

BSc (Hons) Zoology

Why should you study this course?

- Free field trips available in marine and freshwater biology, fish biology, terrestrial ecology and parasitology.
- Carry out ecological fieldwork from your first year.
- Greatly improve your career prospects by taking an integrated work placement in the UK or abroad.



What's the course about?

If you're interested in the study of animal life and their biological processes then this course will be perfect. You will learn about the interactions of animals with one another and with their environments, and about the significance of the behaviour of animals.

The course is flexible offering a broad range of topics allowing you to specialise in those parts of the subject where your interests lie.

For a full and detailed list of the modules taught on this degree please visit www.els.salford.ac.uk

Field trips and skills

In the first semester of first year, you have a three-day field course in the Lake District to get to know the staff and other students, and acquire biological identification skills. Then in Study Skills, you have a one-night field visit to Hathersage in Derbyshire to become familiar with ecological techniques.

In second year, the Marine Biology residential field week at Dale Fort Field Studies Centre on the Pembrokeshire Coast, near Milford Haven in South Wales, includes quantitative study of zonation and ecology of animals and plants on various rocky sea shores of differing exposures, effects of various environmental factors on species presence/abundance, zonation of species across salt marsh, and periwinkle distribution.

Fish and Fisheries Biology includes a three-day field course at Preston Montford Field Studies Centre near Shrewsbury, focusing mainly on methods involved in fish capture, age analysis, and assessment of growth, productivity and fish population sizes.

You will gain hands-on laboratory experience in identification of living parasites in wildlife hosts (fish and mammals) and learn parasitological techniques including sampling and assessment of the distribution of parasite populations during the residential course at Malham Tarn Field Studies Centre in the Yorkshire Dales.

Terrestrial Ecology, a five day field course held at Gearstones, near Ribbleshead, in the Yorkshire Dales, looks at flora and fauna of limestone pavements, nature reserve conservation, and heathland and moorland ecology.

You will also learn the personal and practical skills and capabilities required for your future career such as oral and written communication, IT and data collection, recording and handling, time management, problem solving, and working both independently and in a team. Ability to think critically, to formulate arguments and to research will also be developed.

Facilities

Students have access to modern well-equipped laboratories for bench-based practical work and exposure to a digital imaging projection system associated with computer, DVD, CD, video or microscopy for teaching purposes. Project work may include access to research laboratories where practical skills and techniques in parasitology, cell biology, molecular biology and immunology are enhanced by use of modern scientific research equipment and access to knowledgeable researchers.

Placement and work experience opportunities

You are encouraged to take an integrated placement year, with no tuition fees, often on a salaried position, with a major company linked to a public health laboratory or wildlife trust, a research organisation such as the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, DEFRA or Central Veterinary Laboratory. In our experience, final degree results and employability are enhanced for students who undertake a placement year.

After you graduate

Zoology graduates enter a wide range of vocations in biological or life sciences. These include careers related to zoological sciences training such as science communication and publishing (both media and journalism), science administration, zoo work, wildlife conservation and management.

Other graduates go to work in the pharmaceutical industries, agrochemicals or medical technology as well as research institutes, government agencies and as animal physiologists. Some of our graduates also go on to study for higher degrees, for example the Salford MSc in Wildlife Ecology, or PhDs.

Duration Three years full-time. Four years with placement year. Up to six years part-time.

Entry requirements Advanced GCE level: 200 points including a biological science at A2. Please ask if you have alternative qualifications.

Programme code C300.