



## **PARTNERS ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL 2025**

### **Syllabus for Biological Sciences**

#### **Subject Area**

This syllabus is for PARTNERS applicants seeking to progress to the degrees of:

- C100 BSc Hons Biology
- C161 BSc Hons Marine Biology
- C300 BSc Hons Zoology
- C305 BSc Hons Animal Science
- C350 BSc Hons Marine Zoology
- D400 BSc Hons Agriculture
- D402 BSc Hons Agric with Farm Business Management
- D455 BSc Hons Sustainable Land and Business Management
- F850 BSc Hons Environmental Science

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#### **Aims**

To allow students to demonstrate their potential to succeed in specified degree programmes by showing a grasp of entry-level subject-specific knowledge, understanding, cognitive and subject-specific skills.

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#### **Learning Outcomes**

A good knowledge and understanding of ...

- To provide students with a range of activities (lectures, seminars, virtual learning environment and independent study), at a level appropriate for those about to enter a Degree Programme, which will extend their biological sciences knowledge and skills beyond those learned and taught previously. Through which they can demonstrate their ability to grasp new concepts, appreciate the variety of biological sciences disciplines and the interdisciplinarity of their chosen degree and carry out practical biological investigations, assimilate and communicate biological information.
- It will also be an opportunity to work in groups and use the VLE and other resources.

The ability to apply this knowledge and critical understanding to...

- The biological topics covered during the summer school, including an appreciation of the breadth of biological systems, including agriculture and marine, their diversity and application.
- The ability to apply this knowledge and critical understanding to...
- The completion of the formatively assessed "Biological Project Report" which will require students to search for, assimilate, comment on and present information on biological topics some of which will require research and background reading, not covered in the taught element of the Summer School.
- The ability to acquire and evaluate biological knowledge from a variety of sources, e.g. lectures, laboratory/field classes and through independent study; develop hypotheses and test these experimentally; interpret biological information obtained from experiments or published data; communicate biological knowledge in written form.

Competence in...

- The awareness of basic field/laboratory skills including preparation of reports detailing experimental results and conclusions; data manipulation and presentation; awareness of the correct use of specific items of scientific equipment. In addition, team working and communication will be developed in readiness for group work and seminars at University.

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## Summer School Syllabus

Essentially, you will be studying the subjects of Biology, Marine Biology; Zoology; Animal Science; Plant Biology; Environmental Science and many over-laps with e.g. Agriculture especially if you attend the field trip to the farm. You will get a flavour from your own degree programme, but also an interesting insight into many of the other allied disciplines within the School of Natural and Environmental Science (SNES), all the while developing skills to help you succeed in Higher Education (University).

Your timetable shows you the sessions on campus on Monday and Tuesday. You must attend those in-person at the correct time. There is some independent personal study to do. Sometimes this is clearly defined on Canvas (our Virtual Learning Environment 'VLE' that you will have access to), e.g. Environmental Science 1 or it may be a chance for you to catch up with some additional reading, research, an assignment, an online course or look back over your notes.

On the days that you are not on campus there are resources online for you to work through. We give suggested slots for you to do the work, to help you structure your day, but there is some flexibility. There are some online zoom 'synchronous' sessions for 'question and answer' so if you have any questions, you must be there online at that time.

The Canvas (our VLE) pages for the Biological strand will have full details of what you will be learning and how you will be engaging with the lectures/quizzes/preparation etc, and there are 'office hours' for questions and clarification with Dr Catherine Douglas most days (or you will see her or a member of staff on the day) if you need to ask anything (optional).

When you gain access to Canvas please have a look around to familiarise yourself with the virtual learning environment platform. Although our first session will introduce this in full, but it is better if you have had a chance to look.

Below is a fuller overview day by day. And rest-assured all will be covered in the welcome, and while we do expect you to be responsible for your learning we are here to guide you and look forward to welcoming you.

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### **Activities for Personal Study**

You will follow the timetable and also engage in some independent study which will include, preparation for academic sessions (where instructed); follow up to academic sessions e.g. directed reading; library search; Canvas quizzes; it may also include:

- Preparing for seminars (usually a little interesting reading / research and jotting down notes of interest to feed back to small groups of other students)
- Reading for writing reports on laboratory work
- Literature searching and preparation of text to incorporate in the above report
- Manipulation and presentation of data
- Revision of taught material
- Completion of for example Canvas quizzes.
- Engaging with discussion boards

potentially completing other online courses, recording reflections. Students will be provided with reading and post-Class activities to complete during the Summer School.

Reading will be provided via the Library Reading List feature within Canvas; exercise will be posted on Canvas before the Summer School commences.

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### **On-Campus Teaching:**

Sunday 29th June (PM), Monday 30th June & Tuesday 1st July

### **Online Teaching:**

Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th July (AM only) July

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### **Formative Assessment Details**

A lab report based on the field trip and a series of Canvas quizzes

More details will be given during the event by your Academic Strand Lead.

**Hand-in Method**

Digital

**Assessment deadline**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 10am