



## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	<b>BSc Natural Sciences</b> (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Diploma HE Natural Sciences Certificate HE Natural Sciences
Is this programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching schools	School of Natural Sciences (Home) Contributing Schools: School of Computer and Data Science, School of Psychological Sciences, School of Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) Part-time (4 years) Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years) Start month: September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmark group(s)</a> <a href="#">Higher Education Credit Framework for England</a>	Not applicable
UCAS code	F602; F603 with FY
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBSNATS_C (full-time, 3 years) UBSNATSC_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFNATS_C (full-time with FY, 4 years)
HECoS Code	(100391) natural sciences
Start date of programme	BSc: September 2024 (BSc with FY: September 2025)
Date of programme approval	August 2023
Date of last programme amendment approval	February 2024
Valid for academic entry year	<b>2025-26</b>
Date of last revision to document	20/02/2024

## Admissions requirements

### BSc Natural Sciences:

In line with the College mission for widening participation, we will provide this degree to full-time students via UCAS entry and to and part-time students with few A-level science qualifications. Recommended minimum entry requirements are one A-level (or equivalent) in a science, environment, or numerical subject. The introductory Level 4 modules have relatively light initial science and maths expectations, enabling students to gain the experience, knowledge, and confidence to succeed as scientists as they progress through the degree.

**Full Time:** 112 UCAS points (BBC, including two from chemistry, biology, physics, geography, geology, or maths).

**Part Time:** Entry at discretion of Admissions Tutor. Minimally expected: one A-level (or equivalent) in a science, environment, or numerical subject.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge, and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides [a tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

### BSc Natural Sciences with Foundation Year:

**Full Time:** 48 UCAS points with some evidence of science-based study

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides [a tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

## Course aims

This programme offers an interdisciplinary science degree for students who have a range of interests in science and who want to explore their diverse interests by assembling their degree from selected thematic streams.

### Main Aims

- To develop students' understanding and skills across a range of traditional science disciplines, and how these may be applied to tackle multidisciplinary problems in science.
- To encourage and develop students' abilities to apply their critical thinking in creative ways that supports innovation in their chosen scientific field and/or in the workplace.
- To produce graduates having the knowledge, analytical skills and practical skills essential for further study in relevant scientific disciplines, and/or for employment in science-related fields.
- To provide students currently in science-related work with additional skills and academic knowledge for career enhancement and/or vocational realignment.

### Distinctive Features

- Flexible delivery via combinations of face-to-face and online learning sessions, with optional daytime or evening attendance for some modules.

- All students receive core training in skills across the entire breadth of the programme
- Full-time and Part-time routes share identical curricula: only the pace of study differs.

## Course structure

### Foundation Year:

Students who join the BSc Natural Sciences with Foundation Year complete a "year 0" which, if completed successfully, allows students to join year 1 of the BSc Natural Sciences programme (shown ahead).

The Year 0 constitutes 120 credits at Levels 3 and 4. All students would take the 30 credit compulsory Level 3 module Fundamentals of Study, plus 90 credits chosen from a range of options.

FFSC011H4	Biology: Part 1 of 3
FFSC021H4	Biology: Part 2 of 3*
FFSC031H4	Biology: Part 3 of 3**
FFSC012H4	Chemistry: Part 1 of 3
FFSC022H4	Chemistry: Part 2 of 3*
FFSC032H4	Chemistry: Part 3 of 3**
BUCI085H3	Programming Logic
SCPS189H4	Understanding Personality and Intelligence
BUEM093S3	Essential Mathematics (30 credits) T2
tbc	Rudiments of Programming (30 credits) T3

