Durham University

Durham Biosciences

Pre-application Open Day

Presented by Professor Tim Blower

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Overview

- Timetable for today
- The Department
- Programs of Study
- Student Experience

Timetable

Session	Talk in L50	Exhibition in Biosciences Teaching Lab 1
1	9:30-10:00	10:00-10:50
2	10:50-11:20	11:20-12:10
3	12:10-12:40	12:40-13:30
4	13:30-14:00	14:00-14:50

What does it mean to be a scientist?

Medical research

'Phage therapy' successes boost fight against drug-resistant infections

Two US patients recover from intractable infections, giving hope for treatments beyond antibiotics

Hannah Devlin Science correspondent

- Apply analytical skills
- Think critically
- Solve problems
- Communicate effectively

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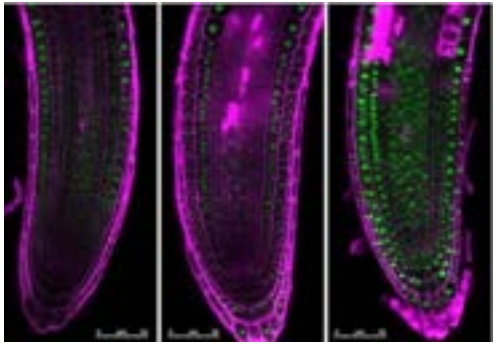
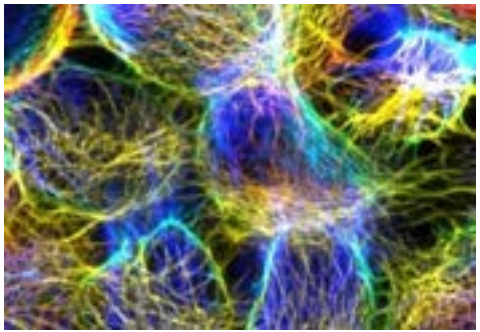
Research

- Our single Department covers all aspects of Biology
- Our research is divided into four areas
- Please see the website for more details and an extended brochure outlining our areas of interest

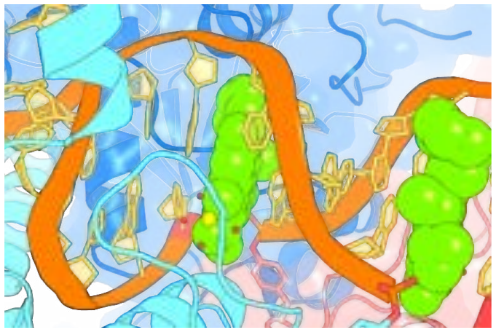
Ecology, Evolution & Environment



Molecular Plant Sciences



Animal Cells and Systems



Biomolecular Interactions

dur.ac.uk/biosciences/research/

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So what has our research got to do with your degree?

- “Research-led teaching” has been proven to increase student engagement and attainment
- We have a thriving research culture, emphasising our own research interests in our taught courses
  - The MBiol/MSci and BSc final year Projects, Literature Reviews and Workshops relate to active research areas
  - Many of our postgraduate students were Durham undergrads
- Students can also undertake vacation work in our labs
  - Departmental Summer Studentship scheme began this year
  - Other summer studentship schemes available, such as from the Biophysical Sciences Institute

Department of Biosciences

Undergraduate study – Single Honours degrees

- BSc Biological Sciences C103
  - 3-year BSc
  - 4-year with options:
    - C105 placement year
    - C108 study year abroad
    - Enter on 3-year BSc and transfer to “BSc with placement year/year abroad” at end of year 2
- MBiol 4-year Masters Biosciences C107
  - Enter direct or transfer in at end of year 2
- **##New for 2023 entry##** BSc Biochemistry C702

