Biology and Psychology
BSc Joint Honours
UCAS code CC18
3 Years

This BPS-accredited degree allows you to combine the study of animal, plant and human biology with the study of human and animal behaviour.

This degree is for 2017 entry. For 2018 entry, see Psychology and Biology BSc Joint Honours (C8C1).

In Biology, you will study all forms of life, from micro-organisms to mammals, with topics including:
- ecology and biodiversity
- evolution and genetics

In Psychology, you will explore why humans and animals think and behave as they do, through topics like:
- cognitive psychology
- evolutionary psychology and medicine

You will enjoy a high level of laboratory work in this degree: taking part in experiments, running your own, and analysing the results.

Highlights of this degree
Quality and ranking
The quality of the Biology study experience at Newcastle is recognised with a very impressive overall satisfaction score of 92% in the National Student Survey 2015, ranking us 7th in the UK. Biological Sciences at Newcastle also ranks in the top 150 universities in the world in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017.

Psychology at Newcastle is highly regarded, achieving a 93% overall student satisfaction score and ranking us in the top 20 in the UK in the 2017 National Student Survey. We also rank in the top 20 UK universities in The Times and Sunday Times University Guide 2017, The Guardian University Guide 2018 and The Complete University Guide 2018. In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017, Psychology ranks in the top 200 universities in the world.

Professional accreditation
This degree is professionally accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Having Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership means you can join the BPS and go on to further training or practice in psychology.

For information on the benefits of studying an accredited course, visit the BPS website.

Boost your employability with a work placement
Once you are here, you can apply to incorporate a 9 to 12 month work placement between Stages 2 and 3. This is subject to availability and extends your degree to four years.

Some placements will be advertised for you to apply for. We also provide you with support to find your own placement, including help writing applications.

Your placement year will make you stand out in the graduate job market. It provides an invaluable opportunity to:
- apply your knowledge in a practical context
- further develop your professional and clinical skills
- gain demonstrable work experience to showcase your skills to future employers

Find out more about Work Placements.

About Biology and Psychology joint honours
By studying two subjects, you develop a broad range of expertise and a set of skills that spans two specialist areas, equipping you for a range of careers.

Mastering two subjects together means you are well-prepared for the multidisciplinary challenges of the real world, developing the skills that employers value, such as:
- time management
- organisation
- self-motivation

You select from the same range of topics as Single Honours students and achieve the same high academic standard, but you cover fewer topics in each subject. The topics are closely linked to our research expertise, meaning you study at the cutting edge of the discipline.

You receive careers support in the form of a career development module personally tailored to your professional development. There’s also excellent support on offer from the University’s award-winning Careers Service.

Facilities
School of Natural and Environmental Sciences
In the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, you will have access to:
- purpose-built teaching laboratories
- two University farms in Northumberland, which are used as demonstration facilities for students
- the University-led Great North Museum, adjacent to campus, which houses many interesting and important biological collections

Take a virtual tour at www.ncl.ac.uk/tour
School of Psychology
You will also spend considerable time in the School of Psychology, offering:

- purpose-built research building
- modern, practical facilities for carrying out experiments
- extensive computing facilities

Support
You’ll be part of the community in the two schools that deliver your teaching: the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences and the School of Psychology. The School of Psychology is the administrative home of the joint honours degree in Biology and Psychology.

You’ll receive support from:

- academic advisers for **both of your subject areas**
- a **personal tutor** throughout your degree – an academic member of staff who can help with academic and personal issues
- a **peer mentor** in your first year – a fellow student who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have
- **student buddies** to guide you through the early weeks

Social activities
Social events are organised by BioSoc (the biology student society) and PsychoSoc (the psychology student society).

Our Student Forum is a popular place to relax.

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
- PSY1012 Introduction to Psychology for Joint Honours Students
- BIO1001 Cell Biology 1
- BIO1005 Evolution
- BIO1006 Ecology
- BIO1019 Introductory Biochemistry for Biologists
- PSY1004 Cognitive Psychology
- PSY1005 Sensation and Perception
- PSY1006 Instinct, Learning and Motivation
- PSY1011 Research Methods and Skills 2

**Optional modules**

- You take 40 credits from the following list:
- BIO2004 Plant Biology 2

**Stage 2**

**Compulsory modules**

- BIO2014 Animal Physiology
- BIO2022 Molecular Biology and Development
- PSY2001 Developmental Psychology
- PSY2003 Social Psychology
- PSY2004 Individual Differences
- PSY2007 Biological Psychology: Sex, Drugs, Rhythms and Blues
- PSY2009 Methods in Psychology 2A
- PSY2010 Statistics for Experimental Psychology
- PSY2015 Introduction to Professional Skills

**Optional modules**

- You take 40 credits from the following list:
- BIO2004 Plant Biology 2
Stage 2
BIO2006 Entomology
BIO2008 Evolutionary and Population Genetics
BIO2013 Animal Behaviour
BIO2017 Microbiology 2
BIO2028 Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation
BIO2029 Vertebrate Biology
BIO2031 Biotechnology 1: Principles and Theory

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.

