Royal Holloway is one of the UK’s leading research-intensive universities. One of the larger colleges of the University of London, we are strong across the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. We were ranked 19th in the UK (129th in the world) by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-16, which described us as ‘truly world class’.

As an international community, with students from 130 countries, we focus on the support and development of the individual. Our friendly and safe campus, in Surrey, 40 minutes by train from central London, provides a unique environment for university study where students quickly feel at home.

“One of the 16 most beautiful universities in the world” (Daily Telegraph).

Visit us

Our College and departmental Open Days offer you a unique opportunity to come and find out more about us and get a taste of what university life is really like. Parents and friends are very welcome to come with you. To find out dates and register to attend please visit our website: royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays
Welcome to Biological Sciences

The School of Biological Sciences 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 using first class facilities. Our world-class research is at the forefront of scientific discovery, and all of our degree programmes 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 meeting you at one of our Open Days held throughout the year.

Dr Dave Morritt
Head of School

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School of Biological Sciences

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Dr Dave Morritt

Admissions Enquiries
Admissions Tutor
Dr Philip Chen
Biosci@royalholloway.ac.uk

+44 (0)1784 414387

Connect with Us
@RHULBioSci
royalholloway.ac.uk/biologicalsciences

More Information

This brochure is designed to complement Royal Holloway’s Undergraduate Prospectus and information on the department’s website at royalholloway.ac.uk/biologicalsciences
It is also available as a PDF at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere
Why study Biological Sciences?

Biological Sciences is a richly fascinating and vibrant subject, shedding new light on some of the most fundamental issues in today’s world. Understanding the structure and complexity of the natural world around us is central to the maintenance of life on this planet, whilst making important advances in our ability to treat illness and disease will help improve the quality of life for people the world over.

You can be a part of our scientific future through research, and the knowledge gained from a Biological Sciences degree will equip you for a wide range of careers. Transferable skills, including training in numeracy, scientific and popular writing, literature use, presentations, logical thinking and debate are embedded within all of our degrees.

Biological Sciences at Royal Holloway

Internationally-recognised for the quality of its teaching and research, the School is a dynamic and friendly place to study. Our students are guided in their studies by enthusiastic staff who are leading authorities in their field and passionate about teaching.

Designed to inspire and challenge, our degree programmes will provide you with a strong foundation for a variety of rewarding careers or further study. All our single honours degrees are accredited by the Royal Society of Biology.

RESEARCH INSPIRED TEACHING
Our world class research is ranked in the top 25 universities in UK for influential outputs in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014). You can pursue a wide range of interests, backed up by our specialist expertise and research in topics, from gene therapy, tropical diseases, seed technology, neuroscience, vaccine technology and systems biology to animal behaviour, conservation ecology and biodiversity. Our students contribute to the research of academic staff during their third-year research projects.

HIGH STUDENT SATISFACTION
We offer teaching of the highest quality, informed by the latest advances in biological research. Our degrees are taught by expert staff in an exceptionally supportive environment, recognised by consistently high scores in the annual National Student Survey (NSS).

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES
We continue to invest in facilities for teaching and research, such as equipment for mass spectrometry and bioinformatics. We have top-class imaging facilities including confocal laser scanning microscopes for 3D live-cell imaging. Other facilities include marine and freshwater aquaria, glasshouses, and an electrophysiology suite.

A BIODIVERSE CAMPUS
Our leafy campus is home to a wealth of plants and animals, providing plenty of fieldwork opportunities for whole-organism biology. We are also close to extensive areas of natural habitat and sites of national scientific importance such as Windsor Great Park, Box Hill and Chobham Common.

FLEXIBLE, SUPPORTED LEARNING
Our flexible degree structure allows you to tailor your degree towards your own particular interests and aspirations. You can even change your degree programme, right up to the start of the second year, subject to capacity. We offer teaching in small groups, even one-to-one when the need arises. This makes for an exceptionally friendly and welcoming environment.

EXCELLENT GRADUATE PROSPECTS
95 percent of our graduates are employed or in further education within six months of graduating (DLHE 2016). Our Careers Liaison Tutor and central Careers Service help prepare you for finding a job after graduation through workshops, summer placements, careers fairs and opportunities to meet past graduates.
Degree programmes

Our seven Single Honours BSc degree programmes are informed by our world-class research.