\*Corresponding Part 1 of 3 is a prerequisite

\*\*Corresponding Part 2 of 3 is a prerequisite

Module	Code	Level	Credits	Status	Term	Day
Fundamentals of Study	CASE002S3	3	30	Compulsory	1	Mon and Tue, evening
Plus 90 credits from:						
Biology Part 1 of 3	FFSC011H4	4	15	Optional	1	Friday afternoon
Chemistry Part 1 of 3	FFSC012H4	4	15	Optional	1	Thursday afternoon
Biology Part 2 of 3	FFSC011H4	4	15	Optional	2	Friday afternoon
Chemistry Part 2 of 3	FFSC012H4	4	15	Optional	2	Thursday afternoon
Programming Logic	BUCI085H3	3	15	Optional	2	Thursday evening
Essential Mathematics	BUEM093S3	3	30	Optional	2	<b>tbc</b>
Biology Part 3 of 3	FFSC011H4	4	15	Optional	3	Friday afternoon
Chemistry Part 3 of 3	FFSC012H4	4	15	Optional	3	Thursday afternoon
Understanding Personality and Intelligence	SCPS189H4	4	15	Optional	3	Thursday evening
Rudiments of Programming	tbc	3	30	Optional	3	<b>tbc</b>

## BSc Natural Sciences

All students will follow a **Core Curriculum** comprising 30 credits at Levels 4, 5, and 6. The remaining 90 credits at each Level will be earned via the selected **Pathways**.

### Core Curriculum

The **Core** modules, taken by all Natural Sciences students, irrespective of the chosen Pathway, are:

Methods in Natural Sciences I [SC11001H4]. Level 4, 15 Credits, Term 2.

Data Skills [BUEM132H4]. Level 4, 15 Credits, Term 1/Wed.

Methods in Natural Sciences II [SC11002H5]. Level 5, 15 Credits, Term 3.

Analysing Data [BUEM131H5]. Level 5, 15 Credits, Term 2/Wed.

Natural Sciences Project [SC11003S6]. Level 6, 30 Credits, Terms 1-3.

### Pathways

At the start of your degree, you will select **ONE of the listed Pathways** from the five choices listed below. Each Pathway combines modules from two disciplinary streams, thus the “A + B” form of the Pathway titles in the table below.

Pathway 1	Astronomy and Planetary Science + Bioscience
Pathway 2	Astronomy and Planetary Science + Data Science
Pathway 3	Earth and Environment + Bioscience
Pathway 4	Bioscience + Data Science
Pathway 5	Cognition and Neuroscience + Bioscience

### Pattern of the Programme, by Level

At Level 4, alongside the 30 core credits, taken in common by all students on the programme, you will additionally take the 90 credits as specified by your chosen pathway: 45 credits from each of two disciplinary streams. All of the specified modules are required and there is no choice.

The Level 5 curricula are assembled similarly, with 30 core credits plus 90 pathway-specific credits. The pathway-specific credits again are equally represented by 45 credits from each of two disciplinary streams, although in the case of Biosciences modules, there is an opportunity to choose 1 of the 3 modules contributing to that disciplinary stream.

At Level 6, all students will take a core, 30-credit Natural Sciences Project module, plus a further 90 credits. Unlike the case at Levels 4 and 5, here you have free choice from a Pathway-specific collection of optional modules, plus the chance to include “non-Pathway” options from a specified list.

## Module compositions of the Pathways

A series of tables following indicates the compositions of the respective Pathways, 1 through 5. A final table indicates Additional Level 6 Optional Modules, that expand the choice at Level 6, irrespective of Pathway.

