Search out what inspires you

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY 2024
We pride ourselves on excellent teaching, delivered by inspiring teachers and world leading academic researchers.

We are proud that all our courses are accredited by the Royal Society of Biology, the leading professional body for Biological Sciences in the United Kingdom.

Through our teaching and your learning you will be introduced to key academic principles and techniques that enable the fantastic diversity of life on our planet to be understood. Our modules range from subcellular to the population, from experimental chemistry to theoretical modelling, physiology, disease and the environment. You will learn in a variety of settings; tutorials, lectures, workshops, practicals and private study. Our degrees are flexible and enable you to tailor your choices to your interests.

We develop your future potential from the start of your degree through your academic development and through development of key personal skills that provide the basis for employment in a wide range of sectors. Personal and senior tutors will support you throughout your time with us.

Warwick provides excellent facilities to enable you to make the most of your time here. Our Students’ Union offers over 250 student societies and our campus sports facilities cater for both team and individual activities.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our Open Days soon.

Miriam Gifford
Head of School

“I’ve found all the lecturers are really open to having discussions about their research and things I’m interested in. The lectures are really interactive and engaging.”

James, Biomedical Science
HOW DO WE ENSURE YOUR SUCCESS?

Explore new ground, satisfy your curiosity and develop career goals in an inclusive and stimulating learning environment.

Senior Tutors
Our Director of Academic Support and Senior Tutors work in tandem with Personal Tutors to ensure your welfare while you study with us. We work closely with central support services to ensure a high level of welfare support.

BioCafe
Run by students for students, BioCafe offers weekly peer-support sessions covering writing lab reports to revision techniques.

Science 101
Science 101 is an extra-curricular skills-based module for Year 1 students to help you transition from school to university study. It provides you with the key skills required to enable you to develop as an independent learner.

Quantitative Biology Centre (QuBiC)
All Life Sciences degrees require good quantitative skills. To develop the necessary mathematical and statistical skills, the School runs QuBiC, a daily drop-in service to support you with the quantitative content of your degree.

Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC)
The Student-Staff Liaison Committee is made up of student representatives from all undergraduate courses and members of staff. The committee provides a space for students to discuss anything related to teaching, learning and student support. The SSLC is one of the ways in which students can get involved in the running of the School.

“The SSLC have done a great job in making sure that our views are being heard.”
Lindo, Biomedical Science

BioSoc - Warwick students’ Biology Society
A student run society open to all years helping everyone to make the most of their time as a Life Sciences student. Attending BioSoc social events or engaging with BioSoc’s peer-to-peer mentoring scheme are some of the ways to meet new people on your course.

BioMed Grid
To support your study, you have full access to the BioMed Grid based on Gibbet Hill Campus. This is a learning environment for biologists, with textbooks, careers information, video editing, SMART boards, plasma screens and presentation rooms.

“The BioMed Grid is a great space for working alone and collaborating with other students. Having a ‘mini library’ close to where I study is great.”
Olivor, Biological Sciences

Placement Year in Industry
We offer support and guidance to help you gain valuable work experience across a range of jobs.

“The placement year was by far and away the most valuable experience. It provided a framework to allow me to have a year’s work in a field I would have found very challenging to get into otherwise.”
Tara, Biochemistry with Placement Year

Study Abroad
Expand your options by applying to study abroad in partner institutions across the world.

Support for Further Study and Medical School Application
We offer a successful support programme for applications to further study and graduate entry medicine.

86% OF LIFE SCIENCES 2019-20 GRADUATES FOUND GRADUATE-LEVEL JOBS OR FURTHER STUDY WITHIN 15 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION
Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022
WHAT ARE MY CAREER PROSPECTS?

Search out what inspires and excites you, explore your capabilities and as a graduate you will be highly employable.

Our Royal Society of Biology accredited degrees with their high academic content have a strong reputation with employers. We work with students from the outset to develop the skills demanded by today’s employers and develop skills for life.

The Careers Team within Student Opportunity offers training programmes and sessions to assist your personal development. In addition, the School’s dedicated senior careers consultant and placements officer, provide one-to-one appointments, run career-focused workshops and network events with past students and relevant employers to support your employability journey.

We offer a successful support programme for applications to further study and graduate entry medicine.

What can I do with a Degree in Life Sciences?

Our graduates have careers in a wide range of sectors including:

**Biology related**
- Academic research
- Industrial research
- Medicine
- Scientific Publishing
- Public Health
- Teaching
- Wildlife Conservation.

**Non-biology related**
- Business and Marketing
- Accountancy and Finance
- Law
- Computing
- Media
- Civil Service.

Many of our students go on to postgraduate study, gaining a Master’s or PhD or entry into graduate medical school.

Employer destinations include:

**Biology related**
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Springer Nature
- NHS
- AstraZeneca
- RAGT Seeds
- Severn Trent Water.

