

Durham University Pre-Application Natural Sciences



Faculty of Science

durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/natural-sciences/

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Natural Sciences



Natural Sciences: overview

Talk focuses on the key features of the structure of the Natural Sciences degree programme:

Flexibility; Choice; Depth.

Natural Sciences has been in existence for over 160 years and called by this for over 40 years.

- The BSc and MSci Natural Sciences degree programmes allows you to combine subjects to follow one of a large number of Joint Honours degrees or design your own broad based (two or three subjects to a high level) Natural Sciences degree.
- All students have the opportunity of taking a year abroad;
- All students have the opportunity of taking a year long industrial placement.
- There may be the option of transferring into a single honours programme at the end of Year 1.

- You can delay choosing your final subjects until you get to Durham (except maybe Chemistry);
- It is possible to change the shape of your degree at the end of the first year;
- Students study a selection of the same modules as single honours students;
- There are no compulsory modules and only one module just for Natural Sciences students;
- In the final year, credits are taken that are students driven and involve independent thought.

Natural Sciences: 2023 entry

	An	Bi	Bs	Ch	CS	ES	Ec	Gg	Ma	Ph	Py	Ps
An		*										
Bi	*			*,#		*		*	*		*,#	*
Bs					*							
Ch		*,#				*			*,#		*,#	
CS			*						*,#		*	
ES		*		*				*				
Ec									*			*
Gg		*				*						
Ma		*		*,#	*,#		*			*	*,#	*
Ph									*		*	
Py		*,#		*,#	*				*,#	*		
Ps		*					*		*			

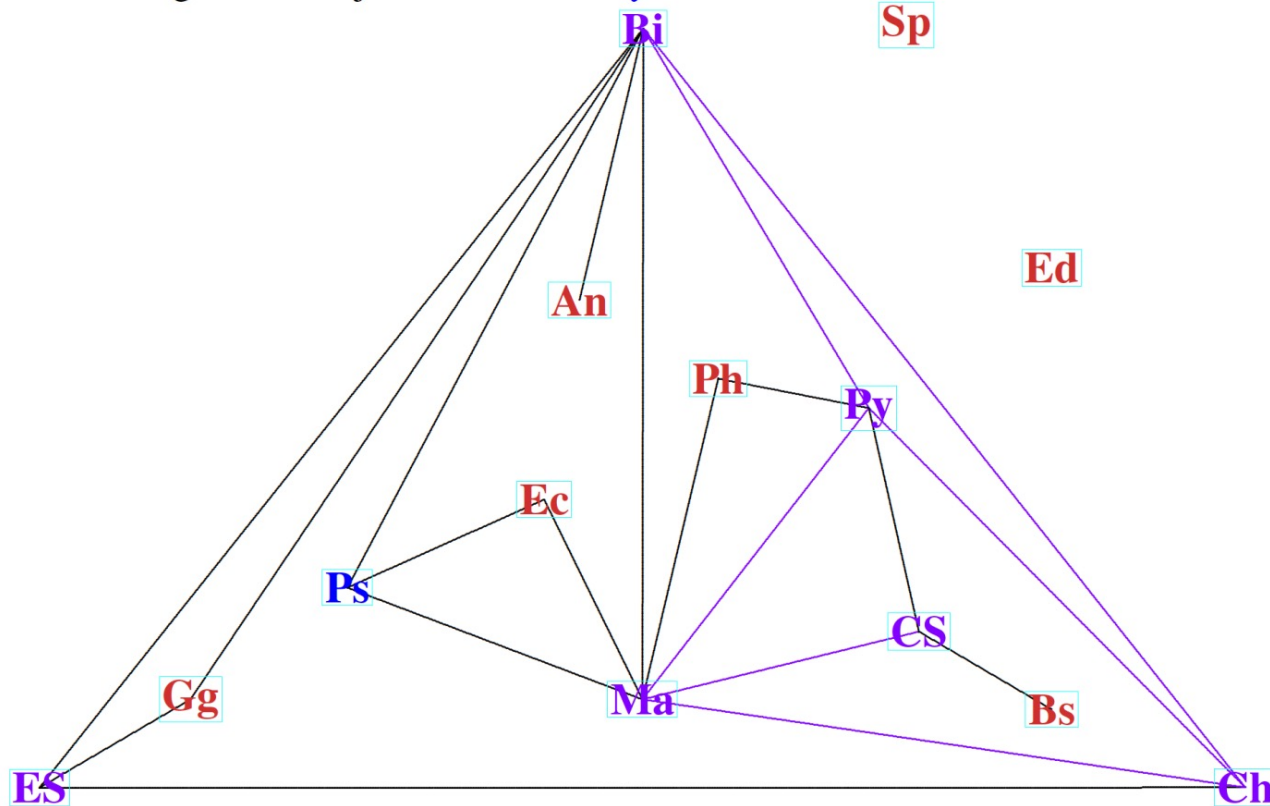
Expected Joint Honours Combinations for 2023 entry

*/# - BSc/Msci on offer; Combined Honours; Likelihood combination will work: Excellent; Very Good; Good; Poor ...

still no guarantee will perfectly timetable

MSci/BSc Joint-Honours degrees 2023 entry

Programme subjects within Faculty of Science and without.



