



1. Programme title(s) and UCAS code(s):

Natural Sciences (Life and Physical Sciences) BSc FCG0 BSc/NS
Natural Sciences (Life and Physical Sciences) MSci GFC0 MSci/NS
Natural Sciences (Life and Physical Sciences) BSc with a Year Abroad*
Natural Sciences (Life and Physical Sciences) MSci with a Year Abroad*

*can only be transferred onto when in course

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study: Full time

b) Type of study: Campus Based

4. Registration periods:

BSc

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration is five years

BSc with Year Abroad:

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration is six years

MSci

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration is six years

MSci with Year Abroad:

The normal period of registration is five years

The maximum period of registration is seven years

5. Typical entry requirements:

A/AS Levels: AAA. Including two science subjects at A2. Two AS Levels considered in place of one A-Level.
General studies accepted.

EPQ with A-levels: AAB + EPQ at grade B

Core Maths: Grade A (if Maths not held at A/AS-level)

Access to HE (Science): pass full diploma with a substantial number of credits at distinction in science subjects at Level 3.

European Baccalaureate: pass with 85% overall. At least one science must be offered.

International Baccalaureate: pass diploma with 36 points, including at least one Higher Level science at Level 5.

Cambridge Pre-U: D3/D3/D3 in principal subjects.

Other Qualifications: BTEC nationals, international, Irish Scottish, OU, and other qualifications welcomed (when accompanied by satisfactory English Language proficiency for international students).

Pass in the UoL STEM, Biological Sciences or Medicine Foundation Year

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case basis and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to

For the BSc: To provide students with

- An applied understanding of the scientific method and its limits
- laboratory experience and a basic aptitude in physical, chemical and biological laboratories
- a sound basic knowledge of IT and computing
- competency in basic mathematics (numeracy, algebra, graphical analysis, elements of calculus, the use and abuse of statistics)
- high level professional and personal skills (presentation, written and oral communication, team work, time management)
- detailed knowledge of one of the following sciences: physics, chemistry, or biology,
- experience in the public understanding of science and the effects of science on society
- ability to critically evaluate scientific publications
- experience of aspects of current research in interdisciplinary areas of science
- independent learning skills

in addition, for the MSci

- ability to undertake extended research in interdisciplinary areas of science
- advanced knowledge of one of the following sciences: physics, chemistry, or biology,

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- Discovery-Led and Discovery-Enabling Learning Strategy 2016-2020
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- Draft Natural Sciences Society Accreditation Criteria

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies		
(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge		
Recall of core information, model problems, experiments and techniques.	Lectures, Specified Reading, Problem-based workshops	Written examinations Reports and presentations
Awareness of current issues in Science	Independent group discussion, Tutorials	Short answer question sets
And for the MSci:	Lectures, guided independent study	Written examinations, Reports

Intended Learning	Teaching and Learning	How Demonstrated?
(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques		
Application of basic concepts. Practical demonstration of experimental method and design. Use of IT. Competent use of standard laboratory equipment, knowledge of safety procedures, and applications	Lectures, Tutorials Laboratory supervision PBL Workshops Extended research project Seminars, guided independent study	Written examination Presentations Reports Laboratory Competency checklist Short answer question sets Project dissertation
(iii) Critical analysis of key		
Critical appraisal of scientific literature Experimental design And for the MSci:	Laboratory supervision Group problems Journal club Research project	Written examinations, Journal Club, Peer review element in Undergraduate Research journal Project progress summary and
(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material		
Presentation of scientific results Participation in scientific discussion	PBL Workshops Tutorials	Presentations Journal Club
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
Critical appraisal of scientific literature Experimental design	Laboratory supervision Group problems Journal club	Written examinations, Journal Club, Peer review element in Undergraduate Research journal
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
Practical demonstration of experimental method.	Laboratory classes, Problem BL, Workshops, Peer review	Group coursework Laboratory competency checklist, Written examinations
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral		
Response to questioning Science presentations And for the MSci: Defence of	Tutorials Group working observation Project seminars Workshops	Presentation assessment Assessment of responses to questions Project Viva Project Viva

(ii) Written		
Ability to compile an appropriate CV	CV Support Session	Formative feedback on CV from PT
Ability to communicate scientific concepts with clarity	Skill workshops	Research lecture reports
(iii) Information		
Use of standard IT packages	Computing Workshops	Assessed tasks Reports
Use of R to to: perform basic data analysis: produce	Laboratory Sessions	
(iv)		
Use of analytical and graphical	Mathematic seminar and workshops	Written examinations Short answer questions
Methods		
(v) Team		
Organization, time management, Interpersonal	Group problem solving, problem- based	Group assessment (outcomes and oral questioning)
(vi) Problem		
Ability to research and problem-solve novel applications	Lectures, PBL workshops,	Short answer questions, Group assessments, project coursework and dissertation
(vii) Information		
Information retrieval	Problem-based workshops	Reports
Analysis of data	Laboratory classes Skills workshops	Experimental summaries

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<i>(b) Transferable skills</i>		
(viii) Skills for lifelong learning		
Use of Study skills and demonstration of Independent learning And for the MSci:	PBL workshops, Research project	Project assessments Report Project coursework and dissertation

10. Progression points:

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

Progression to a discipline specialism will require a pass (over 40%) in significant assessment elements (e.g. sections of examination, end of module coursework) associated with that discipline.

