Programme Specification

BSc Biological Sciences with Foundation **UCAS Code: C102**

For students entering Foundation year in September 2017 **UFBIOLWFY**

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	

Programme information and content	
The programme aims to provide students with the opportunity to study biology at scales ranging from biomolecular processes to global ecological systems. The programme is concerned especially with the diversity of living organisms and includes study of the biology of all types of organisms, from microorganisms to flowering plants and mammals, at levels ranging from the molecular, biochemical and cellular to the physiological, environmental and ecological. Our aim is to produce biologists with the knowledge, skills and determination to tackle challenges ranging from wildlife conservation to the treatment of disease. In addition to scientific knowledge we aim to provide transferrable skills of importance in a wide variety of careers. These skills include: The ability to assess, evaluate and present scientific data. The ability to design and undertake a programme of scientific investigation and to effectively communicate the aims and results of this investigation. A range of laboratory-based practical skills and laboratory and field-based practical skills will also be developed.	
Foundation year:	The Science Foundation Year provides you with the scientific background required to succeed on the subsequent years of the course. You will acquire a broad foundation in Chemistry, Biology and scientific Calculations. Additionally, our Key Skills module gives you all the skills necessary to excel at University. The goal of Year 0 is to provide each student with basic core knowledge suitable for your chosen pathway and the confidence of transitioning to Higher Education.
Part 1:	Part 1 of our programme will provide the student with a foundation of core skills and knowledge through a number of introductory modules examining key biological principles such as cell biology, genetics, evolutionary biology and microbiology. In addition students will be given training in key skills such as careers development, presentation skills and statistics. Students can tailor their own programme to meet their interests or career aspirations with a wide choice of optional modules. Learning will be delivered via lectures, practical classes, field work and tutorials.
Part 2:	In Part 2 you will explore more specialised topics, building on the learning from Part 1. Students will study crop venoms and poisons as a topic that provides insight into a wide range of biological topics and will continue to develop key skills.

Part 3:	Part 3 gives students the opportunity to further develop their understanding of specialised biological subjects, taking their understanding to the latest research and developments in the field. Students choose and develop a final year research project culminating in the writing of a dissertation which will develop their project management and research skills in their area of interest.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI0BF1	Foundation Programme: Biology	40	0
BI0MF1	Mathematics Foundation	20	0
CH0CHE	Chemistry	40	0
FB0SSK	Key Skills for Science Research	20	0

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI1BEC1	Building Blocks of Life	20	4
BI1EAD1	Introduction to Evolutionary Processes	20	4
BI1S1	Introductory Microbiology	10	4

In addition, students must take one of the following modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI1BM12	Key Skills in Biomedicine	10	4
BI1EZ12	Key Skills in Ecology and Zoology	10	4

Students will choose further modules, to achieve a total of 120 credits. Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences and across the University, subject to Programme Advisor approval and timetabling constraints. Students also have the option to select a language module.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI2EVP5	Venoms and Poisons	10	5

In addition, students must take one of the following modules:

Either			
BI2BM45	Key Skills in Biomedicine 2	10	5
Or			
BI2EZ45	Key Skills in Ecology and Zoology 2	10	5

Students will choose further modules, to achieve a total of 120 credits. Students may take a maximum of 90 credits (including compulsory modules) in any one term.
Alternative modules may be chosen from the School of Biological Sciences or, exceptionally, from other Schools. Timetable restrictions may apply. Students also have the option to select a language module.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on the 5 year version of the programme will take one 120 credit module during their placement year. Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 5-year programme. The placement year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time. If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

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Part 3 Modules:

Students must select a research project module from the following:

Either			
BI3PROA	Research Project - Ecology and Evolution 40 Credit	40	6
Or			
BI3PROB	Research Project - Biomolecular 40 Credit	40	6

Students will choose further modules, to achieve a total of 120 credits, from the list provided by the school of Biological Sciences. The list provided by the School may be subject specific.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

You will require a laboratory coat which you can bring with you or purchase from the University when you arrive (£12). Participation in any residential field based optional modules offered, is subject to fees payable by the student. If you undertake a Placement Year, associated costs will vary according to the nature and location of the placement and/or the study abroad host institution, and individual travel and subsistence arrangements. Costs

are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2017.

Placement opportunities

Placement: You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University. If you take the 5 year degree with Placement Year, you are required to undertake a compulsory placement as part of your Programme (see section above on Placement). You will be supported in finding this placement. Study Abroad: You may have the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad/Placement year during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars/tutorials, laboratory and field practicals and supervised project work. The contact hours for your Programme are dependent on module choice. Information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 324 hours, Part 2 - 300 hours, Part 3 - 276 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework, assessed via a range of methods.
Progression
The University-wide rules relating to ‘threshold performance’ as follows:

Part 0
(i) an average of at least 40% in modules totalling 120 credits; with
(ii) a maximum of 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35% and a pass in the

Academic Skills module
Passes are at three levels: Grade I with Distinction (70%), Grade I (60%) and Grade II (40%).
In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and
(iii) a Grade I pass(60%) in each of two 40 credit modules (CH0CHE Chemistry and BI0BF1 Biology);and
(iv) an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules (BI0MF1 and FB0SSK) but with no module mark below35%.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate in Foundation Year Studies if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1
(i) obtain an overall weighted average of 40% in 120 credits
(ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.
In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2
To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:
(i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
(ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
(iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.
In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the 4 year programme, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the 5 year programme, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

In order to be eligible for Honours, students must gain;
(i) an overall weighted average mark of 40%, at least 40% in modules amounting to 80 credits in Part 3; and

(ii) must gain a mark of at least 40% in the Research Project module.
For a Pass degree, candidates must have an average of at least 35% and at least 35% in modules amounting to 80 credits in Part 3, and must gain a mark of at least 35% in the Research Project module.

Classification
Bachelors' degrees
The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:
Mark Interpretation
70% - 100% First class
60% - 69% Upper Second class
50% - 59% Lower Second class
40% - 49% Third class
35% - 39% Below Honours Standard
0% - 34% Fail
The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:
Three year programmes:
Part 2: one-third
Part 3: two-thirds
Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:
Part 2: one-third
Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification
Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BSc Biological Sciences with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2017/18
24 March 2021