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Make a Difference
by Becoming a Biologist

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Overview

Biology is the study of life!

How do biologists make a difference?

What qualifications do I need?

How do I choose a degree?

How can the Royal Society of Biology help me?



Biology is the study of life

That's everything, from the very big to the very small



Treetops to ocean trenches, ecosystems to organ systems and dinosaurs to DNA...

Biologists work to solve the world's biggest challenges, in almost every setting imaginable



You can make a difference



Animals



Sustainability



Food



Medicine



Sport



The Future





You could expand our understanding of animals in the wild and improve the well-being of domestic animals

- Studying animal behaviour and planning conservation practices
- Developing treatments to keep pets and livestock healthy
- Monitoring animals we rely on for food
- Researching diseases that can pass between animals and humans

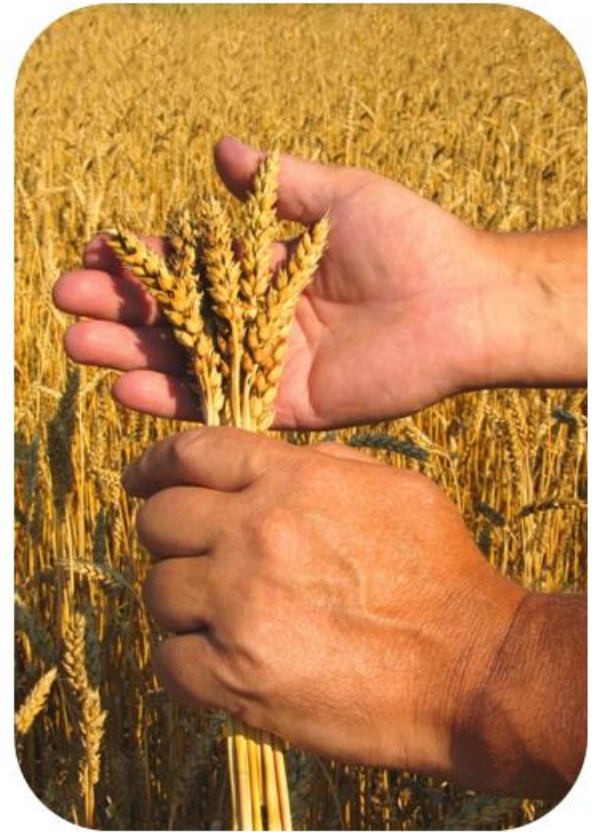


Food



You can help tackle the problems of a growing population and increased demand for food

- Crop resistance to pests and drought
- Improving nutritional value of foods
- Developing allergen free alternatives
- Ensuring our food supplies are safe to eat

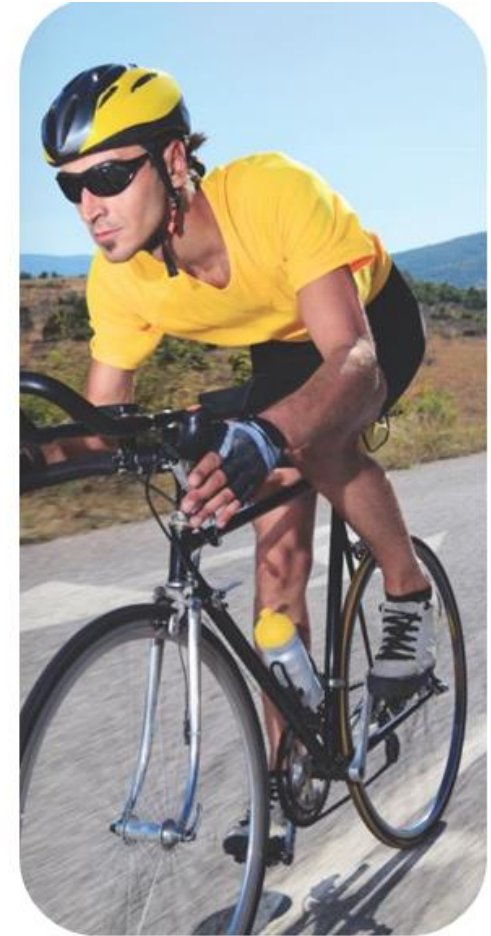


Sport



You can help athletes improve performance or play a vital role in patient recovery

- Measuring fitness levels
- Planning nutritional diets
- Developing personalised training programmes
- Using exercise as a means to prevent disease





You can help find ways of helping humans to live sustainably

- Analysing soil, water and air for chemical pollution
- Finding ways to clean up pollution
- Identifying, recording and monitoring the plants and animals that share the land we use





You can research what causes disease and help to develop new treatments

- Analysing blood, DNA, tissue or body fluids
- Interpreting test results
- Diagnosing diseases
- Advising on treatments



The Future



You can produce new and innovative technologies which could be closer than you think

- Analysing genomes to develop personalised medicine
- Developing biofuel technologies
- Growing organs from stem cells for transplantation
- Finding new ways to clean up pollution



What qualifications do I need?

Most universities require two science subjects at A level (or Scottish Higher level)

Check the entry requirements for the types of degree you are interested in

Requirements will vary between courses so ensure you check before picking your A level or Higher subjects

Keep your options open!



Biology research is leaping forward with the help of maths

Maths is used for experimental design, carrying out research and analysing results **but don't panic...**

It's not a requirement for further study but a strong understanding of maths can be very useful!



How do I choose a degree?



