Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for those thinking of studying Life Sciences at Warwick. We hope you enjoy finding out a little more about our School and its students and staff.

Full course details are on our web pages (warwick.ac.uk/uglifesci) and if you would like to visit the School then why not come along to an Open Day (warwick.ac.uk/uglifesci/events). If you have any questions about studying with us then please do get in touch via ug.lifesciences@warwick.ac.uk.

Study Life Sciences

UniAssist by Shirly Vijayakumar, BSc Biomedical Science

UniAssist is a social mobility programme that aims to help all students regardless of their academic ability. We’re here to support those students who want to apply to higher education by giving them advice on various aspects of the application process, from guidance in filling application forms to interview tips and building critical skills such as interpersonal skills, as well as revision tips and tricks. We want to empower the next generation!

You can be the person that inspired the next generation and help them step toward their goals and aspirations!

Interested? Join us here at Warwick!

UniAssist Launch Event
Top row: Jasmin Kaur (Founder), Krupa Pandya, Shirly Vijayakumar, Ifeoluwa Ifekoya, Ruby Kumah.
Bottom row: Robynn Wiszniewska, Megha Bawa, Sakina Zaidi, Naomi Bunbury.

Invaluable Work Experience by Zoe Green, MBio Biological Sciences

I am taking a year out to gain some relevant work experience before returning for my final year in house at Warwick. I am working at Syngenta, an agriculture company aiming to feed the world sustainably by unlocking potential in plants. I am working as a technician in one of the glasshouses. My role is to maintain the plants, sample the tissue for analysis, harvest the seeds, process them and register them onto Syngenta’s system.

Through this work experience, I am gaining a much better insight into the early stages of experimental process. As someone who hopes to work in plant-based research, this will be very beneficial to me. I am also learning a lot about how to organise myself while coordinating with other members of the team to ensure we are meeting our deadlines.

I would definitely recommend seeking out work experience. It has made me more efficient and organised and the new insights into the workings of plant labs will be invaluable as I pursue my goal of improving global food security using the resources nature has provided us.
Award Winners

Our staff received some amazing awards this year. Our Director of Student Experience, Dr Rebecca Freeman, won a Warwick Award for Teaching Excellence and our Director of Student Wellbeing, Dr Leanne Williams, won a Warwick Award for Personal Tutoring Excellence.

Professor Nick Dale, another of our academics, won the award for Public Engagement Contribution and David Molyneux (pictured above), Senior Careers Advisor for Life Sciences, won the award for Supporting Student Employability.

Science on the Hill

They're back for a new season! Our exciting programme of public engagement events is now jointly hosted with Warwick Medical School. November saw discussion on the climate change emergency and how it impacts health and food security. December's topic will be ‘The rise of Superbugs: will your next infection kill you?’

For the full programme of events please go to warwick.ac.uk/scienceonthehill

If you live locally then come and join us.

Find out more about university life with OurWarwick

OurWarwick is an exclusive platform for those who hold an offer to study at Warwick. It provides an opportunity for offer-holders to speak to current students about their experiences, as well as to connect with other offer-holders.

You can read blogs, comment and get honest answers from people who are already here. You can ask questions and create threads to meet and start conversations with like-minded people and other Warwick offer holders.

If you have an offer, do join in - our.warwick.ac.uk

‘Capulet’ - the British Baked Bean

We are a nation known for its love of baked beans but until now white haricot beans were not grown commercially in the UK. Professor Eric Holub, a plant geneticist here in Life Sciences, used bean breeding to select a new distinctive and stable variety of small white haricot bean, called Capulet.

Capulet may find its way into our baked bean tins, but new haricot bean varieties also improve consumer convenience for cooking at home from a raw ingredient. Capulet will be fast-cooking from a dry bean. It is important to introduce British-grown beans as a versatile ingredient to be used along with UK-grown vegetables.

The new bean comes in the year that Warwick’s Crop Centre at its Wellesbourne campus celebrates 70 years of crop research on the site.

“Currently, British farmers are not large-scale producers of haricot beans because commercial varieties developed in other countries are poorly suited to our climate and light conditions. However, our eating habits are shifting in Britain towards a more plant-based or flexitarian diet. This is good news for improving our personal health as a nation and is also good for the health of our planet.

British consumers will have an opportunity to help improve our food system if commercial varieties of haricot beans can be developed successfully for British farmers.”

Professor Eric Holub

Live Chats

If you don’t get the chance to chat to one of our current students at an open day, then why not use our Live Chat platform to ask a question, however large or small. Students are a mine of useful information.

Chats will take place on Wednesday afternoons between 14.30 - 15.30 in term time. For more information on how to register please go to warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/lifesci/study/ug/events/

New bloggers

Jenny Down (top right), our current Life Sciences blogger, will be joined by Cara Moss and Maya Surprenant (bottom right). Keep up with their blogs and vlogs for information on study here in Life Sciences and university life in general.

View blogs and vlogs at our.warwick.ac.uk/category/academic-interests/life-sciences/