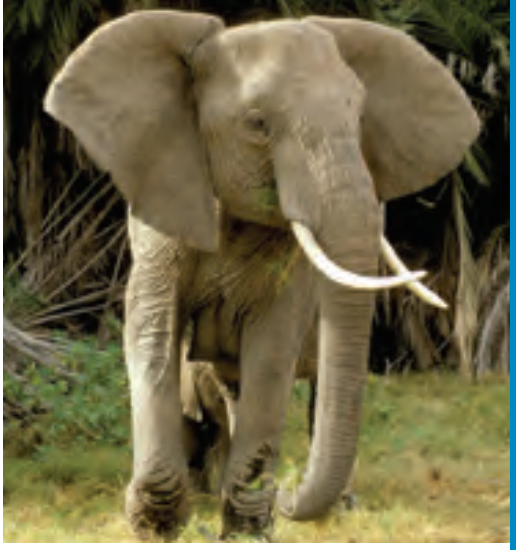
Zoology



African elephant contact calling. Research at Sussex has revealed that female elephants can recognise the calls of members of their own social group and of other family units in their population

Essentials

Courses

MSci (Hons) in Zoology
MSci (Hons) in Zoology (research placement)
BSc (Hons) in Zoology

Foundation year for UK and EU students

Refer to the BSc (Hons) in Biosciences (with a foundation year) on page 47

Related subjects

Biology (p48), Biomedical sciences (p50), Ecology, conservation and environment (p69), Genetics (p86), Neuroscience (p115)

A levels and IB/BTEC scores

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 144-146)

Typical A level offer for the MSci in Zoology (research placement): AAA

Typical A level offer range for the other MSci and the BSc: AAB-ABB

A levels (or equivalent) must include at least one from Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry or Physics

Typical IB diploma offer for the MSci in Zoology (research placement): 36 points including Higher Level in at least one from Biology, Chemistry or Physics, grade 6

Typical IB diploma offer for the other MSci and the BSc: at least 34 points including Higher Level in at least one from Biology, Chemistry or Physics with a final grade of 5

Typical BTEC offer: DDD-DDM in the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (QCF) or the former BTEC National Diploma (NQF) in Applied Science. Successful applicants will need to have opted for substantial numbers of modules in biology- or chemistry-related topics

What else do I need?

GCSE (or equivalent) Mathematics and either Chemistry or Double Science, grade C

Scholarships, fees and living costs

Refer to pages 151-154 and visit **www.sussex.ac.uk/study/money**

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall, with not less than 6.0 in each section. Pearson's Test of English (Academic) with 62 overall with at least 56 in all four skills. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 146

Contact us

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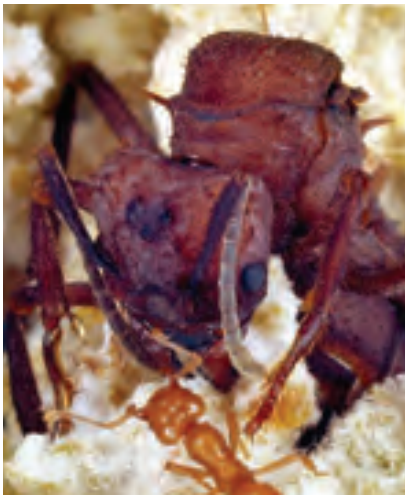
Open Days

Our Open Day dates for 2015 are 27 June, 5 September and 3 October. We also run regular campus tours. Call 01273 876787 or book online at **www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors**

Why zoology?
Zoology is the study of animals – how they function, behave and evolve. As well as being intrinsically fascinating, zoology is also of real-world importance. Understanding zoology is essential for the conservation and management of animals – there has never been a greater need for zoologists than today.

Why zoology at Sussex?

