

Information about

Level

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2

Biology

Courses

2025

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2026



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# MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR LIFE SCIENCES PORTFOLIO

As you approach the end of your first year at the University of Glasgow, you should be thinking hard about the path you intend to take in the next few years. We hope that you have found our Level‐1 Biology courses an interesting introduction to the science of life and that further study in the biological sciences will be included in your plans; but which courses to choose? The University of Glasgow system allows you some flexibility until the end of Year 2 when your choice of degree subject is made—but the Level‐2 courses you choose will determine how wide that choice really is.

This booklet has been designed to help you choose the Level‐2 courses that best suit your interests, and which fit best with your likely degree subject. Although this booklet is mainly about courses in Biology, we are aware that many of you will wish to continue with non‐biological sciences courses in Year 2 and may not have fully decided whether to complete a degree in biological sciences, or in another subject such as Geography, Psychology, or Chemistry. In order to help you make this decision, the booklet provides some advice on suitable combinations between Level‐2 Biology courses and courses from other disciplines.

At school and in Year 1 at University of Glasgow, Biology is treated as a single subject, but in Year 2 and beyond, we offer separate courses in many of the specialist areas that underlie this broad subject title. The University of Glasgow offers an unrivalled range of specialisations to suit all interests.

This booklet should guide you through the choices that lie ahead. Make sure you consult closely with your Adviser of Studies. It can also be useful to talk to other students who have already been through the courses you intend to take.

Finally, we are always keen to improve the courses we offer and the information we provide. Many ideas for improvement come from our Staff‐Student Liaison Committees, but if you have any suggestions, don’t hesitate to contact the Life Sciences Support Team.

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

## Degrees (Awards) and Subjects

The Life Sciences Portfolio awards three undergraduate degrees: the BSc Honours degree, the BSc degree in a Designated Subject and the MSci degree.

* The **BSc Honours degree** normally takes four years of study and is taken by most students. You take Level‐1 and Level‐2 qualifying courses in Years 1 and 2 followed by Honours courses in Years 3 and 4.
* The **BSc degree** **in a Designated Subject** normally takes three years of study. You take Level‐1 and Level‐2 qualifying courses in Years 1 and 2 followed by Level‐3 degree-specific courses in Year 3.
* The **MSci degree** normally takes five years of study. After Level‐1 and Level‐2 qualifying courses in Years 1 and 2, you take Honours courses in Year 3 followed by a one-year work placement before returning to finish your studies by taking Honours courses in your final year.

Full details of degree programmes, courses and admission requirements can be found on the [Academic Policy & Governance webpage](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/apg/).

You will not be asked to make a final decision about your preferred degree and subject until the end of Year 2. However, entry to Year 3 (in particular Year 3 Honours) is **not** guaranteed and depends on the overall standard of your work in Years 1 and 2; **some Honours programmes are very popular and require a high standard of results to gain entry**. All your results in Years 1 and 2 will impact on your eligibility for entry to Year 3 of Designated and Honours programmes. Therefore, if you achieve less than a Grade D in ANY of your Year 1 courses, it is strongly recommended that you resit the examination in August to improve your overall grade point average.

## Glossary

**Course:** a self‐contained unit of study on a particular topic, with defined level, credit value, aims, intended learning outcomes, mode(s) of delivery, scheme of assessment and possibly prerequisites (other courses that must be taken first) and co‐requisites (other courses that must be taken at the same time).

**Credit:** a measure of the amount of work in the course (the workload), where one credit equates to ten notional learning hours. The EXPECTED full‐time workload in a year is 120 credits and you require permission to take more than 120 credits. To gain the credits from a course, you must complete the course by fulfilling the minimum requirements for the award of credit specified for that course. Each course you take will indicate the minimum requirements for completion. *In addition, for every course, you must complete 75% of the assessment for the course in order to be awarded the credits, regardless of your circumstances.*

**Grade:** if you fulfil the minimum requirements for the award of credit for a course you will be a given a grade (A – H) determined by your attainment of the intended learning outcomes of that course, as measured by your performance in the assessment. The grade is thus the measure of your performance in that course.

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** this is a measure of your overall performance across more than one course. It is calculated from the total grade points for all your courses divided by the total number of credits for all your courses.