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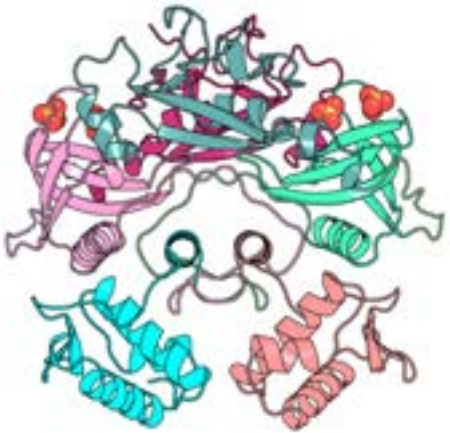
Department of Biosciences

dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/

Undergraduate study – Natural Sciences Degrees

- Biosciences is also part of the Natural Sciences Programme
- Natural Sciences BSc (CFG0) or MSci (FGC0)
  - 3-year or 4-year
- Can study biosciences alongside other science subjects
  - Biology with… Chemistry; Physics; Maths; Earth Sciences; Psychology; Anthropology; Geography
  - Study alongside single honours students in these modules
- Dual specialism also available as BSc (CFG0) or MSci (FGC0)
  - “Joint Honours” Biology+Chemistry or Biology+Physics



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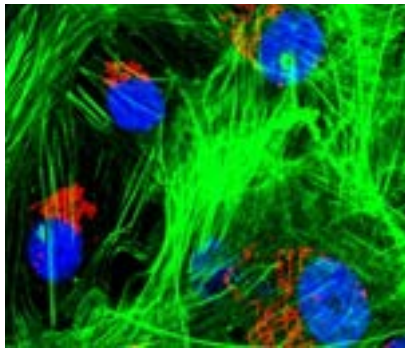
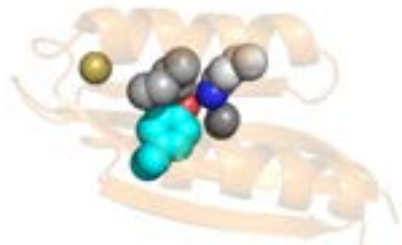
Structure

- Modular structure - 6 x 20 credit modules per year
- Lectures, practicals, tutorials, seminars
- Assessed by essays, lab write-ups, presentations, project reports, exams
- Opportunity at end of Level 2 to transfer onto placement or year abroad routes, or to switch into MBiol depending on spaces available
- In Level 1, students take an optional module which can be from another department
- Typical Level 1 week: 1 practical, 12 lectures, 1 tutorial & reading time!
- 18 hours contact time, 1.5 hrs reading per lecture

Biological Sciences: Integrated Themed Routes

- Both BSc/MBiol and NatSci programs have themed “routes” based on module choice
- These are only guidelines, your degree is your decision – “build your own adventure”
- Your choice allows you to specialise in (for example): **biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, biomedical sciences, ecology/environment**





