiology
BIO3003 Ecological Modelling
BIO3010 Conservation Research in Tropical Forest*
BIO3036 Mammal Surveying Skills*
BIO3039 Biodiversity Science and Management
BIO3040 Applied Ecology
BIO3041 Molecular Evolution and Systematics
SUG3500 Creativity and Market Research in Science and Engineering

*You can take either BIO3010 or BIO3036 and must be taken prior to Stage 3
**ACE3208 can only be taken if you did not complete ACE2057 at Stage 2 Other optional modules may also be available.

Teaching and assessment

Study at the cutting edge
Teaching is strongly informed by the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences' research, meaning you are supervised and taught by experts at the forefront of developments in their field, particularly in your third year.

During the final year you have the chance to conduct your own research through one of our project modules. Your individual project can be:

- based on field or laboratory research
- a detailed review of research publications on a special topic
- a project to enhance the public understanding of science

Teaching methods

On average, you’ll spend around a third of your time in contact with teaching staff for lectures, laboratory and field practical classes, computer sessions and in tutorial activities tied closely to key skills development.

You may find yourself spending as much time in the laboratory as the lecture theatre, or be off campus for half-day field trips.

Assessment methods

Assessment is by examination and in-course assessment such as essays, presentations and laboratory reports.

Find out more

Visit our Teaching and Learning pages to read about the outstanding learning experience available to all students at Newcastle University.

Entry Requirements

All candidates are considered on an individual basis.

If your qualifications are not listed here, please see our additional entry requirements web pages to find out which other qualifications are considered.

The entrance requirements below apply to 2018 entry.
A Levels
AAB-ABB including Biology and normally another science-related subject from: Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Geography, Psychology. Chemistry is preferred at A or AS level, but not essential. For Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels, we require a pass in the practical element. GCSE Mathematics minimum grade B or 6 if not offered at A or AS level.

Scottish Qualifications
AAABB-AABB at Higher Grade including two science subjects. Advanced Higher Biology and another science subject normally required. Acceptable science subjects are: Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Geography, Psychology. Higher Grade Chemistry desirable. Mathematics required at National 5, minimum grade B (or grade 2 Standard Grade or Intermediate 2 equivalent) if not offered at Higher Grade.

Scottish qualifications can be taken in more than one sitting.

International Baccalaureate
35 points normally including Higher Level Biology at grade 6 or above. Chemistry is preferred at Higher Level but not essential. Mathematics or Mathematical Studies and Chemistry required at Standard Level grade 5 if not offered at Higher Level.

Irish Leaving Certificate
H1H1H1H2H3 at Higher level, including Biology and another science subject from: Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Geography. Chemistry is preferred but not essential

Access Qualifications
30 level 3 credits at Distinction including 15 credits in biological sciences, and 15 level 3 credits at Merit or above. Chemistry and mathematics or quantitative methods units are desirable.

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma
A science-related subject with substantial biology and chemistry units at overall DDD grade.

Cambridge Pre-U
D3,D3,M2-D3,M2,M2 in Principal Subjects including Biology and normally another science subject from: Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Geography, Psychology. Chemistry is preferred but not essential. GCSE Mathematics minimum grade B or 6 if not offered at a higher level.

Extended Project Qualification
We welcome applications from students offering an Extended Project and value the skills of research and independent learning that it is designed to develop. If you offer an Extended Project, it will be taken into account as part of your application profile, but we will not usually include it in offer conditions for this degree programme.

PARTNERS - A Levels
BBC including Biology and another science subject from: Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Geography, Psychology. Chemistry is preferred at A or AS level, but not essential. For Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels, we require a pass in the practical element. GCSE Mathematics minimum grade B or 6 if not offered at A or AS level.

The PARTNERS Programme is Newcastle University’s supported entry route for students from schools and colleges in England. Find out more about the PARTNERS Programme.

PARTNERS - Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma
A science-related subject with substantial biology and chemistry units at overall DMM-MMM grade.

The PARTNERS Programme is Newcastle University’s supported entry route for students from schools and colleges in England. Find out more about the PARTNERS Programme.

English Language Requirements
Applicants whose first language is not English require a minimum score of IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

If you need help to meet our English Language requirements, we can provide support with extra tuition. Read more about UK visas and immigration requirements.

Other International Qualifications
ABB at A level is typically the minimum required for entry to an undergraduate course. You can check the equivalent grades for qualifications offered in your country.

International Foundation Programmes
If you are an international student and you do not meet the academic and English language requirements specified above, you should consider a pre-sessional course at INTO Newcastle University, which will help to prepare you for study on this degree course.

