

Course Summary: March 27, 2026

Zoology BSc Honours

- UCAS code: **C300**
- Full time
- 3 years

Study all aspects of animal life with an in-depth and practical degree in zoology.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2026**

Next start date:

- September 2026

Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **£9,790**
- International: **£31,500**

Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **ABB**
- IB: **32 points**

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Undergraduate Open Day

Start your university journey. Find where you belong. Friday, June 26 (9:00-16:00)

Saturday, June 27 (9:00-16:00)

[Book your place now](#)

Course overview

Develop your scientific knowledge and learn about the fundamentals of zoology. Our Zoology BSc degree will prepare you for a career in this diverse field.

You'll get practical teaching in the lab and the field. It'll help you perfect the skills needed to succeed in zoology.

Our Zoology BSc degree has the same first year as our [Biology BSc degree](#). This will give you a good foundation in biology, before specialising in zoology later in your degree.

You'll study modules in:

- animal life
- animal health
- animal physiology

Your course and study experience - disclaimers and terms and conditions

Please rest assured we make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the programmes, services and facilities described. However, it may be necessary to make changes due to significant disruption, for example in response to Covid-19.

View our [Academic experience page](#), which gives information about your Newcastle University study experience for the academic year 2025-26.

See our [terms and conditions and student complaints information](#), which gives details of circumstances that may lead to changes to programmes, modules or University services.

Quality and ranking

Professional accreditation and recognition

All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

Modules and learning

Modules

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

Optional module availability

Student demand for optional modules may affect availability.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the [Programme Regulations and Specifications](#) ahead of each academic year. This usually happens in May.

To find out more please [see our terms and conditions](#)

During this stage, you'll start to specialise in zoology and the study of animals with five compulsory modules including a field course on the insect biology and ecology.

In the first stage of your degree, you'll develop a strong foundation in zoology and get stuck into practical work from the start. You'll study four compulsory modules and choose 40 credits of optional modules. After stage 1, you can transfer to our Biology BSc degree. This must happen before Stage 2 starts.

Modules

You will take the following compulsory modules:

Compulsory modules	Credits
Genetics and Evolution	20
Ecology and Conservation	20
Animal Life	20
Skills for the Biosciences	20

You will take one of the following optional modules:

Optional modules	Credits
Molecular Biology of the Cell	20
Biomolecules – the Biochemical Basis of Life	20

You will take two modules from the following list:

Optional modules	Credits
Crop Health	10
Introduction to Animal Physiology	10
Animal Health	10

During this stage, you'll start to specialise in zoology and the study of animals with five compulsory modules including a field course on the insect biology and ecology.

Modules

Compulsory modules

You take the following compulsory modules:

Compulsory module	Credits
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Insect Biology and Ecology* (previously called Insect Biology and Origins)	20
Professional Skills for Bioscientists (previously called Academic and Employability Skills)	20
Animal Function (Physiology and Development)	20
Evolution and Behaviour (previously called Evolutionary Biology)	20
Vertebrate Biology*	20

*Field courses take place prior to Stage 2

Optional modules

You take one of the following optional modules:

Optional module	Credits
Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation	20
Field-based Ecology: designing experiments, and residential field course	20

With the approval of the Degree Programme Director, you may select alternative optional modules to those listed above, with a total value of not more than 20 credits.

In your final year, you'll study advanced zoology topics. You'll work on your own research project (40 credits), with the support of an academic supervisor. You can choose a topic linked to our research expertise, such as:

- molecular biology and biotechnology
- zoology
- conservation and policy

- social sciences and policy
- terrestrial ecology
- marine ecology
- oceanography

You'll also continue to develop your fieldwork skills.

Modules

Compulsory modules

You will take the following compulsory modules:

Compulsory module	Credits
Research Project	40
Physiological Zoology	20
Current Zoology	20

You will also take one of the following compulsory modules:

Compulsory module	Credits
Animal Welfare & Behaviour	20
Biodiversity Science and Management	20

Optional modules

You take one of the following optional modules:

Optional module	Credits
Biological Modelling	20
Africa Field Course: Conservation and Ecology*	20

*Africa Field Course: Conservation and Ecology takes place prior to Stage 3

With the approval of the Degree Programme Director, an alternative optional module to those listed above may be selected, with a total value of not more than 20 credits. The following module may be selected without the need for DPD approval:

Optional module	Credits
Career Development for Final Year Students*	20

*If Career Development was taken at Stage 2, you cannot take it in Stage 3.

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

You'll be taught via a combination of methods, including:

- lectures
- lab work
- field work
- seminars
- tutor group sessions

Our field and lab based modules provide you with a firm basis to build practical experiences that enhance the scientific skills expected of a biology graduate.

