



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BSc (Hons) Marine Biology

Quality Assurance, Academic Standards and Quality and Partnerships

Department of Student and Academic Administration

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course specification for *BSc (Hons) Marine Biology*

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	<i>BSc (Hons) Marine Biology</i>
Final Award	<i>BSc (Hons)</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C0567F, C0567S / C160</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>3 years, 4 years with placement</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>from September 2023 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Science Faculty & Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Biological Sciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<i>https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-biological-sciences</i>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<i>https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/bsc-hons-marine-biology</i>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>Royal Society of Biology</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>level 4, 5 and 6</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) include advice on what to include in this section.

- To provide a curriculum that offers students with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of marine biology and ecology, and how this relates to the global issues and wider fields of marine environmental and biological sciences.
- To enable students to choose pathways of specialisation during their degree, in the light of insights gained during their broadly based first year of study
- To develop and refine students' intellectual, critical and applied practical skills in the acquisition, analysis, interpretation, understanding, evaluation and presentation of marine biological data
- To enable students to confidently form scientific judgements, make decisions and be able to demonstrate competence in key transferable skills
- To foster an active and self-reflective learning approach to enable students to engage in lifelong learning
- To provide a foundation for further training or employment in a wide range of contexts that require knowledge of the marine and biological sciences and the underpinning analytical and critical enquiry skills.
- To produce graduates with an appreciation of the value to society of an education in science, particularly in marine biology
- To offer graduates the knowledge and skills to develop a successful career as a professional marine biologist or scientist.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	The fundamental concepts, principles and theories of biology, the means of identifying organisms and biological classification, the distribution of organisms in space and time, the molecular basis of cellular structure and function, cellular systems and their integration into tissues and multicellular systems and genetics at the molecular, organism and population level.	Lectures, workshops, laboratory work, field work, tutorials, guided independent study	Essays, MCQs, examinations
A2	Possess a detailed knowledge and understanding of the essential facts, concepts, principles and theories particularly in marine biology but also those of ecology, conservation, biochemistry, genetics, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology and physiology.	Lectures, workshops, laboratory work, field work, tutorials, guided independent study	Essays, MCQs, examinations
A3	Be able to apply appropriate investigative, analytical and survey methods to different marine ecosystems and evaluate the acquired data, including the skills to search paper and electronic resources for biological	Laboratory work, field work, workshops, tutorials, guided	Essays, lab reports, data handling questions,

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
	information and be able to use the results to synthesise novel ideas.	independent study	project report
A4	Understand the fundamental ecological and biological processes in the marine environment & understand the impacts of global climate change on this environment and the role of marine systems in this change.	Lectures, workshops, tutorials, guided independent study	Essays, examinations, project report, data synthesis and presentations.
A5	Develop an awareness of the global impact of human activity and arising anthropogenic pressures on the marine environment and exploitation of its natural resources.	Lectures, workshops, tutorials, guided independent study	Essays, examinations, project report, lab report.

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Communicate effectively and confidently both orally and in writing.	Tutorials, workshops, project supervision	Essays, lab reports, project report, posters, presentations.
B2	Apply conceptual and practical skills to define and analyse and solve problems and use these to formulate realistic hypotheses and design scientifically-sound experiments to test these.	Lectures, workshops, tutorials, project supervision	Essays, lab reports, project report, data handling questions
B3	Effectively analyse acquired data and apply numerical skills to process, critically analyse and interpret experimental findings.	Laboratory work, field work, workshops, project supervision	Lab reports, project report, data handling questions
B4	To integrate and evaluate information from a variety of experimental approaches and assess the merits of competing theories, explanations or methodologies, by applying independent and critical thinking.	Lectures, workshops, laboratory work, field work, project supervision	Essays, examinations, project report
B5	Summarise and synthesise information by effectively searching, reviewing and evaluating research literature effectively.	Workshops, tutorials, project supervision	Essays, examinations, lab reports, project report

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
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C1	Demonstrate basic competencies in a range of practical biological techniques in both lab and field using appropriate replication and fully understand the reasoning behind the methods.	Laboratory work, field work, project supervision	Lab reports, project performance, practical tests
C2	Plan and execute experiments using materials and equipment safely in the laboratory	Laboratory work, field work, project supervision	Lab reports, practical tests, project performance, data handling questions
C3	Make and record accurate and relevant observations in the field and the laboratory and analyse these experimental results with the use, if necessary, of appropriate statistical tests using current software packages	Lectures, tutorials, workshops, project supervision	Lab reports, project report
C4	Make effective use of software for data presentation, data analysis, and presentation of written reports and posters.	Laboratory work, field work, tutorials, workshops	Posters, presentations, lab reports, project report
C5	Prepare accurately written scientific reports with detailed and appropriate data interpretation.	Laboratory work, field work, tutorials, project supervision	Lab reports, project report

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Communicate ideas effectively and confidently orally, through the written word or by visual presentation.	Tutorials	Essays, posters, presentations, project report
D2	Learn and work both independently and as part of a team effectively, including demonstrating problem solving and critical enquiry skills.	Tutorials, guided independent study, project	Essays, project report, data handling questions, examinations, project performance
D3	Apply basic statistical tests and numerical skills to the analysis of biological data.	Lectures, workshops, project supervision	Lab reports, data handling questions, project report, examinations
D4	Use information and communication technology effectively and manage time including prioritising workloads.	Lectures, workshops, tutorials, project	Data handling questions, project report, PDP, project performance
D5	Present experimental data and other information in an appropriate form for the target audience.	Lectures, workshops, practicals,	Lab reports, data handling questions,

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
		project supervision	project report, examination

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course. In order to meet the Royal Society of Biology accreditation the project unit cannot be compensated.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provided an extensive induction programme that introduces the students to the University and the course. The Course is managed as part of the Biological Sciences BSc programme by a team comprising the Head of School, Associate Head (Academic) and Associate Head (Student) and the Course leader. All modules are supported by their own Moodle sites.

Additional support is provided by the personal tutor and the project supervisor. Support for study skills is provided by the Faculty of Science & Health Learning Support Tutors.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for Biosciences
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of the Royal Society of Biology
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course Course specification for *BSc (Hons) Marine Biology*

may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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