Programme Specification ARO 034a

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.

This document is published on the University website and will be a publicly available record of the named programme.

The information contained in this form should be included in the Programme Handbook, either as presented below or in a format determined by the Faculty.

Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award e.g. BSc (Hons), MA etc.</td>
<td>BSc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
<td>Biological and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
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<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
<td>C100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>UHX16-BIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time ☒ Part Time ☒ (if both please provide two Degree Programme Tables in the Outline Programme Structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>On Campus – UK ☒ International [ ] Where: Online [ ] Blended [ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September ☒ January [ ] Other (if more than one entry point please provide a Degree Programme Table for each in the Outline Programme Structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Programme</td>
<td>4 years (3 years possible with 2nd year entry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCQF Level</td>
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<td>Total Credit Value</td>
<td>480</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS Credit Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark</td>
<td>Biosciences, (UG), 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Body Accreditation (all relevant accreditations to be listed)</td>
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</table>
Section 2 Overview

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Biology is a broad discipline that encompasses the study of all life on Earth. As a Biology student, you will receive training in a wide range of scientific disciplines and approaches from cellular and molecular biology that underpin the natural world, through to studies of whole organisms and even ecosystems. Our instructors include scientists conducting active research at each end of the spectrum of scales, from molecular to ecosystem approaches, and those who study intermediate levels of organisation as well.

Training is provided in laboratory and field skills across the entire scope of biology, from cell biology through physiology to ecology. Our staff, active in international research, will ensure you have the skills and in-depth knowledge required for any of the diverse careers in biology.

For the first two years we’ll show you the broadest possible perspective in Biology before you specialise according to your interests. First and second year modules include ecology, physiology, cell biology, evolution and genetics, biodiversity and statistics. In later years, you will have some core modules but will also be able to specialise, selecting subjects that have grabbed your interest in the earlier years of the programme.

Key Features of the Programme

Because Stirling’s Biology programme is situated within the Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences, our teaching is able to encompass aspects of environmental science, giving our students a broader training base than is possible in more narrowly defined rival institutions. Our course will teach you the full scope of life: from bacteria to blue whales, from enzymes to ecosystems. You’ll become immersed in biological research as you develop your practical skills.

Fieldwork is an essential component of biological research and we take advantage of Stirling’s beautiful campus to expose students to field work early and often. As well as field work opportunities around Scotland, we also offer several optional opportunities for students to travel and conduct field work overseas. For example, you can undertake an inspiring 10-day field course at the Cévennes National Park in France, a UNESCO reserve of huge biodiversity and wild mountain beauty. There is also the opportunity to study abroad through our well-established connections with North American, Australian and European universities.

Final-year projects are a challenging yet valuable part of our degree programmes, where you will work in collaboration with a member of academic staff on a project of your choice to gain hands on knowledge of conducting and completing your own research. In recent years, students on the Biology course have completed projects within the broad disciplines of Animal Behaviour, Plant Physiology and Ecology, Animal Ecology, Molecular Cell Biology, Parasitology, Molecular Genetics.

PROGRAMME AIMS

Overarching Programme Aims

The Biology BSc degree programme aims to produce graduates that are ready to enter directly into a career in the biology sector. This programme will develop your knowledge and understanding of biological systems and processes, including the molecular and cellular mechanisms that underlie all life, the physiology of living organisms and interactions among and between organisms and their environment. Through a variety of teaching methods, including practical field and laboratory skills, and
seminars from invited industry experts, you will gain practical experience of the biological sector and develop into confident and knowledgeable biologists who are motivated by a curiosity about the natural world.

Specifically over the course of this programme we aim to develop:

Your knowledge necessary for an appreciation and understanding of the processes which contribute to the survival of organisms.

An understanding of the effects of human activities on biological systems and the theoretical and practical basis for environmental management, planning and conservation.

Training in selected practical skills, problem solving, investigative and research skills and generic skills that are relevant to future employment.

