Programme Regulations: 2026/27

Programme Titles:
Degree of Bachelor of Science with Honours in Biology - UCAS Code: C100
Degree of Bachelor of Science with Honours in Biology with Placement Year - Code: 1143U
Degree of Bachelor of Science with Honours in Biology with Study Abroad – Code 1573U
Degree of Master of Biology with Honours in Biology – UCAS Code: C103 (Withdrawn from 2024 entry)
Degree of Master of Biology with Honours in Biology with Placement Year – Code: 1140U (Withdrawn from 2024 entry)
Degree of Master of Biology with Honours in Biology with International Study Year – Code 1842U (Withdrawn from 2024 entry)

Notes
(i) These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Taught Programme Regulations.
(ii) All optional modules are offered subject to the constraints of the timetable and to any restrictions on the number of students who may be taught on a particular module. Not all modules may be offered in all years and they are listed subject to availability.
(iii) A compulsory module is a module which a student is required to study.
(iv) All modules are delivered in Linear mode unless stated otherwise as Block, eLearning or distance learning.
(v) *Full-time students must select modules having a total credit value of not less than 50 and not more than 70 in any one semester. Exceptional variations to this standard may only be approved by the Degree Programme Director.*

1. Stage 1

(a) All candidates shall take the following compulsory modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
NES1300	Genetics and Evolution	20		20	4	
NES1302	Ecology and Conservation	20		20	4	
NES1303	Biomolecules – the Biochemical Basis of Life	20	20		4	
NES1504	Skills for the Biosciences	20	20		4	

(b) All candidates shall take 40 credits of optional modules from the following list:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
NES1000	Crop Health	10		10	4	
NES1003	Animal Health	10		10	4	
NES1004	Introduction to Animal Physiology	10		10	4	
NES1301	Molecular Biology of the Cell	20	20		4	
NES1502	Animal Life	20	20		4	

With the approval of the Stage Co-ordinator or Degree Programme Director, alternative optional modules to those listed above may be selected.

2. Stage 2

(a) All candidates shall take the following compulsory module:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
NES2504	Professional Skills for Bioscientists	20	20		5	

Students may opt to select modules below from a specific recommended route and modules for the two routes are indicated:

i. Recommended optional modules for students wishing to base their stage 2 on Ecology are denoted with E in the subject column

ii. Recommended optional modules for student wishing to base their stage 2 on Molecular Biology are denoted with M in the subject column

(b) All candidates shall take <u>one</u> of the following optional modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES2310*	Insect Biology and Ecology	20	20		5		E
NES2304	Microbial Biochemistry	20	20		5		M

*NES2310 field course takes place prior to Stage 2

(c) All candidates shall also take <u>one</u> of the following optional modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES2305	Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation	20		20	5		E
NES2306	Biotechnology: Principles and Practice	20		20	5		M

(d) All candidates shall also take <u>one</u> of the following optional modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES2307	Animal Function (Physiology and Development)	20	20		5		E
NES2308	The Life of Plants	20	20		5		M

(e) Candidates will take optional modules to the value of 40 from the following list:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES2309	Evolution and Behaviour	20		20	5		
NES2312	Field-based Ecology: designing experiments, and residential field course	20		20	5		
NES2314*	Vertebrate Biology and Ecology	20		20	5		
NES2501	Tropical Marine Ecology	20		20	5		

*NES2314 field course takes place prior to Stage 2

(g) With the approval of the Stage Co-ordinator or Degree Programme Director, an alternative optional module to those listed above may be selected with a total value of not more than 20 credits.

Commented [PF1]: States Block on MOFS. Is this correct?

Commented [LG2R1]: Incorrect as there are sessions across the Semester.

For Master of Biology candidates: To progress to Stage 3 candidates are required to obtain an average over all modules taken at Stage 2 of at least 50 at the first attempt.

3. Year 3 (Placement Year) – Programme Code 1143U only

On completion of Stage 2 and before entering Stage 3, candidates may as part of their studies for the degree spend a year at an approved institution. Permission to undertake the intercalating year is subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director. Students who are required to re-sit their Stage 2 assessment must delay the start of their intercalating year until they have done so. Students who fail Stage 2 may not complete a placement year.

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
NCL3000	Career Service Placement Year Module	120	60	60	6	

4. Year 3 - International Study Year – Programme Code 1573U Only

On completion of Stage 2 and before entering Stage 3, candidates may spend the equivalent of one academic year abroad at an appropriate exchange partner institution. Permission to undertake a year abroad is subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director. Students who are required to re-sit their Stage 2 assessment must delay the start of their year abroad until they have done so. Students who fail Stage 2 may not complete a year abroad.

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
ISY3000	International Study Year Module	120	60	60	6	

If a pass mark is obtained, in addition to a student meeting the criteria for the BSc in Biology, then the degree of BSc Biology with Study Abroad will be awarded. Failure to pass the Study Abroad year will result in the candidate being transferred to the BSc (Hons) Biology award.

