The University of Nottingham
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For general undergraduate enquiries contact:

The Enquiry Centre
t: +44 (0)115 951 5559
e: undergraduate-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk
w: **www.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs**

School of Biology
Undergraduate study

www.nottingham.ac.uk/biology

Contents

Front cover image:
Our facilities allow for in-depth understanding of arachnology.

School of Biology
www.nottingham.ac.uk/biology

Welcome to the School of Biology

We hope that you enjoy this short introduction to the degrees offered by our school. Throughout all our courses, our approach is to encourage and help you in a programme of active learning, through which you can develop your understanding of modern advances in biology and genetics. Our teachers are also active in research, so you will receive the benefit of guidance from those at the cutting edge of the biological sciences.

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 well-being 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.

Professor John Armour
Head of the School of Biology

Catching up between lectures in the Portland Building food court on University Park Campus.

Why choose The University of Nottingham?

There are a lot of factors to consider when applying to university and some will be more important to you than others. We're proud that thousands of students apply to us every year – below are some of the reasons they give for choosing us.

An inspiring environment...

A commitment to academic excellence drives everything we do and has earned us international recognition. It is evident in our teaching and research and our recent results speak for themselves: in independent teaching assessments, 39 of our subjects were awarded "excellent" ratings of between 22 and 24 out of 24. Our scores in the latest Research Assessment Exercise rank Nottingham seventh in the UK in terms of "research power" and in 2010, we were runner-up for the Sunday Times University of the Year award.

...with great career prospects

Our high standards mean that a University of Nottingham degree is respected by both UK and foreign employers and the employment record of our graduates is one of the best in the country. If you want to improve your career prospects further, you can speak to experts in our Careers and Employability Service, gain recognition for your extracurricular achievements through the Nottingham Advantage Award or set up your own business with the help of our EnterpriseLab.

...not-to-be-missed opportunities

Outside of lectures, the opportunities at Nottingham are numerous and varied. All our campuses have a strong community spirit and our Students' Union (SU) offers over 250 societies and sports clubs. It's through them that you can pursue an existing interest or take up something new with like-minded people, develop valuable skills and generally make your time at university as rewarding and memorable as possible.

...access to a dynamic city

The city of Nottingham is another rich source of entertainment. Its attractions include bars, boutiques, the Capital FM Arena, shopping centres, an arboretum, pubs, theatres, an ice skating rink, cafes, markets, mainstream and independent cinemas, two professional football clubs, nightclubs and a climbing centre. Finding "your Nottingham" is an exciting part of student life.

...and options for exploring the world

If you're hoping to broaden your horizons further while at university, we have the connections to help you experience new cultures first-hand. As well as exchange opportunities at our campuses in Malaysia and China we have developed links to more than 320 partner universities in over 40 countries.

We hope this information has given you an insight into life at Nottingham and why so many students choose to study here. The next step is to book onto one of our open days, which take place in June and September. Attracting 35,000 visitors annually, these events are an opportunity to explore our campuses, chat to staff and current students and most importantly, get a feel for whether you will be happy here. To book your place, please see **www.nottingham.ac.uk/opendays**

We look forward to showing you around.

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"The campus is stunning and buzzing with activity, especially in the summer. The city itself has everything I could have wanted 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 outside of your course are numerous."

Zoology student

Outdoor studying on University Park Campus.

Botanical measurement in the Biology Building quadrangle.

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Why biology at Nottingham?

The School of Biology at The University of Nottingham is one of the leading biology schools in the UK and is recognised internationally for its world-class research portfolio and its excellence in teaching. Our research covers a broad spectrum of the biological sciences and is enhanced by institutes centred in the school, notably the Institute of Biophysics, Imaging and Optical Science and the Centre for Genetics and Genomics, one of Nottingham's flagship research groupings.

Our research interests are wide-ranging and span from fundamental studies in molecular and developmental biology, parasitology, microbiology and genome dynamics, through population biology, evolutionary genetics and animal behaviour, to human genetics, neuroscience and toxicology. We have over 40 academic staff and draw substantial research income from the UK research councils and many charities. Our success in teaching is reflected in our "excellent" rating (23/24) in the Teaching Quality Assessment exercise and owes much to our ability to include leading-edge research in the teaching curriculum. Around 80% of our graduating students achieve a 2:1 degree or higher.