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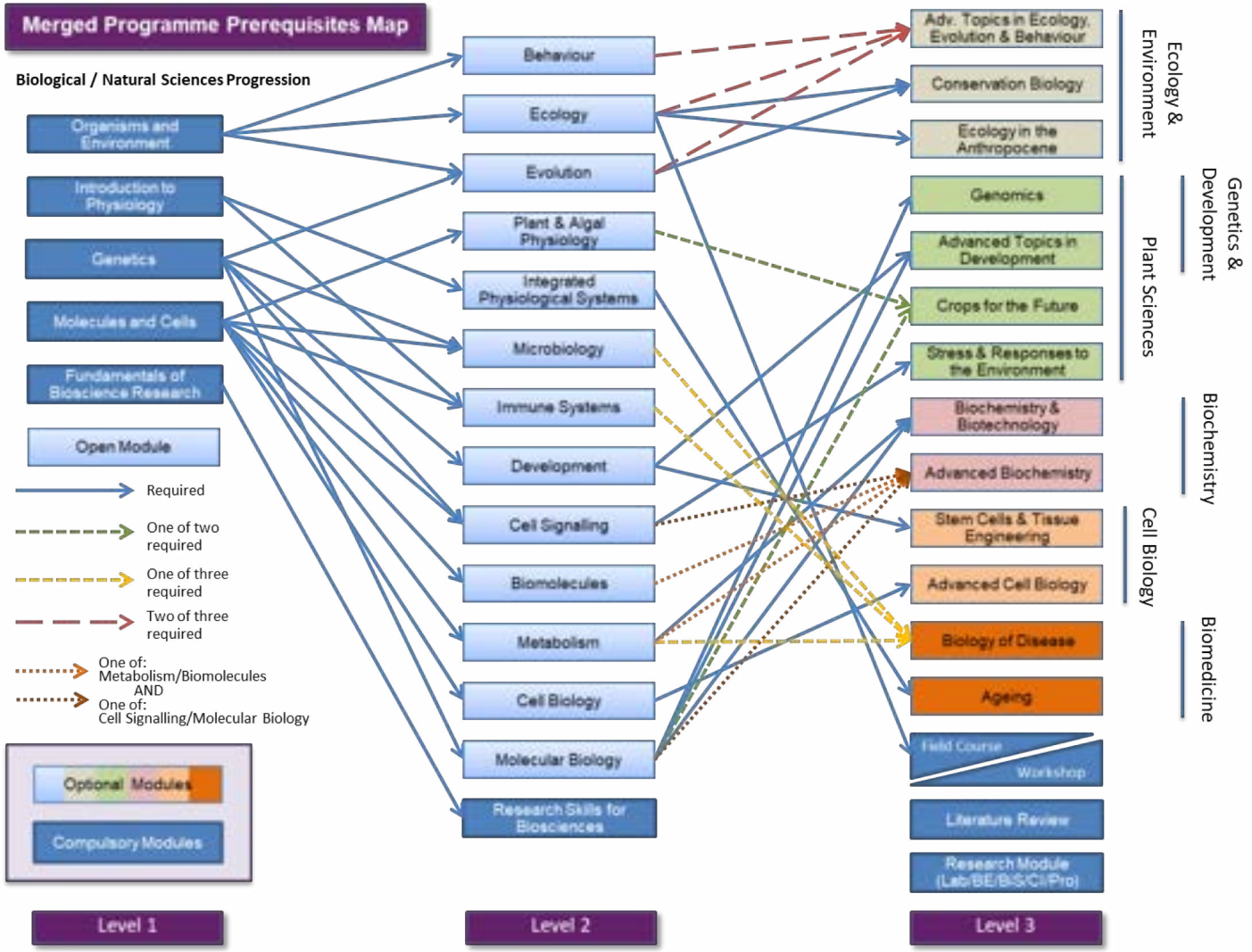

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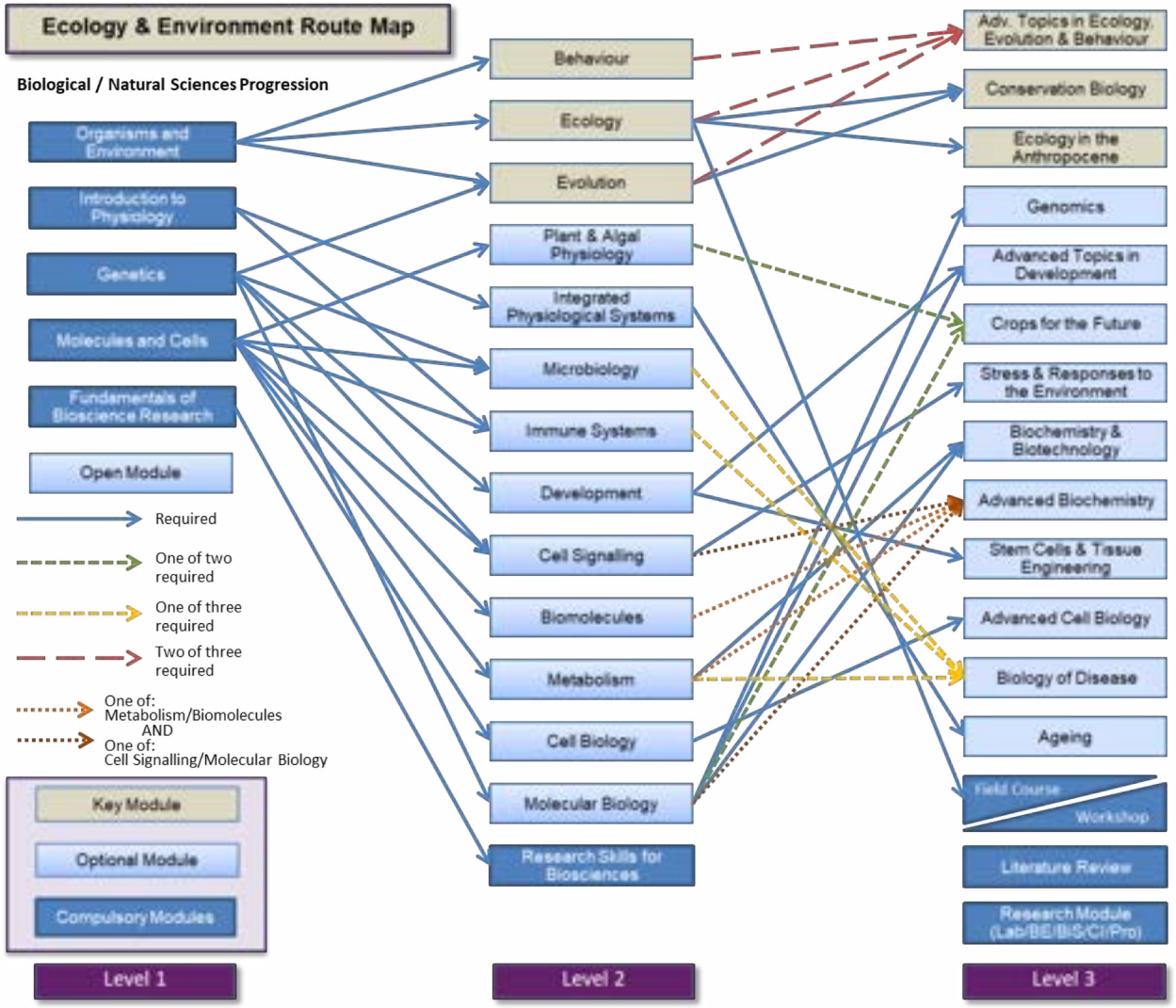