The scope for you to develop their talents and their broader education so that they can pursue their future within and beyond the Biological Sciences.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

1. Critically evaluate the key theories, principles and concepts in Biological Science that underpin the molecular, physiological, and structural diversity in living organisms, and the innate linkage between organismal structure and function.
2. Synthesise available information to generate an understanding of the interactions that exist between organisms that function as communities within ecosystems and the balances which operate between organisms and their resources.
3. Critically apply knowledge of key biological processes, principles and concepts to address current global environmental issues and management challenges.
4. Define complex biological problems and develop and evaluate possible solutions based on detailed knowledge of biological systems and processes and the scientific and technological tools and frameworks available to monitor, manage and remediate them.
5. Demonstrate familiarity with the structures and operation of the biological sector (private, public and third sector) so as to be able to critically analyse their roles in biological monitoring, and management and remediation.

Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes:

1. Present biological principles, concepts and research results clearly and precisely in a range of digital, written, graphical and verbal formats to both professional and non-professional audiences.
2. Analyse, integrate and interpretate complex biological data using appropriate statistical methods and software, demonstrating awareness of data limitations.
3. Demonstrate a critical approach to academic literature, data and other sources of information.
4. Formulate and test hypotheses using appropriate and available lines of evidence.
5. Plan and safely and ethically conduct an independent research project involving primary data collection, to address an environmental question.

Values and Attitudes:

6. Demonstrate your effectiveness as an independent learner who reflects upon their learning and plans their learning activities towards achieving academic and personal goals.
7. Demonstrate the strong interpersonal skills and business awareness necessary to present yourself professionally in a business environment.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

We’ve been awarded five-star excellence for our teaching by the QS World University Rankings 2017/18. Our academic staff are involved in international research, therefore our teaching reflects the latest
thinking and knowledge in Biology. You’ll learn through lectures and practical classes, tutorials, seminars, computer-based learning, guided reading and research.

Stirling provides an ideal location for studying the environment – the campus has a loch and woodlands set against the backdrop of the Ochil Hills. There is also easy access to landscapes as diverse as the Scottish Highlands, the Forth Estuary and land degraded through past industrial activities. Fieldwork opportunities are embedded throughout the curriculum.

The course includes a compulsory field class in Scotland in year 2 and optional international field classes in year 4. On our field courses, students learn techniques of data collection, identification, experimental design, data analysis and presentation.

One 10-day field class in ecology and animal biology takes place in the Cévennes, France, a rugged mountain landscape of exceptional natural beauty and tremendous biodiversity. The organisms that live there include over 2,300 flowering plant species, 2,000 invertebrate species and 300 vertebrate species. Notable among these are wild boar, otters, vultures, and grey wolves. The region exemplifies the deep historical connection between humans and the natural world, and is recognised as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site. We also run a 10-day field course to the rain forests of Gabon, West Africa, where the University of Stirling has a long history in the study and practice of tropical conservation biology and management.

**WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

**Assessment and Assessment Criteria**

Modules are assessed by a combination of coursework and examination completed during the semester. For many modules the marks awarded for coursework contribute 40–50 percent of the final grade but for some modules this is as high as 100 percent.

Students are assessed by a diversity of methods which include:
- written or practical examinations completed within a restricted timeframe
- coursework based on field, library or laboratory research, which has substantially longer deadlines than examinations for completion. Some elements of the coursework are based on individual assignments whilst others are group based with either individual or group assessments.
- a final year research dissertation includes an industry-linked option.

Throughout the programme a range of assessment methods are used including short answer or multiple choice examinations and class quizzes, online tests and exercises, extended essays, practical reports, field sketches and drawings, maps, field and laboratory notebooks, oral presentations, seminars, social media use, reflective exercises and practical performance. All work is marked by academics but an element of peer and external feedback is included in some modules.

**Feedback on Assessment**

You will receive feedback on coursework within 3 weeks of completion of the assessment. Feedback is usually provided electronically on formal coursework and focuses on identifying areas of strength and weakness and highlighting areas where future work could be improved. Feedback and Guidance sessions with teaching staff are available on all modules. These provide regular opportunities to better understand feedback on coursework and how it may be acted on to improve subsequent work.

In addition, our teaching includes a range of formal and informal formative assessment that will help you to better understand the standards of work being looked for and develop your own ability to critically assess your own and others performance against these standards.

