

A Level Biology

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Course Level: Level 3 | **Campus: Newcastle** | **Subject Type: Science & Maths**

Course Overview:

If you enjoy learning about life and living organisms, then this exciting and challenging course is for you. Delve deeper into the concepts such as biochemistry, cell biology, organ systems and ecology. Through hands-on experiments, interactive lectures, and engaging discussions, students develop critical thinking skills and scientific literacy.

The course consists of a broad selection of fundamental Biological concepts which build on ideas learnt at GCSE.

What's Covered:

You will learn by experiencing a varied programme that includes laboratory work and practical skills, lectures, small group work, local fieldwork, a range of learning games and use of Teams. Progress in learning will be monitored using regular assessments that will be completed in class.

Dissections are carried out in the first and second year. Both years of the Biology course are also offered educational trips. We strongly recommend that all students purchase the relevant text book for the course. Students who enrol for Chemistry as well as Biology may also want to purchase a lab coat.

Entry Requirements:

You will need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 5 or above including maths and English Language, in subjects relevant to your A Level or A+ Programme subject choices. You should also have a GCSE grade 6 or above in Biology or grade 6-6 in Combined Science and grade 6 in Maths. An average GCSE point score of 6.0 is also needed.

Assessment Information:

Assessment is comprised of three examinations at the end of two years of study.

Paper 1 - (2 hour written exam)

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Paper 2 - (2 hour written exam)

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

Paper 3 - (2 hour written exam)

Any content from the above topics, including relevant practical skills. You will also be required to write a synoptic essay.

100%

pass rate

61.8%

achieved A*-B in 2026

Fees and Financial Support:

This course is free for anyone aged 16 – 18.

College Maintenance Allowance (CMA):
Anyone with a gross household income under £35,000 can receive financial support to cover college related costs such as transport, meals, course equipment and uniform. Bursary support is based on individual circumstances and will be allocated to best suit your individual needs. A range of other financial support is available depending on your personal circumstances. For more details visit nscg.ac.uk/finance

Progression:

Successful completion of the course gives you a qualification that is accepted for entry into Higher Education for studies in a variety of scientific fields including the health services, environmental protection, the biological industry, forensic science, agricultural services and education, and is also relevant to programmes in social sciences.

What else do I need to know?
Think of what you're capable of. Then think beyond it.

Step up to a top university or move into a competitive programme like Medicine or Law with our Honours Programme. Perfect for ambitious and high-achieving students.

The Honours Programme is an additional pathway for students whose aspirations are to progress onto highly competitive courses at top universities, such as those in the Russell Group. Once accepted onto the programme, you'll be expected to commit extra time every week to this intensive support pathway.

Find out more
here

How do I find out more?

If you wish to find out more you can contact Carly Capper, Course Leader, by email on carly.capper@nscg.ac.uk.