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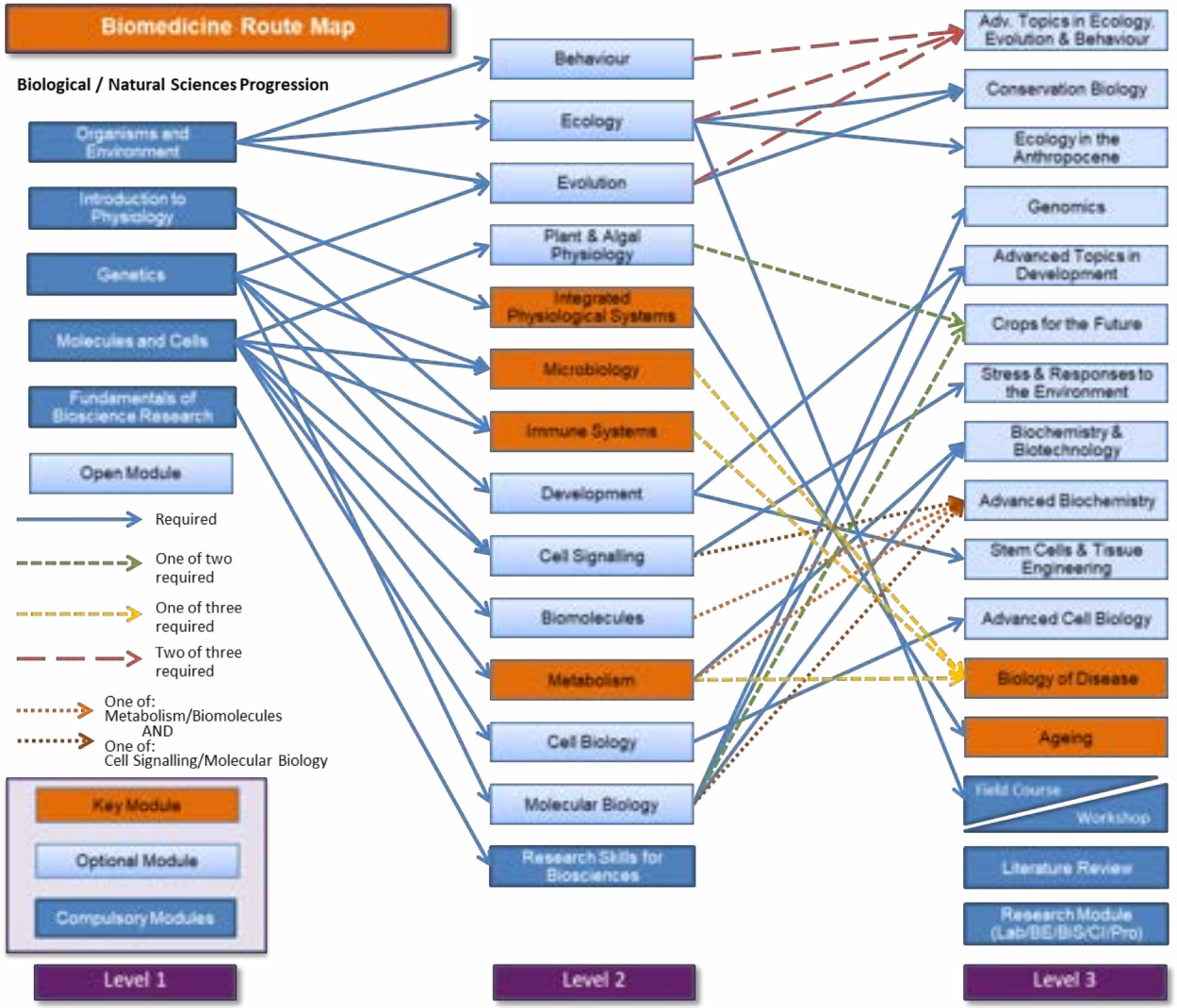

