

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Human Biology BSc (Hons) Human Biology with International Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Human Biology with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Studies in Human Biology BSc (Hons) Studies in Human Biology with International Year BSc (Hons) Studies in Human Biology with Work Placement Year
Award type	Combined Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or an Applied Life Sciences Placement between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	For students who specialise in Human Biology at Level 6, or combine with Biochemistry, the degree is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (excluding "Studies in" routes). For further details see the section on Accreditation.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £9,250*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £20,700**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee</p>

Please note this document applies to Level 5 and 6 (Year 2 and 3) students in 2025/26

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or

law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found

at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

****** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. What is a Combined Honours programme?

NB: all students who study a science Principal subject are candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science (with Honours) (BSc Hons) irrespective of their second Principal subject.

In a combined honours Human Biology degree you will study two different, though complementary subjects, with both subjects appearing in your degree title as X and Y, for example Human Biology and Biochemistry. Across all levels you will study 60 credits of modules in each of your subjects. Alternatively, in your final year you can choose to specialise in just one subject, resulting in an X with Y degree title, for example Human Biology with Biochemistry. Specialising in Human Biology will require you to take a minimum of 105 credits of Human Biology modules, with the option to take a relevant module from your other subject, or to study a full 120 credits of Human Biology.

3. Overview of the Programme

Human Biology considers many diverse areas of Biology including cell biology, evolution, physiology, anatomy, nutrition, disease, and ecology. This programme is for students who prefer to specialise on topics that are related to our species. It involves the study of the human body and how it is adapted to its environment. The course is designed to equip students with a broadly based understanding of the human body in health and disease.

Student experience over the three years include practical classes that provide first-hand experience of cell biology, human physiology and anatomy, evolution and conservation. This exciting degree can potentially lead to a range of research and health related careers in biomedicine. The broad range of subjects covered include microbiology, molecular biology, genetics, cancer biology, nutrition, physiology, cell biology and neuroscience. These subjects are of increasing importance in medical research and underpin the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Graduates from this programme have followed diverse careers including postgraduate study, PGCE teacher training, occupational therapy and research assistant. Students often choose this programme as a stepping stone to other professions such as Medicine or other healthcare related degrees.

Distinctive features of the course include:

- A contemporary curriculum, with a focus on human Biology, which has been designed to meet requirements for Royal Society of Biology Accreditation;
- Innovative and relevant assessments, designed to foster creativity;
- A core laboratory programme delivered in well-equipped modern laboratories and a wide range of final year research projects;
- The option to take an Work Placement between level 5 and level 6;
- The option to include study abroad either as a semester abroad at level 5 or an International Year between level 5 and level 6.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to:

- provide you with knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to human biology;
- produce skilled and motivated graduates who are suitably prepared for further study or for employment within or outside their field;
- cultivate interest in human biology, within a caring and intellectually stimulating environment;
- promote the development of a range of employability skills, for use in all areas where numeracy and an objective, scientific approach to problem-solving are valued.
- promote the development of independent research skills to enable you to undertake relevant postgraduate study.

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding

- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- U1: the biology of the human body including the mechanisms of life at molecular, cellular and physiological levels and also at the global community level, and its evolution from the geological past to the present, using a multidisciplinary approach
- U2: the essential facts, major concepts, principles and theories associated with the human body with particular emphasis on understanding human health and disease and the relationship between the human body and the environment
- U3: the basic experimental skills appropriate to the discipline under study that address areas of anatomy, physiology, immunology and genetics
- U4: the approaches to acquiring, interpreting, analysing biological data from a variety of sources, including the use of statistics
- U5: the contribution of research to the development of biological knowledge
- U6: the dynamic, plural and contested nature of the discipline and an awareness of the philosophical and ethical issues involved
- U7: the use of biological terminology, nomenclature and classification systems
- U8: the relevance of human biology to practical problems and improving the quality and sustainability of life
- U9: the applicability of the biosciences to the careers to which graduates will be progressing
- U10: be aware of current developments in human biology including areas of ethical or public concern
- U11: be able to demonstrate ability to mine, manipulate and interpret data from small molecule and macromolecular databases