**Level:** an indication of the standard at which a particular course is taught and assessed. The available levels are in line with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

# YEAR 2 BIOLOGY

There are six Level‐2 Biology courses to choose from in Year 2: two are offered in semester‐1 and four in semester‐2. A brief description of each course can be found on pages 6 to 11.

The Year 2 Lead is Dr Michelle Welsh (Thomson Building; telephone 0141 330 5926; email Michelle.Welsh@glasgow.ac.uk).

## Enrolment requirements for entry to all Level-2 Biology courses

In order to be qualified for admission to Level‐2 Biology courses, you must (a) fulfil the general requirements to progress from Year 1 to Year 2 and (b) have the specific prerequisite courses at specified grades.

(a) Progress requirement:

You must normally have completed courses totalling at least 120 credits, with at least D grades in all courses (see MyCampus).

(b)Specificprerequisitecourses**:**

You must have completed Biology 1A, Biology 1B, and Chemistry 1 OR Science Fundamentals 1X & 1Y, with at least D grades in all prerequisite courses.

Although you will be admitted to Level‐2 Biology courses if you achieve the minimum requirements specified above, poor results in your other Level-1 courses can impact on your eligibility for entry to Year 3; as your grade point average is calculated over all the courses you take. Therefore, if you achieve less than a Grade D in ANY of your Level‐1 courses, you **must** resit the examination in August to improve your overall grade point average.

## Deciding which Level-2 courses to choose

You normally take courses making up 120 credits in total and most students take 120 credits of Level‐2 courses. Note that for entry to Year 3 of any Biology programme, you must have **at least 60 credits in Level‐2 Biology courses,** but there is no *requirement* to take Level‐2 courses in other subjects, e.g. Chemistry. Level‐2 Biology courses are also available individually for students who do not intend to study Biology in Year 3 and for part‐time/exchange students.

There are several things to think about when you are deciding which Level‐2 courses to study. Firstly, you should consider which Honours or Designated Degree programmes interest you and then find out which Level‐2 courses are required for entry to those programmes in Year 3. The prerequisite courses for each Biology programme are listed on pages 15-17 of this booklet.

**It is important to choose a sensible combination of courses at Level‐2.** Although you are currently registered for a specific degree plan, entry to Year 3 of a particular Honours or Designated programme is dependent on your grades and the number of places available. Therefore, you must choose a combination of Level‐2 courses that will qualify you for entry to programmes in **at least two‐degree groups in Life Sciences** or to one‐degree group in Life Sciences and to a programme offered by another college. For all programmes in Life Sciences the semester‐1 course “Fundamentals of Biology 2” is compulsory and each degree group also has one compulsory course in semester‐2. If you did not choose the compulsory course or you have performed poorly in the compulsory course, you may not be accepted by any of the programmes within that degree group. That is why it is important to be able to apply to programmes within more than one degree group. Once you have chosen the compulsory courses for two-degree groups, you should, if you are a full-time student, ensure that you are enrolled on 120 credits.

## Degree groups

Biology programmes are organised into four-degree groups.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Animal Biology Group** | **Biomolecular Sciences Group** | **Human Life Sciences Group** | **Infection & Immunology**  **Group** |
| **BSc Honours subjects**  **(four‐year degree)** | Marine & Freshwater Biology  Zoology | Biochemistry**\***  Genetics  Molecular & Cellular Biology  Molecular & Cellular Biology (with Biotechnology)  Molecular & Cellular Biology  (with Plant Science) | Anatomy  Human Biology & Physiology  Neuroscience  Pharmacology  Sport and Exercise Science | Immunology  Microbiology |
| **BSc Designated subjects**  **(three‐year degree)** | Animal Biology  Aquatic Biology | Biomolecular Sciences | Human Life Sciences  Sports Sciences | Infection Biology |

**Note:** if you have concerns about the use of animal material, you may not wish to apply for entry to programmes in the Animal Biology or Human Life Sciences Groups.

