The Natural Sciences Handbook 2017*

Version: Intended for potential students

June 12, 2017

*The information in this handbook is correct at the time of going to press on June 12, 2017. However, the University reserves the right to make changes without notice to regulations, programmes, syllabuses and the timetable. If there is any conflict or disagreement between the information in this handbook and the regulations for the Natural Sciences degree programme, which are published in the University Calendar, the regulations are definitive.

Foreword

The Natural Sciences programme gives undergraduate students the opportunity to design their own degree or follow a Joint-Honours path in Science. In Single Honours programmes, students concentrate on one subject, and take few if any modules in any other subjects. On the Joint Honours path with Natural Sciences, students focus on two related subjects after their first-year on defined pathways. On the Natural Sciences path, students can take modules in two or three subjects, pursuing their academic interests across and beyond the Faculty of Science. Natural Sciences, together with the corresponding programmes based in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health, are the most free and flexible programmes in the University, and they particularly appeal to highly-qualified, self-motivated, and independent-minded students who are interested in making creative connections across their subjects.

Some of you will have been attracted to Natural Sciences by the possibility of studying two subjects as a Joint Honours programme. Others, however, will have selected Natural Sciences because it is significantly more flexible, and opens up a much wider range of academic possibilities. Whatever your reasons for choosing Natural Sciences, it offers you a framework within which you can take responsibility for your intellectual destiny, and, at the end of your studies an internationally recognizable qualification.

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Director of Natural Sciences and Associate Professor in Mathematics

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June 12, 2017

Contents

1 Welcome

The aim of this handbook is to give a general overview and to describe the structure of the Honours Degrees in Natural Sciences at Durham University. It is designed to be used both by prospective applicants and students who are already in Durham. By nature it is a living breathing document and hopefully the Contents on the previous page and Index at the back will be of use in helping you find the information you need — if you don't find the information easily, then please get in touch.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information it contains is correct. The latest information about the Natural Sciences degree programme is available at

www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/

where the up to date version of this booklet can be found.

The emphasis within Natural Sciences is flexibility, choice and depth. Within the Natural Sciences degree programme, you can study a variety of subjects, including some from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health, see Section 4.5. You can study up to four subjects in the first year and start different subjects in your second year. You can study for three years (B.Sc.) or for four years (M.Sci.) in certain subjects. In many cases, you can have a choice of subjects even in your final year. The M.Sci. in Natural Sciences is only available with certain subjects, see www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/prospective/msci/year4single/. You can study Joint Honours[1] degrees within Natural Sciences, see Section 4.6, which combines two subjects on a set of tightly defined rules.

The Natural Sciences degree programme allows you to study a variety of subjects throughout your three or four years at Durham and keep your option of transferring to a Single Honours programme open until the end of the first-year, see Section 6. The degree programme is always evolving and you should access the Natural Sciences website www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences to see the latest developments.

With all of this flexibility and choice, it is inevitable there will be a downside. You should be aware that not all combinations of modules or subjects can be taken and choices can be restricted by the University timetable. However, specific Joint-Honours routes are guaranteed to work for students studying those degree routes, see Table 4.6.1.

If you have any queries about the degree programme, please do not hesitate to contact us, see Section 3.

2 The "Department"

As such there is no Department. The Natural Sciences degree programme is managed by the Natural Sciences Management Committee. A Deputy Head of the Faculty of Science, known as the Director of Natural Sciences, acts on behalf of the Committee on a day to day basis and manages all the admissions to the degree. The Deputy Director of Natural Sciences provides additional support to the Director, such as managing careers liaison and chairing the Board of Examiners meetings.

Modules are taught by Departments across the University. Students must take a significant proportion of Science, see Section 4, and financially students belong to the Faculty which results in students having a high degree of flexibility to transfer into Single Honours programmes at the end of Year 1. Please feel free to contact the Director of Natural Sciences, see Section 3 of this handbook for details.

[1] Note that the phrase does not appear on the degree certificate, but rather B.Sc./M.Sci. in A and B within the Natural Sciences programme.

3 Contact Details and office hours

If after looking at our webpages below you would like to know more about our programme or entry requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Director of Natural Sciences
Faculty of Science
Level 3 Chemistry Building
Durham University
Durham DH1 3LE
Tel: 0191 334 1014 Fax: 0191 334 1018
Email: natural.sciences@durham.ac.uk
World-Wide Web: www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences

Normal office hours are 9:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00.

