Career prospects

As well as following careers in scientific research in both universities and industry, examples of careers followed by graduates with a PhD or MSc in Biological Sciences from Bristol include scientific education, conservation, film-making, and environmental consultancy. Many academics in Biological Sciences have connections with industry, providing career development opportunities, and we provide training in essential transferable skills to help with job applications.

How to apply

Please apply online for all our postgraduate research degrees. You can find the entry requirements and details of how to apply for each programme in our prospectus.

bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate

You are advised to make contact with your proposed supervisors to discuss possible research topics with them.

Details of our academic staff and their research areas can be found on the School website: http://www.bristol.ac.uk/biology/research/

University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol
Undergraduate study website
bristol.ac.uk/pg-study

@ChooseBristolPG
bristol.ac.uk/vip
UniversityofBristol

The information contained in this leaflet is correct at the time of printing (December 2016). Courses and facilities are liable to alter or be withdrawn at the University’s discretion.
Why study Biological Sciences in Bristol?

1. We are a broad spectrum Biology department that conducts cutting edge research in animal behaviour, sensory biology, plant sciences, evolution and ecology.

2. You will conduct your research in the world class, brand new Bristol Life Sciences Building, which has state of the art research facilities.

3. Your research supervisors will be leaders in their field.

4. You will live in one of the most exciting cities in the UK.

Why choose Bristol for postgraduate research?

The School of Biological Sciences is an internationally-recognized centre of excellence in research and teaching in biology. You will join a vibrant, dynamic and sociable research environment, and conduct postgraduate research using cutting edge approaches, technology and facilities.

What can I study?

We offer MSc by Research and PhD programmes in many aspects of biology. In addition to conventional PhD studentships, opportunities may exist to study as part of one of our flagship Centres for Doctoral Training or Doctoral Training Partnerships, which provide targeted research training in strategically important or emerging fields of biology. Our postgraduates make a vital research contribution, whilst developing skills and receiving training in communication, outreach, statistics, scientific writing and career planning.

Life Sciences Building

You will be based in the new Bristol Life Sciences Building, which opened in 2014. The building incorporates state of the art laboratories for studying many aspects of biology, including as cell and molecular biology, genomics, animal behaviour, and bioinformatics, as well as teaching and communal spaces. The building also has a unique, modern design with spectacular views over Bristol and the surrounding countryside.

Our research strengths

Evolutionary Biology

The theme of evolutionary biology cuts across all of the research in the School of Biological Sciences. This research seeks to understand the evolution and diversity of organisms, from molecular to behavioural and environmental scales.

Animal Behaviour and Sensory Biology

Our work on understanding the genetic foundations of animal behaviour, understanding animal senses as an inspiration for new technology and the effects of anthropogenic impacts on animals is at the forefront of modern biology. Our approaches are inherently multi-disciplinary, using an array of biophysical and molecular techniques, theoretical modelling and behavioural experiments in both the laboratory and the field.

Plant and Agricultural Sciences

The global issues of food security and climate change underlie our research in plant sciences. We use approaches including cell and molecular biology, genomics, cell signalling research, plant pathology and systems biology to address this problem of worldwide importance.

Ecology and Environmental Change

Our ecology research aims to understand ecological interactions between a diverse range of organisms in the environment at individual, population and community levels. Our fundamental research in this area underlies many applied aspects, such as parasitology, ecosystem management, wildlife conservation, agricultural practice, and biological control.