**\* Please note that any student on a Biochemistry plan MUST achieve a grade of D3 in Chemistry 1 (CHEM1001) by the end of Year 2, in addition to the Biology prerequisites (Fundamental Topics in Biology 2 and Genes, Molecules and Cells 2), to progress to Year 3 Biochemistry.**

Examples of sensible Level-2 course combination choices:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Example 1 | 120 credits in Level‐2 Biology courses including the compulsory semester‐1 course and the compulsory semester‐2 course for two different degree groups (for example, the Animal Biology and Biomolecular Sciences degree groups) for students who intend to graduate in a Biology programme. |  |
| Example 2 | 90 credits in Level‐2 Biology courses consisting of the compulsory semester‐1 course and the compulsory semester‐2 course for two different degree groups (for example, the Animal Biology and Biomolecular Sciences degree groups) plus 30 credits of Chemistry 2Y for students who intend to graduate in a Biology programme but have an interest in Chemistry. Please note that Chemistry 2X and 2Y courses run over 2 semesters. If you take Chemistry 2Y only, this will mean that you have an unbalanced teaching load across the 2 semesters. |  |
| Example 3 | 60 credits in Level‐2 Biology consisting of the compulsory semester‐1 course and the compulsory semester‐2 course for ONE Biology degree group plus 60 credits of Chemistry‐2X and Chemistry‐2Y for students who wish to keep open the possibility of a Biology degree programme and a Chemistry degree programme. |  |
| Example 4 | 60 credits in Level‐2 Biology consisting of the compulsory semester‐1 course and the compulsory semester‐2 course for ONE Biology degree group courses plus 60 credits of Psychology‐2A and Psychology‐2B for students considering Psychology. |  |

In order to enter any Level-3 course, you require the following:

* 240 credits and at least 200 of these must be at a grade D3 or above;
* A grade point average of at least 9 over 240 credits;
* The grades required in the 60 credits of Level‐2 prerequisite courses as specified in MyCampus, in *Plan by My Requirements*.

# LEVEL-2 BIOLOGY COURSES IN SEMESTER-1: 30 CREDITS EACH

## Fundamental Topics in Biology 2 (Biology 2X)

### Course Description

‘Fundamental Topics in Biology 2’ will cover several areas within biological sciences by relating key concepts to specific contexts with an emphasis on the relationships between molecules, cells, and complex systems. The molecular and cellular processes that underpin larger biological systems will provide you with a comprehensive overview of the subject. This will allow you to develop the skills required to apply biological concepts to practical problems relevant to all aspects of biology today. Irrespective of your chosen degree, intending biologists in all Life Sciences disciplines require fundamental core knowledge before developing specialist understanding of your chosen degree. The course consists of five main themes: (1) Fundamental Molecular Biology; (2) Genomes to Ecosystems; (3) Systems to Cells; (4) Microbes and the Immune System; and (5) Ageing and Disease. You will also learn about modern techniques applicable in all areas of science. In addition, integrated laboratory classes will help consolidate and develop skills including molecular techniques, results analysis, presentation, statistics, and interpretation of data. The course is compulsory for all Life Science students and provides key knowledge that supports the Level 2 degree‐specific courses taught in semester‐2.

### Assessment

Summative assessment by:

* coursework including a lab report, and class tests.
* examination at the end of the course.

There are also various opportunities for formative assessment which will provide you with feedback and feedforward to help you improve your performance in future assignments.

This course cultivates literature research skills, builds confidence in teamwork and communication through scientific writing. It encourages student‐led learning and organisation in researching a topical science article, using online and library resources to search for information from primary research articles and communicating understanding of that information in the form of a written essay. Through the practical work you will develop lifelong skills, including the ability to solve problems, evaluate evidence and analyse data. These are all fundamental skills for scientific researchers but are also transferrable talents for many other career pathways.

**This is a compulsory course for ALL Life Sciences degrees.**

This is also a pre‐requisite course for ALL semester 2 courses in Life Sciences:

* Animal Biology, Evolution and Ecology 2 (Biology 2A)
* Genes, Molecules and Cells 2 (Biology 2B)
* Human Biological Sciences 2 (Biology 2C)
* Microbiology and Immunology 2 (Biology 2D)

## Contemporary Issues in Biology 2 (Biology 2Y)

### Course Description

‘Contemporary Issues in Biology 2’ will look at a range of contemporary problems at the interfaces between biology and the environment, health, and society. The course will help students consolidate and develop skills including data analysis and presentation, making ethical judgements, and statistics. This will be topic led and cover issues detailed below. Skills developed in this course will be applicable to all areas of study in Life Sciences.