5. Stage 3

(i) Candidates who commenced their studies prior to September 2025

(a) All candidates shall take the following compulsory module:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
NES3505	Research Project	40	20	20	6	

Students may opt to select modules from a specific recommended route and modules for the three routes are indicated:

i. Recommended optional modules for students wishing to base their stage 3 on Ecology are denoted with E in the subject column
ii. Recommended optional modules for students wishing to base their stage 3 on General Biology are denoted with G in the subject column
iii. Recommended optional modules for student wishing to base their stage 3 on Molecular Biology are denoted with M in the subject column

(b) All candidates shall take one of the following modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES3302	Current Research in Ecology	20	20		6		*E*
NES3309	Current Research in Molecular Life Sciences	20	20		6		*M*
NES3314	Current Zoology	20	20		6		*E*

(c) All candidates shall also take one of the following modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES3306	Physiological Zoology	20		20	6		*E*
NES3307	Microbial Genomics	20		20	6		*M*

(d) All candidates shall also take one of the following modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES3301	Biodiversity Science and Management	20		20	6		*E*
NES3308	Advances in Plant Science Research	20		20	6		
NES3501	Global Challenges & Solutions	20		20	6		

(e) Candidates shall take 20 credits of optional modules from the following list.

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES3012	Animal Welfare & Behaviour	20	10	10	6		
NES3305	Biological Modelling	20	20		6		
NES3313	Africa Field Course: Conservation and Ecology*	20	20		6		*E*

*NES3313 takes place prior to Stage 3

(d) With the approval of the Stage Co-ordinator or Degree Programme Director, an alternative optional module to those listed above may be selected with a total value of not more than 20 credits.

For Master of Biology candidates only: To progress to Stage 4 candidates are required to obtain an average over all modules taken at Stage 3 of at least 50 at the first attempt.

(i) Candidates commencing their studies from September 2025

(a) All candidates shall take the following compulsory module:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
NES3505	Research Project	40	20	20	6	

Students may opt to select modules from a specific recommended route and modules for the three routes are indicated:

iv. Recommended optional modules for students wishing to base their stage 3 on Ecology are denoted with E in the subject column
v. Recommended optional modules for students wishing to base their stage 3 on General Biology are denoted with G in the subject column
vi. Recommended optional modules for student wishing to base their stage 3 on Molecular Biology are denoted with M in the subject column

(b) All candidates shall take one of the following modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES3302	Current Research in Ecology	20	20		6		*E*
NES3309	Current Research in Molecular Life Sciences	20	20		6		*M*
NES3314	Current Zoology	20	20		6		*E*

(c) All candidates shall also take one of the following modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES3306	Physiological Zoology	20		20	6		*E*
NES3307	Microbial Genomics	20		20	6		*M*

(f) All candidates shall also take one of the following modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES3301	Biodiversity Science and Management	20		20	6		*E*
NES3501	Global Challenges & Solutions	20		20	6		

(g) Candidates shall take 20 credits of optional modules from the following list.

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*	*Subject*
NES3012	Animal Welfare & Behaviour	20	10	10	6		
NES3305	Biological Modelling	20	20		6		
NES3308	Advances in Plant Science Research	20	20		6		*G, M*
NES3313	Africa Field Course: Conservation and Ecology*	20	20		6		*E*

*NES3313 takes place prior to Stage 3.

Commented [PF3]: Credits are In Sem 2 on MOFS. Please confirm.

Commented [LG4R3]: NES3308 will remain as Semester 2 next academic year 26/27, but move to Semester 1 from 27/28 (students who commenced their studies from September 2025) due to credit split of the new Stage 3 curriculum post-review.

With the approval of the Stage Co-ordinator or Degree Programme Director, an alternative optional module to those listed above may be selected with a total value of not more than 20 credits. In particular, the following module may be selected without the need for DPD approval:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*
NCL3007	Career Development for third year students	20	10	10	6

*If NCL2007 Career Development was taken at Stage 2, students will not be able to take NCL3007.

6. Stage 4 (MBiol programmes only)

Candidates who commenced their studies prior to September 2025

(a) All candidates shall take one of the following compulsory modules:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
NES8300	Research Project	60	30	30	7	
NES8301	Research Project	60		60	7	

(a) All candidates shall take 60 credits of optional modules normally selected from the following list:

Code	*Descriptive title*	*Total Credits*	*Credits Sem 1*	*Credits Sem 2*	*Level*	*Mode*
MMB8003	The Biological Study of Behaviour	20	20		7	Linear
MMB8054	Theoretical Aspects of Animal Welfare	20	20		7	Linear
MMB8055	Practical Aspects of Animal Welfare	20	20		7	Linear
NES8010	Quantitative Ecological Research Methods	20	20		7	Block
NES8302	Global challenges: biotech solutions	20	20		7	Block
NES8304	Practical Techniques in Molecular Biology	20	20		7	Block
NES8305	Biotechnology: Advanced Topics	20	20		7	Block
NES8312	Geographical Information systems and Remote Sensing	20		20	7	Block
NES8317	Biodiversity Policy: Global and National Processes	20		20	7	Block
NES8500	Understanding Marine Ecosystems	20	20		7	Block

Module selection at stage 4 is subject to timetabling. Similarly, alternative optional modules to those listed above may be selected but only with the approval of the Degree Programme Director.

7. Assessment methods

Details of the assessment pattern for each module are explained in the module outline.

8. Degree classification

Candidates will be assessed for degree classification on the basis of all the modules taken at Stages 2 and 3 with the weighting of the stages being 1:3 for Stage 2 and Stage 3 respectively.

MBiol candidates will be assessed for degree classification on the basis of all the modules taken at Stages 2, 3 and 4 with the weighting of the stages being 1:2:3 for Stages 2, 3 and 4 respectively.