### Pathway 1: *Astronomy and Planetary Science + Bioscience*

Level 4	Code	Credits	Status	Term	Day
Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology	SCBS064H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Introduction to Planetary Science & Space Exploration	SCES071H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Wed
Data Skills	BUEM132H4	15	Core	T1	Wed
Earth History	EASC050H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Thu
Foundations of Astronomy	SCES001H4	15	Compulsory	T2	Mon
<b>Methods in Natural Sciences I</b>	SC11001H4	15	Core	T2	Thu
Organic and Biological Chemistry	SCBS069H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Mon
Laboratory Skills in Biochemistry	SCBS071H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu or Fri
Under the current timetabling, <i>Data Skills</i> and <i>Introduction to Planetary Science and Space Exploration</i> run on the same day of the week in Term 1. To avoid a clash, the latter module must be taken in distance learning mode.					
Level 5					
Geology of the Solar System	SCES072S5	30	Compulsory	T1	tbc
Analysing Data	BUEM131H5	15	Core	T2	Wed
Molecular Biology	SCBS077H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Thu
Introduction to Astrobiology	EASC064H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Fri
Medical Microbiology and Immunology	SCBS075H5	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu
<b>Methods in Natural Sciences II</b>	SC11002H5	15	Core	T3	Fri
<b>Choose ONE from the following to bring your Level 5 credit to 120 total</b>					
Evolution and Genetics	SCBS073H5	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Drugs and Drug Discovery	SCBS079H5	15	Optional	T3	Wed
Level 6					
<b>Natural Sciences Project</b>	SC11003S6	30	Core	T1-T2-T3	N/A
<b>Take 90 Credits from:</b>					
Advanced Cell Biology	BCBC006S6	30	Optional	T1+2	Tue
Epidemiology	SCBS083H6	15	Optional	T1	Mon
Infectious Bacteria and Antibiotics	SCBS080H6	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Remote Sensing & Planetary Surfaces	SCES035H6	15	Optional	T1	Thu
Public Health	SCBS084H6	15	Optional	T2	Mon
Physical Principles of Astronomy	SCES022H6	15	Optional	T2	Wed
Frontiers in Astrobiology	SCES074H6	15	Optional	tbc	tbc
<b>Additional Optional Modules</b>	See the Table on page X				
The <i>Natural Sciences Project</i> will follow a timetable agreed with your Project Supervisor. The maximum allowed credit load in any single Term is 60.					

## Pathway 2: Astronomy and Planetary Science + Data Science

Level 4	Code	Credits	Status	Term	Day
Introduction to Programming	BUCI007H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Introduction to Planetary Science & Space Exploration	SCES071H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Wed
Data Skills	BUEM132H4	15	Core	T1	Wed
Earth History	EASC050H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Thu
Foundations of Astronomy	SCES001H4	15	Compulsory	T2	Mon
Foundations of Data Science I	BUCI069H4	15	Compulsory	T2	Wed
<b>Methods in Natural Sciences I</b>	SC11001H4	15	Core	T2	Thu
Software and Programming I	BUCI087H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu or Fri
Under the current timetabling, <i>Data Skills</i> and <i>Introduction to Planetary Science and Space Exploration</i> run on the same day of the week in Term 1. To avoid a clash, the latter module must be taken in distance learning mode.					
Level 5					
Geology of the Solar System	SCES072S5	30	Compulsory	T1	tbc
Data Structures and Algorithms	BUCI030H5	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Foundations of Data Science II	BUCI070H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Tue
Analysing Data	BUEM131H5	15	Core	T2	Wed
Introduction to Astrobiology	EASC064H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Fri
Professional Issues in Computing	BUCI086H5	15	Compulsory	T3	Wed
<b>Methods in Natural Sciences II</b>	SC11002H5	15	Core	T3	Fri
Level 6					
<b>Natural Sciences Project</b>	SC11003S6	30	Core	T1-T2-T3	N/A
<b>Take 90 Credits from:</b>					
Data Science Applications and Technique	BUCI071H6	15	Optional	T1	Tue
Information Security	COIY045H6	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Remote Sensing & Planetary Surfaces	SCES035H6	15	Optional	T1	Thu
Physical Principles of Astronomy	SCES022H6	15	Optional	T2	Wed
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	BUCI034H6	15	Optional	T2	Thu
Frontiers in Astrobiology	SCES074H6	15	Optional	tbc	tbc
<b>Additional Optional Modules</b>	See the Table on page 9				
The <i>Natural Sciences Project</i> will follow a timetable agreed with your Project Supervisor. The maximum allowed credit load in any single Term is 60.					

