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
**Support**

To support you in your studies, all new students entering year 1 or year 2 will receive a tablet. This enables you to download the online learning resources you’ll need for your course and helps us to make our campus more sustainable.

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 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.

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**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.

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**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

- *You can take either BIO3010 or BIO3036; both must be taken prior to Stage 3
- Other optional modules may also be available.

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
- 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

Stage 3

Compulsory modules
- BIO3001 Animal Ecophysiology
- BIO3037 Current Zoology
- BIO3044 Behavioural Ecology
- BIO3046 Hormones and Behaviour

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
- 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

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.

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.

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)

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.

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

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.

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

Tuition Fees (International students)

2019 entry*:
£22,110
*Please note:
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.
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.

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.

Students relaxing on The Union Lawn.