

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences [Progression route]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	FdSc in related subject area (such as FdSc Practical Life Sciences) All applicants are required to hold GCSE English and Maths at Grade C/4 or above (or equivalent)
Delivering Institution(s)	East Coast College (Lowestoft Campus)
UCAS Code	

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 6 in the 2021-22 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences is for those wanting to pursue and advance a career in the laboratory science sector, bringing together the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the discipline. The course contains a balance of the knowledge requirements, along with the practical skill development through a theoretical delivery model, for students to work in the biological science industry at laboratory associate level/professional (or equivalent). The module content will support students to evidence the requirements to apply for professional registration as a registered scientist (RSci) building on previous registered science technician (RSciTech) status achieved through the FdSc Practical Life Science programme or building on existing skills held by the applicant. The course will target students wanting to progress into an industry science career and those already employed in a biological scientist role wanting

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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further training and development. Biological scientists can be employed in a variety of types of technical work, such as veterinary and biomedical diagnostics, nutrition, laboratory analysis, research and development, environmental impact analysis etc.

The BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences provides a progression route for students completing the FdSc Practical life Sciences (or other relevant foundation degree in biological or laboratory science) wishing to build their skills, knowledge and understanding further to progress into the laboratory science sector. Students will study a range of laboratory linked modules and will complete their studies by completing a sector relevant project. The areas of study will provide a strong subject base and practical competence for either seeking related employment, progression within their current employer or going on to further study at level 7. Student can access this programme either as a standalone progression year degree course or through the Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship, where supported by an employer.

Course Aims

1. Provide an intellectually stimulating programme based upon the academic study and the knowledge and skills necessary for employment in a range of roles within the biological science sector
2. Develop an in-depth understanding of selected specialist subjects related to life sciences, and the wider context of the field, demonstrating links to the National Occupational Standards and the relevant professional bodies such as the Royal Society of Biology;
3. Develop technical, transferable and professional skills appropriate to career development;
4. Develop scientific skills including planning experimental designs, collecting and analysing data, critically assessing the validity of results, communicating investigation outcomes.
5. Develop the ability to apply knowledge, skills and problem solving in a range of contexts;
6. To develop students as autonomous, analytical and evaluative learners through the ability to devise, plan and manage research projects appropriate to the level of study
7. Engender independence in students, with a focus on lifelong learning and continuous professional development.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)
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1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of life sciences and laboratory sciences, some of which is at the forefront of the discipline;
2. Demonstrate an ability to deploy accurately established practical techniques in life sciences;
3. Devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of the life science and laboratory sciences sector;
4. Describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in life sciences;
5. To identify and analyse areas within the life sciences sector where knowledge may require further development, where certainty has not been established or where conclusions are debated;
6. Demonstrate the ability to manage own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources;
7. Apply methods and techniques to review, consolidate, extend and apply knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out practical activity within the field of life sciences and laboratory sciences;
8. Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution or solutions to a problem;
9. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences;
10. Demonstrate initiative and personal responsibility with ability for decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts within the field of laboratory science.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / Competency Frameworks:

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) (QAA 2014)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Biosciences (2019)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Biomedical Sciences (2019)
- QAA Subject Benchmark statement Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2019)
- Level 6 Laboratory Scientist degree apprenticeship standard ST0626
- RSciTech/RSci competencies

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The course team are currently working towards obtaining the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) accreditation. This accreditation will recognise high quality teaching, curriculum delivery and practical skill set development as well as acknowledge of exceptional standard of training and support.

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences comprises modules at level 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 6			
	Advanced Cell Biology	20	R
	Evolution and Genomics	20	R
	Health and Mechanisms of Disease	20	R
	Applied Physiology	10	R
	Applied Data Science *	10	R
	Research Project (Laboratory Science Communication Project or Sector experimental research project)	40	M

* Applied Data Science module will hold core content and 2 learning outcomes that match that of the Data module in the BSc (Hons) Sustainable Futures degree top-up programme. This will allow for collaboration and joint delivery between the two different level 6 groups.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at East Coast College, Lowestoft Campus. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences are likely to have approximately 217 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar and practical activity. Students will normally be expected to undertake 25 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be predominantly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, and research projects), with at least one examination and at least one practical assessment.

Special Features

The course contains a balance of the knowledge requirements, along with the practical skill development through a theoretical delivery model, to support your progression into work in the biological science industry at laboratory associate level/professional (or equivalent). The module content will support you to evidence the requirements to apply for professional registration as a registered scientist (RSci) building on previous registered science technician (RSciTech) status achieved through the FdSc Practical Life Science programme or building on existing skills you hold. The course targets students wanting to progress into an industry science career and those already employed in a biological scientist role wanting further training and development. Biological scientists can be employed in a variety of types of technical work, such as veterinary, nutrition, laboratory analysis, research and development, environmental impact analysis etc. The course also provides the skills and knowledge to work as a biomedical scientist in fields like microbiology, immunology, pharmacology, etc.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Practical Life Sciences will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£13,725 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,287 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for any planned trips and visits. This will not exceed £600.

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Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).