

Undergraduate Studies



ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Welcome



I am delighted that you are considering studying with us. Biological Sciences at Royal Holloway has long been recognised as providing a friendly yet challenging place to study this exciting and fast moving subject. Here

you will be taught by, and work with, internationally respected scientists who make a significant impact on our students and the wider world.

Our world-class research is at the forefront of scientific discovery, and all of our degree courses are accredited by the Royal Society of Biology, recognising the academic excellence, employability skills and practical bioscience skills provided.

Why not come and find out for yourself? I warmly invite you to visit us and look forward to welcoming you at one of our Open Days held throughout the year.

Professor James McEvoy
Head of Department



Degrees accredited by



Contact details


Admissions Tutor


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 Biological Sciences Royal Holloway
University of London

royalholloway.ac.uk/biologicalsciences

Biological Sciences at Royal Holloway

Biological Sciences at Royal Holloway is internationally recognised for teaching and research excellence that is addressing global challenges, from plant molecular and biomedical sciences, to ecology, evolution and behaviour. Our degrees develop an understanding of the structure and complexity of the natural world around us that is central to the maintenance of life on this planet and explore how important advances in our ability to treat illness and disease will help improve the quality of life for people the world over.

At Royal Holloway you can be part of an exciting scientific future, and the knowledge and skills you gain from your degree here will equip you for a wide range of careers. We offer:

- degree courses informed by the latest research and taught by leading experts who are advancing their disciplines
- graduate with a degree that is fully accredited by the Royal Society of Biology
- a flexible degree structure even within the first year allows you to follow your study interests throughout your degree course
- a friendly and supportive learning community with a high staff-to-student ratio
- a combination of lab, field and desk-based learning, culminating in independent research will equip you with invaluable transferable skills
- a biodiverse campus in reach of sites of special scientific interest including Windsor Great Park and Chobham Common
- optional year in industry pathways and work placements to gain professional experience in a real-world environment.
- our degrees can also be taken with an integrated foundation year.



**research impact is
rated world-leading or
internationally excellent**

(Research Excellence Framework 2021)



**of our students
agreed their course is
intellectually stimulating**

(National Student Survey, 2023)



"Bioscience degrees at Royal Holloway are extremely flexible, and I have really enjoyed being able to tailor my degree to my interests and passions within Biology, both inside and outside of the laboratory."

Ben
BSc and MSc Biological Sciences

Choosing your degree

Our single honours BSc degree courses are designed to stimulate your interests and develop important practical skills, with opportunities to specialise and tailor your studies towards your future career. Whichever degree you choose, it will include core modules that are essential for that degree, plus a wide choice of optional modules available in every year, that create a flexible approach to study within a coherent and developmental structure. Each year, you take modules with a total of 120 credits, taught over two terms. The summer term is reserved for examinations and fieldwork teaching.

For a full list of modules available and which are core for each degree course visit our website.

The right degree for you naturally depends on your interests and career aspirations – but sometimes these can change over time. You can change your degree course right up to the start of the second year subject to capacity.

You can choose to further enrich your degree by taking an integrated year in industry or by opting for the opportunity to study abroad, taking up a work placement or volunteering during an additional year. Our degrees are also available to study part-time to spread studies over a longer period.

All our single honours degrees are accredited by the Royal Society of Biology



DEGREES

	UCAS code	UCAS code (Year in Industry)
BSc Biochemistry	C700	C702
BSc Biology	C100	C102
BSc Biomedical Sciences	B990	B991
BSc Ecology and Conservation	C150	C151
BSc Genetics	C400	C401
BSc Medical Biochemistry	C741	C742
BSc Zoology	C300	C302

Integrated Foundation Year

BSc Biology with Integrated Foundation Year	C10F
BSc Biomedical Sciences with Integrated Foundation Year	B99F

- **C700 Biochemistry** – explore biochemistry, from medically-oriented biochemistry and biochemistry in plants, to industrial applications.
- **C100 Biology** – follow a broad-based biology degree or focus on areas which are ecological, physiological, organismal or molecular in nature.
- **B990 Biomedical Sciences** – the biological basis of human function and disease, ideal if you're considering a career in biomedical research.
- **C150 Ecology and Conservation** – study how plants and animals interact with environments, ecosystems, conservation and behavioural ecology.
- **C400 Genetics** – study gene function across animal, plant and microbial systems and how molecules can be engineered to help tackle problems.
- **C741 Medical Biochemistry** – study biochemistry in medicine, the molecular basis of disease and the development of novel therapeutic strategies.
- **C300 Zoology** – study organismal, ecological and physiological aspects of biology, animal diversity, evolution, animal function and behaviour.