More information about feedback on assessment can be found here; [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

**Assessment Regulations**
If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the assessment regulations at: Undergraduate

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

#### Outline Programme Structure

The list below shows compulsory and optional modules for this programme. Optional modules are revised over time and, in some cases, will be dependent upon pre-requisite and/or co-requisites being taken. More information about these requirements can be found in the relevant Module Descriptors. The options available each year can be subject to change due to student demand and availability of teaching staff.

- Where an “Option list” is specified, you have a choice of which module to take at this point in the degree programme and these choices are listed below
- For year 1 and 2 where “Any Module” is used it means that you can choose from all modules available to the year group and you can see the full list by following these links: Undergraduate

#### Full-time Programme

**Year 1**

Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 80
Option credits = 40

**Compulsory Modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>BIOU1EC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical Science Skills I:</td>
<td>SCIU1LS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>BIOU2IP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical Science Skills II:</td>
<td>SCIU2FS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Option Modules – you may choose two 20 credit modules from the university’s Any Modules list including biology focused modules, such as Our Blue Planet, Our Thirsty Planet, People and the Environment, Global Environmental Issues, but this also modules in other disciplines and departments.

**Year 2**

Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 100
Optional credits = 20

**Compulsory Modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evolution and Genetics</td>
<td>BIOU3EG</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Cell Biology</td>
<td>BIOU1CB</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology Field course</td>
<td>SCIU3FB</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>BIOU4BD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistical Techniques</td>
<td>SCIU4T4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>

Option Modules – you may choose one 20 credit module from the university’s Any Modules list.

**Year 3**
Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 20
Optional credits = 100

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant Ecology</td>
<td>BIOU6PE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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</table>

Option Modules – you may choose five of the following modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Physiology</td>
<td>BIOU9AP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enzymes and their Applications</td>
<td>BIOU9EN</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>BIOU5MI</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population and Community Ecology</td>
<td>BIOU9PC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat Management and Restoration</td>
<td>ENVU9MR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics using R</td>
<td>SCIU7SR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing Oceans</td>
<td>AQUU6MB</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Animal Cell</td>
<td>BIOU6AC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Immunology</td>
<td>BIOU6AI</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioural Ecology</td>
<td>BIOU6BE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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**Year 4**

Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 60
Optional credits = 60

Compulsory Modules

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>BIOU9PR</td>
<td>60</td>
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Option Modules – you may choose 60 credits from the following modules:

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<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td>BIOU7CB</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molecular Evolution and Phylogenetics</td>
<td>BIOU7EP</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology Field Course</td>
<td>BIOU7FC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omics and Systems Biology</td>
<td>BIOU7PT</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Evolution of Sex</td>
<td>BIOU7SX</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular Techniques</td>
<td>BIOU9TM</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population and Community Ecology</td>
<td>BIOU9PC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat Management and Restoration</td>
<td>ENVU9MR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Water Management</td>
<td>ENVU9WM</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics using R</td>
<td>SCIU7SR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology Field course</td>
<td>BIOU8FC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabon Field course</td>
<td>BIOU8GA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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</table>
## Reading List


### Section 3 Student Support

#### Support for Student Learning

**Induction**

You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. These are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme.

The Faculty also provides induction events for 4th years to help prepare you for advanced study and provide you with opportunities to network with businesses.

**Study Skills Support**

Student Learning Services (SLS) are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.

All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services. However the service may be particularly beneficial:

- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
- If you have been out of education for some time.

**What SLS are able to do:**

- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
- Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
- Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
- Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
- Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/)
STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here: https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/

**Stirling Graduate School**
For Research Postgraduate Students the Stirling Graduate School as well as your own faculty will provide support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/

**Academic and Pastoral Support**

**Adviser of Studies:** Advisers have an important role to play in enhancing your academic and personal development and are essential to ensuring you make the most of your time at university. Advisers provide a personalised point of contact for you to discuss academic concerns or queries within the academic community. The general purpose of the role is to provide more in-depth advice on the academic options available to you and on the academic policies and regulations within the University. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/

**Personal Tutor:** The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be the your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/

**Support and Wellbeing:** At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/

**Student Union:** you can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/

**Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)**
A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including - physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/

**Learning Resources**
You can find out more about the resources available to support your learning here:
http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/

**Section 4 Programme Evaluation and Enhancement**

** METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Module Feedback**
Module Feedback Questionnaires are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/)

**Programme Review**
Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff Consultative Committees, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/)

**External Examiner(s).**
Name of External Examiner: Dr. Joanne Lello
Institution: Cardiff University

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**Section 5 My Future**

**WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?**

Our biology graduates could progress to successful careers in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and agricultural industries. Many find employment in: biotechnology, microbiology, conservation, environmental agencies, civil service, hospital analytical laboratories, and government and industrial research laboratories.

