

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Science and Engineering

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Programme Specification

**BSc (Hons) Marine Biology with Foundation Year –
5478**

September 2021

1.0 BSc (Hons) Marine Biology with Foundation Year

Final award title; the final award title is that of the programme to which the student progresses for Levels 4 to 6.

For students entering the BSc (Hons) Marine Biology with Foundation Year, normally this will be one of:

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology
BSc (Hons) Marine Biology and Coastal Ecology
BSc (Hons) Marine Biology and Oceanography

UCAS code C168

JACS code C160

2.0 Awarding Institution University of Plymouth

Teaching Institutions University of Plymouth

3.0 Accrediting body

None

4.0 Distinctive features of the Programme and the Student Experience

This is a four-year BSc (Hons) degree programme starting at Year Zero. It is one of a suite of such programmes, designed for students who are not appropriately qualified, in subject knowledge, attainment or recent experience, for entry to Level 4 of undergraduate programmes in Science. On successful completion of Year Zero, students progress to Level 4 of an undergraduate degree in Science. Students completing the BSc (Hons) Marine Biology with Foundation Year programme will normally progress to one of the BSc (Hons) programmes in the School of Marine Science and Engineering shown at section 1.

Distinctive features of this programme are that it:

- is suitable for non-standard entrants, including mature returners to study, those without Science qualifications or with Science qualifications below the standard required for entry to Level 4
- assumes no prior knowledge of science and welcomes applications from those who have studied other disciplines.
- is recognised nationally as excellent, allowing more than 2500 students to enter Higher Education in its 25 years of operation

- provides a choice of specialisms, in chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics, as preparation for progression to undergraduate programmes in Marine Biology
- provides a high proportion of experiential work in field or lab, and intensive and early assessment, with rapid feedback designed to support learning
- provides personal support for learning through regular meetings with your personal tutor and input from specialist staff in Marine Biology
- provides English language support for overseas students in core modules
- is underpinned by research activity of staff, in Marine Biology and particularly in the pedagogy of science disciplines

5.0 Relevant QAA Benchmark Groups

The programme is devised with reference to the subject benchmarks of the discipline to which students will progress to complete their degree. For the BSc (Hons) Marine Biology with Foundation Year the relevant benchmark is: [Biosciences](#)

6.0 Programme structure

The programme structure is described diagrammatically below.

In Semester 1, students take the compulsory modules GEES001 *Study and mathematical skills for science*, and two science modules, one in Chemistry, and one in Biology.

In Semester 2, students take the core modules MBIO001 *Issues in Marine Biology* and BIO013 *Biology 2*. Students also select one further discipline from Chemistry and Mathematics. To continue studying Chemistry, students must have taken the corresponding module in Semester 1.

Each student's choice of optional modules will be made in conjunction with the Level Zero lead for Marine Biology, taking account of their prior academic experience and attainment, and intended progression route.

Semester 1 (all modules are 20 credits)

Compulsory modules		
*GEES001 Study and mathematical skills for science	BIO012 Biology 1	CHM009 Chemistry 1

*GEES001 is non-compensable in this programme

Semester 2 (all modules are 20 credits)

Compulsory modules	
MBIO001 Issues in Marine Biology	BIO013 Biology 2

Students select one module from:	
CHM010 Chemistry Prerequisite CHM009	MATH019 Mathematics and statistics for science

7.0 Programme Aims

The aims shown below are those for the Level Zero element of this programme. They should be read in conjunction with the aims of the BSc (Hons) programmes available to you in [Marine Biology](#) to show the full scope of our ambitions for you.

The aims of the Level Zero programme are to:

- 7.1 produce students who have a broad yet comprehensive understanding of the fundamentals of science that are necessary for successful progression to and in an honours degree programme in Marine Biology
- 7.2 develop in students the ability to apply scientific knowledge and skills appropriately and successfully in undergraduate studies
- 7.3 equip students with the study skills necessary to successfully progress to and in an honours degree programme in Marine Biology
- 7.4 enable students to become confident, critically self-aware independent learners.