Studying here

Inspiring teaching and research

Our synergy of teaching and research delivers an inspiring learning experience, within an exceptionally supportive learning community where you're treated as an individual. Our teaching quality has been consistently recognised as outstanding, and with higher contact hours than many other universities, our students spend over 25 per cent of their time in scheduled teaching sessions.

The most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) recognised the quality of our world-class research, and we were ranked 26th in the UK for world-leading and internationally excellent research*. Our academics bring their cutting-edge research into their teaching and frequently appear in the media talking about the latest thinking that is addressing global challenges.

Our active research programme is based on three primary research themes: Healthy Ageing and Molecular Medicine, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and Sustainable Engineering and Food Security. As a student you'll become part of this research during your third year research project. Project work provides excellent first-hand training if you wish to pursue a career in the Biological Sciences. Many students have published the work from their projects in peer-reviewed journals and it often forms a key talking point at job interviews.

To find out more about the research interests of academic staff, please visit our website.

Supportive learning

The whole department has a strong culture of support for students. Every student has a Personal Tutor who can provide academic advice and pastoral support throughout your entire degree. Your Personal Tutor will meet you on an individual basis to discuss academic issues, your choice of course options, and any other issues you wish to raise.

(* Times Higher Education, REF institutions ranked by subject, 2022)



Professor Alessandra Devoto, from the Department of Biological Sciences has been named as one of 25 Inspiring Women in Plant Biology as a Distinguished Researcher. Her groundbreaking research into molecular pathways regulating how plants respond to environmental stressors, aiming to enhance plant yield and adaptation and to develop biotechnological applications was recognised by the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB), May 2024.

Student life

All students are welcome to join BioSoc, a society that does great work in creating a friendly network. BioSoc is made up of like-minded people who join together for film nights, trips, and nights out as a group to the Students' Union. The society offers opportunities to expand your view of Biology by organising academic talks with visiting speakers. It also supports career development through skills-based employability workshops and outreach activities that help you develop your CV, such as Taster events, Science Festivals and our annual Rare Disease Day. As a campus university, there is also a huge selection of other student-run clubs, societies and sports clubs for you to join in and have fun.



Our community

Biological Sciences is a friendly and close-knit community with a high staff-to-student ratio. We have achieved consistently high scores from our students in the annual National Student Survey reflecting a strong culture of pastoral and tutorial support.

Our base is the Bourne Laboratory right at the heart of Royal Holloway's parkland campus, which is also one of the safest university campuses in England. Our laboratories have cutting-edge facilities and equipment for mass spectrometry and bioinformatics, and imaging facilities that include confocal laser scanning microscopes for 3D live-cell imaging. We also have marine and freshwater aquaria, glasshouses, and an electrophysiology suite. Students have access to excellent campus amenities including the state-of-the-art Davison library, open 24 hours a day.

We are committed to ensuring inclusivity in all activities, earning the department a Bronze Athena SWAN award recognising best practice in equal opportunities.

Our department is part of the School of Life Sciences and the Environment, an integrated and well-supported community of students and staff.

Your future career

There are a wealth of career opportunities available to you once you graduate with a Biological Sciences degree from Royal Holloway. We'll support your skills development through workshops, industry contact and careers fairs to help get your career off to the best possible start.

Our graduates work in diverse areas including in forensic medicine, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, clinical trials coordination, research, teaching, environmental monitoring and conservation. Graduate employers include: Abbott Laboratories, GSK, Born Free Foundation, IACR Rothamsted, and ZSL London Zoo, among many others.

- Our students are well supported by our Careers Liaison tutor and the university's Careers Service, offering plenty of opportunities to develop transferable skills and prepare yourself effectively for graduate jobs.
- We maintain a strong graduate network which means you'll benefit from the knowledge and connections of our alumni who regularly visit to share their experience with current students.
- The optional year in industry helps you to gain real experience, and your Royal Society of Biology accredited degree enhances graduate earning potential.
- Many of our graduates go on to higher degree courses such as MSc or PhD courses, reflecting the quality of our learning experience. We also have an alliance with the American University in Antigua for graduate entry medicine for Biomedical Sciences graduates.



“My research studies crop and weed seed germination and seedling performance in stressful environments, linked to food security and sustainability.”

Gerhard Leubner
Professor of Plant Biochemistry

Top 20 in the UK for
graduate prospects

*(The Times and Sunday Times Good University
Guide, 2024)*

This brochure was produced in May 2024 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



Royal Holloway, University of London

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at
[Royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays)

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