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Biological Sciences (MBiol): Level 4

- Research Skills module
- Second Field Course/Workshop module
- Major Research Project 2.5 terms
- Equivalent of four modules

Module	Credits
Research Skills	20
Field Course/Workshop	20
Project	80

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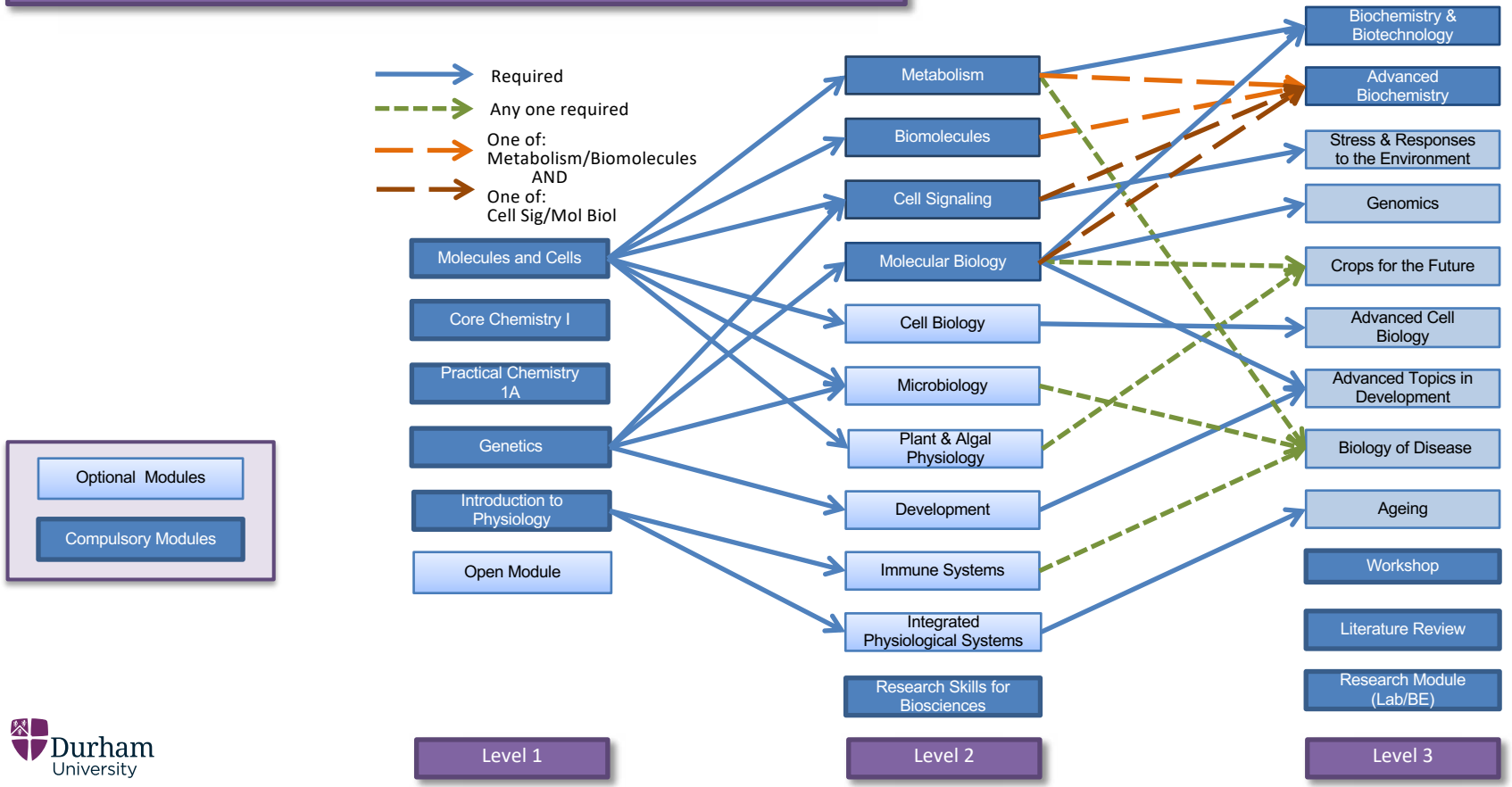
New for 2023: BSc Biochemistry Programme Prerequisites Map