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- S1: appreciate the complexity and diversity of life processes through the study of the human body through their molecular, cellular, and physiological processes, their genetics and evolution, and the interrelationships between them and the environment; and recognise and apply subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts or principles
- S2: analyse, synthesise and evaluate information critically, and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding
- S3: use a range of laboratory techniques obtain and integrate several lines of subject-specific evidence to formulate and test hypotheses and ensure competence in experimental skills
- S4: give a clear and accurate account of a subject and engage in debate and dialogue both with specialists and non-specialists, using appropriate scientific language
- S5: to think independently to apply subject knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems; to plan tasks and solve problems
- S6: formulate a hypothesis and design and employ a variety of methods of study in investigating the hypothesis, acquire and collate scientific data and information and then analyse and report the outcome of the investigations; and construct grammatically correct documents in an appropriate academic style using and referencing relevant ideas and evidence
- S7: recognise philosophical, moral and ethical issues relevant to the subject, and appreciate the need for ethical standards and professional codes of conduct and understand the importance of academic and research integrity
- S8: develop an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of science and of the validity of different points of view and take responsibility for their learning and reflect upon that learning

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- E1: develop and sustain effective approaches to learning and study, including time management, flexibility, creativity and intellectual integrity
- E2: communicate about their subject appropriately to a variety of audiences using a range of formats and approaches, using appropriate scientific language, citing and referencing research critically avoiding issues such as plagiarism
- E3: develop interpersonal skills necessary to work in a team, identifying individual and collective goals and responsibilities and perform accordingly, recognise and respect the views and opinions of other team members; evaluate the performance of others and develop an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of science and of the validity of different points of view

- E4: develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity
- E5: develop the skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning (e.g. working independently, time management, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills)
- E6: cite and reference work in an appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity and the avoidance of plagiarism whether intentional or not
- E7: work with others to identify and achieve collaborative goals and responsibilities and perform in a respectful manner that is accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members
- E8: identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development

Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the module type (i.e. ISP versus taught) and the level of study (i.e. Level 4 (more contact time than level 6)). They include the following:

- **Digital material:** Traditional 'lectures' are often redesigned for online consumption, giving you more flexibility to decide how, when and where to study. This can include provision of short videos, directed reading, key learning outcomes and Forms that allow you to ask questions anonymously.
- **Laboratory practicals.** Take place in one of our labs. These give you first-hand experience in a range of scientific techniques and have been designed to ensure you develop both independent and team-based skills.
- **Live, campus-based seminars.** Delivered by experts in the field - and often external, guest speakers - seminars are ordinarily recorded on the day so you can focus better on the discussion during the live event. Live, campus-based tutorials and workshops. Often designed to support online lectures. Tutorials and workshops help promote social learning, develop a sense of community and give you an opportunity to deepen your understanding of core issues, ask questions and discuss content with other students and your tutors.
- **Live, case-based learning (CBL) tutorials.** In CBL, you will work in small groups to discuss cases that help you to contextualise much of the content taught across the programme and develop key skills such as leadership, communication and evidence-based problem solving.
- **Live, online tutorials, workshops and drop-in sessions.** Often used to host plenary sessions. These plenary sessions are optional, added value and may cover topics common to all students such as: note taking and meet your alumni at Level 4; IT and data analysis at Level 5 and writing retreats and careers at Level 6.
- **Independent study.** Based on directed reading from text books, research papers and research reviews.
- **Web-based learning.** Using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE). The KLE is used to give students easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools, and as a platform for online discussions and quizzes.
- For those who choose to specialise in Human Biology, the Research Project gives you the opportunity to undertake a piece of independent experimental research supervised and supported by a member of staff.

7. Teaching Staff

University life is not just about the content of your degree. It is also an opportunity to network, to speak to people working in fields that excite you. Here in Life Sciences, you will meet a diverse range of staff that you can see by using the following link: (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/lifesci/people/>).