- You are taught by leading scientists in their fields. Sussex has particular strengths in the behaviour, conservation and evolution of animals, from white sharks and spider monkeys to ants and cuttlefish. We have an excellent staff-student ratio and provide an outstanding, well-resourced and supportive learning environment.
- Our courses offer you an exceptional learning experience, with a focus on whole-organism zoology and a heavy emphasis on fieldwork. Sussex – unlike most other universities – provides generous financial support to heavily subsidise your attendance on all field trips, from the UK to Ecuador.
- Our graduates have good employment prospects. We offer you the opportunity to interact with a range of local, national and international organisations involved in conservation and environmental management to prepare you for careers in these sectors. We enable you to engage in research to prepare you for a career as a professional scientist, and there are also opportunities to engage in practical teaching outreach to prepare you for a career in education.



Sussex has a world-leading research group studying social insects (ants, bees, wasps)

Courses

MSci or BSc?
At Sussex we offer Zoology as either a three-year BSc or a four-year MSci. The first three years in both degrees are identical.

The MSci adds a research-focused fourth year, designed for you if you are interested in a career as a professional scientist in industry or academia, enabling you to get a Masters degree while being eligible for undergraduate financial support.

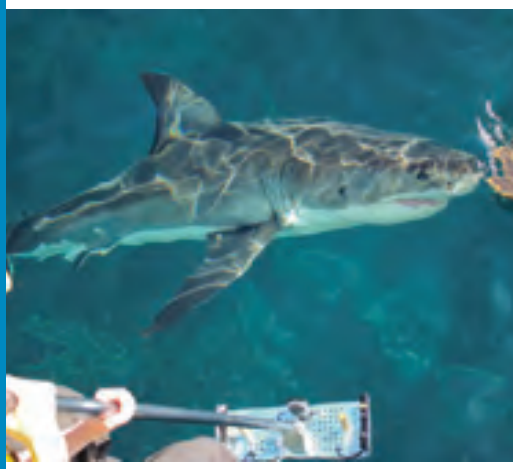
Applicants unsure about whether to do an MSci or a BSc should opt initially for the MSci. If your eventual A level grades meet the offer level for a BSc but not an MSci, we will automatically offer you a place on a BSc degree.

If you initially choose to take a BSc, you still have the option, subject to satisfactory progress, to transfer to the MSci at the end of Years 1 or 2. Similarly, you can transfer from MSci to the BSc at the end of Years 1 or 2.

Bill's faculty perspective

'Zoology is an exciting and broad subject. My own research takes me from genetics to behaviour, and from ants to sharks, in a quest to understand how animals behave and evolve. How do the societies of social animals work and deal with the myriad of challenges they face, often without any form of oversight or controller? Why do animals show individual 'personalities'? How does co-operation in social animals evolve in the face of all the underlying conflicts between individuals? What role do parasites play in the current 'pollinator crisis' and how can we help beneficial species cope with such threats?
'Our courses are designed for you to experience the subject in all its glory, to learn what you want to learn as well as what you need to learn, to become inspired and enthused about the subject, and to give you the tools to take the next steps in your career.'

Bill Hughes
Professor of Evolutionary Biology, University of Sussex



We research the behaviour and conservation of white sharks, with undergraduate students having the opportunity to carry out research projects on these sharks in South Africa

Sussex Choice

Broaden your studies, develop your interests and gain a valuable career edge with Sussex Choice. Look out for the icons:

- (p) placements (details on page 36)
- (s) study abroad opportunities (details on page 36)

Zoology
MSci (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: C301 (p) (s)
MSci (Hons), 4 years (research placement) UCAS Code: C302
BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: C300

These courses offer you an exceptional learning experience and the chance to tailor your degree to your particular interests.

You have many opportunities to engage in research during your BSc, as well as the option to enhance this further in a four-year MSci to prepare you for a career in research. You can also choose to engage in practical teaching outreach to develop the skills necessary for a career in education.