Examples of the issues covered in this course are:

***Me, Myself, I****.* You will investigate methods for acquiring data relating to individuals and how these can be used to predict behaviour and health within a larger population. In this block we will explore the range of human variation and the relative contribution of nature and nurture to specific phenotypes. We will discuss the technological and ethical issues regarding gathering data and explore the different ways to present and analyse the data to test specific hypotheses regarding the sources of variation.

***Extreme Biology***. There are many different environments on this planet and beyond. Why can some microbes survive in extremely high temperatures? Why can some plants tolerate high salt levels? What happens to humans at extremes of altitude or depth? And what could survive in space?

***Excess Mortality***. What is the Glasgow Effect and why is it so widely referred to in newspapers and on television? Is it because of lifestyle, genetics, environmental factors, or nutrition? We will examine some of the many hypotheses to explain this effect and learn how to evaluate them critically. This block will then look at the development of large-scale interventions and evaluate their success.

***Forensics*.** Everyone has seen the TV programmes, but how realistic are they? We will discover the science behind them by looking at entomology, DNA technology, anatomy, and anthropology. This block will also look at animal forensic science.

***One Health****.* In this block we will examine the relationships between humans and animals within a specific environment and the importance of animal vectors in human disease. This will allow us to identify a range of influences on society and understand the epidemiology of many diseases.

***Equality and Diversity.*** You will consider in discussion groups a range of case studies relating to some of the nine protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010.

### Assessment

Summative assessment by:

* coursework including a poster, a written assessment, and class tests.
* examination at the end of the course.

As well as lectures and structured online support, you will have a series of labs where you will work individually and with other students to answer many of these issues. At the end of the course, you will have built up skills and techniques that can be used to critically analyse a range of scientific questions and ethical decisions that affect human and animal populations, from a local to a global scale. We will encourage you to reflect on these skills and how you can use them in the next few years of your degree and how they can be applied to a wide range of potential careers.

# LEVEL-2 BIOLOGY COURSES IN SEMESTER-2: 30 CREDITS EACH

## Animal Biology, Evolution and Ecology 2 (Biology 2A)

### Course Description

Animal Biology, Evolution and Ecology 2 will cover multiple themes across zoology, encompassing terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. The course is arranged across four themes, the first exploring the origins and adaptive radiation of life as well as ecological forces that purge complex communities, such as mass extinction events

(Theme 1 – Radiations and Extinctions). Next, we will discuss natural selection, evolution and diversity and their interface with taxonomy, classification and our understanding of biodiversity (Theme 2 – Evolution and Diversity). After this we will look at ecological processes such as species interactions, competition, migration and parasitism (Theme 3 – Living Together). Finally, we will put all this information together in context with man’s influence on the global ecosystem, charting our origins and evolution, our plunder of the world’s forests and oceans and our efforts to achieve equilibrium with the natural world, including conservation and wildlife management (Theme 4 – Anthropocene). In each theme, students will also receive guest talks from Glasgow research staff who will share some of their cutting‐edge research in relevant fields from vampire bats and deadly viruses to deep sea fishing. Students will have the chance to develop their skills as biologists outside of lectures in practical, fieldwork and workshops.

### Assessment

Summative assessment by:

* coursework including a wiki project, a lab report, and class test.
* examination at the end of the course.

There are also various opportunities for formative assessment which will provide you with feedback and feedforward to help you improve your performance in future assignments including responses to your lab booklets and a poster lab session including an oral presentation.

This course cultivates literature research skills, building confidence in team‐working and communication through scientific writing. It encourages student‐led learning and organisation in researching a topical scientific article, using online and library resources to search for information from primary research articles and communicating that information in the form of a written report. Through the practical work you will develop lifelong skills, including the ability to solve problems, evaluate evidence and analyse and model data. These are all fundamental skills for scientific researchers but are also transferrable talents for many other career pathways.