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Experience – “the Durham Difference”

- Students encouraged to engage with opportunities…
  - Biosciences society, research seminars, summer studentships, GBBO, College teams/societies
  - Wednesday afternoons teaching-free

The Great Biosciences Bake-Off

World Solar Challenge

International Athletes

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Experience – “the Durham Difference”

- Field trips: day trips during all 3 years of study. Residential field course at level 3
- Options to extend your degree with an additional year between L2 and L3
  - Placement year option: work with a company for a year (get paid, plus reduced fees).
  - Study abroad option: take an additional year of study in a University overseas
- Every student is appointed an Academic Advisor for the duration of their degree

Careers

- For the 2019 Biosciences cohort:
  - 86% were in paid employment or further study 15 months after graduation
  - Of those in employment, 83% were in graduate level employment with an average salary of £28,000
- Support from Department and central careers office
- CV enhancing opportunities encouraged:
  - Internships/placements

Department of Biosciences
Career Destinations
Postgraduate Research
Industrial Research
Finance
Commerce
Management
Broadcast & Print Media
Teaching
Graduate Entry Medicine
NHS clinical sciences

Top 10

UK university

Durham University ranked 6th overall in The Complete University Guide 2023

Biosciences ranked 5th

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Admission

- Typical offer for BSc/MBiol Biological Sciences:
  - AAA at A level including 2 Sciences (one of which must be either Biology, Chemistry or Human Biology). Maths does count as a second science!
  - 37 at International Baccalaureate.
  - Approx 185 places, deferred entry allowed.
- Typical offer for BSc Biochemistry:
  - AAA at A level including Chemistry and Maths.
  - 37 at IB with 666 in higher level subjects including Chemistry and Maths.
- Typical offer for Natural Sciences:
  - A*AA at A level, 38 at IB

What our selectors consider

- Prior and predicted grades
- Personal Statement
- Teachers/Academic Reference
- Contextual evidence of merit & potential
- Motivation for the degree programme
- Study & other skills

Find out more by attending the 'Applying to Durham' sessions in TLC042 Teaching and Learning Centre or visit the Admissions Desk in the Teaching and Learning Centre/Business School

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College Allocation and Preferences

- We no longer ask you to indicate a college preference on your UCAS Application Form.
  - The only option listed at UCAS is ‘Durham City’
- Your college is NOT linked to your degree subject
- Before we allocate your college you will be invited to rank the colleges in the order of your preference
- You will be allocated your college in or around May

To find out more visit the Colleges Hub on the top floor of the Teaching and Learning Centre

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Thank you for joining us! This presentation will be available to you on the Open Days website.

Remember you can still contact us after the event using:

durham.ac.uk/study/ask-us

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