**Non-biology related**
- Brainlabs Digital Advertising Agency
- KPMG
- Lloyds Bank
- Mantlepiece PR
- HMRC.

“"The careers support I received at Warwick was invaluable. The team helped me to secure a placement year working within an NHS IVF unit. In doing this, I knew my ultimate goal was to obtain a place on the highly competitive NHS scientist training program. Thanks to the department, I am now on my way to becoming a fully qualified embryologist and helping people across the UK to start their families.”

Eleanor, Biomedical Science with Placement Year

77% OF MBIO STUDENTS GRADUATED WITH A FIRST CLASS DEGREE IN 2022
5TH MOST TARGETED UNIVERSITY BY THE UK’S TOP EMPLOYERS IN 2022-23

The Graduate Market in 2023, High Fliers Research Ltd.
**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

Benefit from a high number of contact hours with the School’s research active academic staff and close supervision throughout your course in an environment that will support and challenge you.

You will learn through a combination of tutorials, lectures, laboratory work, and independent and group research.

**Tutorials**

You will have weekly (Year 1) or biweekly (Years 2 and 3) taught tutorials primarily with your personal tutor. These sessions, in groups of around seven students, ensure that you are able to develop, engage and receive regular feedback on your work. In tutorials, you will complete a range of assignments including problem sets, essays, question and answer sessions and formal presentations. This regular contact with your personal tutor throughout your course provides one-to-one support for your academic work and career development.

**Laboratories & Learning Suite**

You will have a significant quantity of laboratory time, providing you with the opportunity to develop your laboratory skills. Labs follow on from the lectures to further improve your understanding of the application of scientific theory into practice.

Learning in our interactive suite of 120 iMac computers gives you the opportunity to develop a high standard of bioinformatics and computational skills, essential for modern biology.

**Assessment**

You will be assessed in a variety of ways. Students submit course work in the form of multiple choice tests, essays and poster presentations to name a few examples. Each lab ends with the writing up of an assessed laboratory report, or in-lab assessment.

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

We are currently undertaking a curriculum review of all our undergraduate Life Sciences degrees. Some of these changes may be introduced for October 2024 entry. Changes to our courses, including core and optional modules, go through the University’s rigorous academic processes. As changes are confirmed, we will update the course information on our study pages warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate. It is therefore very important that you check our study pages for the latest information before you apply and prior to accepting an offer.

**WHAT COURSES ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?**

**Biological Sciences**

- **BSc (C100)**, **BSc with Placement Year (C101)**
- **MBio (C1A1)**, **MBio with Industrial Placement (C1A5)**

**Biochemistry**

- **BSc (C700)**, **BSc with Placement Year (C701)**
- **MBio (C1A2)**, **MBio with Industrial Placement (C1A6)**

Our degree courses are designed to provide choice and flexibility.

We recognise that your interest in particular aspects of biology will develop as you learn. A core syllabus is offered in the first year for all degree courses providing the essential foundations in biology and biochemistry. The same content means that it is often possible to transfer between the different degrees at the end of the first year.

All our degrees offer a placement year option of either a year’s work experience or a year’s study abroad and our in-house placement officer offers support throughout the process.

Our degrees are all accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) and our MBio degrees hold advanced accreditation. RSB accredited degrees undergo rigorous, independent assessment annually to ensure a solid academic foundation in biological knowledge and key skills that prepare graduates to address the needs of employers.

We also contribute to Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development (C118), and Integrated Natural Sciences (CF10).

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“**I have gained experience with a variety of laboratory techniques during my degree, especially during my MBio year where I completed an extensive research project. My MBio degree has definitely helped me to gain employment.”**

**Bethany, MBio Biochemistry**

**Four-year integrated Master’s (MBio) courses**

Our MBio courses provide an additional year of study focused on a substantial research project, either within the School or industry. You can apply directly for the MBio courses and you are guaranteed a place on the BSc courses if you do not achieve MBio entry requirements but do achieve BSc entry requirements. Alternatively, if you are a BSc student and achieve 2:1 or above in your second year, you can apply for a transfer on to the related Master’s course (transfers are subject to place availability, and to visa requirements for international students).

An MBio degree will give additional skills to boost your employability because it provides the academic and transferable skills desired by employers, for example in project management.
The course spans the entire scale of biological systems - from molecules to ecosystems. The exceptionally wide range of options within years 2 and 3 of the Biological Sciences degree allows you to choose the modules that are best suited to your interests and career ambitions.

It offers broad exposure to cutting-edge research in molecular, cellular and whole organism biology, while covering applications of science to major global challenges such as environmental management, food security, biotechnology and human health.