The following additional progression requirements are requested for MSci and BSc year abroad routes, respectively (however, it should be noted that the progression criteria to integrated Master programmes are currently being considered as part of the review of Senate regulation 5; the expectation is the programme will adopt the standard regulations once they are approved).

MSci students may not take any module assessments at attempt three; if MSci fail any credits at attempt 2 they will be transferred to the BSc (reg. 5.15)

MSci progression criteria are as follows:

Year Two CWA

60%+ automatic

55-60% at Teaching Committee discretion following interview and recommendation by Personal Tutor

Year Three CWA

55%

The following progression criteria apply to BSc year abroad:

Year Two CWA

60%+ automatic

55-60% at Teaching Committee discretion following interview and recommendation by Personal Tutor

11. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in the [Senate Regulations 5](#).

12. Special features:

Interdisciplinary modules, ability to specialise in a chosen subject area at end of year one, authentic assessment, embedded skill development, group problem solving, research/ problem-based learning, science communication, Journal of Interdisciplinary Science Topics, opportunity for exchange with comparable programme at McMaster University.

13. Indications of programme quality

- The programme will be subject to standard University of Leicester procedures for quality assessment, including Annual Developmental Review, Periodic Developmental Review, Quality Office review, liaison with College Academic Committee, and the programme will report to the department's Learning and Teaching Committee (L&T).
- An External Examiner will be appointed according to [Senate regulations 7.18-7.60](#).
- There will be systematic, regular evaluation by students registered with the programme, including anonymous evaluation of sessions and modules. A student representative will be invited to attend L&T committee meetings (for unreserved business only).
- The programme's teaching staff will engage with University procedures for peer assessment of teaching and marking.

It should be noted that no competitor programmes are currently accredited, however, the UK Natural Sciences Network/Society is soon to launch a UK Natural Sciences Accreditation Scheme in conjunction with Science Council. The proposer of the Natural Sciences (Life and Physical Sciences) attended the 2016/7 meetings of the Network at which the scheme was discussed. It is expected that the new programme will meet all the criteria for Natural Sciences Accreditation.

14. External Examiner(s) reports

n/a

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Students will study a core Natural Sciences first year of problem-based interdisciplinary modules and skills modules. In their second year students will be able to select a specialisation route in either Molecular and Cellular Biology, Organismal Biology or Physics, studying 60 credits from their desired discipline in years 2 and 3 and focusing on this area in their final year project. Alongside this they will continue to study interdisciplinary NS modules which expose them to areas where their chosen research discipline interfaces with the other sciences. Students that are registered for an MSci will study their first three years as described above with an additional fourth year consisting of a 60 credit project in their chosen specialism, a 15 credit Natural Sciences core taught module and 45 credits of taught modules from their chosen specialism.

Year 1	Biological science-focussed interdisciplinary modules (120 credits)
Year 2	Modules from specialisms 60 credits
	Biological science-focussed interdisciplinary modules (60 credits)
Year 3	Modules from specialisms 60 credits
	Biological science-focussed interdisciplinary modules (30 credits)
	Project associated with specialism (30 credits)
Year 4	Interdisciplinary modelling module (15 credits)
	Modules from specialisms (45 credits)

Project associated with specialism (60 credits)

BSc NATURAL SCIENCES (LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES)

FIRST YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Core Modules

YEAR LONG		
Modules		Credits
NT1005	LABORATORY, COMPUTING AND SCIENTIFIC SKILLS I	30
NT1006	MATHEMATICS FOR SCIENCE	30
NT1007	SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND SUSTAINABILITY	15
SEMESTER 1		
Modules		Credits
NT1002	BONDS, MOLECULES AND CELLS	15

SEMESTER 2

Core Modules

SEMESTER 2		
Modules		Credits
NT1003	NETWORKS AND CIRCUITS	15
NT1004	BIOPHYSICS, PHYSIOLOGY AND METABOLISM	15

SECOND YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Core Modules

	SEMESTER 1	
Modules		Credits
NT2001	ASTROPHYSICS, ASTROCHEMISTRY AND ASTROBIOLOGY	15
NT2003	LABORATORY, MATHEMATICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SKILLS II (Part 1)	15
	MODULES FROM SPECIALISMS (see table below)	30
	Semester Total	60

SEMESTER 2

Core Modules

	SEMESTER 2	
Modules		Credits
NT2002	EVOLUTION	15
NT2003	LABORATORY, MATHEMATICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SKILLS II (Part 2)	15
	MODULES FROM SPECIALISMS (see table below)	30
	Semester Total	60

Note: Modules from Specialisms are based on modules from other programmes, some of which are undergoing Curriculum Transformation for 18/19 and may require revision during this process. Alternative re-assessments will also be revised in 2019/20 curriculum planning cycle, following approval of the pre-cursor modules.