Teaching takes place at the School of Biology on University Park Campus, and also in the Medical School. We have state-of-the-art lecture theatres and laboratories at both sites, with projects taking place in our research laboratories.

Teaching environment

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 well-being
- 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

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 Biology. 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 be 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.

“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/ugvideos/harryclifford**

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

Harry is looking at parasite frequency in a blood sample.

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Biology degree courses

Degree title	UCAS code	Duration
BSc Biology	C100	3 years
MSci Biology	C101	4 years
BSc Genetics	C400	3 years
MSci Genetics	C401	4 years
BSc Human Genetics	C410	3 years
MSci Human Genetics	C420	4 years
BSc Zoology	C300	3 years
MSci Zoology	C301	4 years
BSc Biochemistry and Genetics	CC47	3 years
MSci Biochemistry and Genetics	CC4R	4 years

"Lectures relate to lecturers' own research projects and are represented with great enthusiasm, making them more interesting and memorable."

Biology student

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BSc/MSci Biology

UCAS code: C100/C101

Course description

Biology is a science for those with adventurous minds. It extends from the complex ecology of the natural environment 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 underlie 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 study skills and tutorial 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. Optional modules are varied, and include plant biology, biodiversity and behavioural ecology field courses, behaviour, evolution, ecology, biological photography, genetics, endocrinology, parasitology, neurobiology, immunology, physiology and embryology.

Year three

In the third year, in addition to the compulsory bioethics module, the broad range of options available include plant biology, neuroscience, toxicology, evolution and behaviour, gene regulation, conservation, genetics, ecology, development, immunobiology, parasitology, cancer biology, biological photography 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.

BSc/MSci Genetics

UCAS code: C400/C401

Course description
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 the teaching and the research in the Centre for Genetics and Genomics.

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 study skills and tutorial 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 molecular evolution 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, 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, developmental genetics, population and conservation genetics, with a range of options including cancer genetics, DNA repair, 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.