### Compulsory course for the following degrees:

* Marine & Freshwater Biology (BSc Honours subjects)
* Zoology (BSc Honours subjects)
* Animal Biology (BSc Designated subjects)
* Aquatic Biology (BSc Designated subjects)

## Genes, Molecules and Cells 2 (Biology 2B)

### Course Description

This course is the prerequisite for students wishing to study for a degree in Biochemistry, Genetics or Molecular Cell Biology (including MCB with Biotechnology or MCB with Plant Science). The overarching theme of the course is to equip students with a broad general knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts that underpin these subject areas and to open your mind to the complexity of biological systems, to the molecular basis of life and how these mechanisms are regulated in healthy organisms but may fail in disease.

The course comprises a series of lectures delivered in four thematic areas (described further below) The themes are supported by research‐focused lectures from world leading experts in their field and a series of carefully designed laboratory classes to give you an introduction to modern molecular approaches.

The thematic areas of the course are Genetics, Environmental Perception, Developmental Biology, and Energetics, Enzymes & Proteins. They cover topics as diverse as the control of genetic information, the use of model organisms, the control of cell division and cell shape, organogenesis, the development of drugs that target cell surface receptors and the biochemistry underlying the potential use of photosynthesis in artificial energy machines. In all cases, the focus will be at a molecular level, emphasising the need to understand the interplay of genes/genetics, protein structure and function, energetics, cells/cell systems and biological control mechanisms. You will also take part in a 'Synthetic Biology' group event.

### Assessment

Summative assessment by:

* coursework including a group project, an individual lab report and class tests
* examination at the end of the course.

Here, we will build upon the skills developed in Fundamental Topics in Biology‐2. You will be encouraged to further develop your learning skills using on‐line resources and enhance your team‐working and scientific communication skills by participation in a group project. There will be a strong emphasis on lab classes to support and extend your academic study, enhance your problem solving and communication skills and develop your ability to critically evaluate and analyse data. Other time‐tabled activities include study‐skills and career‐focused sessions.

### Compulsory course for the following degrees:

* Biochemistry (BSc Honours subjects) (see page 4 for further details)
* Genetics (BSc Honours subjects)
* Molecular & Cellular Biology (BSc Honours subjects)
* Molecular & Cellular Biology with Biotechnology (BSc Honours subjects)
* Molecular & Cellular Biology with Plant Science (BSc Honours subjects)
* Biomolecular Sciences (BSc Designated subjects)

## Human Biological Sciences 2 (Biology 2C)

### Course Description

Human Biological Sciences 2 will cover a range of academic areas within human biological sciences. The molecular, cellular, organ and systems‐based processes that link form and function will be studied to provide an integrated overview. The course will help the student consolidate and develop the skills required in human biology including *in vitro* and *in vivo* techniques, results analysis and presentation, interpretation of data and statistics.

The students will explore how structure and function change within tissues and organs during development, in relation to disease or physical activity and how therapeutic strategies evolve to address disease processes.

In this course we introduce integrative biology using examples at cell, organ, and system levels for the major organ systems (e.g. in the nervous system, cardiorespiratory system, musculoskeletal system and gastrointestinal system), to demonstrate how homeostatic processes function to control important biological processes (e.g. cellular metabolism, reproduction, sugar and mineral homeostasis, heart rate and digestion). We will further develop the skills in data interpretation and analysis that were introduced in Fundamental Topics in Biology 2 by applying the concepts in new areas of human biology and introduce new laboratory skills in key research methods for human biological sciences.

In addition to lectures and structured online support, you will have a series of labs where you will work individually and with other students to answer many of these issues and develop practical skills. At the end of the course, you will have developed scientific skills and an appreciation of practical and analytical techniques so that you are better placed to analyse the scientific questions that affect us as humans. We will encourage you to reflect on these skills and how you can use them during the next few years of your degree and how they can be applied to a wide range of potential careers.

### Assessment

Summative assessment by:

* coursework including a group poster, an individual lab report, and class tests.
* examination at the end of the course.

### Compulsorycourseforthefollowingdegrees**:**

* Anatomy (BSc Honours subjects)
* Human Biology & Physiology (BSc Honours subjects)
* Neuroscience (BSc Honours subjects)
* Pharmacology (BSc Honours subjects)
* Sport & Exercise Science (BSc Honours subjects)
* Human Life Sciences (BSc Designated subjects)
* Sports Sciences (BSc Designated subjects)

## Microbiology and Immunology 2 (Biology 2D)

### Course Description

Microbiology and Immunology‐2 will provide a comprehensive overview of the main principles in microbiology and immunology, from the unique aspects of microorganisms in diverse environments, to understanding the cells and molecules that make up the immune system and how these act in health and disease.

