

Course Summary: March 28, 2026

Marine Zoology BSc Honours

- UCAS code: **C350**
- Full time
- 3 years

Our Marine Zoology BSc Honours degree offers a comprehensive understanding of the diverse range of animals that live in the oceans.

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

The planet cannot survive without its oceans. Our mission is to nurture and train you as a marine zoologist with the skills to solve global challenges. You'll explore all marine life, from invertebrates, fish, seabirds and marine mammals to plants, algae and bacteria.

This programme is ideal if you are interested in understanding the complex interactions between marine life and their environments. It prepares you for careers in ecology, marine science and environmental management.

You'll address key challenges of today including:

- climate change
- marine pollution
- sustainable use of our marine resources
- loss of marine biodiversity
- marine conservation

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](#)

You'll cover a broad range of topics to provide you with a solid foundation of knowledge in marine zoology. This foundation will help you understand more complex challenges and solutions as you progress in your degree.

You will study the form, function and classification of marine animals. You'll focus on cell biology and genetics, marine ecosystems and biological oceanography. You'll gain experience through laboratory classes, fieldwork and time on our research vessel.

Modules

You will take the following compulsory modules:

| Compulsory modules | Credits |
|--|----------------|
| Genetics and Evolution | 20 |
| Ecology and Conservation | 20 |
| Marine Biology | 20 |
| Animal Life | 20 |
| Introduction to Marine Sciences (previously called The Marine Environment) | 20 |
| Skills for the Biosciences | 20 |

You'll explore more advanced concepts of marine zoology, including molecular biology and genomics.

You'll study organisms, from zooplankton to marine mammals and birds.

Modules

Compulsory modules

You will take the following compulsory modules:

| Compulsory module | Credits |
|---|----------------|
| Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation | 20 |
| Animal Function (Physiology and Development) | 20 |
| Tropical Marine Ecology | 20 |

| Compulsory module | Credits |
|--|----------------|
| Professional Skills for Bioscientists (previously called Academic and Employability Skills) | 20 |
| Field skills for Marine Science | 20 |

Optional modules

You will take one of the following optional modules:

| Optional module | Credits |
|--|----------------|
| Evolution and Behaviour | 20 |
| Vertebrate Biology and Ecology | 20 |
| Deep Sea and Polar Biology | 20 |

With the approval of the Degree Programme Director, alternative optional modules to those listed above may be selected.

In your final year, you'll complete a marine research project. This can take place in the UK or overseas.

As a part of your project, you'll submit a scientific paper and present your findings to staff and students. This experience is invaluable as writing research papers is a core requirement in the field.

You'll also study advanced marine biology and zoology. These topics will focus on the latest research in the field.

- deep-sea ecology
- DNA meta-barcoding
- conservation of whale populations

Modules

Compulsory modules

You will take the following compulsory modules:

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

Optional modules

You will also take one of the following optional modules:

| Optional module | Credits |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Environmental Impact Assessment | 20 |
| Biodiversity Science and Management | 20 |
| Current Research in Ecology | 20 |
| Global Challenges & Solutions | 20 |
| Global Marine Science | 20 |

With the approval of the Degree Programme Director, alternative optional modules to those listed above may be selected.

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

During the course, you'll be taught via a variety of methods, including:

- lectures/seminars
- laboratory practicals
- research vessel practicals
- fieldwork
- research project

- small group tutorials

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Coursework
- Dissertation or research project
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Interviews
- Practical sessions
- Presentations
- Projects
- Reflective report/journal
- Reports
- Seminar tasks/exercises

Skills and experience

Practical skills

Practical experience

With miles of coastline and the North Sea on your doorstep, you'll enjoy a unique learning experience at Newcastle.

You'll be challenged to put theory into practice out in the field.

You'll develop strong practical skills including:

- field sampling methods
- field observations and recording

- measuring environmental and biological characteristics of estuarine and coastal environments
- experimental design and data handling

Field trips are vital as you explore the marine biology of different environments. These include:

- exploring the marine environment on the Isle of Cumbrae
- overseas residential field course in locations such as Portugal, Mexico, or Malaysia

For any residential field course activity a student contribution will be required.

Business skills

You'll gain industrial experience through:

- work placements
- study abroad opportunities
- industrial visits

You'll also develop key business skills, including:

- writing proposals
- designing experimental studies
- writing scientific reports and papers
- delivering presentations

Research skills

Research is at the heart of what we do and you'll learn about the [latest research from our school and your lecturers](#) in the lab and out at sea. Recent discoveries include:

- a new species of sawshark (*Pliotrema kajae*)
- microplastics in deep sea systems

We'll equip you with key research skills, including:

- proficiency in advanced data analysis software such as PRIMER and ArcGIS
- statistical analysis
- practical survey skills

Some recent student dissertation titles:

- Spatial and taxonomic variation in coral susceptibility to heat stress at restoration sites in the Maldives.
- Investigating the impact of vessel presence on the behaviour of the common bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*
- Photographic Identification of Blue Sharks, *Prionace glauca*, Off the Southwest of the UK

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 industry 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.

[Find out more about work placements](#)

Facilities and environment

Facilities

The Ridley 2 Building is the home of Marine Biology and Marine Zoology and is located on our city-centre campus. It's based in the [School of Natural and Environmental Sciences](#).

Located within are ten modern research-ready laboratories with specialist facilities where you'll gain hands-on experience including computer-controlled force gauge, molecular biology suits, spectrophotometers and air-sea gas exchange tanks. We also have our controlled-environment aquaria here.

Our outstanding Marine Science facilities, where you'll study live marine animals, include:

- the Dove Marine Laboratory on the coast, with a live aquarium on-site
- Blyth Marine Station and Research vessel, The Princess Royal, a floating laboratory with activities like oceanographic characterisation of river plumes to remote camera surveys of offshore habitats
- the on-campus Great North Museum with a wide range of important biological collections

You'll gain hands-on experience to prepare you for an exciting 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 graduates have a strong reputation in the industry. They've secured jobs with:

- Ocean Ecology
- Natural Power
- BBC Natural History Unit
- Marine Management Organisation
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Cefas

By the end of your course, you'll have a range of transferable skills that are useful in various careers. Our graduates have built successful careers in fields as diverse as computing and finance.

Industry links

Join our network of confident and successful graduates. They've benefitted from our industry links with:

- Marine Management Organisation
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Natural England
- Greenpeace
- National Trust
- BBC Natural History Unit
- Lindisfarne Natural Nature Reserve

Enterprising students

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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