We will also invite speakers from the School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy, School of Medicine and local NHS Trusts. Our staff include world-leading researchers, clinical practitioners and experts in learning and teaching. As part of their training, all staff complete post-graduate courses on learning and teaching. Some take this to Masters level and beyond, choosing to specialise in pedagogic research to ensure that our programmes are taught to the very highest standards.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is

taught to the appropriate academic standard. Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year is divided into two taught semesters. Each semester will generally have twelve weeks of teaching followed by three weeks of final assessments. Details of each semester can be found using the 4 following link: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/keydates/>.

This programme is organised into discrete modules. Each module is assessed independently and awarded a set number of credits (usually 15 or 30). A 15-credit module equates to 150 hours of student work. Some modules are compulsory and you are required to complete them. Others are optional, giving you some choice in what you want to study.

At Level 4, all of our modules are compulsory to ensure that you are given a solid foundation to your degree programme regardless of your academic background. Here, we assume no prior knowledge and will make sure that Level 4 prepares you for Level 5 and 6. At Levels 5 and 6, 75% of your modules are optional. This allows you to increasingly specialise in those areas of the programme that interest you most.

Modern Language modules: You are able to take up to 60 credits across your degree programme as Faculty Funded additional Modern Language modules in order to graduate with the Enhanced Degree Title. [Please see [link](#) for more information on Enhanced degree titles.]

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 5	15	45	45
Level 6	15	60	60

Module Lists

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience	LSC-20127	0	Semester 1-2
Research Methods in Human Biology	LSC-20109	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Genetics	LSC-20050	15	Semester 1
Microbes, Viruses and Parasites	LSC-20073	15	Semester 1
Current Topics in Biology	LSC-20074	15	Semester 1
Environmental Biology	LSC-20097	15	Semester 1
Learning & Memory	LSC-20076	15	Semester 2
Nutrition and Health	LSC-20123	15	Semester 2

Level 5 Module Rules

Students choose 3 modules from the optional modules listed above; 2 optional modules must be from Semester 1 and 1 optional module from Semester 2. This means that students should complete 30 credits in each semester.

LSC-20097 includes a mandatory field course ordinarily taken towards the end of Level 4.

LSC-20109 includes Class Participation assessment weighted 0%. Students must pass this assessment element at an acceptable level to meet professional body requirements.

LSC-20127: Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience is a compulsory zero-credit module. All laboratory work across this level of study will be coordinated through this module and assessed within other credit-bearing modules across the year, where appropriate. This module will also develop advanced academic skills in literature searching and analysis and includes additional career development workshops, enhancing your overall student experience and developing key employability skills. The module will be passed via attendance to a minimum threshold of taught laboratory sessions. Students who fail this module will transfer to Studies in Human Biology. This is not accredited by the RSB.

Level 6

There is the option to choose to specialise in one of your subjects, taking a minimum of 90 credits in this subject rather than taking modules from both subjects.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Professional Development	LSC-30090	0	Semester 1-2
Research Dissertation	LSC-30114	15	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Parasitology	LSC-30036	15	Semester 1
Behavioural Neuroscience	LSC-30052	15	Semester 1
Tropical Biology Field Course	LSC-30066	15	Semester 1
Omics Technologies	LSC-30092	15	Semester 1
Neuropathology	LSC-30118	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)	NAT-30008	15	Semester 1-2
Professional Placement Year	NAT-30010	30	Semester 1-2
Professional Experience in Education	NAT-30012	15	Semester 1-2
Human Evolution	LSC-30030	15	Semester 2
Regeneration and Repair in the Nervous System	LSC-30039	15	Semester 2
Cancer Biology	LSC-30061	15	Semester 2

If you choose to specialise in this subject in your final year you will study the following modules:

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Professional Development in Bioscience	LSC-30090	0	Semester 1-2
Research Project	LSC-30102	30	Semester 1-2
Employability and Communication Skills in Bioscience	LSC-30106	15	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Parasitology	LSC-30036	15	Semester 1
Conservation Biology	LSC-30043	15	Semester 1
Behavioural Neuroscience	LSC-30052	15	Semester 1
Tropical Biology Field Course	LSC-30066	15	Semester 1
Omics Technologies	LSC-30092	15	Semester 1
Neuropathology	LSC-30118	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)	NAT-30008	15	Semester 1-2
Professional Placement Year	NAT-30010	30	Semester 1-2
Professional Experience in Education	NAT-30012	15	Semester 1-2
Human Evolution	LSC-30030	15	Semester 2
Regeneration and Repair in the Nervous System	LSC-30039	15	Semester 2
Cancer Biology	LSC-30061	15	Semester 2
Epidemiology	LSC-30084	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

- Students studying combined honours Biochemistry and Human Biology must take LSC-30102: Research project as a requirement of RSB accreditation. This 30-credit module will contribute 15 credits of optional space for each programme, meaning you must select a minimum of 30 credits of optional modules from the list above and up to 45 credits from your other subject.
- Students choosing to specialise in Human Biology in the final year must take LSC-30102: Research Project. You will also have the option of taking up to a maximum of 15 credits of modules from your second subject, or choosing all 75 credits of optional modules from those listed above.
- Students choosing to specialise in Human Biology in the final year can take up to a maximum of one module from either NAT-30008: Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) or NAT-30012: Professional Experience in Education
- Achieving a pass mark in LSC-30102: Research project is a requirement for RSB accreditation. Students not meeting this threshold will transfer to Studies in Biochemistry. This is not accredited by the RSB.
- LSC-30114: students taking Human Biology and a subject outside of the School of Life Sciences must choose this module.
- LSC-30036: prerequisite: Microbes, Viruses and Parasites.
- LSC-30043: prerequisite: Environmental Biology.
- All option module combinations are subject to timetabling.
- Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6). You also cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) and Professional Experience in Education.

Between level 5 and 6 students will have the option to take NAT-30010: Natural Sciences Placement Year.

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Honours Degree	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>You must accumulate a minimum of 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). Your degree title will be 'subject X and subject Y'.</p> <p>If you choose to study one Principal subject in your final year of study a minimum of 90 credits in that subject is required. Your degree title will be 'subject X with subject Y'.</p>
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Year option: In addition to the above students must pass all the modules covering the international year in order to add 'with international year' to the degree title. Students who fail to complete the international year will revert to the standard degree title.

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

Our assessment strategy is designed to be authentic and diverse so that you can develop key skills that meet academic, professional body and employer expectations. Module managers will provide appropriate guidance for each assessment and the marking criteria that will be used to assess your work.

Our assessment strategy will help you to develop and evidence your ability to:

- **Provide evidence-based solutions to current scientific problems.** Most often this is assessed through a range of essays, portfolios and literature reviews.
- **Critically reflect on current issues.** Reflective writing is an increasingly important skill in the workforce. It can help you to identify personal strengths and weaknesses so that you can learn from your experience and maximise your potential.
- **Present scientific findings.** Often these are lab reports or experimental projects that test your ability to pose scientific hypotheses, design experiments, understand methodologies, present findings, analyse data and situate your work in the current literature.
- **Communicate effectively with a range of audiences.** These can include scientific posters, information leaflets, wikis, blogs or oral presentations.
- **Work professionally.** Your final year, independent research project will give you an opportunity to demonstrate a range of professional skills such as leadership, innovation, time keeping, communication 17 and the ability to work safely and ethically.
- **Work effectively in a team.** Most often this is assessed through group presentations but can also include competencies such as working together in the lab.
- **Solve problems in a time-limited fashion.** Often in the work environment we are asked to solve problems in a relatively short amount of time. Our online tests and end-of-semester, online, open-book examinations will help you to evidence these skills.

We aim to provide constructive feedback within 3 weeks of submission for all assessed work. This is often phrased in terms of strengths, weaknesses and ways to improve to help you focus on key areas that can improve the quality of your work in the future.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	38.9%	61.1%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	38.4%	61.6%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	31.5%	68.5%	0%

12. Accreditation

Students who specialise in Human Biology at level 6, or who combine with Biochemistry, will be eligible for an award title that is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology.