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<tr>
<th>Single Honours Degrees</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSc Biochemistry</td>
<td>C700</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Medical Biochemistry</td>
<td>C741</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Molecular Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Biomedical Sciences</td>
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<td>BSc Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Ecology and Conservation</td>
<td>C150</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Zoology</td>
<td>C300</td>
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SINGLE HONOURS DEGREES

Across each of our 3-year degree programmes there are core courses that are essential for that degree in every year, and a choice of other courses during the second and third years that provide flexibility. These options allow you to tailor your studying to your interests and career goals.

The right degree programme for you naturally depends on your interests and career aspirations – but sometimes these change. Our programmes are designed to allow students the flexibility of changing their degree, up to the start of the second year. Depending on your course choice, this flexibility may even extend to the end of the second year.

C700 Biochemistry – learn the principles of biochemistry, from medically-oriented biochemistry and biochemistry in plants, to industrial applications of biochemistry. This degree incorporates some molecular biology, covering the essential tools to modify cellular biochemistry.

C741 Medical Biochemistry – study the importance of biochemistry in medicine, particularly in relation to understanding the molecular basis of disease and how this can lead to the development of novel therapeutic strategies. In addition to fundamental biochemistry, you’ll cover physiology, cell biology and genetics.

C701 Molecular Biology – discover the essence of the molecular mechanisms that control life processes and the molecular tools used to study and alter biological function. You’ll learn the fundamentals of molecular biology, cell biology and biochemistry with options such as microbiology, evolution, animal physiology and plant form and function.

B990 Biomedical Sciences – develops your understanding of the biological basis of human disease and is ideal if you’re considering a career in biomedical research. You’ll learn essential elements of biochemistry, physiology, cell biology, molecular biology and genetics, centred around human function and disease.

C100 Biology – study a diverse range of biology modules, from molecular biology to ecology. In this flexible degree you can follow either a broad-based degree or concentrate on areas which are predominantly ecological, physiological, organismal or molecular in nature.

C150 Ecology and Conservation – explore how plants and animals interact with their environments, covering ecology of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, conservation and behavioural ecology. You’ll acquire skills in biological data analysis and practical field ecology and you can take part in an overseas field course that examines Mediterranean conservation and ecology.

C300 Zoology – you’ll acquire basic training in organismal, ecological and physiological aspects of biology. You will later learn about animal diversity, evolution, adaptations to different life styles and habitats, how animals function and their behaviour. Field courses in marine biology, practical field ecology, and Mediterranean conservation and ecology are available to you.

Admissions and entry requirements

The department admits around 200 undergraduates each year across all our degree programmes. We encourage prospective students to visit us in the department at one of our Open Days when possible, to talk to members of staff and students, to visit our website, and to interact with us on social media.

Applications are considered on an individual basis. We look for potential among our applicants and will consider candidates with lower predicted grades or non-standard qualifications. Mature students are also encouraged to apply.

Please check our website for usual entry requirements and alternative qualifications. We recognise a wide variety of qualifications including the International Baccalaureate and various national school-leaving examinations.

PART-TIME STUDY

Our degrees are available to study as a part-time student over six years. Part-time students apply directly to the College, not through the UCAS system.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We consider applications from students with disabilities or special educational needs on academic grounds only. We have a dedicated Disabilities and Dyslexia Services liaison officer who is happy to discuss any special arrangements required by email, telephone, or in person when you visit us.

DEFERRED ENTRY

Applications from candidates who wish to take a year off between leaving school and entering university are welcome. If we offer you a place, and you meet the conditions of the offer, your entry into the department the following year is guaranteed.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The UCAS code for Royal Holloway, University of London is R72.

If you have any queries please contact the School of Biological Sciences Admissions Tutor.