MSci with a research placement gives you the opportunity to further enhance your research methods and practices by undertaking a paid research placement each year during the summer vacation. You will work on a project to contribute to the research programme of the group and will therefore be involved in cutting-edge research from the beginning of your studies, giving you the competitive edge for securing a research-based career in industry or academia. The placement can be done in the same research group each year or a different one in each year.

Refer to Core content on the right.

How will I learn?

- you learn via lectures, practicals, tutorials and fieldwork – taught by world-leading experts in their fields – with small-group and independent learning embedded in many modules
- the best way of learning zoology is often to study animals in their natural environment. Accordingly, we place a heavy emphasis on fieldwork, either in the South Downs National Park in which the University is located, or on residential and generously subsidised field trips in the UK, the Mediterranean and Ecuador
- you are exposed to the latest zoological research throughout your degree. You spend a quarter of Year 3 on an in-depth research project, which gives you first-hand experience of doing scientific research on almost any zoological topic of your choice.

Also refer to pages 32-36.

What will I achieve?

- you gain a comprehensive knowledge of a range of fundamental and advanced topics in zoology, as well as their application to conservation, management and other applied problems
- you are trained in a wide variety of technical, field, analytical and IT skills that are core to zoology and become skilled in devising, conducting and analysing experiments
- you develop the ability to assimilate and critically evaluate information, as well as a diversity of transferable skills and the ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team.

Career paths

A degree in zoology prepares you for careers in conservation, ecological management, scientific research in academia or industry, nature documentaries and photography, zoos and wildlife parks, agriculture, veterinary work and teaching. It equips you with the skills for a fieldwork-based career, as well as with a wide range of transferable skills, making you highly employable.

Biosciences (with a foundation year) (p) (s)
BSc (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: C701

Applicants are considered on a case-by-case basis and will present with a range of post-GCSE qualifications. The typical A level offer is currently CCC.
There is a separate international foundation year for overseas students (refer to page 34).

If you have an ambition to undertake a degree in biological sciences but are unable to meet the entry requirements for one of our named courses, our foundation year could enable you to achieve your goal. Taught on the Sussex campus, this course is specifically designed for students who wish to transfer onto one of the degree courses offered by the School of Life Sciences.

For the full course description, refer to page 47.

Associate Tutor Citlalli Morelos-Juarez in the Ecuadorean rainforest

Core content

Foundation year (optional)
During the foundation year you take introductory modules in biology and chemistry along with mathematics and study skills, including IT. Practical work is an important element of the foundation year

Year 1
Year 1 covers the fundamentals of zoology, including animal behaviour, evolution and conservation. It includes a marine biology field course, the opportunity to learn about the science behind our understanding of some of the most exciting animals, and a range of interdisciplinary options

Year 2
You study the core topics in zoology in detail, including animal behaviour, evolutionary biology, animal physiology, and conservation biology. There are fieldtrips to study animal behaviour and ecology in the Mediterranean and the UK. You can also choose subjects from a range of options from neurobiology to climate change

Year 3
Year 3 consists of an in-depth research project and your choice from a range of advanced research-led modules covering diverse zoological topics, an optional tropical ecology fieldtrip in a cloud forest in Ecuador and a career-focused module in conservation

Year 4 (MSci only)
In this year you gain your integrated Masters degree. The year is devoted to developing your research skills. The focus is a major research project that occupies three-quarters of your time, with the aim of producing a scientific publication. There is also a range of other options, including fieldtrips, skills and advanced research topics

Citlalli's career perspective

'Almost half of all primate species are at risk of extinction and my job as a zoologist is to determine key information about one particular primate – the brown-headed spider monkey – to help conserve it. Despite being critically endangered, the last population of these monkeys is threatened by deforestation and hunting.
'My PhD project involves tracking monkeys through the Ecuadorian rainforest to determine their population density and habitat use, as well as interviewing local indigenous communities to establish hunting pressure.
'The data are then used to develop a sustainable conservation strategy for the species.'

Citlalli Morelos-Juarez
Associate Tutor,
School of Life Sciences,
University of Sussex