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assessments
- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Coursework
- Dissertation or research project
- Essays

- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Interviews
- Practical sessions
- Presentations
- Projects
- Reports
- Seminar tasks/exercises

Skills and experience

Practical experience

We've designed the Zoology BSc degree to give you lots of hands-on experience, through:

- lab-based classes
- day excursions
- field courses

You'll have the chance to go on a mammal surveying skills field course in the UK or Africa.

Research skills

You'll learn about the latest research from our school. This research-led approach to teaching makes sure your studies are accurate and relevant. You'll learn from experts in their fields, in:

- microbial biotechnology
- animal physiology and behaviour
- biodiversity and conservation
- biological computer modelling

Some recent student dissertation titles:

- A review of the ethics and viability of extensive conservation efforts in flagship species.
- The welfare impacts of losing a bonded mate: Rhinoceros Hornbills (*Buceros rhinoceros*) at Chester Zoo
- Exploring the behavioural and genetic adaptations developed by animals in captivity
- How might dental disorders in sheep impact grazing behaviour and sheep production in upland environment
- The Impact of grazing systems on hare behaviour

[Research from our school](#)

Opportunities

Study abroad

Gain a global perspective, enhance your academic profile and open doors to exciting new experiences by studying abroad for one semester or a full academic year at one of our partner universities overseas. Study abroad usually takes place in stage 3 of your studies and extends your degree by one year.

You'll have the choice to study at a leading international university, including:

- Monash University
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Pittsburgh

You can also opt for [short-term global opportunities](#) like summer schools, virtual exchanges or internships that usually take place over the summer months.

[Find out more about study abroad](#)

Work placement

During your degree you can apply to spend 9 to 12 months on an industrial placement, in the UK or abroad. Your work placement is a great opportunity to gain practical experience, acquire key business skills and make industry contacts.

You'll get University support from our dedicated team. Work placements usually take place between Stages 2 and 3 and extend your degree by a year.

Recent Biology and Zoology industrial placements include:

- Metabolism Analyst Intern at Covance
- Placement student at Northumbrian Water
- Animal Husbandry Intern at Chester Zoo
- Native Species Sandwich Placement student at Bristol Zoological Society

[Find out more about work placements](#)

Facilities and environment

Facilities

The Ridley building is the home of our Biology and Zoology degrees and is located on our city-centre campus. It is based in the [School of Natural and Environmental Sciences](#). Located within are purpose-built teaching and specialist research laboratories catering for our specialisms including:

- protein analysis
- microscopy
- computing and data analysis
- chemical analysis and HPLC

During your studies, you'll have access to the University's outstations including:

- Dove Marine Laboratory with a live aquarium on-site
- Great North Museum with important biological collections
- two commercial farms, Cockle Park Farm and Nafferton Farm

Our outstations are used for teaching, demonstration and research.

You'll also gain hands-on experience with industry-standard software to prepare you for your future career.

Support

We take your health and wellbeing seriously and are committed to supporting you throughout your studies so you can fulfil your potential at university. This support includes:

- a personal tutor who is an academic member of staff who can help you with academic and personal issues throughout your degree
- a peer mentor scheme which pairs you with a current student from your course to help you navigate your first year at university
- a staff-student committee, to give you an opportunity to have a say in how your degree works
- support, treatment and guidance on mental and physical health from our [wellbeing team](#)

Your future

Our zoology degree equips you with a wide range of skills to ensure you have many career opportunities available to you.

Many graduates find work in commercial or medical laboratory positions, conservation work and animal care. Some choose to continue their studies in specialist areas such as:

- biomedical science
- conservation
- animal behaviour
- environmental consultancy

Industry links

We have strong links with leading organisations, including:

- National Trust
- Natural History Society of Northumbria
- WWT
- National Parks Authority

You can find work placements, internships and volunteer roles through these links. It's a great way to build up your network in the sector.

Careers support

Our Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

[Visit our Careers Service website](#)

Recognition of professional qualifications outside of the UK

If you're studying an **accredited degree** and thinking about working in Europe after you graduate, the best place to find current information is the [UK Government's guidance on recognition of UK professional qualifications in EU member states](#). This official resource explains whether your profession is regulated in another country, what steps you need to take, and which organisation you should contact.

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
- Watch videos about student life in Newcastle by visiting our YouTube channel at **www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni**
- Watch a virtual tour of our campus at
<https://youtu.be/vJUfHcqB7l8?si=8lUrf7kTxXbgdfr1>
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person
www.ncl.ac.uk/openday
- Contact us online at **www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/student-welcome/student-contract/>

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