The course consists of five linked themes: 1) Global influence of microbes, 2) Fundamentals in Microbiology, 3) Fundamentals in Immunology, 4) Infection Biology and 5) Immunology in Action. The themes will provide you with an opportunity to explore the wider context in which microorganisms exist and how they influence all aspects of life on earth, followed by a focus on core molecular and cellular principles of both microbiology and immunology. You will learn how infectious agents combat host immune defences and how aberrations in the immune response can lead to disease.

The course will also have lab based practical sessions in order to develop fundamental practical skills in microbiology and immunology. This will help you to consolidate and develop practical skills required in any laboratory to effectively apply experimental techniques, analyse results, interpret and present data.

### Assessment

Summative assessment by:

* Coursework, including a lab report, class tests, and an exam at the end of the course.

Formative assessment opportunities will be provided throughout the course via evaluation of lab based experimental skills and in course revision sessions.

### Compulsorycourseforthefollowingdegrees

* Immunology (BSc Honours subjects)
* Microbiology (BSc Honours subjects)
* Infection Biology (BSc Designated subjects)

## To find out more about Level-2 Biology courses and choose your courses for session 2025-2026.

Lecture recordings of the Year 2 information sessions are available in the list of [Echo360 recordings](https://echo360.org.uk/section/dbe9355c-9e0c-494a-8cd7-62f5bc4d31a2/home) within the ‘Lectures’ block of the [Biology 1B Moodle site](https://moodle.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=45306). Please watch these videos (Part 1 and Part 2) to ensure that you understand the structure of Year 2 and have an awareness of the content within each course.

For students who are on Life Sciences programmes:

You will be sent a link via email to the online portal to confirm if you would like to stay on your current plan, or request a plan change for next session. The online portal will open on **Monday 17 March 2025** and close on **Friday 4 April 2025**. Any plan changes requested via the online portal will be processed over the summer ahead of registration and enrolment for the next academic session.

All students will be guaranteed a place on their Life Sciences compulsory courses (Fundamental Topics in Biology 2 and semester-2 prerequisite course), but this assumes that your degree choice is correct. You must register and then enrol for these courses through My Campus as normal during the summer, prior to the start of session. **Please note that students cannot be guaranteed a place on their optional courses. These places are available on a first-come first-served basis**.

If you have any concerns and cannot contact your Adviser of Studies, please contact the Chief Adviser of Studies by email. They will respond to your enquiry and suggest a meeting if necessary - lifesci‐chief‐adviser@glasgow.ac.uk

For students who are not currently on Life Sciences programmes:

If you wish to take Life Sciences courses next year, we cannot guarantee a place on courses but will do our best to offer places whenever possible.

If you have met the enrolment requirements for Year 2 Biology, you will be sent a link to the online portal on Monday 17 March 2025. If you wish to change to a Life Sciences plan, please indicate this on the online portal **and** complete a [transfer request form](https://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/lifesciences/undergraddegrees/readmissionandtransfer/transferintolifesciences/). The transfer request application process opens on the publication of the April-May exam diet results and closes at the end of the first week in July. Applications will be considered by the Chief Adviser for Life Sciences after all exam results are available, and you will be contacted with the outcome, via email, prior to the start of the next academic session (no earlier than the end of July).

## Personalised Level-2 timetable.

Your timetable will be available through MyCampus; you must attend the lecture or laboratory group on your MyCampus timetable. Most laboratory classes run more than once but are often within restricted time slots and have size restrictions.

**For semester‐1 courses**: you can change your course choices or lab/lecture time until the end of the second week of semester‐1.

**For semester‐2 courses**: you can change your course choices or lab/lecture time throughout semester-1 and until the end of the second week of semester‐2.

