



## **PARTNERS ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL 2026**

### **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 Sciences

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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 ...

- The aim is to introduce students to a range of concepts and disciplines, a range of learning and assessment styles to a) assure us (the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences) that the students are capable of assimilating and applying information from a range of sources in a range of assessment formats b) to give students an experience of these (likely) new ways of learning and give them confidence that they will be able to cope with and flourish in this educational environment.
- The subject knowledge is varied (and essential information will be reiterated during their degree), but the students will be able to evidence their ability to assimilate information via a range of learning opportunities (lectures, seminars, field trips, peer co-creation, guided independent study) and show that they understand how to navigate the learning environment and manage their time.

- Subject specific knowledge includes safely gathering data in a field study setting, extracting key information from lectures/resources, using academic sources to find relevant information, conveying this to peers.
- The assignments involve multiple choice quizzes, reflection, and preparing a write up of an experiment.
- Topics covered are likely to include plant biology, ecology, marine rocky shores, animal welfare, agricultural soils, evolution.

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

- Students will engage in a range of learning opportunities from timetabled lectures, seminars, computer sessions to field classes. There will also be opportunity for independent study to work through educational materials to prepare for academic sessions (where instructed); conduct follow-up to academic sessions e.g. directed reading; library search; Canvas quizzes; it may 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 field trips
  - Literature searching and preparation of text to incorporate in the above report
  - Manipulation and presentation of data
  - Revision of taught material for completion of for example Canvas quizzes.
  - Engaging with discussion boards
  - The knowledge and skills will be applied through formative assessments

Competence in...

- Safe field work, data collection, hypothesis generation and testing, reporting skills, academic writing, referencing, independent study, communicating researched information in seminars, data presentation, presentation skills, IT skills, time management and organisational skills, ability to follow instruction and work independently.

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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 Agriculture. 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 [maybe you had Teams/Moodle/Blackboard at school or college]), 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 Teams 'synchronous' sessions for 'question and answer' so if you have any questions, you must be there online at that time. Synchronous online means it happens live, whereas asynchronous online activities can be done at any time (but do follow our guidance to help you pace yourself and ensure you have completed the necessary preparation in 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.

When you gain access to Canvas please have a look around to familiarise yourself with the materials and the VLE itself, as it will be very similar to when you get to university – so you will already be familiar with how it works. Our first session will introduce this in full, but it is better if you have had a chance to look.

You will be expected to complete a number of multiple choice questions, record short details of activities, a short reflection/your thoughts about what you have learned and submit a written report with data presented. All will be fully outlined in the Canvas pages, and on your first day and throughout the summer school.

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. You will manage the course and we think we will enjoy it. We look forward to welcoming you.

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## **Activities for Personal Study**

It will be explained what you have to do independently, but here is an overview:

Look up some interesting research from a recent conference (we guide you where to look) and jot down notes to answer some key questions to share with other students in a small group discussion.

Do some additional reading, data presentation in a scientific report of your field trip.

Listen to recorded lectures and do associated activities (multiple choice questions after, a short information research before, jot down key points during, conduct a short follow up search for information).

You will use your independent study time to submit your reflections and prepare and submit your whole report.

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

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> (PM), Monday 29<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

### **Online Teaching:**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> (AM only) July

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### **Formative Assessment Details**

A lab report and multiple choice quizzes  
More details will be given during the event by your Academic Strand Lead.

### **Hand-in Method**

Digital

### **Assessment deadline**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 4pm