- 7.5 begin to develop in students a range of key and transferable skills of value in the world of employment, including skills in the areas of communication, problem-solving, team-working, information-handling and processing.
- 7.6 prepare students for and initiate students into the culture of University-level study, both in terms of the academic standards and the study patterns required.

8. Intended programme learning outcomes (ILOs)

The intended learning outcomes shown below are those for the Level Zero element of this programme. They should be read in conjunction with the Intended Learning Outcomes of the BSc (Hons) programmes available to you in [Marine Biology](#) to show the full scope of our ambitions for you.

8.1 Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion, graduates should be able to

- a Demonstrate a broad understanding of the fundamental knowledge base and the terminology of at least two major STEM disciplines, including Biology
- b Demonstrate an awareness of current areas of debate and discovery in Marine Biology and how scientific knowledge and methods can be applied to investigate them.

8.2 Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion, graduates should be able to

- a Identify correctly the concepts and principles underlying theoretical frameworks in at least two STEM disciplines, including Biology, and begin to identify strengths and limitations of such models
- b Judge the reliability of data, results and information using well defined techniques and/or criteria
- c Operate in a range of varied but predictable contexts relevant to Marine Biology, requiring the use and application of specified scientific techniques and information sources.

8.3 Key, transferable and employment-related skills

On successful completion, graduates should be able to demonstrate

- a Written and oral communication skills and be able to use these in a variety of contexts
- b Problem-solving skills, relating to qualitative and quantitative information.
- c Numeracy and computational skills appropriate to the study of undergraduate science at university
- d Information-retrieval skills, in relation to primary and secondary information sources

- e Demonstrate an awareness of their own capabilities in key areas and engage in development activity through guided self-direction

8.4 Practical skills

On successful completion, graduates should be able to

- a Demonstrate skills in the safe handling of materials in experimental settings, taking into account their physical and chemical properties, including any specific hazards associated with their use.
- b Demonstrate the skills required to conduct standard laboratory procedures in at least two STEM disciplines
- c Demonstrate skills in the monitoring, by observation and/or measurement, of a variety of physical, chemical or biological properties, events or changes, of both a quantitative and qualitative nature, together with their systematic and reliable recording and documentation, in the laboratory or the field.

9.0 Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS requirements

	Qualifications Required	Level Required
For all applicants	GCSE Mathematics	C
	GCSE English	C
International students	IELTS	IELTS 6.0 overall with at least 5.5 in each element
Applicants with formal qualifications in Science	A Levels	See text below
	AS Level	
	Baccalaureate	
	Scottish and Irish Highers	
	Post GCSE quals such as NVQ	
	GNVQ and AGNVQ	
Applicants without formal qualifications in Science	<p>The foundation year is intended for Higher Level motivated students who wish to study marine biology, but who do not meet the usual entry criteria for entry to the first year of our honours degree courses in marine biology, marine biology and oceanography or marine biology and coastal ecology.</p> <p>A limited number of places are available and applicants will only be considered if they can provide suitable evidence of qualifications already achieved, together with relevant interests or experience appropriate to marine biology.</p> <p>For applicants with A levels at least 96 points from a minimum of two A levels including biology and a second science is normally required. BTEC Diploma (112 points) and comparable international qualifications at an appropriate level and with relevant subjects will also be considered. GCSE Mathematics and English language at grade C or above is normally required.</p> <p>All applicants are normally interviewed prior to a formal offer being made.</p> <p>Applications from mature students are especially welcomed; other qualifications and professional experience will be considered. Please contact us to discuss your options.</p>	

	<p>Please contact us to enquire about your suitability for admission.</p> <p>For a full list of all acceptable qualifications please refer to our tariff glossary. It will not normally be offered as an alternative course to applicants who are predicted lower grades than required, although such candidates may be considered at Clearing. An interview will normally be required.</p>
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In accordance with the University's Academic Regulations, Accreditation for Prior Learning (APEL) may be applied where a student can demonstrate appropriate recent learning or experience which fully satisfies the learning outcomes of the module(s) concerned.

