Course Summary: March 29, 2026

Animal Science BSc Honours

- UCAS code: **C305**
- Full time
- 3 years

In our Animal Science BSc you study the applied science of domestic animals, from molecular biology to whole animals. You cover their management systems to their context in society with a focus on sustainability.

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

Imagine a mix of biology, zoology, veterinary science, agriculture, some business, sustainability and more – this is Animal Science at Newcastle University.

Our Animal Science students learn alongside biologists and agriculture students. You will focus on farm and companion animals, although you can also study laboratory, zoo and wild animals. You will apply the scientific principles of biology, health, nutrition, physiology and behaviour to enhance animal welfare, management, productivity, and importantly, sustainability.

Our course draws on the latest scientific discoveries where you'll study the lifecycle of an animal from:

- microbiology to supply chains
- animal behaviour and interaction with habitats
- animal reproduction and genetics
- local legislation to global issues

Our excellent facilities include state-of-the-art laboratories and our two commercially-run farms which are home to a range of farm animals. You also

have access to companion animal resources such as Dog Box, the UK's first mobile dog behaviour research pod.

An exciting part of your degree is the final year original research project on a subject of your choice. You can use this to explore the latest technologies. You can research your project in our laboratories, on our farms, or at one of the many local animal centres that we work with. You are supervised by staff in our Animal Science research group. They are an internationally recognised centre of excellence in integrative animal science that is applied to areas of societal, industrial and policy importance.

As the degree progresses, you can tailor it to your animal interests to align with your future career.

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

This stage provides a solid base in the underlying science of domestic animals, covering:

- health
- microbiology
- biochemistry
- physiology

We'll also introduce you to the important concepts of sustainable development. You'll understand the importance of supply chains in how animals are managed. You also choose between introduction to business or a deep dive into the research conducted by scientists across the university and its positive impact on society. Our academic and professional skills training supports you as you transition to university. It will enhance your success in your degree and beyond.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Introduction to Business Management	10
Agri-Food Supply Chains	10
Animal Health	10
Introduction to Animal Physiology	10
Sustainability in Practice	20
Academic and Professional Skills	20
Introduction to Sustainability	20
Cells and Biomolecules	20

You'll continue to develop your knowledge of animal biology, applying the scientific principles from Stage 1 to more applied topics such as:

- sustainable farm animal production systems
- behaviour of animals in wild and domestic settings
- nutrition and feed science
- reproduction and genetic improvement

During your Sustainable Solutions module, you'll have an exciting opportunity to solve a real-world problem. You'll form a consultancy team and develop a solution to a genuine business issue posed by industry collaborators.

We encourage all our students to consider a professional placement or study abroad year between Stage 2 and 3.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	**Credits**
Animal Feed Science and Technology	10
Domestic Animal Reproduction and Genetic Improvement	10
Sustainable animal production systems	20
Dissertation and Research Preparation	10
Macro- and Micronutrients	20
Optional Modules	**Credits**
Human Resource Management	20
Career Development for second year students	20
Farm Business Management	10
Marketing Strategy	20
Qualitative Research Methods	10
Sustainable Solutions	10
Animal Behaviour	10

Animal Function (Physiology and Development)	20
Vertebrate Biology	20

Other optional modules may also be available.

In your final year, you will enjoy the independence of choosing and undertaking a new scientific research project. You could be contributing to the latest scientific discoveries. Some of our students present their findings at renowned conferences before they graduate.

Your research project, guided by your supervisor, will be 25% of your marks. It can be lab-based, carried out at one of our University farms, or an animal centre. You may join a team of scientists working on an existing project, or develop the idea yourself in collaboration with your supervisor.

Another highlight of your degree will be is working as a group to organise a public conference on current issues in animal science. It's a great opportunity to improve your skills in project management, organisation and teamwork. The experience and transferable skills gained impresses future employers. You and your fellow students will be proud of this tremendous collective personal achievement.

For your optional modules, you can follow your interests and choose between business, biology, farm animals or an animal-related short-placement at one of Newcastle's many animal establishments. Throughout your degree you'll explore the latest research, technologies and get a global perspective.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Animal Science Conference - Current Issues and Debates	20

Reproduction in Farm and Companion Animals	10
Applied Animal Nutrition	10
Animal Welfare and Behaviour	20
Dissertation	30
Physiological Zoology	20
Optional Modules	**Credits**
Career Development for final year students	20
Your Future - occupational awareness	10
Insight, Innovate, Impact	10

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

On average, you'll spend 25 hours a week with your lecturers and academic staff. This time will include a combination of:

- lectures
- seminars
- group tutorials

To reinforce your theoretical learning, you'll experience:

- practical laboratory sessions
- visits to animal establishments
- field trips to Newcastle University farms
- guest speakers and networking events

Throughout the course, you'll carry out varied and interesting project work and submit reports and presentations in groups and individually.

