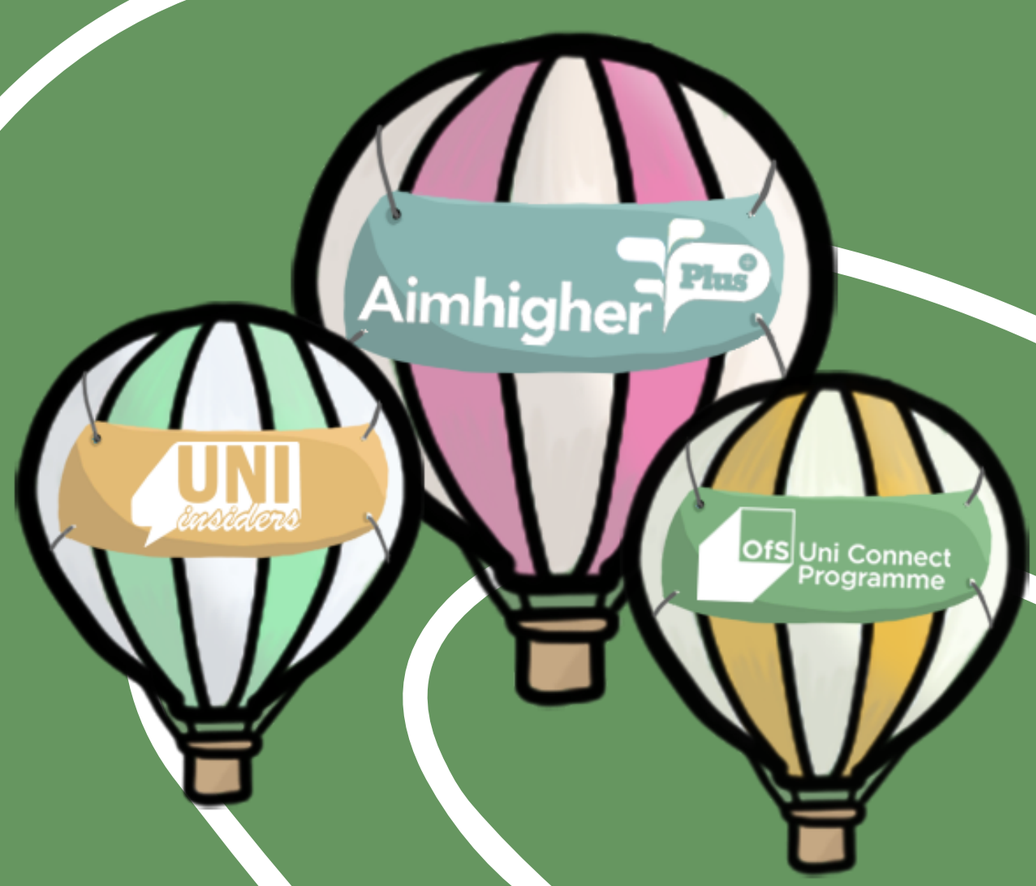

MARINE BIOLOGY

MARINE BIOLOGY

By studying the different aspects of sea life and the marine world, you'll be able to predict how natural and human influences may impact the plants and animals sharing the environment.

OCEANOGRAPHER

As an Oceanographer, your role is to understand and predict how the world's oceans and seas work, as well as work out how to make the most efficient and sustainable use of their resources.

You can choose to specialise in one area of oceanography, such as:

Physical Oceanography,
Chemical Oceanography,
Biological Oceanography
Geological Oceanography

Each one has its own specialist areas and gives you the freedom to choose the career you want.

Being an Oceanographer could see you involved in areas such as mineral exploitation, shipping, fisheries, coastal construction, pollution, weather prediction, climate change and renewable energy.

BECOMING AN OCEANOGRAPHER

In order to become an Oceanographer you will usually need a degree in one of the following subjects;
Oceanographer, Ocean Science, Geology, Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Marine Sciences, Geography, Maths or Physics.

It is also possible to take a degree in Ocean Science, Oceanography or Marine Sciences combined with other Earth Sciences.

Most Oceanographers also have a relevant postgraduate qualification at Masters or PhD level. You're likely to to specialise and develop your research interests while undertaking your postgraduate qualification.

Related experience in Marine Science or Oceanography research is an advantage. You can gain this through a sandwich year during your undergraduate degree, overseas studies, undergraduate collaborative projects or through employment, for example in a marine laboratory.

MARINE BIOLOGIST

Marine biology is the study of all aspects of life in the sea and the environment on which it depends. This includes marine plants, animals and other organisms in deep oceans, shallow seas and the laboratory.

The main aims of marine biology are to improve understanding of the marine world and to understand and predict changes in ecosystems affected by human and natural disturbances.

Marine biology is a broad-ranging career. You could go into field work, academic research, laboratory work, consulting, charity, outreach or policy making.

Although most roles require strong technical, research and scientific skills, specialising in a particular area is usually required for career progression - whether in coastal management, reef ecology, invertebrate biodiversity, fisheries biology or marine pollution.

BECOMING A MARINE BIOLOGIST

To become a Marine Biologist, you'll need a marine based degree such as:

Marine Biology
Marine Biology & Coastal Ecology
Marine Science
Ocean & Earth Sciences
Oceanography

If your undergraduate degree is in a broader-based science discipline, you'll require postgraduate, marine-related study.

It's not unheard of for graduates who have studied other scientific degrees such as geology or zoology to move into marine biology, using a Masters as a springboard in.

It's essential to get experience to stand out from the competition. If you're interested in a career in research, look into what your university professors, lab technicians or PhD students are working on and ask if you can assist with their projects. You could also attend conferences, present papers and volunteer as a research assistant to a specialist.

ECOLOGIST

As an ecologist, you'll be concerned with ecosystems - the abundance and distribution of organisms (people, plants, animals), and the relationships between organisms and their environment.

In this role, you'll usually specialise in a particular area, such as freshwater, marine, terrestrial, fauna or flora, and carry out a range of tasks relating to that area.

When starting out, you'll conduct surveys to identify, record, and monitor species and their habitats. With career progression, your work will become more wide-ranging.

A degree in a biological science or environmental subject is generally required. In particular, the following subjects may increase your chances; **Applied Life Sciences, Botany/Plant Sciences, Conservation Biology, Ecology, Marine Biology or Zoology.**

Some employers will look for candidates with postgraduate qualifications (MSc or PhD), particularly for work requiring specialist knowledge.

BECOMING AN ECOLOGIST

It's helpful to join your local Wildlife Trust and become a member of a relevant professional body, such as the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), which has reduced membership and conference rates for students.

Membership provides the opportunity to meet and network with potential employers and other ecological and environmental professionals.

Pre-entry experience is essential and helps you to develop vital field survey skills. There are many ways to gain relevant and quality experience. Some degree courses include a period of field-based work experience - if yours doesn't, try to take as many practical modules as possible.

Joining relevant societies will provide you with opportunities to get involved in ecological projects and you can find volunteering opportunities through job websites and the websites of conservation organisations.