Students should note that to be awarded Royal Society of Biology accreditation they must achieve a minimum standard of 40% in the Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment), or equivalent placement module. Students that condone this module may still be eligible for the award Studies in Human Biology. Students are also required to obtain a pass mark for the Level 4 Core Practical Skills and Level 5 Practical Skills in Bioscience modules in order to remain on the accredited routes, else the award title will be Studies in Human Biology.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option. Where a programme has an "International Year" option and a "Placement Year" option, students may elect to follow either the International Year or Placement Year, but not both.

14. Other Learning Opportunities

We are committed to offering a rich and diverse student experience that goes far beyond your degree.

Most years, we are able to offer range of different opportunities to enrich your student experience. These can include:

Study abroad. You could apply to spend one semester at Level 5 studying in one of our international partner universities. This not only gives you valuable international experience, but can also allow you to study a complimentary subject - such as epidemiology or molecular biology - in greater detail, whilst remaining complementary to the your programme of study at Keele. The marks that you achieve whilst studying abroad will count to your overall attainment across Level 5.

International year. Is similar to study abroad, but here you choose to take an additional year in between Levels 5 and 6 studying in one of our international partner universities. More information can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>

Work placements. You could apply to a range of national and international employers for an work placement. These take place in between Level 5 and 6 and usually last 9-12 months. They provide excellent work experience and an opportunity to collect data for your Level 6 independent research student project.

Secondments. These are shorter industrial placements that usually take place over the summer in between Level 5 and 6 and usually last between 2-8 weeks. They can be based locally in one of our research labs here at Keele, nationally or internationally. For example, often some of our students will travel to Malaysia to work with our partner Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Tropical field trip. You could apply for our School tropical field that takes place in Malaysia. These are often more conservational in nature, but again provide fantastic international experience and of course, will complement and broaden your programme of study in Human Biology.

Operation Wallacea. This is a private company that supports a wide range of student projects with a particular focus on biodiversity and climate research. More information can be found at: <https://www.opwall.com>

Note: the opportunities described above are limited and dependent on external providers. We may not be able to offer them every year and there will be additional costs if you do successfully secure a place. We discuss all of these options in more detail across Level 4 and Level 5 so you can make an informed decision

15. Additional Costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this undergraduate programme.

16. Annex - International Year

Human Biology with International Year

Please note: in order to be eligible to take the International Year option your other subject must also offer this option. Please refer to the information published in the course document for your other subject.

International Year Programme
<p>At Level 5 you can apply to transfer onto our International Year pathway. If successful, you will have an additional year of study at one of our international partner Universities once you have completed Level 5 here at Keele.</p> <p>Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.</p> <p>Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option (BSc Human Biology with International Year).</p>
International Year Programme Aims
<p>In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially
Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director).

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year

Student Support

We have a dedicated Study Abroad tutor within Life Sciences that will stay in touch with you throughout your International Year, effectively acting as an additional Academic Mentor. There is also support available for Keele's Global Opportunities Team. (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/studyabroad/>)

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. Use independent research skills to identify relevant information resources on a range of subjects related, or complementary, to Biology.
5. Demonstrate the use of critical thinking skills, augmented by creativity and curiosity, in discussing the application of their International Year studies to Biology.

Please note that students on Combined Honours programmes with International Year must meet the subject-specific learning outcomes for BOTH their principal subjects.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least* 40% in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

17. Annex - Work Placement Year

Human Biology with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

- Experience of working in a subject-related laboratory or work place within an industrial, academic or public institution either in the UK or abroad

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Faculty of Natural Sciences Work / Professional Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside their placement.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application(s) to relevant placement providers with prior agreement from the Programme Lead, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor and Programme Lead)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- (*International students only*) Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organisation at around the 5 weeks after placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an ability to successfully work within their placement institution and to learn practical skills and develop their science base within the scope of their work project.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the Professional Placement Year module-NAT-30010 (30 credits).