- An- Anthropology
- Bi - Biology
- Bs - Business
- Ch - Chemistry
- CS - Computer Science
- ES - Earth Sciences
- Ec – Economics
- Ed – Education (no JH)
- Gg - Geography
- Ma – Mathematics
- Ph - Philosophy
- Py - Physics
- Ps- Psychology
- Sp – Sport (no JH)

Degrees



M.Sci. in Natural Sciences

Available only in the following subjects:
Earth Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science,
Maths, Physics
and Biology (but only with Chemistry and Physics)

B.Sc. in Natural Sciences

Available in all the contributing subjects, with at least
50% of study from the Faculty of Science

Subjects studied successfully are mentioned on the
degree certificate

Natural Sciences: depth

Study Goals

- The same key modules as single honours.
- Study more than one subject to a high level.
- For details of content, see other talks today

https://maths.durham.ac.uk/php/natural.sciences-module_guide.php?student_type=ucas



Natural Sciences: depth

- All students need to major and in the BSc/MSci must undertake final-year [capstone](#)/dissertation research-led work
 - Into Schools;
 - Dissertation;
 - Project;
 - Science Enterprise

Natural Sciences: flexibility

120 credits a year, each module lasts all year,
expected structure

Year	# subjects studied	Number of credits studied at	Maximum number of credits studied in a single subject
1	$2 \leq \text{Year 1} \leq 4$	Level I = 120	80
2	$2 \leq \text{Year 2} \leq 3$	Level 2=90 ... start new subject (ES, Bs, Gg, Ed; An, CS)	80
3	$2 \leq \text{Year 3} \leq 3$	Level 3=90	100
4	$1 \leq \text{Year 4} \leq 3$	Level IV = 120	120

Natural Sciences: choice

mixing subjects

Group 1 subjects	Minimum Year 1 credits for some progression into Year 2.	Additional credits to enable transfer
Biology	40	20
Chemistry	40+20	0 (extra work)
Computer Science	20+20	20
Earth Sciences	0	60
Mathematics	40	20 (extra work)
Physics	40+40	20
Psychology	40	20

Extra Mathematics

✈️ Natural Sciences with Year Abroad

- Possibility of a [year abroad](#) on the B.Sc/M.Sci. in a Turing scheme.
- Placements would be carried out between Years 2 and 3/During Year 3.
- Students must be in good academic standing at the end of Year 2 with an average of at least 55%.



Natural Sciences with Placement – similar to YA

- The placements must be a minimum of 40 weeks duration, with an emphasis on a job description or project related to the broad area of at least one core subject.
- Students are supported but responsible for finding and securing their own placement



Careers Prospects

- Of students that left in 2019:- 91% are in employment /study 15 months after graduating
- Of those in employment :- 91% are in skilled employment
 - Median salary £31K



Testimonial (MSci in Bi+Ch): Sarah C, Ph.D Oxford

- I have (honestly!) found that having done both Biology and Chemistry during my undergraduate degree, whilst having much less practical biology experience, the theoretical knowledge that I gained in both Biology and Chemistry has been invaluable for doing a PhD in Chemical Biology. I have also been able to do all of both the Biology and Chemistry myself, which is definitely a

Mia D (BSc in Bi, CS, Gg): Pharmaceutical+Banking

- I specifically chose Durham mainly for the Natural Sciences degree as it isn't offered at many places. I liked that it had enough flexibility to study what I was interested without having many of the requirements (language credit, english credit etc) at most American universities. I was also attracted to the college system that Durham has as well as the well regarded sports program here. I currently play DU football and water polo.

Professor Michelle Simmons

is recognised internationally as a pioneer in atomic electronics and quantum computing who graduated with a degree in “Physics and Chemistry of Materials”.

- “I loved my time at Durham. It really changed my life. And yes it was that double degree. It was a course that opened many doors for me.”



Natural Sciences: cautions

- Choices of modules are restricted by: the University timetable; capacity; being tied to degree programmes which are not Natural Sciences.
- Choices need to leave a programme of study open
- Mathematics with progression to other Maths beyond Level 2 need and AS-level in Further Maths.

Competition for 100 bench spaces in Chemistry is super competitive

We make 550 offers for around 650 applicants who declare they wish to study Chemistry each year. There are four potential outcomes in this and other subject scenario. Your application:

1. is successful;
2. is successful and you get a reserve Chemistry offer;
3. is successful but excludes the study of Chemistry
4. Your application is not successful.

Where you put Chemistry on your provisional list of subjects is important

Natural Sciences: applications stats

- 981 applications.
- 750 offers for 196 places - 32 deferred.
- Offer is based on the UCAS application
- Standard offer: A*AA plus subject requirements
- Accreditation/Recognition on certain tightly defined routes in Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Psychology and Physics
- Possibility of [Substitute Personal Statement](#)



Natural Sciences: any questions