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BSc/MSci Human Genetics

UCAS code: C410/C420

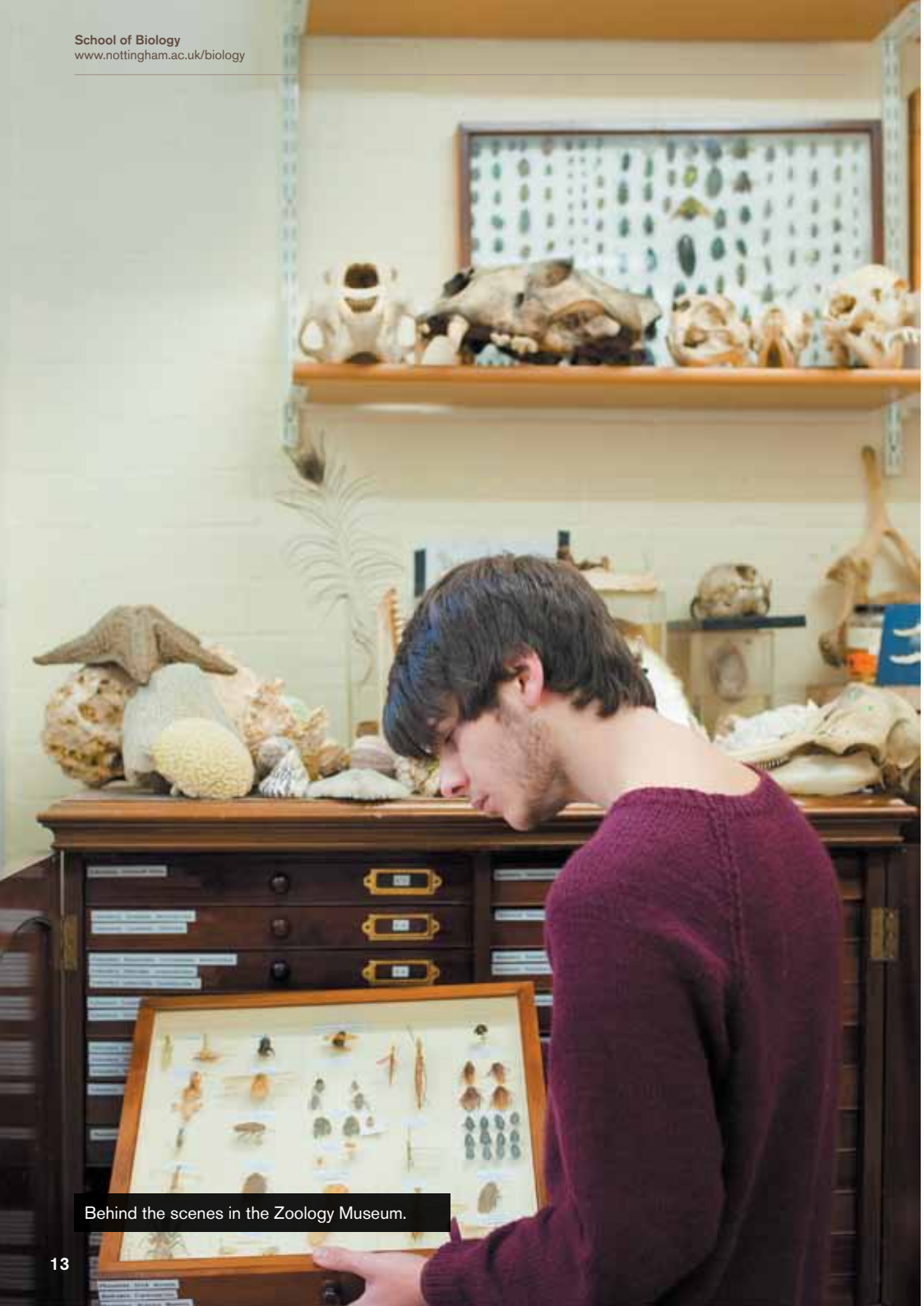
Course description
Due to developments over the last decade, especially the Human Genome Project, genetics and genetic technology now have a major impact on the understanding of human biology and disease. These courses provide a background in genetics with emphasis on the study of human disease and variation. In the human genetics degrees, undergraduates benefit from the close connection between the teaching and the research in the Centre for Genetics and Genomics.

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 study skills and tutorial 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 molecular evolution and bacterial genetics. Throughout the year, you will receive detailed training in investigating and writing about biology. Optional modules are varied, and include neurobiology, parasitology, biological photography, immunology, physiology, biotechnology and embryology.

Year three
In the third year, the course will introduce you to advanced level studies in gene regulation, human variation, inherited human disease and cancer genetics, with a range of options including bioethics, development, DNA repair, neuroscience and toxicology. 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.



Behind the scenes in the Zoology Museum.

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BSc/MSci Zoology

UCAS code: C300/C301

Course description

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. They offer modules ranging from conservation to immunobiology.

Year one

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

Year two

More advanced courses will be available, with great freedom of choice. You can choose 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 natural systems, the behavioural ecology field course, biological photography, molecular evolution, biotechnology and embryology.

Year three

In the third year, in addition to the compulsory bioethics module, the broad range of options available includes 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.

BSc/MSci Biochemistry and Genetics

UCAS code: CC47/CC4R

Course description

Many current advances in biology and medicine rely on the application of biochemical and genetic methods, generating an increased national demand for graduates with expertise in biochemistry and molecular genetics. These single honours courses provide a thorough, modern training in both biochemistry and genetics, emphasising common areas, such as molecular biology, genetic engineering and biotechnology.

These courses are taught jointly with the biochemistry teaching group of the School of Biomedical Sciences. For more information about this school, please see **www.nottingham.ac.uk/biomedsci**

Year one

In the first year you will study fundamental aspects of cell biology, biochemistry, genetics, cellular control and experimental design and analysis, together with essential chemistry. These courses are supported by practical studies in cell biology, biochemistry and genetics, with optional courses in biology, microbiology and physiology. A study skills and tutorial module will equip you for your course.