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Case studies
- Coursework
- Dissertation or research project
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Practical sessions
- Presentations
- Projects

Skills and experience

Practical skills

We'll arrange frequent field trips to a range of animal-related centres and our farms. These trips will help you:

- apply your learning
- develop your practical lab skills
- understand the wider context of the animal science sector
- form a close-knit bond with your peers

There are plenty of opportunities to get more hands-on experience with animals through our farms and a variety of animal establishments around Newcastle. These are valuable additions if you are planning on careers in eg veterinary or dog behaviour.

Business skills

We encourage all our students to take a placement year between Stages 2 and 3. You can spend this year working in the industry or studying abroad.

If you study abroad, you'll join one of our many global partner universities where teaching is in English. Many of our modules have input from industry. This can

include:

- guest lectures
- industry-set challenges
- business visits
- industry events
- student membership of professional bodies

Many of your assessments are designed to be of use in the various roles an animal scientist can enter. For example, devising an animal welfare audit, a short policy brief, a conference poster or science communication. These authentic assessments real-life experience to your degree and enhance your confidence and employability.

Newcastle University also offers a range of paid internships, career development modules and extra-curricular opportunities.

Research skills

Research is at the heart of what we do. You'll learn about the latest research from our school and your lecturers, whose research extends from the molecular to the whole animal.

Our research colleagues have expertise in a range of specialisms including:

- nutrition
- reproduction
- health
- welfare and behaviour
- sensor and precision technologies

This research has positive impact in areas of industrial and social importance to address real-world challenges. Our research-led approach to teaching means you are aware of the direction of scientific discovery. It also introduces you to various methods and latest thinking, and ensures your degree keeps you at the cutting edge of scientific understanding.

Your dissertation project is a great example of where you contribute your discoveries to the discipline. You will develop skills for this research in our dissertation preparation module at Stage 2. Some students publish their research in scientific journals or present it at eminent conferences where they network with other researchers.

You can progress to a PhD and research a specific project. Students have also developed research skills through paid internships, mini-placements and year-long placements.

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 a professional 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 Agriculture and Animal Science industrial placements include:

- Agricultural Graduate Sales Trainee with Davidsons Animal Feeds
- Agronomist at Marks and Spencers
- Ruminant Technical Adviser at Carr's Billington
- Placement student at OSI Food Solutions UK
- Placement student at For Farmers
- Placement student at Oaklands Farm Eggs Ltd

Find out more about work placements

Facilities and environment

Facilities

The Agriculture Building is the home of Agriculture and Animal Science, based in the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, and located on our vibrant, city-centre campus. Here some of our state-of-the-art facilities include laboratories, plant growth incubators and vertical farming units.

During your studies, you'll have access to Newcastle University Farms. NU Farms encompasses mixed animal, arable and biomass operations, with a commercial dairy and beef herd and a planned bed-and-breakfast pig enterprise. The farms are used for commercial, teaching and research purposes where you develop skills relating to data gathering and analysis, soil sampling, animal and plant health, pests and weed identification. At NU Farms we promote innovation to shape policy and support scientific research. We have extensive collaborations including:

- UK Agri-Tech Centre with on-site facilities
- Fera Science (Fera)
- Institute of Agri-Food and Rural Innovation (IAFRI)
- Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)

With a focus on sustainability, input from industry and research-driven teaching led by top academics we will prepare you for a successful career in agriculture, animal science and related fields.

We have extensive links with other farms, businesses and animal enterprises to broaden and deepen your understanding.

Animal Science students will also be interested in the high tech gait lab; our laboratories for dissections, microscope work etc and the UK's first our mobile dog behaviour research pod.

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:

- your degree welcome event where, in small groups, you get to know those on your course
- 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

An Animal Science BSc degree can prepare you for a career in animal science, agriculture, the companion animal sector and the environmental sector or anything that requires biological science degree.

Many fulfilling careers are open to you in:

- animal welfare
- animal nutrition
- animal breeding
- animal health
- food supply chain

Career examples could include:

- research scientist working in product development
- account manager for an animal health company

Join a network of successful graduates

Newcastle graduates have a strong reputation in the industry. They're sought after for many animal-based roles, including graduate schemes in the:

- food supply sector, such as Cranswick
- animal reproduction and genetic improvement, such as Genus

Recent graduates have found roles as:

- Dairy Customer Agricultural Manager at Arla Foods

- Dog Behaviourist at the Dogs Trust
- Junior New Product Developer at Mars Pet Nutrition Europe
- Animal Welfare Advisor to the New Zealand Government
- Wildlife Conservation Project Officer

Others have progressed to veterinary, teaching, medicine, set up their own animal-related businesses, or entered other graduate roles requiring a general degree and the transferable skills this offers.

Enterprising students

The Sustainable Solutions module at Newcastle University offers you the opportunity to collaborate with industry professionals on projects that address real-world sustainability challenges. This hands-on experience enhances your problem-solving skills and prepares you for successful careers in sustainability-focused roles.

You'll have many opportunities to interact with industry through:

- guest speakers
- visits
- industry networking events
- opportunities to attend conferences

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=8IUrf7kTxXbgdfr1**
- 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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