Royal Holloway has a comprehensive admissions policy which sets out how your application will be dealt with. For further information visit royalholloway.ac.uk/admissionspolicy
## Degree structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Biomed C900</th>
<th>Med Biochem C741</th>
<th>Biochem C700</th>
<th>Mol Biol C701</th>
<th>Biology C100</th>
<th>Zoology C300</th>
<th>Ecology &amp; Conservation C150</th>
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<tr>
<td>Becoming a Bioscientist</td>
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<td>Chemistry of Life</td>
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<td>Fundamental Biochemistry</td>
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<td>Biology in a Changing World</td>
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<td>Vertebrate Evolution and Diversity</td>
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<td>Green World: Plant Evolution, Form and Function</td>
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<td>Biomes and Ecosystems</td>
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<td>Introductory Animal Physiology</td>
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<td>Pathophysiology</td>
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<td>Protein Biochemistry and Enzymology</td>
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| Year 2 | Microbiology | Invertebrate Biology: Structure, Behaviour and Evolution | Plant Life: From Genes to Environment | Cell Dynamics: Division and Movement | Human Physiology in Health and Disease | Developmental Biology | Insects, Plants and Fungi: Ecology and Applications | Practical Field Ecology | Biological Data Analysis and Interpretation | Animal Behaviour | Applications of Molecular Genetics in Biology | Evolution | Marine Biology | Bioenergetics and Metabolism | Protein Structure and Function | Molecular Biology | Molecular and Cellular Immunology | Neuronal and Cellular Signalling | Pharmacology and Toxicology | Physical Biochemistry for Life Scientists | Plant Biochemistry and Biosynthesis |
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This table summarises the structure of our degrees. The mandatory (core) courses are indicated with a C. Optional courses are indicated with a l. Students may select a fixed number of optional courses, and other courses may be available from year to year. For details please check our website.
Teaching and assessment

Our degree programmes are based on the course unit system which creates a flexible approach to study within a coherent and developmental structure.

Each year you take courses worth a total of 120 credits. Each course is worth either 15 or 30 credits. Teaching occurs over two terms. The summer term is reserved for examinations and for fieldwork teaching.

During the first year you take eight 15-credit courses, spread over two terms and a typical teaching week would involve about eight hours of lectures and ten hours of practicals. In addition, you are expected to undertake individual study associated with each of these course units.

Continuous assessment (based on essays and reports you write during the course) makes up around one quarter of your course mark; the remainder is based on written examinations taken during the summer term. Although first year courses must be passed for entry into the second year, first year marks will not count in the final classification of your degree.

In the second year, courses become more specialised and class sizes smaller. Again, you take eight 15-credit courses. Although there is greater variety in the ways that they are run, the aggregate time you spend in lectures and practicals is about the same as in your first year.

Course marks are again typically made up of 25% continuous assessment and 75% from the examination, and together they count for one third of your final degree mark.

In the third year, lecture courses are highly specialised and do not have a practical-class component. Instead, practical training is provided in an individual research project that you undertake, in an area that interests you, under the supervision of an appropriate staff member. Over the course of the year you will spend about 150 hours on lab or field work for your project; it is assessed on the basis of the written report and an oral presentation that you provide at the end. Marks from most lecture courses are 20% by continuous assessment and 80% by final examination. Altogether, third year marks account for two-thirds of the final mark that determines your degree classification.

In addition to the formal teaching framework described above, there is also a system of small-group tutorial support throughout the three years.

PERSONAL SUPPORT

The School has a strong culture of support for students. A particular feature of our support is the Personal Tutor for every student providing academic advice and pastoral support throughout the entire degree programme.

Your Personal Tutor will see you on an individual basis to discuss academic issues, such as exam results, your choice of course options, and any other issues you wish to raise. There is no formal limit to how much you may consult him or her. In addition, he or she provides small group teaching (around 7–8 students); these tutorials help your personal development, provide training in a range of transferable skills, and orientate you towards good practice in examinations. And finally, your Personal Tutor can be a good source of reference letters after you graduate! However, all academics are available to answer subject-related questions – your individual contacts with them need not be restricted to your Personal Tutor.
World class research

We have an active and expanding research programme based on our three research centres: Biomedical Sciences; Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour; and Plant Molecular Sciences. Our stimulating research environment has more than 30 permanent members of academic staff, 30 postdoctoral Research Fellows and Assistants and around 50 postgraduate students, all housed in well-equipped laboratories.

The Research Excellence Framework, the single most important measure of quality of a university department, recognised the quality of our world-class research, ranking the School in the top 25 universities in the UK for influential outputs (REF 2014).

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

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The individual project work that students carry out in their third year involves participation in research programmes which are at the cutting-edge of science. Project work often forms a key talking point at job interviews, and provides excellent first-hand training for those who wish to pursue a career in the Biological Sciences. Students benefit from our programme of research seminars, in which external speakers of international renown are frequently talking in areas closely related to project research – another example of the synergy between our teaching and research. Many students have published the work from their projects in peer-reviewed journals.