Year two

In the second year your studies will continue in greater depth, covering protein and gene structure and function, genomes and chromosomes, biochemical signals, bacterial genetics and metabolic regulation. You will also have laboratory classes in protein function. Optional classes include medical molecular genetics, gene cloning, molecular embryology and a dissertation.

Year three

A major feature of the third year is the individual research project. You will also take courses in gene regulation, advanced biochemistry, biochemical data analysis and the biochemistry of disease. A range of optional courses available includes development, DNA repair, cancer genetics, population genetics and human variation.

Year four (MSci students only)

In year four, you will take a set of modules which will expose you to the latest developments in biochemistry and genetics, and equip you with the tools to plan and carry out research and to 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.

For more details about any of our courses, please see **www.nottingham.ac.uk/biology**

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Preparing plates to grow bacteria in the microbiology lab.

Course structures

All our degree courses are available as a three-year BSc course and a four-year MSci course.

All courses are modular, which means you will take a series of modules with varying credit ratings. All students must complete 120 credits worth of modules per year; most modules are worth 10 credits.

The three-term year is split into two semesters, with autumn-semester modules being examined at the end of the semester in January, and spring-semester modules being examined at the end of the semester in May/June.

The first year is a qualifying year that does not contribute to the final degree classification, while the second year of the BSc makes a smaller contribution (30%) to the final degree assessment than the third year.

For the MSci degrees, the third and fourth years count equally towards the final award with the second year again making a smaller contribution (20%).

How do we teach?

Teaching includes lectures and practical classes, with coursework, workshops and problem classes, all supported by the tutorial programme. 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. In the first and second years, scheduled lecture and practical classes will typically take 20 hours per week, a figure which reduces in the third and fourth years, because of the increased emphasis on private study and research.

Is there a year of industrial placement?

We do not require you to take a year of industrial experience between the second and third years of your course, but we are happy for you to do so.

How will I be assessed?

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.

Preparing and analysing DNA using the UV visualisation machine.

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 (graduated 2009)

"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 in 2010 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 (graduated 2010)

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"What greatly appealed to me was the unique nature of the course; it was the only one from a top university to combine two exciting fields into a single honours degree. Year one gave a good grounding in basic scientific principles, enabling me to choose more advanced and specialised modules in years two and three. Laboratory skills were emphasised throughout the course, culminating in a research project in my final year.

I enjoyed my time here so much that I decided to stay on and do a masters degree in stem cell technology. Exposure to research at Nottingham convinced me to continue in academia, and I am currently a PhD student at the University of Birmingham studying the effect of mesenchymal stem cells in liver disease. My degree from Nottingham was certainly an advantage when applying, and the laboratory training I received has proved invaluable during my doctoral studies.

I see myself sticking with a career in science, either in further academia or in the private sector. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the University, and strongly recommend this course to anyone interested in a career in science!"

Shankar Suresh
BSc Biochemistry and Genetics (graduated 2009)

"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 (graduated 2010)

Careers

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: genetic counselling, oncology, bioinformatics, business and technology, biological photography and imaging, forensic medicine and ecology.

Typical graduate destinations

Further examples of occupations and areas of further study that our graduates have gone into include:

- advertising
- the army
- medicine
- midwifery
- personnel and recruitment
- pharmacy
- photography
- public health
- public relations
- scientific administration
- veterinary science
- wildlife and conservation management

Jobs

Other possibilities include:

- business and technology
- civil service
- clinical science management
- computing
- financial services
- forensics
- hospital laboratory diagnosis
- law
- patent law
- teaching

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Students discussing science in the Biology Building foyer.

Applying for a place

Eligibility

For all degrees, the school welcomes applicants who have a strong commitment to study in their chosen biological discipline. All applications are assessed individually, but the following guidelines give an idea of the offers that might be expected.

Biology

Typical A level offer for 2013 entry:
C100/C101 – AAB*
Typical IB offer for 2013 entry:
C100/C101 – 34**
Entry requirements: 3 A2 levels to include biology and a second science, preferably from chemistry, physics or mathematics. Geography may also be considered if in combination with a second science at AS level.