**Pathway 3: *Earth and Environment + Bioscience***

<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Day</b>
Earth as a Planet	SCES060S4	30	Compulsory	T1	Mon & Tue
Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology	SCBS064H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Data Skills	BUEM132H4	15	Core	T1	Wed
Life and the Fossil Record	EASC042H4	15	Compulsory	T2	Tue
Methods in Natural Sciences I	SC11001H4	15	Core	T2	Thu
Organic and Biological Chemistry	SCBS069H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Mon
Laboratory Skills in Biochemistry	SCBS071H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu or Fri
<i>Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology</i> must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period) to avoid a clash with <i>Earth as a Planet</i> , which is taught in the evening.					
<b>Level 5</b>					
Environmental Processes	GGPH071S5	30	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Structural Geology and Tectonics	EASC011H5	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Analysing Data	BUEM131H5	15	Core	T2	Wed
Molecular Biology	SCBS077H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Thu
Medical Microbiology and Immunology	SCBS075H5	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu
Methods in Natural Sciences II	SC11002H5	15	Core	T3	Fri
<b>Choose ONE from the following to bring your Level 5 credit to 120 total</b>					
Aspects of Human Physiology	SCBS076H5	15	Optional	T2	Wed
Drugs and Drug Discovery	SCBS079H5	15	Optional	T3	Wed
Under the current timetabling, <i>Environmental Processes</i> and <i>Structural Geology and Tectonics</i> run on the same day of the week in Term 1. To avoid a clash, one of these must be taken in distance learning mode. In Term 2, if <i>Aspects of Human Physiology</i> is selected, it will be necessary to take it in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period) to avoid a clash with <i>Analysing Data</i> , which is taught in the evening.					
<b>Level 6</b>					
<b>Natural Sciences Project</b>	SC11003S6	30	Core	T1-T2-T3	N/A
<b>Take 90 credits from:</b>					
Advanced Cell Biology	BCBC006S6	30	Optional	T1+2	Tue
Epidemiology	SCBS083H6	15	Optional	T1	Mon
Infectious Bacteria and Antibiotics	SCBS080H6	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Geological Hazards	EASC044H6	15	Optional	T2	Mon
Public Health	SCBS084H6	15	Optional	T2	Mon
Climate Change and Society	New code	30	Optional	T3	Tue
<b>Additional Optional Modules</b>	See the Table on page 9				
The <i>Natural Sciences Project</i> will follow a timetable agreed with your Project Supervisor. The maximum allowed credit load in any single Term is 60. Under the current timetabling, <i>Geological Hazards</i> and <i>Public Health</i> run on the same day of the week in Term 2. If both are selected, to avoid a clash, <i>Public Health</i> must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period).					

Pathway 4: *Bioscience + Data Science*

Level 4	Code	Credits	Status	Term	Day
Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology	SCBS064H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Introduction to Programming	BUCI007H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Data Skills	BUEM132H4	15	Core	T1	Wed
Foundations of Data Science I	BUCI069H4	15	Compulsory	T2	Wed
Methods in Natural Sciences I	SC11001H4	15	Core	T2	Thu
Organic and Biological Chemistry	SCBS069H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Mon
Laboratory Skills in Biochemistry	SCBS071H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu or Fri
Software and Programming I	BUCI087H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu or Fri
<i>Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology</i> must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period) to avoid a clash with <i>Introduction to Programming</i> , which is taught in the evening.					
<b>Level 5</b>					
Data Structures and Algorithms	BUCI030H5	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Foundations of Data Science II	BUCI070H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Tue
Analysing Data	BUEM131H5	15	Core	T2	Wed
Molecular Biology	SCBS077H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Thu
Professional Issues in Computing	BUCI086H5	15	Compulsory	T3	Wed
Medical Microbiology and Immunology	SCBS075H5	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu
<b>Methods in Natural Sciences II</b>	SC11002H5	15	Core	T3	Fri
<b>Choose ONE from the following to bring your Level 5 credit to 120 total</b>					
Evolution and Genetics	SCBS073H5	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Drugs and Drug Discovery	SCBS079H5	15	Optional	T3	Wed
If selected, <i>Drugs and Drug Discovery</i> must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period) to avoid a clash with <i>Professional Issues in Computing</i> , which is taught in the evening.					
<b>Level 6</b>					
<b>Natural Sciences Project</b>	SC11003S6	30	Core	T1-T2-T3	N/A
<b>Take 90 Credits from:</b>					
Advanced Cell Biology	BCBC006S6	30	Optional	T1+2	Tue
Epidemiology	SCBS083H6	15	Optional	T1	Mon
Data Science Applications and Techniques	BUCI071H6	15	Optional	T1	Tue
Infectious Bacteria and Antibiotics	SCBS080H6	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Information Security	COIY045H6	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Public Health	SCBS084H6	15	Optional	T2	Mon
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	BUCI034H6	15	Optional	T2	Thu
<b>Additional Optional Modules</b>	See the Table on page 9				



The *Natural Sciences Project* will follow a timetable agreed with your Project Supervisor.