Stage 3
Compulsory modules
PSY3029 Professional Skills
PSY3097 Empirical Project

Optional modules
You take at least 20 credits (and a maximum of 40 credits) from the following list:
PSY3001 Evolution and Behaviour*
PSY3002 Evolutionary Psychology and Medicine
PSY3006 Consumer Psychology
PSY3008 Art, Mind and Brain
PSY3009 Cooperation
PSY3033 Eating and Weight Disorders
PSY3016 Sex and Human Nature
PSY3018 The Damaged Brain: Case Studies in Neuropsychology
PSY3020 Face Perception
PSY3022 The Psychology of Financial Decision Making
PSY3026 Psychology of Religion
PSY3027 Disorders of Development: A Psychological Perspective
PSY3028 Work Psychology
PSY3030 Foundations in Forensic Psychology
PSY3031 The Psychology of Teaching and Learning
PSY3039 Clinical Sports and Exercise Psychology
PSY3041 Sensation and Perception in Atypical Development
*If you choose PSY3001 you can’t choose BIO3044 (below)
You take at least 40 credits (and a maximum of 60 credits) from the following list:
ACE3049 Companion Animal Behaviour*
BIO3001 Animal Ecophysiology
BIO3016 Mechanisms of Behaviour*
BIO3019 Genomics

Teaching and assessment

Study at the cutting edge
Research-informed teaching plays an important role at Newcastle. It shapes the content of our undergraduate degrees and makes sure that you have the chance to cover the most up-to-date theories and discoveries in your subject.

Our teaching is strongly informed by the research we are doing in the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences and the School of Psychology.

Teaching methods
Teaching methods include:
- lectures
- laboratory and field practical classes
- computer sessions
- field trips

You’ll be taught the skills essential to carrying out research such as conducting experiments, analysing and interpreting data, and writing up research reports.

Assessment methods
You’ll be assessed by a mixture of course work, examinations and written assignments.

Find out more
Visit our Teaching & 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
AAA-AAB including Biology (at grade A) and preferably Chemistry, and excluding General Studies. Two science A levels are preferred. We include Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Statistics and Mathematics as science subjects. For Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels, we require a pass in the practical element. GCSE Mathematics grade B or 6 required if not offered at A or AS level.

Scottish Qualifications
Advanced Higher Biology (grade A) required and Advanced Higher Chemistry preferred. AAAAA-AAABB at Higher Grade preferably including Chemistry. Two sciences at Higher Grade are preferred. We include Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Statistics and Mathematics as science subjects.

Combinations of Highers and Advanced Highers accepted. Mathematics required at National 5, minimum grade B (or grade 2 Standard Grade or Intermediate 2 equivalent) if not offered at Higher Grade. Where a candidate bypasses the assessment for National 5 qualifications, a minimum of grade C in the Higher in Maths is required.

Scottish qualifications can be taken in more than one sitting.

International Baccalaureate
A minimum of 35 points with three subjects at Higher Level grade 6 or above including Biology. At least two sciences at Higher Level are preferred. We include Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Psychology and Chemistry as science subjects.

Standard Level Mathematics or Mathematical Studies required at grade 5 if not offered at Higher Level. At least one third of all subjects taken must be science/mathematics.

Irish Leaving Certificate
H1H1H1H2H3 at Higher Level, including Biology at grade H1 and Chemistry at grade H2 or above.

Access Qualifications
45 level 3 credits at Distinction including 15 credits each in mathematics, biological sciences and a third subject, preferably chemistry.

Cambridge Pre-U
D3,D3,D3-D3,D3,M2 in Principal Subjects including Biology (at grade D3) and preferably Chemistry. Two science subjects are preferred. We include Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Psychology and Chemistry as science subjects. GCSE Mathematics grade B or 6 required 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
AAB-BBB including Biology and preferably Chemistry, and excluding General Studies. Two sciences are preferred. We include Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Statistics and Mathematics as science A Levels. For Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels, we require a pass in the practical element. GCSE Mathematics grade B or 6 required 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.

English Language Requirements
Applicants whose first language is not English require a minimum score of IELTS 6.5 or equivalent including 6.5 in each of the four elements of the test.

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

Biology and Psychology careers
As a joint honours graduate, you will have:

- acquired the ability to research, evaluate and communicate information
- developed specialist subject knowledge, and practical and technical skills in two subject areas
• demonstrated your ability to study intellectually rigorous subjects and manage your workload effectively
These are all attractive traits to a range of graduate employers and are a strong foundation for a variety of educational and career opportunities.

Your employability will be further enhanced if you have taken advantage of work experience opportunities whilst at university.

Depending on subject combinations, joint honours in science graduates have very broad career options. Some graduates enter careers or advanced training related to one or both of their subject specialisms, such as further study in psychology.

Those graduates who enter employment outside their discipline find a flexible degree of this nature is highly valued in professions such as management, commerce and the civil service. Many employers look favourably on students who can demonstrate their abilities in more than one field.

Graduates who wish to pursue a career in teaching will find that they are suitably qualified to study for a PGCE in either discipline.

Find out more about the career options for Biology and Psychology 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.
Tuition Fees (EU students)
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:
Tuition fees for 2018-19 have not yet been confirmed.
2017 entry:
£17,935 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 a Vice Chancellor’s International Scholarship or an International Family Discount (IFD).

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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