4 Learning and Teaching

The guidelines do not supersede the full programme regulations for the B.Sc. or M.Sci., published in the University Calendar at

www.dur.ac.uk/university.calendar/

and the Faculty Handbook at:

www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/

The Programme Specifications are available online for the B.Sc. and M.Sci. at

www.dur.ac.uk/programme.specifications/ug.programmes/

In order that this handbook is kept short, we recommend that students look at the Student Welcome Guide at:

www.dur.ac.uk/studentwelcomeguide/

which is designed to provide an introduction to the basics of University life, and to act as a resource for any problems or queries you may have. It is a 50 page document and covers the broad themes of: Studying at Durham; University Regulations; Facilities; Tuition fees; Financial Support; Student Support; Durham Students' Union and Student Organizations; Useful Contacts. As students take modules delivered by Departments it is recommended to get a copy of their handbook(s) and follow advice given therein, for instance: reporting academic progress; absence and illness.

4.1 Regulations

Full details of the University's degree regulations for the B.Sc. and M.Sci. can be found at

www.dur.ac.uk/resources/faculty.handbook/degrees/frameworks/cfg0.pdf
www.dur.ac.uk/resources/faculty.handbook/degrees/frameworks/fgc0.pdf

and are provided in the University Calendar. The Calendar is available in all departments, Colleges, the University Library and the Durham University website. The remaining subsections flesh out these regulations.

4.2 Durham University's Modular Scheme

Durham University has a modular scheme where students take *precisely* 120 credits each year and credits are earned by taking modules. Typically students study six single modules (20 credits) which start in October and continue through to May or June of the following year. Durham has

three terms each year: Michaelmas; Epiphany; Easter. The modules span across the terms and examinations are normally taken in the middle of Easter Term. The dates of the academic year are published in the University Almanac at:

www.dur.ac.uk/dates/

Note that Freshers have a one week induction and should visit:

www.dur.ac.uk/welcome/

Each module has an associated level, which indicates the normal year in which it is taken. However, in the second and third year Natural Sciences students may take credits from the adjacent level below, although in order to maintain the integrity of the degree programme the number of credits is limited to taking 30 credits in the year below.

4.3 Patterns of Study

From the start of the second year of the Honours Natural Sciences degree students study for either:

- a Natural Sciences degree in which two or more subjects or starting a new subject in the second year are studied;
- a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences in two subjects with a prescribed pathway.

Whether students are following a Natural Sciences degree or a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences, students will be considered to be on the Natural Sciences degree programme and the choice between these two alternatives does not normally have to be made until the end of the first year.

4.4 The Natural Sciences Degree

There are two possible degree titles with this option:

B.Sc. Honours in Natural Sciences
M.Sci. Honours in Natural Sciences

In both cases any subject in which students take at least 40 credits from the second year onward will be listed on their degree certificate and appear in alphabetical order.

The decision as to whether students will follow a Natural Sciences Degree or a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences is normally taken at the end of the first year of study. Currently less than one-third of Year 2 Natural Sciences students take a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences and most students take the route described in this Section.

For an Honours degree in Natural Sciences in Year:

1. You take 120 credits at Level 1. You will select modules from at least two and no more than four subjects. You must take at least 60 credits from Group 1 subjects in the Faculty of Science, that is:

   > **Group 1**: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, and Psychology.

   It is possible to take up to 80 credits in any one subject. You may take no more than 20 credits of appropriate credit-bearing language modules offered by the University's Centre for Foreign Language Study[2]. In order that students plan for their academic future they need to ensure that they will be prepared for at least one of the science routes outlined at:

[2] See https://www.dur.ac.uk/mlac/cfls/

www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/prospective/bsc/capstone/

this lists the core material that needs to be covered for students in Years 1 and 2.

2. You select at least 90 Level 2 credits (not necessarily in the same subject) and no more than 30 Level 1 credits. Modules must be selected from at least two and no more than three subjects with at least 40 credits each in two subjects. It is possible to take up to 80 credits in any one subject. You may take no more than 20 credits of appropriate credit-bearing language modules offered by the University's Centre for Foreign Language Study[3].

3. You select at least 90 Level 3 credits (not necessarily in the same subject) and no more than 30 credits at Level 2. Modules must be selected from at least two and no more than three subjects. It is possible to take up to 100 credits in any one subject. It is *not* possible to take credit-bearing language modules offered by the University's Centre for Foreign Language Study.

   B.Sc. students need to study at least 20 credits and no more than 60 credits of Capstone modules from at most two Departments in Year 3[4], see

   www.maths.dur.ac.uk/php/natural.sciences.php?job=capstone

   for the list of Capstone modules.

