WHY STUDY ANIMAL BIOLOGY?

What determines an animal’s resistance to disease? Why do many female animals exhibit ‘mate choice’? How can we help animals cope in hostile environments? On this course you’ll study the enormous variety of animal life on earth and discover the answers to these and many other searching questions.

We explore related aspects of animal biology, including animal behaviour, ecology, evolution, cell biology and physiology, as well as applied aspects of animal conservation and management.

COURSE DETAILS

Our programme aims to provide students with advanced knowledge in the biology of animals, focusing on either behaviour, ecology, evolution and conservation; or focusing on molecular biology and physiology. We emphasise key transferable skills that are in-demand by employers across the biological sciences.

FINAL YEAR DISSERTATIONS

The final honours year lays special emphasis on independent study through an individual research project.

Some recent projects have included:

• How ultraviolet floral phenotypes affect foraging behaviour in bumblebees
• Using camera traps to estimate species richness in African tropical forests
• Fitness consequences of advanced paternal age in wild Soay sheep
• The impact of radiation on life history in water fleas

FIELDWORK

Fieldwork will be an essential part of your training. In addition to fieldwork in Scotland, we run two optional fieldtrips in Years 3 and 4. One takes place in southern Europe, eg in the French Cévennes Mountains, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, and the other at Gabon’s Lopé National Park, in the heart of the western Congo Basin.

REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1 FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT

Stirling is Scotland’s hub for conservation science, with close links to many animal conservation organisations.

2 LINKS WITH EMPLOYERS

Stirling has the highest concentration of environmental and conservation organisations in the world, with 4x the national average of jobs in this sector. We have close links with many of these organizations!

3 STUDY IN A NATURAL SETTING

Stirling is the perfect place to study biology. There is a wide range of habitats on the doorstep of the most beautiful campus in Britain.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Animal biologists work in the agriculture, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, and in conservation management and environmental agencies. Other career paths include: forensic sciences; teaching; the food industry; commercial analytical laboratories; statistical consulting; science communication; and, with further study, professions allied to medicine and in academic, government and industrial research laboratories.

“Shortly after graduating from the University of Stirling with a degree in Animal Biology I was delighted to be hired as a GIS Assistant for a renewable energy consultancy. I credit my quick employment to my course, the lecturers and the opportunities I have had to hone my skills and interests over the last four years. I’ve been taught by esteemed scientists who conduct important work in their disciplines yet manage to remain engaging, supportive and have encouraged me towards my success. During my studies I also formed lifelong friendships, completed my dissertation as part of a large scientific collaboration on woodland restoration and ecological networks, and went on an amazing field trip to France. I definitely won’t forget my experience at the University of Stirling.”

Nadine Royle  
(BSc in Animal Biology 2017)
# Typical Timetable

## Compulsory Modules

- Introduction to Ecology
- Laboratory Skills
- Field Skills
- Evolution and Genetics
- Introduction to Cell Biology
- Animal Physiology
- Biodiversity
- Statistical Techniques
- Behavioural Ecology
- The Animal Cell
- Individual Research Project.

## Optional Modules in Year Four (These May Vary by Semester and Year-to-Year)

- Biological Control Mechanisms
- Conservation Biology
- Conservation Management
- Energy and Society
- The Evolution of Sex
- Gabon Field Course in Tropical Conservation
- Geographical Information Systems
- Habitat Management and Restoration
- Molecular Evolution and Phylogenetics
- Molecular Techniques
- Omics and Systems Biology
- Population and Community Ecology
- Statistics Using R
- Sustainable Water Management

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## Contact

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