In accordance with the University's policies, Level Zero programmes welcome applications from disabled students who are appropriately qualified, academically, for the programme. Information interviews are conducted with applicants to determine the nature of adjustments required.

10.0 Progression routes for final and intermediate awards

The University guarantees progression to one of the science-based BSc programmes identified in Section 1, providing a student has achieved:

- 120 credits in the programme described in this specification and
- an overall mean of at least 60% in the programme described in this specification, averaged across all 120 credits

During semester 2, students will be interviewed to determine the most appropriate progression route. Please note, however, that the University does not guarantee progression of an individual student to an individual programme.

The University does not guarantee progression to programmes outside those shown in Section 1. Students intending to progress to other programmes at University of Plymouth should contact the admissions teams of the programme to which they wish to progress. You should be aware that some programmes may ask you to apply through UCAS so please make these enquiries in good time.

11.0 Exceptions to Regulations

None

12.0 Transitional arrangements

Module taken in 2018-19 or earlier	Corresponding module to be taken in 2019-20 onwards
PHY009	Either BIO12 or CHM009
PHY010	Either BIO12, CHM010 or MATH019

The transitional arrangements described above are indicative; the availability of new modules at Level Zero and new pathways for progression means that students affected by the transitional arrangements will be counselled individually, so that their programme best supports both completion of the Level Zero programme and successful progression to Level 4.

13. Mapping

13.1 Indicative Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules

	Knowledge and understanding On successful completion, students should be able to:	
a	Demonstrate a broad understanding of the fundamental knowledge base and the terminology of at least two major STEM disciplines, including Biology	BIO012, BIO013 optional modules
b	Demonstrate an awareness of current areas of debate and discovery in Marine Biology and how scientific knowledge and methods can be applied to investigate them.	BIO012, BIO013 MBIO001, optional modules

	Cognitive and intellectual skills On successful completion, students should be able to:	
a	Identify correctly the concepts and principles underlying theoretical frameworks in at least two STEM disciplines, including Biology and begin to identify strengths and limitations of such models	BIO012, BIO013, optional modules
b	Judge the reliability of data, results and information using well defined techniques and/or criteria	BIO012, BIO013, optional modules
c	Operate in a range of varied but predictable contexts relevant to Marine Biology, requiring the use and application of specified scientific techniques and information sources	BIO012, BIO013, MBIO001 Option modules

	Practical Skills On successful completion, graduates should be able to:	
a	Demonstrate skills in the safe handling of materials in experimental settings, taking into account their physical and chemical properties, including any specific hazards associated with their use.	BIO012, BIO013, optional modules except MATH019
b	Demonstrate the skills required to conduct standard laboratory procedures in at least two STEM disciplines	BIO012, BIO013, option modules except MATH019
c	Demonstrate skills in the monitoring, by observation and/or measurement, of a variety of physical, chemical or biological properties, events or changes, of both a quantitative and qualitative nature, together with their systematic and reliable recording and documentation, in the laboratory or the field.	BIO012, BIO013, option modules

	Key, transferable and employment-related skills On successful completion, graduates should be able to demonstrate	
a	Written and oral communication skills and be able to use these in a variety of contexts	GEES001 MBIO001 Optional modules
b	problem-solving skills, relating to qualitative and quantitative information.	MBIO001 GEES001 Optional modules
c	numeracy and computational skills appropriate to the study of undergraduate science at university	GEES001, MBIO001 MATH019 if selected
d	Information-retrieval skills, in relation to primary and secondary information sources, to include information retrieval through on-line computer searches.	GEES001 MBIO001

13.2 Assessment in modules

Module	% Coursework	% Test	% Examination	% Practical
Core modules				
GEES001	50	50		
BIO012	60		40	
BIO013	60		40	
MBIO001	50			50

Optional modules

CHM009	50	50		
CHM010	70		30	
MATH019	50	50		