INTO Newcastle University is based on the University campus and offers a range of courses including the International Foundation in Biological and Biomedical Sciences.

Undergraduate Admissions Policy
See our Admissions Policy 2017 Entry (PDF: 109 KB). See further policies related to admission.
Careers

Zoology careers
The wide range of skills that you learn as a zoology student opens the door to a variety of career options. Recent graduates have progressed to:

- commercial or medical laboratory based positions, in areas such as electrophoresis, microbiology and quality control
- conservation work and animal care
- advanced study, specialising in areas such as biomedical science, conservation, animal behaviour, and environmental consultancy

About a third of our graduates use their degree as a stepping stone to other diverse careers, such as financial roles, teaching, business and commercial positions.

Find out more about the career options for Biological Sciences from Prospects: The UK’s Official Careers Website.

What our graduates go on to do: employment and further study choices
See what our recent graduates went on to do and view graduate destinations statistics. These statistics are based on what graduates were doing on a specific date, approximately six months after graduation. The most recent data available is for graduates who completed their course in 2014/15.

The destination data is available in varying levels, beginning with the University and moving through Faculty and School down to individual course reports. This final level may give you some useful ideas about possible options after your course or a course you are considering.

Careers and employability at Newcastle
Newcastle University consistently has one of the best records for graduate employment in the UK.

94% of our 2014/15 UK/EU graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating.

Of our graduates who entered employment 85% were in a professional or managerial position.

We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through an initiative called ncl+. This enables you to develop personal, employability and enterprise skills and to give you the edge in the employment market after you graduate.

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers.

Fees & Funding

Tuition Fees (UK students)
2018 entry*: Tuition fees for 2018-19 have not yet been confirmed. Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

2017 entry*: £9,250 in 2017-18 For programmes where you can spend a year on a work placement or studying abroad, you will receive a significant fee reduction for that year. Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.*Please note:
The maximum fee that we are permitted to charge for UK students is set by the UK government.

As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation.

See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Tuition Fees (EU students)
2018 entry*: Tuition fees for 2018-19 have not yet been confirmed. EU students starting at Newcastle in 2018 will pay the UK (Home) tuition fee for the full duration of their course.

Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

2017 entry*: £9,250 in 2017-18 EU students starting at Newcastle in 2017 will pay the UK (Home) tuition fee for the full duration of their course.

For programmes where you can spend a year on a work placement or studying abroad, you will receive a significant fee reduction for that year. Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

*Please note:
The maximum fee that we are permitted to charge for UK (Home) students commencing studies in 2017-18 or 2018-19 is set by the UK government.

As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation.

See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.
Tuition Fees (International students)

2018 entry:
£21,000 per year
You will be charged tuition fees for each year of your degree programme (unless you are on a shorter exchange programme).
If you spend a year on placement or studying abroad as part of your degree you may pay a reduced fee for that year.
Please note that the tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year as a result of inflation.
See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Scholarships and Financial Support (UK students)
You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.
Newcastle University Scholarships
Government financial support
There are also scholarships available for particular subjects.

Scholarships and Financial Support (EU students)
You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.
Newcastle University Scholarships
Government financial support
There are also scholarships available for particular subjects.

Scholarships and Financial Support (International students)
You may be eligible for an International Family Discount (IFD).
There are also scholarships available for particular subjects.

To apply for undergraduate study at Newcastle you must use the online application system managed by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

UCAS codes for Newcastle University
• institution name - NEWC
• institution code - N21

UCAS buzzword
Ask your teacher or adviser from your school or college for the UCAS buzzword. You need the buzzword when you register on the Apply system. This makes it clear which school or college you are applying from.
All UK schools and colleges and a small number of EU and international establishments are registered with UCAS.
If you are applying independently, or are applying from a school or college which is not registered to manage applications, you will still use the Apply system. You will not need a buzzword.

Making your application
On the UCAS website you can also find out more about:
• application deadlines and other important dates
• offers and tracking your application

Application decisions and enquiries
Find out more about our admissions process and who to contact if you need help with your application.

Apply

Applying to Newcastle University through UCAS

The scenic quayside is a short walk from campus.
Notes

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees
  www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate

- To watch videos about student life in Newcastle, visit
  www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle

- Visit www.ncl.ac.uk/tour to take virtual tours of the campus and the city

- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person
  www.ncl.ac.uk/openday

- Contact us online at
  www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries
  or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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Full details of the University’s terms and conditions, including reference to all relevant policies, procedures, regulations and information provision, are available at
www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations

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