

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (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) Biological Sciences with Foundation Year
Named Exit Awards	Ordinary Degree Biological Sciences Dip HE Biological Sciences Cert HE Biological Sciences
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) Biological Sciences with Foundation Year course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2021-2022 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 biological sciences; it contains a number of options in the final years that allow you to select pathways and 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 biological sciences.
- Provide students with the knowledge and skills required for employment, specifically within Biological Sciences, 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 Biological Sciences.
- Contribute to widening participation in science higher education in the region and raise the local and regional expertise in graduates within Biological Sciences disciplines.
- Enable students to become creative, innovative and independent learners.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences 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 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)².

1. Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of contemporary research advances in Biological Sciences.
2. Use an interdisciplinary approach to apply the underlying principles of the Biological Sciences.
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 Biological Sciences.
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 the Biological Sciences with due regards 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 (2019)]

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences 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	Credits	Module Type
Level 3			
	Scientific Study Skills	20	Requisite
	Investigative Project	20	Requisite
	Mathematics for Science	20	Requisite
	Fundamentals of Biochemistry and Biophysics	20	Requisite
	Foundations of Anatomy and Physiology	20	Requisite
	Principles of Biology	20	Requisite
Level 4			
	Scientific Skills	20	Mandatory

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	Biochemistry	20	Mandatory
	Cell Biology	20	Mandatory
	Introduction to the Genome	20	Mandatory
	Diversity of Life	20	Requisite
	Ecology & Ecosystems	20	Optional
	Human Physiology 1	20	Optional
Level 5			
	Data Analysis and Statistics	20	Mandatory
	Research Methods and Scientific Communication	20	Mandatory
	Immunology	20	Optional
	Molecular Biotechnology	20	Requisite
	Microbial Organisms	20	Requisite
	Biology of Disease	20	Optional
	Plant Biology	20	Optional
	Marine and Fresh Water Biology	20	Optional
	Work-Based Experience	20	Optional
Level 6			
	Dissertation (Biological Sciences)	20	Mandatory
	Professional Development for Life Sciences	20	Mandatory
	Developmental Biology	20	Requisite
	Regenerative Medicine	20	Optional
	Pharmacology and Toxicology	20	Optional
	Adaptative Physiology	20	Optional
	Ecotoxicology	20	Optional

Optional Modules Available Every Year

Awards

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

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Course Delivery

During a typical week as a full time student you are likely to be on campus for two full days per week attending lectures, undertaking practical sessions, workshops and sometimes visits to external organisations. You will also be expected to participate in around a day's worth of structured online activity that may include listening to podcasts, watching lectures/talks, participating in quizzes and laboratory simulations and working through problems and tasks set by your lecturers.; these need not be specifically scheduled and are intended to be relatively flexible to fit with and around other commitments that you may have. You will also be expected to dedicate other time during the week for independent learning where you are expected to read, research, watch and understand topics from your curriculum in a way that supports your learning and works for you."

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.

Special Features

On successful completion of the BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences 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) Biological Sciences with Foundation Year 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 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.

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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](#).