Zoology
BSc Honours
UCAS code C300
3 Years

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**

**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**

You have the opportunity to take part in a study abroad exchange in your second year through our non-EU exchange scheme.

Opportunities exist in Canada, the USA and Australia. Alternatively you can arrange to study abroad for one semester.

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.

**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

Take a virtual tour at www.ncl.ac.uk/tour
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.

Course Details

Modules for 2018 entry

Please note
The module and/or programme information below is for 2018 entry. Our teaching is informed by research and modules change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, student feedback, or insufficient numbers of students interested (in an optional module). To find out more read our terms and conditions.

Module/programme information for 2019 entry will be published here as soon as it is available (end of May 2019).

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. Further information, including the credit value of the module, is available in each of the module descriptions below.

Stage 1

Compulsory modules
ACE1013 Introduction to Genetics
BIO1001 Cell Biology
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
Stage 2

BIO2014 Animal Physiology
BIO2020 Experimental Design and Statistics for Biologists
BIO2022 Molecular Biology and Development
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.

Stage 3

*BYou can take either BIO3010 or BIO3036; both must be taken prior to Stage 3
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 2019 entry.
A Levels
AAA-AAB 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-AABBB 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-H1H1H2H2H3 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
BBB 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, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 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, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 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.

We will also consider your application if you have lower or non-standard qualifications.

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 2018 Admissions Policy (PDF: 185 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. Take a look at the most recent data available for our graduates.

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.

96% of our 2017 UK-domiciled UG/PG graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating.

85.5% of our graduates are in graduate level employment or further study within six months of graduating.

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.

Fees & Funding

Tuition Fees (UK students)

2019 entry: £9,250

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, as measured by RPIX*.

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

*TPIX is a measure of inflation in the UK, equivalent to all the items in the Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest payments.

Tuition Fees (EU students)

2019 entry: £9,250

You will pay the same tuition fees as UK students for the duration of your 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:
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, as measured by RPIX*.

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

*TPIX is a measure of inflation in the UK, equivalent to all the items in the Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest payments.

Tuition Fees (International students)

2019 entry*: £22,110

*Please note:
Tuition Fees (International students)

You will be charged tuition fees for each year of your degree programme (unless you are on a shorter exchange programme).

The tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year as a result of inflation, as measured by RPIX**.

If you spend a year on placement or studying abroad as part of your degree you may pay a reduced fee for that year.

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

**RPIX is a measure of inflation in the UK, equivalent to all the items in the Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest payments.

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

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

Scholarships and Financial Support (International students)

We offer a range of scholarships to eligible international students:

Vice-Chancellor’s International Scholarships
Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence Scholarships
Vice-Chancellor’s Global Scholarships

We also offer International Family Discounts which are available for all international students with a close family member who has graduated from or is now studying at Newcastle University.

Some of our subject scholarships and sports scholarships are also available for international students.

Apply

Applying to Newcastle University through UCAS

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.
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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