

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Biology [with Foundation Year]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Royal Society of Biology
Credit Structure	Level 3: 120 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course	4 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Biology
Named Exit Awards	BSc Biology DipHE Biology CertHE Biology
Entry Requirements	A minimum of 80 UCAS tariff points, or equivalent. In addition, students must have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4/C or above (or equivalent) which must include Mathematics, English and Science. Entry requirements for both the full time and part time programmes are the same.
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk Ipswich
UCAS Code	C761

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Biology [with Foundation Year] course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2027-28 academic year¹.

¹ 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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Course Summary

This course is a well-rounded programme in the field of Biology; it contains a number of optional modules in level 5 and 6 that allow you to select specialisms matched to your interest and career aspirations. The course intends to furnish you with the knowledge and skills to become an employable life science graduate in a range of areas including, but not limited to laboratory work, research, biotechnology, teaching, agriculture, bio-sustainability, human health, global health, scientific journalism, pharmacology, ecotoxicology, and sustainability; many graduates from previous iterations of this programme also go on to further study at both masters and PhD level across the world. The course covers life from viruses and microbes through to plants, animals and humans; and discusses how each of these co-exists and can be utilised and managed for the greater good. We believe that this programme generates skilled graduates that would be comfortable and competent in a wide range of jobs in the growing life science sector.

Course Aims

- Enable students to develop a detailed knowledge of the complexity and diversity of the processes of life.
- Enable students to relate their knowledge to applied Biology.
- Provide students with the knowledge and skills required for employment, specifically within Biology, and more generally, graduate level employment.
- Develop the skills necessary for the coherent communication of scientific data and information.
- Develop students' ability to undertake, and critically evaluate the validity and reliability of a range of methodologies.
- Provide students with the skills required to critically evaluate current scientific research literature.
- Engage students with contemporary developments and research activity in Biology.
- Contribute to widening participation in science higher education in the region and raise the local and regional expertise in graduates within Biology disciplines.
- Enable students to become creative, innovative and independent learners.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Biology with Foundation Year 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)².

1. Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of contemporary research advances in Biology.
2. Use an interdisciplinary approach to apply the underlying principles of Biology.
3. Critically analyse the validity and reliability of a range of scientific techniques.
4. Evaluate the significance of experimental results with respect to scientific expectations

² As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)
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5. Obtain and integrate science based evidence to formulate and test current hypotheses relevant to Biology.
6. Design, plan, and conduct a research dissertation and critically evaluate the significance of the outcomes.
7. Demonstrate the acquisition of problem solving techniques including the ability to critically collate and analyse original research data and draw conclusions.
8. Demonstrate the acquisition of a range of specialist practical skills relevant to Biology with due regard to ethics and Health and Safety.
9. Demonstrate teamwork and other Graduate attributes.
10. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in undertaking a task e.g. dissertation, project.

Course Design

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

- QAA Benchmark Statements Biosciences (2023)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Biology with Foundation Year comprises modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 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 title	Credits	Module type	Block
Level 3 modules			
Scientific Study Skills	30	Requisite	1
Mathematics and Computing for Science	30	Requisite	2
Principles of Biology	30	Requisite	3
Foundations of Anatomy and Physiology	30	Requisite	4
Level 4 modules			
Scientific Skills for Life Sciences	15	Mandatory	1
Research Skills for Biologists	15	Mandatory	1
Biochemistry and Biological Molecules	30	Mandatory	2

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Cell Biology	30	Mandatory	3
Diversity of Life	30	Mandatory	4
Level 5 modules			
Genetics and Molecular Biology	30	Requisite	1
Vertebrate Biology	30	Requisite	2
Infection and Immunity	30	Requisite	3
Plant Biology	15	Optional	4
Ecology	15	Optional	4
Pharmacology and Toxicology	15	Optional	4
Level 6 modules			
Advanced Research Skills for Biology	30	Optional: Take one of the two. Note that the selection here affects available modules below	1
Science Communication and Media in Biology	30		1
Contemporary Topics in Biology	30	Requisite	2
Marine Biology	15	Optional: Take two modules from the options listed	3
Ecotoxicology	15		3
International Field Course	15		3 * Fieldwork may be completed in the preceding summer
Bioinformatics	15		4

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Biotechnology	15		4
Epidemiology	15		4
Development and Stem Cell Biology	15		4
Research Project (Biology)	30	Optional:	2-4
Science Communication Project (Biology)	30	Take Research Project if you took 'Advanced Research Skills' or 'Science Communication Project' if you took Science Communication/ media	2-4

Optional module availability dependent on minimum student numbers taking the module.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Biology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a BSc Biology on successful completion of 300 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and at least 60 credits at level 6, a DipHE Biology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a Cert HE Biology on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the Ipswich campus. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Biology [with Foundation Year] are likely to have approximately 12 structured learning hours for level 3 per week, 12 structured learning hours for level 4 per week, 10 structured learning hours for level 5 per week and 8 structured learning hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activity, and online learning. Students will normally be expected to undertake 30 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

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 approximately 60% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects), 25% examinations and 15% practical assessments.

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Special Features

On successful completion of the BSc (Hons) Biology [with Foundation Year], students are eligible for membership with the Royal Society of Biology.

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 to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Biology [with Foundation Year] will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£10,050 per year
Part-time UK	£2,512.5 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£16,500 per year
Part-time EU/International	£4,125 per 30 credit module

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

Students are likely to incur other costs for equipment, materials, optional field trips, exhibitions amounting to approximately £250 per year. A modern laptop computer is also essential.

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](#).