About one third of our recent Biology graduates have continued their studies to obtain a further qualification, such as an MSc or PhD.

The University of Stirling consistently earns five QS Stars for employability, with more than 97% of our students in employment or further education within six months of graduating. (HESA DLHE 2016/17)

**How does this programme facilitate your development of the Graduate Attributes?**

**Connected**

1. The programme will connect you with biological knowledge, understanding and skills as applied to complex real-world issues and processes.
2. The programme will connect you with private, public and third sector representatives via external teaching contributions, placement opportunities and employer-engagement events.
3. The programme will connect you with knowledge, experiences and people providing different perspectives on cultures, beliefs and traditions within an environmental context, via diverse student and staff population, overseas field trips, and international examples embedded in our teaching.
4. The programme will allow you to work with staff, students and external organisations as part of an inclusive learning community.
5. The programme will teach you to communicate effectively through a range of digital and other media.

**Innovative**

1. The programme allows you to innovate through participation in active and ethical, world-leading research into our environment.
2. The programme uses the latest global research and new technologies to develop new understandings and creative solutions to environmental problems and opportunities.
3. The programme will train you in independent critical and reflective thinking around global environmental issues.
4. The programme will teach you to identify opportunities for improvement in your own learning and to take action.

Transformative
1. The programme can transform your intellectual passion and excellence with regards to global biological issues and solutions.
2. The programme can help you share new perspectives and broaden your horizons via overseas field work and study abroad opportunities as well as in-class discussions.
3. The programme provides training in professionalism, allowing you to develop as an adaptable and resilient biologist, equipped to succeed in the global environmental jobs market.
4. The programme allows you to develop as an active global citizen who is socially, culturally and environmentally aware.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?
Study abroad opportunities are available to all Stirling students, Biology has a well-established course with the University of Guelph in Canada. Biology students have also taken part in exchanges in Canada, Florida, Alaska, Sydney and Hawaii. You can spend either one or two semesters there during your third year, studying courses equivalent to those taken at Stirling, giving you the opportunity to broaden your environmental and cultural experience. We also offer Erasmus exchanges to Sweden and Germany.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?
The course is designed to develop your professional as well as scientific skills. You’re given industry experience through the option of an industry-linked final year project. In addition, many of our modules use work-related assessments and invite external speakers from businesses, charities and government organisations.

WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?
What programmes of study could the student go on to after successfully completing this one?
Students on this programme may go on to further their research skills through study towards an MSc and subsequently a PhD in a wide-range of biological disciplines. Related MSc programmes at the University of Stirling include Environmental Management, and Environmental Management with Conservation.

WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?
We subsidise costs for fieldtrips, but you’ll have to make a financial contribution towards your travel, accommodation and subsistence for all residential fieldtrips. Field trips are an optional, but highly recommended, part of the programme as they provide an invaluable opportunity to apply your skills and knowledge to answer environmental questions in unfamiliar landscapes. However, non-residential field learning is embedded in other modules in the programme.

Students are expected to provide a laboratory coat and have suitable outdoor clothing for laboratory and field practicals.

Our university library is well-stocked with resources for this programme, but for your convenience you may wish to purchase your own copies of some core texts.

Section 6 Admissions

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?
YEAR 1 ENTRY – FOUR-YEAR HONOURS
SQA Highers:
AABB – one sitting
AAAB – two sittings
GCE A-levels:
| Essential subjects: To include one of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics. |
| YEAR 2 ENTRY – THREE-YEAR HONOURS |
| SQA Adv. Highers: ABB |
| GCE A-levels: ABB |
| IB Diploma: 35 |
| Essential subjects: To include Biology and one of Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology or Physics. |
| OTHER QUALIFICATIONS |
| Scottish HNC/HND: Minimum entry: Bs in graded unit. |

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