"This is a very broad course that offers the chance to explore multiple aspects of Life Sciences; to find the area you like best and introduce you to things you’d not thought to explore."  
Adam, Biological Sciences

Biochemistry

BSc (C700), BSc with Placement Year (C701): MBio (C1A2), MBio with Industrial Placement (C1A6)

Following an in-depth foundation in biochemistry, the course broadens out to allow you to focus on more specialist fields. These include biophysical chemistry, which covers biological macromolecules at the atomic level, and understanding the genome and gene regulation. By the third year, optional modules provide you with the opportunity to pursue areas that you find particularly interesting.

You will graduate with a solid background in the biochemical and structural basis of molecular, cellular and developmental processes in a variety of organisms ranging from bacteria to animals.

"I chose Biochemistry because I felt like it allowed me to explore my scientific curiosity.“  
Christiana, Biochemistry with Placement Year

Options for MBio students include:
- Microbial Pathogens.  
- Extended Research Project.  
- Structural Molecular Biology.  
- Research Skills (training in advanced laboratory techniques, data handling and statistical analyses, and critical analysis of the literature).  
- Research Proposal and Funding.

Options for MBio with Industrial Placement students include:
- Extended Research Project.  
- Structural Molecular Biology.  
- Research Skills (training in advanced laboratory techniques, data handling and statistical analyses, and critical analysis of the literature).  
- Research Proposal and Funding.

"I know employers look for a strong quantitative skills background and knowledge of biological systems, which this course provides.”  
Christiana, Biochemistry with Placement Year
Biomedical Science

BSc (B900), BSc with Placement Year (CB19): MBio (C1A3), MBio with Industrial Placement (C1A7)

The application of new biological concepts in medicine is an ever-growing and exciting process. Developments in molecular, genetic, and cellular biology research continue to drive progress in areas ranging from vaccine development to neurodegenerative disease. Drawing on a spectrum of modules, you will come to understand the nature and extent of human and animal disease, both locally and globally.

Year 1 Modules:
- Molecules, Cells and Organisms
- Agents of Infectious Disease
- Physiology, Neurobiology and Metabolism
- Quantitative Skills for Biology
- Labs and Tutorials.

Year 2 Modules:
- Science Communication
- Bacteria: Genes to Behaviour
- System Interactions in Human Disease
- Introduction to Secondary Teaching in Biology
- Interdisciplinary and Business modules.

Year 3 Modules:
- Research Project
- Modern Approaches to Human Disease
- Labs and Tutorials.

Year 4 Modules (for MBio students):
- Extended Research Project, Research Skills (training in advanced laboratory techniques, data handling and statistical analyses, and critical analysis of the literature), Research Proposal and Funding.

Plus at least one module typically from:
- Neurobiology
- Clinical Microbiology
- Evolution
- Genetics and Genomics
- Molecular Endocrinology
- Neuropharmacology.

Plus options such as:
- One World Health and Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Virology and Immunology
- Protein Targeting
- Oncology
- Integrative Neuroscience
- Biological Clocks
- Dynamics of Biological Systems
- Synthetic Biology
- Principles of Development
- Extreme Environment Biology

Neuroscience

BSc (B140), BSc with Placement Year (B141): MBio (B142), MBio with Industrial Placement (B143)

Neuroscience encompasses the study of the brain and nervous system in health and disease. It is an enormous field spanning genomic, molecular, cellular, network and behavioural levels. Neuroscience is a truly multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional endeavour.

Modules span human brain health and wellbeing, including recent advances in psychiatric conditions, and a neuroscience focused laboratory programme is offered.

Year 1 Modules:
- Molecules, Cells and Organisms
- Agents of Infectious Disease
- Physiology, Neurobiology and Metabolism
- Quantitative Skills for Biology
- Cell Biology of Neurons
- Labs and Tutorials.

Year 2 Modules:
- Science Communication
- Bacteria: Genes to Behaviour
- System Interactions in Human Disease
- Introduction to Secondary Teaching in Biology
- Interdisciplinary and Business modules.

Year 3 Modules:
- Research Project
- Modern Approaches to Human Disease
- Labs and Tutorials.

Year 4 Modules (for MBio students):
- Extended Research Project, Research Skills (training in advanced laboratory techniques, data handling and statistical analyses, and critical analysis of the literature), Research Proposal and Funding.

Plus at least one module typically from:
- Animal Anatomy and Histology
- Health and the Community
- Environmental Biology.

(Chemistry for Biologists is compulsory for entrants without A2 level Chemistry)

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- Animal Anatomy and Histology
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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL’S RESEARCH?

Become part of our thriving research community making connections with specialists and broadening your horizons.

In our state-of-the-art laboratories we conduct a broad spectrum of interdisciplinary research based round six research clusters - Cells & Development, Environment & Ecology, Microbiology & Infectious Disease, Neuroscience, Plant & Agricultural Biosciences, and Quantitative, Systems & Engineering Biology.