You might want to think about:

Specialised degrees

Placement or Year Abroad options

Joint or combined degrees

Degree alternatives

Every degree is different so you need to consider what is right for you

Talk to others about your interests in biology and the types of degree you might enjoy the most

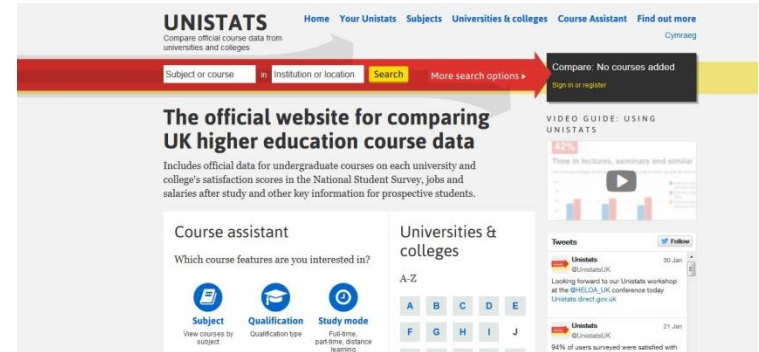
Degrees vary in content, duration and qualification you receive



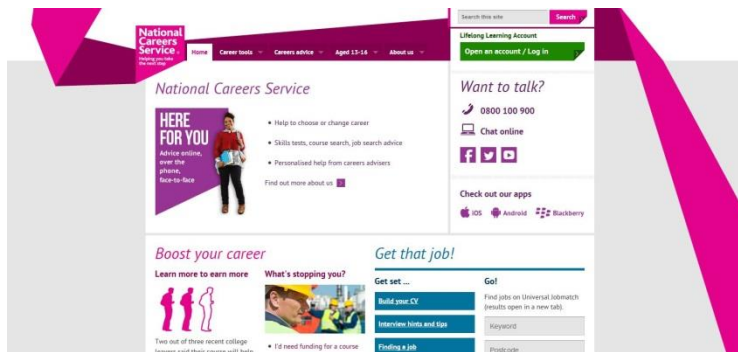
Some useful websites



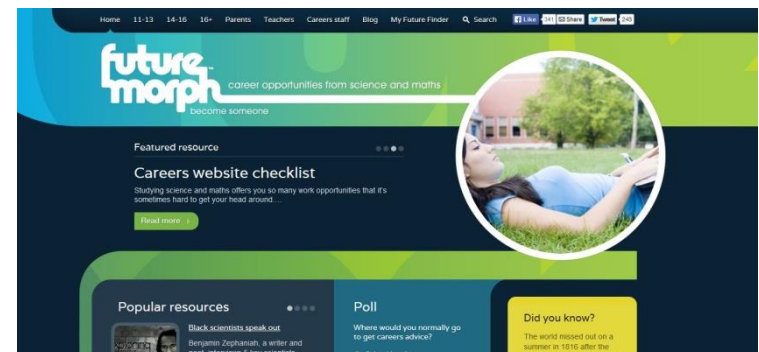
www.prospects.ac.uk



www.unistats.com



<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>



www.futuremorph.org

How can the Royal Society of Biology help me?



The Royal Society of Biology is a single unified voice for biology and provides career guidance at all levels

- The society has 16,000 individual members, including
 - Academics
 - Industry
 - Graduates
 - Students
 - Interested amateurs
 - School children (14-19 year olds can join BioNet)
- Around 100 organisational members

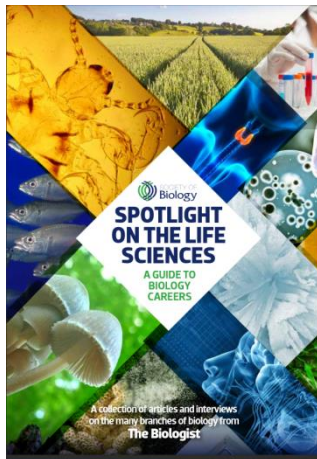


Student careers support from the Royal Society of Biology



Careers information and guidance resources all available as pdf files online via:

www.rsb.org.uk/careers



Bioscience Career Resources for Undergraduates	
Bioscience Careers Information/links	
Biomedical Careers	www.biomedicalcareers.org.uk
Environmental Careers Profile	www.environmentalcareers.org.uk
Ecology Careers	www.ecologycareers.org.uk
Microbiology Careers	www.microbiologycareers.org.uk
MSD Careers	www.msdcareers.org.uk
Pharmaceutical Careers	www.pharmaceuticalcareers.org.uk
Plant Science Careers	www.plantsciencecareers.org.uk
Association for Clinical Biochemistry	www.acb.org.uk
Institute of Biomedical Science	www.ibms.org
Institute of Food Science & Technology	www.foodscience.org
Times Higher Education	www.timeshighereducation.co.uk
Biomedical Science Jobs	www.biomedicalscience.com
Environmental Jobs	www.environmentaljobs.co.uk
Jobs in Science	www.jobsinscience.com
Life Sciences Recruitment Agency	www.lifesciencesrecruitment.co.uk
Nature	www.naturejobs.com
New Scientist	www.newscientistjobs.com
Overseas Biology Jobs	sciencecareers.sciencemag.org
List of Learned Societies with links to bioscience careers information	
http://www.societyofbiology.org/education/careers/exploringbiology/careersguide	
Science Communication	
Association of British Science Writers	www.absw.org.uk
British Science Association	www.britishsociety.org
European Molecular Biology Association	www.embo.org
PSG-CDM (Education Unit)	www.psacdm.ac.uk/psacdm.html
Teaching	
Teacher Training	www.tta.gov.uk
Teach First	www.teachfirst.org.uk
Further Study	
UK Postgraduate Courses	www.postgraduatecourses.co.uk
Master's Courses	www.mastercourses.com
PhDs	www.phdjobs.com
PhDs and Jobs in Universities	www.phds.ac.uk
Research Councils	
Research Councils UK	www.rcuk.ac.uk
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	www.bbsrc.ac.uk
Economic and Social Research Council	www.esrc.ac.uk

