

# Biological sciences



## SUMMARY

There are over 1,000 biological science courses to choose from, in subject areas such as:

- biology
- botany
- zoology
- genetics
- microbiology
- sport and exercise science
- psychology
- molecular biology, biophysics, and biochemistry

“ A PhD is essential if you wish to follow a career in academic research and very helpful if you want a research job in industry. Choosing the right PhD is crucial, not only in terms of the subject choice, but also in terms of the academic supervisor and his/her research group’.

(Royal Society of Biology)

“ There is a vast range of master’s courses to choose from to extend your science specialisation, including molecular biology, bioinformatics, statistics, biophysics, etc. Your choice will depend on your area of interest, but make sure it is sufficiently different from your more general bioscience degree’.

(Royal Society of Biology)

## RESEARCH

- **MRes** – 18 months to three years full-time.
- **MSc** – one year full-time.
- **MPhil** – one to two years full-time
- **PhD** – three to four years full-time, seven to eight years part-time

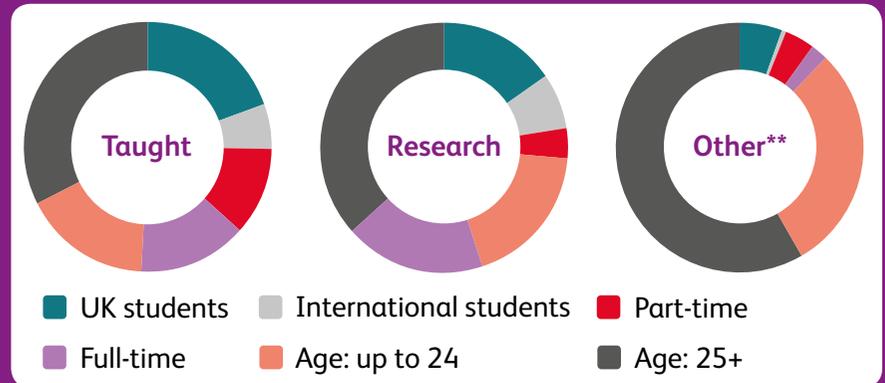
## TAUGHT

**MSc** – one year full-time, two years part-time.

For more information, go to [www.ucas.com/postgraduate/what-to-study](http://www.ucas.com/postgraduate/what-to-study).

## WHO STUDIES BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES?

Total number of students – 33,050\*



\*Total number of students studying biological sciences for the 2013/14 academic year.

\*\*Other includes postgraduate diplomas, certificates, and professional qualifications, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), level 7 Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector, higher education provider postgraduate credits, and non-formal postgraduate qualifications.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

“ If you have identified a research group you would particularly like to work with, you can write speculatively by sending them your CV and a letter of introduction to make you stand out from the crowd. Make sure your application is highly targeted and refer to their publications and recent research, stating how you will be able to contribute’.

(Royal Society of Biology)

# Biological sciences continued...

## CAREER AREAS

Key areas of employment:

- healthcare
- clinical research
- pharmaceuticals and biotechnology
- environment and agriculture
- education
- scientific sales and marketing
- technical media and journalism

## Related careers:

- research scientist
- biomedical scientist
- forensic scientist
- microbiologist
- healthcare scientist
- science journalist
- toxicologist



## PEOPLE WHO STUDIED BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES WENT ON TO WORK IN...\*

Total number of people – 5,180\*\*

**0.19%** Agriculture, forestry, and fishing

**0.29%** Mining and quarrying

**2.32%** Manufacturing

**0.19%** Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply

**0.29%** Water supply, sewerage, waste management, and remediation activities

**0.68%** Construction

**4.15%** Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles

**0.39%** Transport and storage

**1.64%** Accommodation and food service activities

**2.22%** Information and communication

**1.06%** Financial and insurance activities

**0.39%** Real estate activities

**8.88%** Professional, scientific, and technical activities

**2.22%** Administrative and support service activities

**7.24%** Public administration and defence, compulsory social security

**36.58%** Human health and social work activities

**5.21%** Arts, entertainment, and recreation

**0.97%** Other service activities

**0.1%** Activities of households as employers

**24.71%** Education

**0.39%** Unknown

\*Source: HESA DLHE tables (2013/14)

\*\*UK domiciled leavers who obtained postgraduate qualifications and were in employment for the academic year 2013/14.

## ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Society of Biology  
Charles Darwin House  
12 Roger Street  
London  
WC1N 2JU

[www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/careers/career-resources](http://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/careers/career-resources)

Institute of Biomedical Science  
12 Coldbath Square  
London  
EC1R 5HL

Tel: 020 7713 0214

[www.ibms.org](http://www.ibms.org)

[www.ibms.org/go/biomedical-science/careers-jobs/careers](http://www.ibms.org/go/biomedical-science/careers-jobs/careers)