4. You select 120 Level 4 credits. Modules must be selected from at least one and no more than three subjects. One module must be a project. Only the following subjects provide modules at Level 4: Biology (but only with Chemistry and Physics), Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Mathematics and Physics.

Finally, for the B.Sc. there is one overarching rule that in total students must take at least 120 credits across years 2 and 3 from Group 1.

4.5 Choice of Subjects

The nature of our Natural Sciences programme offers you a wide choice of subjects, see the Natural Sciences Website.

- Not all modules taught by Departments successfully combine because they might clash.
- You must satisfy the module regulations, such as having certain A-levels or equivalent qualifications, and the module needs to be Open or Tied to CFG0/FGC0. Further details are in Section 17.2 on Page 15.

There are some additional rules described in Section 4.4:

If you are taking a B.Sc. Natural Sciences degree, then there is a minimum threshold of Group 1 (Faculty of Science) modules that need to be taken, see the previous Section. Non-Science Subjects which contribute to Joint Honours degrees are known as:

Group 2: Anthropology, Business, Economics, Geography and Philosophy.

Other subjects that might be available within the University are known as:

Group 3: Sport, Education.

[3] See https://www.dur.ac.uk/mlac/cfls/

[4] Capstone modules are those that are student driven and involve independent thought, personal management of the work's direction and are synoptic of the programmes learning outcomes. Typically, these modules will have a very small taught component, the major part of assessment is not via sat examination will have little formal contact with staff who will usually be acting as mentors, rather than delivers of information.

The number of credits taken from subjects in Groups 2 and 3 are limited and there is no guarantee that subjects in Groups 2 and 3 will fit in the timetable with subjects from Group 1 (except the Joint Honours degrees, see Table 4.6.1 below, where there is at least one set of modules that will fit together). If one of their subjects is chosen from Group 3, then students would need to take a minimum of 40 credits each year. The Natural Sciences website gives a full list of available modules, see Page 1.

4.6 Joint Honours Degrees within Natural Sciences

The titles of the B.Sc. and M.Sci. Joint Honours degrees are:

B.Sc. in A and B within the Natural Sciences programme
M.Sci. in A and B within the Natural Sciences programme

where A and B are the two subject titles ordered alphabetically. Definitive details of the Joint-Honours degrees are outlined in Section 4.1. Table 4.6.1 shows the Joint-Honours programmes available[5]: In the soft copy version of the table below, the "*" and "⋆" provide direct links to the relevant Joint-Honours webpage

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

Table 4.6.1: Joint Honours combinations currently available in the A and B degree

The following abbreviations apply:

An	Anthropology	Bi	Biology	Bs	Business	Ch	Chemistry
CS	Computer Science	Ec	Economics	ES	Earth Sciences	Gg	Geography
Ma	Mathematics	Ph	Philosophy	Py	Physics	Ps	Psychology

The decision to follow a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences or a Natural Sciences is normally taken at the end of the first year of study. With a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences, you will study each of these subjects in each of the three/four years. In Year:

[5] A "*" means that a B.Sc. Joint Honours is available; A "⋆" denotes that an M.Sci. Joint Honours is available. If a combination is not starred, it may still be possible to combine the subjects with other subjects, that are within a Natural Sciences degree as long as one of the subjects is in Group 1.

1. You take modules prescribed by the departments concerned (see Section 4.5). There is usually the opportunity to take modules in a third or occasionally fourth subject.

2. You study subjects A and B exclusively while taking no more than 80 credits in subject A and no fewer than 40 credits in subject B although normally there would be a 60:60 balance. Typically, all the modules would be at Level 2 but there are exceptions depending[6] on the Joint-Honours degree, see either the B.Sc. or M.Sci. Joint-Honours website.