Zoology

Typical A level offer for 2013 entry:
C300/C301 – AAB*
Typical IB offer for 2013 entry:
C300/C301 – 34**
Entry requirements: 3 A2 levels to include biology and a second science, preferably from chemistry, physics or mathematics. Geography or psychology may also be considered if taken in combination with a second science at AS level.

Genetics

Typical A level offer for 2013 entry:
C400/C401 – AAB*
Typical IB offer for 2013 entry:
C400/C401 – 34**
Entry requirements: 3 A2 levels, which must include biology and a second science, and chemistry to at least AS level. GCSE mathematics grade C if not passed at A2/AS level.

Biochemistry and Genetics

Typical A level offer for 2013 entry:
CC47 – AAB/BBB; CC4R – AAB*
Typical IB offer for 2013 entry: CC47 – 34/32; CC4R – 34**
Entry requirements: 3 A2 levels. A level chemistry. A level biology or mathematics preferred; AS level or GCSE mathematics if not at A level.

Human Genetics

Typical A level offer for 2013 entry:
C410/C420 – AAB*
Typical IB offer for 2013 entry:
C410/C420 – 34**
Entry requirements: 3 A2 levels, which must include biology and a second science, and chemistry to at least AS level. GCSE mathematics grade C if not passed at A2/AS level.

International applicants

We welcome international applications. A typical offer based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) would be 32-34 points (with appropriate English language qualifications). The school offers scholarships for international undergraduate students. For further details of scholarships, please visit our website:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/international

* For details of A level entry requirements for 2012, please contact us using the details on page 26.
** For details of IB entry requirements for 2012, please contact us using the details on page 26.

School of Biology
www.nottingham.ac.uk/biology

Tuition fees

Like many universities in England, Nottingham will charge full-time UK and EU students an annual tuition fee of £9,000 in 2012/13. 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, please see
www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees

Fees for students from outside the EU vary from subject to subject. For more information, please see the "New international students" section on
www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees

Scholarships

Over a third of students at Nottingham are likely to be eligible for a non-repayable University of Nottingham Core Bursary. Some students will also be eligible for support through Nottingham Potential Bursaries and the National Scholarship Programme.

These are in addition to any support you may receive from the government. For more information please see
www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport

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

Disability

In the School of Biology 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 Biology is Dr Paul Dyer. He 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

Further information
Disability contact: Dr Paul Dyer
t: +44 (0)115 951 3203
f: +44 (0)115 951 3251
e: paul.dyer@nottingham.ac.uk

Frequently asked questions

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.

Does the school help in finding placements if I want to take a year in industry?
We will be supportive and tutors will try to help where possible.

Do you accept mature applicants?
We encourage applications from students who will be over 21 at the start of their course. We consider a range of qualifications and work experience. Mature applicants may be invited to attend an interview.

What accommodation is available?
You will be guaranteed University accommodation for your first year as long as you firmly accept your offer to study here and we receive your accommodation application by 1 August. For further information please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

In the second year many of our students choose to live in affordable private housing near to the campus.

When can I visit the University?
We offer plenty of opportunities to visit us and encourage you to take them up. Please see page 26 for details.

Is it possible to take a gap year?
Yes, the school is normally happy to consider applications for deferred entry.

Visiting and contacting us

We are always keen to welcome prospective undergraduates onto our beautiful campus, be it on one of our open days or a campus tour day.

Open days
If you're considering applying to The University of Nottingham you should try to attend one of the University-wide open days, which are held in June and September each year. Find out more: www.nottingham.ac.uk/opendays

Campus tour days
The University runs tours of University Park Campus on some Wednesdays throughout the year. For further information or to book a place on a campus tour day, please contact the Enquiry Centre on +44 (0)115 951 5559 or email undergraduate-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk

UCAS visit days
All candidates who receive an offer are invited to a UCAS visit day, which is an opportunity for you to see the school and the University for yourself. You will hear about the school and its courses from members of academic staff and they will answer any questions you might have. You will also be given a short tour of the campus by current students.

Contacting us
For further information, please contact:
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