The maximum allowed credit load in any single Term is 60.

Under the current timetabling, *Advanced Cell Biology* and *Data Science Applications and Techniques* run on the same day of the week in Term 1. If both are selected, to avoid a clash, *Advanced Cell Biology* must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period).

Under the current timetabling, *Infectious Bacteria and Antibiotics* and *Information Security* run on the same day of the week in Term 1. If both are selected, to avoid a clash, *Infectious Bacteria and Antibiotics* must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period).

### Pathway 5: *Cognition and Neuroscience + Bioscience*

Level 4	Code	Credits	Status	Term	Day
Introduction to Developmental Psychology	SCPS203H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology	SCBS064H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Tue
Data Skills	BUEM132H4	15	Core	T1	Wed
Introduction to Neuroscience	PSYC048H4	15	Compulsory	T1	Thu
Introduction to Cognition	SCPS175H4	15	Compulsory	T2	Tue
Methods in Natural Sciences I	SC11001H4	15	Core	T2	Thu
Organic and Biological Chemistry	SCBS069H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Mon
Laboratory Skills in Biochemistry <sup>a</sup>	SCBS071H4	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu or Fri
<i>Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology</i> must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period) to avoid a clash with <i>Introduction to Developmental Psychology</i> , which is taught in the evening.					
Level 5					
Neuroscience	PSYC044H5	15	Compulsory	T1	Thu
Developmental Psychology	PSYC026H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Tue
Analysing Data	BUEM131H5	15	Core	T2	Wed
Molecular Biology	SCBS077H5	15	Compulsory	T2	Thu
Cognition	SCPS179H5	15	Compulsory	T3	Wed
Medical Microbiology and Immunology	SCBS075H5	15	Compulsory	T3	Thu
Methods in Natural Sciences II	SC11002H5	15	Core	T3	Fri
<b>Choose ONE from the following to bring your Level 5 credit to 120 total</b>					
Evolution and Genetics	SCBS073H5	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Drugs and Drug Discovery	SCBS079H5	15	Optional	T3	Wed
Under the current timetabling, <i>Cognition</i> and <i>Drugs and Drug Discovery</i> run on the same day of the week in Term 3. If both are selected, to avoid a clash, <i>Drugs and Drug Discovery</i> must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period).					
Level 6					
Natural Sciences Project	SC11003S6	30	Core	T1-T2-T3	N/A
<b>Take 90 Credits from:</b>					
Advanced Cell Biology	BCBC006S6	30	Optional	T1+2	Tue
Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience	PSYC069H6	15	Optional	T1	Mon
Epidemiology	SCBS083H6	15	Optional	T1	Mon
Infectious Bacteria and Antibiotics	SCBS080H6	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Public Health	SCBS084H6	15	Optional	T2	Mon
Language	PSYC034H6	15	Optional	T2	Tue
Neuropsychology	SCPS227H6	15	Optional	T2	Thu
<b>Additional Optional Modules</b>	See the Table on page 9				

The *Natural Sciences Project* will follow a timetable agreed with your Project Supervisor.

The maximum allowed credit load in any single Term is 60.

Under the current timetabling, *Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience* and *Epidemiology* run on the same day of the week in Term 1. If both are selected, to avoid a clash, *Epidemiology* must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period).

Under the current timetabling, *Advanced Cell Biology* and *Language* run on the same day of the week in Term 2. If both are selected, to avoid a clash, *Advanced Cell Biology* must be taken in the daytime (1300-1600 h teaching period).

**Additional Level 6 Optional Modules.** These modules do not depend on pre-requisites that are pathway-specific, so can be taken by students on any of the Pathways. (Note that some of these already appear as options on certain Pathways.)