Project work is most often based in the research laboratory of the supervisor or in our purpose built, state-of-the-art project lab. However, other possibilities include projects that are fieldwork-based, or sited in other institutions (industrial or academic) under joint supervision, or are theoretical (computer-based) studies. Projects may be commenced in the summer preceding the third year depending on the nature of the project and a supervisor’s availability.

Our flexible approach to projects is designed to accommodate the diverse interests and needs of individual students. We have offered individual projects in the following research areas:

**BIOMEDICAL & MOLECULAR CELL BIOLOGY**
- Bacterial sporulation, Biochemistry of neural synapses, Evolution of the mitochondrion, Experimental models of epilepsy, Gene therapy for muscular dystrophy, Genetic vaccine development, Immune signalling and control, Pharmaceutical development, Protozoan parasite genetics, Gene expression in embryos; Creating expression constructs.

**PLANT MOLECULAR SCIENCES**
- Adaptation of plants to cold and shade, Control of chloroplast development, Floral development and senescence, How plants defend themselves, Molecular farming in plants, Oxidative damage and repair, Protein kinases: the wiring system of plant cells, Responses of algae to pollutants, pesticides and freezing.

**ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION & BEHAVIOUR**
The School

The School’s synergy of teaching and research delivers real hands-on opportunities, within an exceptionally supportive learning community where you’re treated as an individual.

The School has received an Athena SWAN Bronze award in recognition of our commitment to increasing the participation of women in science at all levels.

We are based at the Bourne Laboratory right at the heart of Royal Holloway’s parkland campus, and our location at Egham in Surrey has been named the safest university town in England (StuRents.com).

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Together with campus support services we are committed to helping students get the most out of your time here.

Royal Holloway has a Health Centre, Student Counselling Service, Student Support Services, and the Students’ Union to offer practical support for your physical and social welfare.

The School has two Special Needs Officers, and the College has a Disability and Dyslexia Services Team, that meets students individually to discuss their requirements and decide how support can best be provided.

STUDYING ABROAD

Students have a range of opportunities to study for one year at a number of universities in Australia, Canada, Singapore and the USA. These exchange programmes are competitive with undergraduates from other departments in the College.

STUDENT-STAFF COMMITTEE

Two students from each year are elected to represent the student viewpoint on the Biological Sciences Student-Staff Committee. The teaching staff also provide a number of representatives. Meetings are usually chaired by a third year student and are held at least three times a year to provide feedback to staff about teaching and facilities in the School, to raise issues of concern and to make suggestions. The committee has been responsible for many enhancements to our degree programmes.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Our students run BioSoc, a society that does great work in welcoming new students and creating a friendly network to join. BioSoc is made up of like-minded people and throughout the academic year events are put on to bring out the social side of biologists. These events can include, but are not limited to, 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 and also providing an insight into potential careers. BioSoc also wants members to be employable and helps by running skills-based employability workshops.

The School hosts numerous outreach activities that rely on the support of our students who in turn gain experience for their CV. These include running our hands-on activities for families and school groups at Science Festivals and our annual Rare Disease Day. We also encourage students to participate in the Passport Award Scheme which awards you points for the completion of a range of activities, such as volunteering, tutoring or educational support.

STUDENT PROFILE

“Studying Biomedical Sciences at Royal Holloway was the most rewarding experience. I found the teaching quality to be the best I had ever been given, the lecturers friendly and approachable and this helped fuel my passion for learning about human health and diseases.

The course offers a range of modules that are both highly exciting, interesting and involve a lot of practical work which allowed me to gain hands-on experience.

Having spent three years at Royal Holloway I have found the college to be everything it promised to be and I am continuing my studies here by embarking on a PhD programme. I would most certainly recommend studying here to prospective students.”

Firdous Begum, BSc Biomedical Sciences.
Your future career

A School of Biological Sciences degree from Royal Holloway University of London can lead onto many different career paths and we take the employability of our graduates very seriously. It’s important to us that our graduates are prepared, ready and armed with the necessary skills to begin successful careers after their degrees.