## After Year 2

Admission to Year 3, whether Designated or Honours programmes, is not guaranteed and is dependent on your achievement in Level‐1 and Level‐2 courses, in terms of:

* your overall grade point average
* your total number of credits
* your performance (i.e. grade) in specified Level‐2 courses

Although you will be admitted to Level‐2 Biology courses if you achieve the minimum requirements, poor results in your other Level-1 courses can impact on your eligibility for entry to Year 3; as your grade point average is calculated over all the courses you take. Therefore, if you achieve less than a Grade D in ANY of your Level‐1 courses, you **must** resit the examination in August to improve your overall grade point average, even if that course is not a prerequisite for entry to your Level‐2 courses. Remember that you may normally only resit an examination at the next available diet (i.e. if you achieve a Grade F in April/May, you may only resit the examination in August of the same year). See the [Life Sciences Handbook](https://moodle.gla.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/940133/mod_resource/content/24/2024-25%20Life%20Sciences%20Student%20Handbook.pdf)for information about reassessment.

If you achieve less than Grade D in any of your Level‐2 courses, you **must** take your resit exam. In addition, you are also entitled to retake any replicable coursework assessment in your course. You should discuss with the course coordinator to discuss if it is in your best interests to retake any coursework reassessment.

# HONOURS AND DESIGNATED BIOLOGY PROGRAMMES

The four‐year BSc Honours programmes and the three‐year BSc Designated programmes offered in the Life Sciences Portfolio are listed on pages 16-17, organised by degree group; the prerequisite Level‐2 courses for each degree group are given.

## Admission requirements for entry to Year 3 in September 2026

Your GPA is calculated on the 22‐point scale.

**Programme‐specific requirements:** detailed on pages 16-17 are the prerequisite Level‐2 courses required for entry to the programmes within each degree group. The grades required in the 60 credits of Level‐2 prerequisite courses are specified in MyCampus, in *Plan by My Requirements*. The grades that you see when you enrol are the grades that will apply to you.

These requirements are set out in the flow chart on page 15.

Summary:

For **AUTOMATIC** entry to Year 3 of a Biology programme, the requirements are:

* completed 240 credits, of which at least 200 must be at Grade D or above.
* a grade point average of at least 9 (equal to D3) over 240 credits.
* the grades required in the 60 credits of Level‐2 prerequisite courses as specified in MyCampus, in *Plan by My Requirements,* at first sitting. This is currently B1 for all compulsory courses.

You may be **CONSIDERED** if you have the **MINIMUM** requirements of:

* completed 240 credits with an overall GPA of at least 9 (equal to D3).
* completed 60 credits from Level-2 prerequisite Biology courses, achieving a grade of D3 or above in both.

Remember, entry to Year 3 (particularly Honours) is NOT guaranteed. Some programmes are very popular and require a high standard of results, e.g. a higher grade point average or very good grades in the prerequisite courses. Therefore, you are strongly advised to choose a combination of Level‐2 courses which will qualify you for two different degree groups to improve your chances of being offered a place in Year 3.

## Am I eligible for entry to a Life Sciences Year 3 plan?

### Animal Biology Group

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme type:** | **Programmes:** | **Prerequisite Level-2 courses:** |
| Honours | Marine & Freshwater Biology  Zoology | Fundamental Topics in Biology 2  Animal Biology, Evolution and Ecology 2 |
| Designated | Animal Biology  Aquatic Biology |

### BiomolecularSciencesGroup

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme type:** | **Programmes:** | **Prerequisite Level‐2 courses:** |
| Honours | Biochemistry  Genetics  Molecular & Cellular Biology  Molecular & Cellular Biology (with Biotechnology)  Molecular & Cellular Biology (with Plant Science) | Fundamental Topics in Biology 2  Genes, Molecules and Cells 2 |

### Human Life Sciences Group

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme type:** | **Programmes:** | **Prerequisite Level‐2 courses:** |
| Honours | Anatomy  Human Biology & Physiology  Neuroscience  Pharmacology  Sport & Exercise Science | Fundamental Topics in Biology 2  Human Biological Sciences 2 |
| Designated | Human Life Sciences  Sports Science |

### Infection & Immunology Group

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme type:** | **Programmes:** | **Prerequisite Level‐2 courses:** |
| Honours | Immunology  Microbiology | Fundamental Topics in Biology 2  Microbiology and Immunology 2 |
| Designated | Infection Biology |

# INTEGRATED MSCI BIOLOGY DEGREES (WITH WORK PLACEMENT)

Professor Rob Nibbs - lifesci‐msci‐enquiries@glasgow.ac.uk

At the end of Year 2, the Life Sciences Portfolio offers the opportunity for students who have achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 15 to transfer from their BSc programme on to an integrated masters MSci programme.