Level 6	Code	Credits	Status	Term	Day
Climate Change and Society	New code	30	Optional	tbc	tbc
The Vertebrate Fossil Record	SCES050H6	15	Optional	tbc	tbc
Epidemiology	SCBS083H6	15	Optional	T1	Mon
Family Studies	PSYC028H6	15	Optional	T1	Wed
Public Health	SCBS084H6	15	Optional	T2	Mon
Global Nature Conservation	SSGE095S6	30	Optional	T2	Wed
Principles of Geographic Information Systems	GGPH036S6	30	Optional	T2	Mon

## Structure of the programme: Part-Time Mode

When taken in Part-Time mode, you will follow the same general pattern as seen for the Full-Time programme, as described on page 3. Importantly, for the part-time mode, *Methods in Natural Sciences II* is placed in the penultimate year, placing it in proximity to the *Natural Sciences Project*, which can only be taken in a final year.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Core/Comp/Option	Teaching term(s)
<b>Part-Time [4 years]</b>					
<b>Year 1</b>					
4	BUEM132H4	Data Skills	15	Core	T1
4	SC11001H4	Methods in Natural Sciences I	15	Core	T2
4		Level 4 modules from selected Pathway	60	Compulsory	T1, T2, T2
<b>Year 2</b>					
4		Level 4 modules from selected Pathway	30	Compulsory	T1, T2, T3
5		Level 5 modules from selected Pathway*	60	Compulsory	T1, T2, T3
<b>Year 3</b>					
5	BUEM131H5	Analysing Data	15	Core	T1
5	SC11002H5	Methods in Natural Sciences II	15	Core	T3
5		Level 5 modules from selected Pathway *	30	Compulsory	T1, T2, T3
6		Level 6 modules from selected Pathway or additional choice options**	30	Option	T1, T2, T3
<b>Year 4</b>					
6	SC11003S6	Natural Sciences Project	30	Core	T1-3
6		Level 6 modules from selected Pathway or additional choice options**	60	Option	T1, T2, T3
*Note: on the Biosciences stream, 30 credits at Level 5 are compulsory modules; you will have a choice in selecting the final 15 credits.					
** Overall, you need 90 credits at Level 6 beyond the Natural Sciences Project. Optional modules may be selected from the Pathway-specific options and/or from the Additional Optional Modules List.					

*Core: Module must be taken and passed by student*

*Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

*Option: Student can choose to take this module*

## **How you will learn**

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

The course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Typical teaching methods include lectures aimed at communicating complex scientific principles and practical exercises intended to explore these concepts further. Seminars and tutorials will also be used, as appropriate, to facilitate discussion and debate. Experiential learning via laboratory methods and fieldwork will be compulsory at Levels 4 and 5 and for many students will also form part of their Level 6 independent research project.

On some modules, you will have the opportunity to study via a Hyflex model, which means that you can elect to be present during classes either in-person or by participating in a live-online class session.

## **How we will assess you**

Module assessment will vary depending on the subject matter and the level of study. Across the full programme, students can expect to be assessed via a mix of examinations, essays, oral presentations, field/lab reports, and a dissertation/scientific report. Such a broad mix of modes-of-assessment ensures that all learning styles are catered for.

## **Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)**

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Broad knowledge and understanding across the Natural Sciences disciplines.
2. In-depth knowledge and understanding of two scientific disciplines, enabling the student to pursue post-graduate study in either subject area.
3. A core set of numerical and data analytical skills that are transferable to a wide range of industries, scientific or otherwise.
4. Practical skills and experience in laboratory and field science techniques.
5. Report-writing, presentation, communication, networking, research-design, independent research and team-working skills, essential in many work environments.

## **Careers and further study**

This is a new programme of study for 2024-2025 academic year, so we have no historical data regarding students' post-study destinations.

While the key transferable skills acquired in studying the BSc will no doubt support you in a wide-range of employment areas post-graduation, we anticipate that many Natural Sciences students will be taking the course with a view to post-graduate study. Natural Sciences graduates will be well-equipped for further study in a range of science disciplines depending on their chosen study

streams. Students may want to target one of the MSc courses, offered by Birkbeck, from the list below:

- Analytical Bioscience
- Astrobiology
- Bioinformatics
- Brain and Cognitive Development
- Climate Change
- Cognition and Computation
- Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuropsychology
- Educational Neuroscience
- Environment and Sustainability
- Geographic Data Science
- Global Infectious Diseases
- Microbiology
- Quantitative Finance with Data Science
- Structural Biology
- Structural Molecular Biology

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website: <https://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/careers-service>.

### **Academic regulations and course management**

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

### **Support for your study**

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

### **Quality and standards at Birkbeck**

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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