CAREER ADVICE
Career advice is an integral and important part of all our degree programmes. Our tutorials and careers talks provide guidance on higher degree courses, job opportunities, CV writing, job applications, and related matters essential for getting the job of your choice. Furthermore, our students benefit from professional advice from the College’s Careers and Employability Service, which is part of the University of London Careers Advisory Service.

RESEARCH PROJECT
As a student you will conduct a meaningful piece of research during your degree. The quality of our individual projects has been commented upon frequently by external assessors and is exemplified by the fact that a number of them have been published in leading academic journals. This is a critical first step in your career development and a number of graduates have obtained excellent jobs as a result.

GRADUATE DESTINATIONS
A high proportion 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 a partnership with the American University in Antigua for graduate entry medicine for Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry and Medical Biochemistry graduates.

Graduates have begun professional careers in a range of jobs including Environmental Protection Officers, Medical Laboratory Technicians, Scientific Researchers and more. Graduates also work with pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies, in industries such as healthcare, food, brewing, agriculture and associated biotechnology industries. They have also launched careers in medicine (both in research institutes and hospitals), forensic science and microbiology. Others have gone into careers in environmental consultancy, research (in universities and research institutes), veterinary medicine, agriculture, conservation, scientific charities and societies, nature reserve management and forestry.

The School’s graduates are working with a variety of organisations, including:

- Abbott Laboratories
- AMURT (global relief and welfare)
- Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust
- Born Free Foundation
- EMC2 (a computer company that includes healthcare applications)
- Gilead Pharmaceuticals
- ZSL London Zoo
- Lush Cosmetics
- Mencap
- Natural History Museum
- NHS direct
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Proctor and Gamble
- ProImmune Biotech
- The BBC
- The Environment Agency
- The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Find out more about the help and support the School of Biological Sciences provides students to prepare them for their chosen careers at: royalholloway.ac.uk/biologicalsciences/yourfuturecareer

“Every year we have an alumni evening where graduates of the School of Biological Sciences come back to us, talk to our students, explain what their job is, how they got there and what they do and that really helps our students get first hand advice from people who’ve done the degree they’re doing and are now doing the jobs they’d like to have in the future.”

Prof Mark Brown

95% GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED OR IN FURTHER EDUCATION WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF GRADUATING (DLHE 2016)
This brochure was published in May 2017 and the information given was correct at that time. It is intended primarily for those considering admission to Royal Holloway, University of London as undergraduate students in 2018-19. Occasionally it may be necessary for the University to vary the content and delivery of programmes so we advise all applicants to refer to the website prior to making any application. Full terms and conditions of admission can be found at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere

**Graduate Profile**

-Alumnus: Zarah Pattison  
Subject: BSc Ecology and the Environment  
“I had originally decided to undertake Zoological studies at Royal Holloway. However the first year’s mix of subjects and different research interests of the various lecturers led me down the exciting route of Ecology. The broad range of courses provides greater flexibility in determining the right degree path from which you can then specialise. The Biological Sciences courses are both stimulating and active with a great mix of both lab and field work, allowing you to gain valuable experience in key areas of science. The science facilities are all modern and lecturers are always willing to go that extra mile. Small classes make for a more intimate working environment, encouraging closer working relationships, which allow you to gain the most out each course. The research project in the third year was instrumental in helping me choose my career path. As a young scientist, this was my chance to work alongside an expert in an area of science that most interested me. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Royal Holloway, so much so that I also undertook an MSc in Biological Sciences here on the ecology of invasive plant species. I am now doing a PhD. I would highly recommend the Biological Sciences course at Royal Holloway to anyone passionate about science.”

-Alumnus: Nick Hicks  
Subject: BSc Biochemistry  
“I chose Royal Holloway purely on the strength and quality of its academic programme in Biochemistry. After visiting the other universities I felt that Royal Holloway had a particular culture and a character to it. This had a strong influence in my decision to study at Royal Holloway, especially after looking round the Founder’s building. The most important part of my degree was the academic discipline of Biochemistry which has helped me to bring a disciplined approach to problem solving and to retain the open mindedness and flexibility necessary to solve problems in my career. Working in the medical area, it also helped me understand complex scientific issues and explain them in a simple and meaningful way to non-technical audiences. I am now owner of a Paris based consultancy business, Commutateur, which offers a specialist communications consultancy service to Life Science companies.”