		MODULES FROM SPECIALISMS		
MODULES	SPECIALISM		SEMESTER/YEAR LONG	CREDITS

NT2004	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY	THE MOLECULES OF LIFE – AN INTRODUCTION TO BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	Year long	30
NT2005	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY	PHYSIOLOGY, PHARMACOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE	Year long	30
NT2004	ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY	THE MOLECULES OF LIFE – AN INTRODUCTION TO BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	Year long	30
NT2006	ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY	GENETICS, BIODIVERSITY AND BEHAVIOUR	Year long	30
NT2009	PHYSICS	MECHANICS, ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM	SEMESTER 1	30
NT2010	PHYSICS	LIGHT AND MATTER, WAVES AND QUANTA	SEMESTER 2	30

THIRD YEAR MODULES

Modules	YEAR LONG Core Modules	Credits
NT3001	RESEARCH PROJECT III	30
NT3003	INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH JOURNAL	15
	MODULES FROM SPECIALISMS (see table below)	60
	SEMESTER 1	
Modules		Credits
NT3002	MOLECULAR ANALYSIS AND DESIGN	15

		MODULES FROM SPECIALISMS		
MODULES	SPECIALISM		SEMESTER/YEAR LONG	Credits
NT3004	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY	MOLECULAR CELL BIOLOGY AND GENOMES	SEMESTER 1	30
NT3005	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY	BIOINFORMATICS AND BIOCHEMISTRY OF NUCLEIC ACIDS	SEMESTER 2	30
NT3006	ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY	GENOMES, GLOBAL CHANGE AND CONSERVATION	SEMESTER 1	30
NT3007	ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY	NEUROBIOLOGY, ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND EVOLUTION IN THE FIELD	SEMESTER 2	30
NT3010	PHYSICS	ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND RELATIVITY, QUANTUM PHYSICS AND PARTICLES	SEMESTER 1	30
NT3011	PHYSICS	CONDENSED MATTER AND STATISTICAL PHYSICS	SEMESTER 2	30

BSc NATURAL SCIENCES (LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES) WITH A YEAR ABROAD

FIRST AND SECOND YEAR MODULES

As for the BSc in Natural Sciences

THIRD YEAR MODULES

The third year of this programme will be spent studying abroad in an institution on a pre-agreed study abroad programme.

Students will be required to achieve a pass mark in modules taken but these will not contribute to the overall degree classification.

FOURTH YEAR MODULES

As for Year 3 BSc Natural Sciences

MSci NATURAL SCIENCES (LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES) WITH A YEAR ABROAD

FIRST AND SECOND YEAR MODULES

As for the MSci in Natural Sciences

THIRD YEAR MODULES

The third year of this programme will be spent studying abroad in an institution on a pre-agreed study abroad programme.

Students will be required to achieve a pass mark in modules taken but these will not contribute to the overall degree classification.

FOURTH YEAR MODULES

As for Year 3 MSci Natural Sciences.

FIFTH YEAR MODULES

As for Year 4 MSci Natural Sciences.

MSci NATURAL SCIENCES (LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES)

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD YEAR MODULES

As for the BSc in Natural Sciences

FOURTH YEAR MODULES

Modules	YEAR LONG Core Modules	Credits
NT4001	RESEARCH PROJECT IV	60
NT4002	MODELLING OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS	15
	MODULES FROM SPECIALISMS (see table below)	45
	Total	120

		OPTION MODULES FROM SPECIALISMS		
MODULES	SPECIALISM		SEMESTER/YEAR LONG	CREDITS
NT4003	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY	GENETICS: EVOLUTION AND GENE EXPRESSION	SEMESTER 1	30
NT4004	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY	CANCER CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	SEMESTER 2	15
NT4005	ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY	EVOLUTIONARY GENETICS AND NEUROBIOLOGY	SEMESTER 1	30
NT4006	ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY	MOLECULAR ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION	SEMESTER 2	15
NT4009	PHYSICS	QUANTUM MECHANICS AND RADIATION AND MATTER	YEAR LONG	30
NT4010	PHYSICS	PHYSICS SKILLS ELECTIVE	SEMESTER 1	15

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See attached documents

Appendix 3: Skills matrix

See attached document