This would involve undertaking a 10–12-month placement, either in an industrial or research laboratory setting in the UK or abroad, between Year 3 and Final Year and extend the duration of your degree to 5 years.

If successful, you would graduate with an MSci qualification in your chosen subject rather than a BSc.

Entry to our MSci degree programme is very competitive; they are the most prestigious undergraduate degrees in Life Sciences subjects with between 60 and 80 students being offered places each year. Applications open in July at the end of Year 2, with interviews for those students whose applications are successful taking place in

September/October. Your grades, your response to questions in the online application form and your performance at the interview will all contribute to the final decision.

If you are successful at interview, you would then spend Year 3 finding and securing your placement and preparing to head off in the summer after Year 3. Internal selection cannot guarantee that a student will be successful in securing a placement, but the majority do so, and transfer to the programme is dependent on a minimum of a C grade in Year 3.

International students studying at University of Glasgow under a Student Visa are permitted to apply. If successful, you would complete a CAS extension request to extend your visa prior to going on placement and would not be required to check-in via SafeZone whilst off-campus. Students receiving scholarship payments will continue to receive these while on placement.

The MSci programme is not available to students studying abroad for the duration of Year 3. semester 1 study abroad in Year 3 is permitted. More information and details of the application process can be found on the [Moodle Hub](https://moodle.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6291).

# INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES AND TURING SCHEME

Dr’s Ashley Le Vin and Stewart White **–** LifeSci‐GoAbroad@glasgow.ac.uk

Would you like to spend some time studying overseas? As a Life Sciences student, you can take advantage of amazing opportunities to study abroad as part of your degree. We offer European exchanges as well as our International Exchange Programme.

The new Turing funding scheme from the UK Government has replaced ERASMUS funding and details on this can be found on the Go Abroad funding web pages <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/students/goabroad/funding/>.

**There are some things to consider:**

* Students wishing to undertake only one semester of study abroad in Year 3 can only study abroad in semester 1. This is to account for the exam diets at the University of Glasgow which only have exams for Year 3 courses in April/May and you must be available to undertake exams during this time.
* Students wishing to participate in the integrated MSci biology degrees (with work placement) can only study abroad for a full year in Year 2, or in semester 1 of Year 3.

**European Exchanges:** We have agreements with many European universities, allowing students to spend up to one year in Europe. In most cases, undergraduate classes are taught in the language of the home nation; however, some teaching may be in English. This will depend on which country you choose – so please look carefully at your choices.

**International Exchange Programme:** We have agreements with many international universities allowing students to travel throughout the world. It should be noted again that some universities may teach in the language of their home nation, but many teach in English – so please look carefully at your choices.

With both types of exchange, the year counts as part of your University of Glasgow degree programme and must therefore be carefully planned to fit in with your programme of study. Grades received on your study abroad year/semester will be converted to the University of Glasgow grading system and uploaded to your MyCampus record. Please note if you spend Year 3 abroad you would not normally be allowed to graduate at the end of the year and would be expected to repeat **or** continue into your Honours year on your return to Glasgow.

Overseas exchanges are viewed very favourably by potential employers. Students can find further information on GoAbroad on the [Moodle Hub](https://moodle.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6291).

There is also an annual Go Abroad fair in October (check emails for advertising) and the deadline for applications for studying abroad in your next academic year are generally at the beginning of December.

**Students wishing to study abroad MUST complete the steps shown in the GoAbroad tile on the** [**Moodle Hub**](https://moodle.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6291) **as well as following guidance on the University of Glasgow GoAbroad webpages** [**https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/students/goabroad/goabroadstudy/.**](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/students/goabroad/goabroadstudy/) **Failure to follow these steps will result in your application to study abroad being denied.**



Life Sciences Support Team

Room 354, Sir James Black Building

Phone: 0141 330 3994

[Helpdesk: Life Sciences Undergraduate Student Enquiries](https://glasgow.saasiteu.com/Modules/SelfService/#serviceCatalog/request/11699FBBA02D4D3DAFE0598BF1B43ED5)

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