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the module NAT-30010 (30 credits)).
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

18. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: Human Biology (Combined Honours)

Final Award and Award Titles	BSc (Hons) Human Biology BSc (Hons) Human Biology with International Year BSc (Hons) Human Biology with Work Placement Year BSc (Hons) Studies in Human Biology BSc (Hons) Studies in Human Biology with International Year BSc (Hons) Studies in Human Biology with Work Placement Year
Intermediate Award(s)	Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	November 2022
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)^[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions**, **variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

No variations apply

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Laboratory, lecture and tutorial classes

1.1 Wearing a laboratory coat is compulsory in all classes held in laboratories. Students will not be allowed to attend the laboratory class without a laboratory coat.

1.2 Students must wear appropriate clothing in the laboratories, including sensible footwear. Closed shoes and low heels should be worn. This is to avoid tripping and to protect the feet in the case of spillages. Long hair must

be tied back. Students who are inappropriately dressed may, at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, be excluded from the class and recorded as being absent without good cause.

1.3 Students who arrive late to laboratory classes may, at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, be excluded from the class and recorded as being absent without good cause.

1.4 Students who display serious misconduct in any class may, at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, be excluded from the class and recorded as being absent without good cause. Serious misconduct involves wilful damage to property, injury or threat to persons, or persistent disruption of teaching.

1.5 The unauthorised use of mobile phones or headphones is not permitted in any class.

1.6 Students are not permitted to record, video or photograph taught sessions or meetings with staff, except with the permission in advance of the staff concerned. Permission will be given where this is part of an approved disability adjustment. Any permission to record, video or photograph is for personal use only and all recordings, videos or photographs remain the property of the presenter and Keele University.

1.7 Students are required to read and follow the procedures in the School of Life Sciences Safety Handbook, which is available from the Life Science Noticeboard on the KLE.

Additional requirement 2: Royal Society of Biology Accreditation

2.1 Students must achieve a pass standard in the Life Sciences Double Experimental Project with research skills assessment (or, subject to agreement, Double Applied Life Sciences Placement) to attain an accredited degree. Students must also achieve a pass mark in both of the zero-credit, lab-based modules and levels 4 and 5. For students who do not fulfil the conditions of this regulation, the degree award will be 'Studies in Human Biology' and the degree will not be accredited by the Royal Society of Biology.

Additional requirement 3: Study Abroad and Field Course

3.1 A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

3.2 Students taking the final year module LSC-30066: Tropical Biology Field Course will undertake field work in Malaysia between level 5 and 6. Students must achieve the following criteria to be eligible to attend:

- **Academic Performance:** an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the course are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. You will still be eligible to apply if you have up to 15 credits of re-assessment, but still meet the 55% requirement. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded, performance at Level 4 and ongoing Level 5 assessments are considered.
- **General Aptitude:** demonstrated through interview during Level 5, semester 2 and by recommendation of your academic mentor, year tutors and/or programme director.

At least one male and one female academic member of staff from the School of Life Sciences will accompany you on the field course to offer support.

There are additional costs associated with the tropical field course that change each year. These will be discussed at Level 5 before you need to decide to apply.

Additional requirement 4: Health and Safety

4.1 Students are required to read and follow the procedures in the School of Life Sciences Safety Handbook, which is available from the School of Life Sciences Noticeboard.

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 04 September 2025

What's Changed

Optional modules NAT-30008 and NAT-30012 added for CH students at Level 6

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	MIRNA MAARABOUNI	14 March 2025	
1	2024/25	MIRNA MAARABOUNI	14 June 2024	
1	2023/24	MIRNA MAARABOUNI	08 February 2023	
1	2022/23	MIRNA MAARABOUNI	01 February 2022	
1	2021/22	MIRNA MAARABOUNI	08 February 2021	
1.1	2020/21	MIRNA MAARABOUNI	17 December 2020	Revised version finalised in the system to enable creation of the 2021/22 Programme Specification. FEC to consider the proposed change of compulsory module at Level 5.
1	2020/21	MIRNA MAARABOUNI	07 February 2020	
1.2	2019/20	MIRNA MAARABOUNI		
1.1	2019/20	MIRNA MAARABOUNI	07 February 2020	Additional optional module at Level 6 (year 3) - LSC-30066 Tropical Biology Field Course
1	2019/20	EDWARD MCCAULEY	09 October 2019	