These themes extend from molecular, to cells and organisms, to populations and span bacteria, viruses, fungi, humans, animals and plants and their environments. Our research has applications for many important areas to society worldwide, and is of high relevance to successful employment for our Life Sciences graduates.

Final Year Project
You will complete a six-week laboratory or data-analysis project in your final year, providing the opportunity to demonstrate independent research work. You will be closely supported by a member of staff and will carry out your research within their group.

You can choose from almost 500 projects offered by academic staff in a range of diverse research areas. Topics have included: ‘A cut above the rest: The feasibility and desirability of head transplants’ and ‘Synthetic viruses as a cure for superbugs’. Laboratory-based projects have included; ‘Inhibition of glyoxalase 1 as a means of developing anticancer therapeutics’ and ‘Investigating the role of phosphorylation of the protein Tau in Alzheimer’s disease’.

Integrated Master’s Degree (MBio)
As part of our MBio degrees you spend a major part of your fourth year undertaking a substantial laboratory research project. This can be within one of the School’s research laboratories or alternatively you can work on a project in industry. Recent examples of industrial placements include GlaxoSmithKline, the Health Protection Agency, AstraZeneca and Novartis.

The Undergraduate Research Support Scheme (URSS)
This scheme offers opportunities for undergraduates to gain an insight into research work and to develop valuable transferable skills by gaining experience in a research laboratory over the summer. Bursaries are available through the scheme, and in 2023 all Life Sciences students who applied received a bursary.

“If I didn’t take part in the URSS, I definitely would not be where I am now. I was undecided as to whether I wanted to continue into a research-based career, before starting my URSS project. However, after 6-weeks in the lab, I decided to do a PhD. I would definitely recommend URSS to anyone interested in what biological research involves.”
Beth, Biological Sciences

Reinvention
Reinvention: an International Journal of Undergraduate Research is an online, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the publication of high-quality undergraduate student research. The journal is edited jointly by students from Warwick and Monash University in Australia.

The International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR)
Led by the University of Warwick and Monash University, ICUR is an exclusively undergraduate forum designed to showcase the very best in undergraduate research from across the globe and provides participants with the opportunity to present their work to an international and interdisciplinary audience.
HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications are made through UCAS. The UCAS code for Warwick is W20
For more information visit ucas.com

We strongly encourage you to visit the University to see campus for yourself and find out what it means to belong to Warwick. If you can’t make the trip to Warwick then visit our Online Open Day.

You can find University Open Day details online.

Once you have applied and have an offer you will be invited to an Offer Holder Visit Day when you will be given the opportunity to talk to academic staff and current students and have a look around the School of Life Sciences and the University.

Successful applicants will be made an offer as soon as possible after their application is received. The offer will be conditional on already having or obtaining the required entry qualifications. If you accept this offer and achieve the required grades in your examinations then your place at the University of Warwick will be confirmed and we will look forward to seeing you at the start of your undergraduate life.

Overseas Applicants

The University of Warwick is a community represented by more than 150 nations and here within the School of Life Sciences we welcome overseas applications. We are a diverse department with students and staff from all over the world studying and working together. We have a very safe campus and an extensive support structure to enable your success.

Local advice about the application procedure is available from all British Council Offices and Warwick representatives.

“I like the fact that we stay with the same tutor and tutorial group throughout our degree. It’s a great way to build a personal relationship with an academic.”

Banke, Biomedical Science

Royal Society of Biology Accreditation Report 2021

RSB HIGHLIGHTED OUR TUTORIAL SYSTEM AND ITS COHERENT CONTINUATION THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAMME AS REPRESENTING GOOD PRACTICE
WHAT ELSE MIGHT I NEED TO KNOW?

Student Fees and Funding
The University wants to ensure that, wherever possible, financial circumstances do not become a barrier to studying at Warwick. We provide extra financial support for qualifying students from lower income families.

[Link to Fees and Funding]

Accommodation
Warwick Accommodation has almost 7,500 rooms across a range of residences. All rooms are self-catering. Each of the campus residences is fully managed and residents are supported by the Residential Community Team.

[Link to Accommodation]

Helping you find the right Career
You will have access to specialist Life Sciences careers advice and opportunities to speak with graduate recruiters through Student Opportunity: Careers.

[Link to Careers]

Warwick Students’ Union
One of the largest and most active students’ unions in the country, Warwick SU is the focal point of campus life here at Warwick.

[Link to SU]

Wellbeing Support
The University has a comprehensive welfare structure in place to ensure that you can easily access advice and guidance throughout your time here.

[Link to Support Services]
This information was correct at the time of printing. Our courses, modules and schedules are continually reviewed and updated to reflect the latest research expertise at Warwick, so it is therefore very important that you check the website for the latest information before you apply and when you accept your offer.