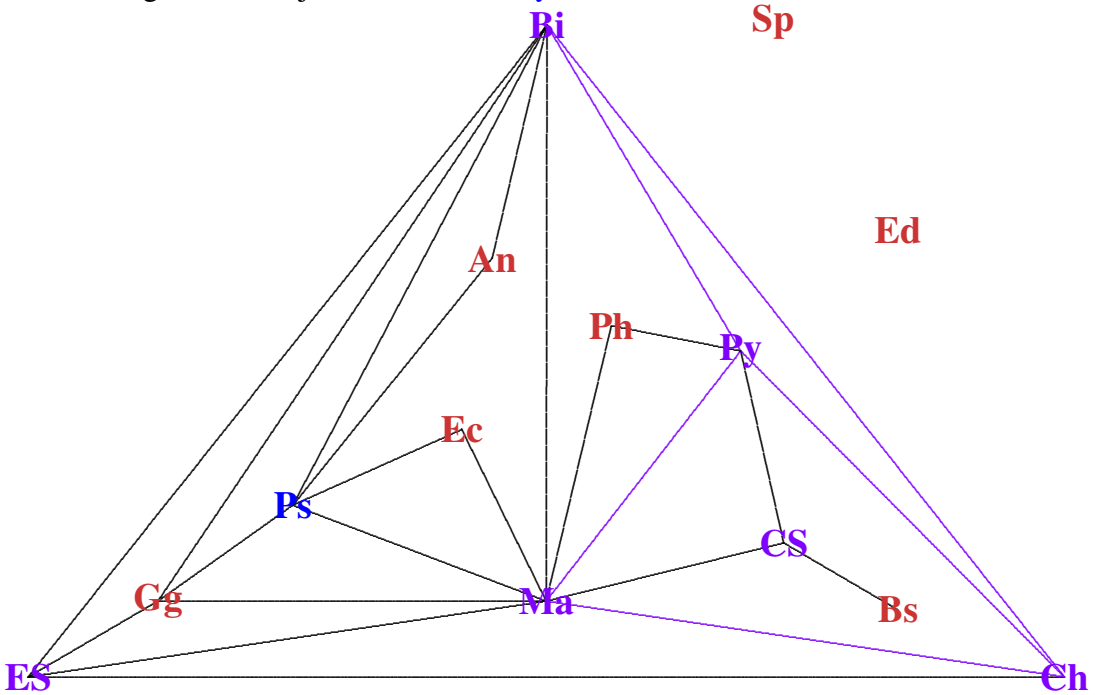
3. You study subjects A and B exclusively while taking no more than 80 credits in subject A and no fewer than 40 credits in subject B. B.Sc. students need to study at least 20 credits and no more than 40 credits of Capstone modules in Year 3, see Page 4. Normally, all the modules must be at Level 3 but there are exceptions depending on the Joint-Honours rules.[7]

4. You study subjects A and B exclusively while taking no more than 80 credits in subject A and no fewer than 40 credits in subject B. All the modules must be at Level 4 and one module must be a project.

The following graph shows the same data as in Table 4.6.1, but if you have the soft copy version it will be in colour and the subject abbreviations take you to the subject webpages. The purple denotes that the subject is available at Level 4. Colours purple and blue denote that the subject are in Group 1. A red colour denotes the subject is in Group 2 or 3. Note that where there is a triangle between three subjects, it is normally possible to find some combination of those subjects in Year 1[8]

M.Sci. /B.Sc. Joint-Honours

Programme subjects within Faculty of Science and without.



[6]The same rule for the Natural Sciences degree about the number of credits you are allowed to take at Level 1.
[7]The same rule for the Natural Sciences degree about the number of credits you are allowed to take at Level 2.
[8]The counter-example to this statement is that it is not possible to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics because Physics requires a significant amount of Mathematical support.

4.7 Examples of Patterns of Study

To see examples of the patterns of study visit

www.maths.dur.ac.uk/php/natural.sciences.php?job=exemplar_list_overview.

There are four core sets of routes shown on the webpages and we cannot over stress that many others are possible, but to include these would make the webpages too long. The examples include:

- Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics
- Biology and Psychology
- Biology and Chemistry
- Earth Sciences

Other combinations are possible, but any combination will depend on the factors outlined in Sections 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6.

The key features of the examples are that:

you start new subjects in the second year;

you take three subjects throughout the degree or specialize after Year 1;

you take the same two subjects each year for all three years and no other subjects in the second and third years;

you transfer from a Single Honours programme at Durham;

you take an all final-year in one subject on an M.Sci. programme.

5 Module Selection

5.1 Introduction

Each department provides a selection of modules. However, some are tied to particular degree programmes and are not available for Natural Sciences students. A list of the modules may be found on the Natural Sciences website, see Page 1.

It is important to select the correct modules from any subjects that you study to ensure that you can continue to study that subject in the following year. Most departments offer introductory modules, but sometimes they cannot be followed by any other higher level modules in that subject. Whatever you select, you must satisfy the rules set out in Section 4.1.

Most departments require you to take particular modules in their subjects if you wish to progress with that subject. These are usually the same modules that a department requires you to take if you wish to graduate with a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences and these form a subset of the modules studied by the Single Honours students.

The Director of Natural Sciences is available for consultations about your choice of modules and *must* approve your choice.

5.2 Modules for Natural Sciences Students

Students studying within the Natural Sciences programme will often progress from one year to the next in a particular subject, whether they are studying for a Natural Sciences degree or a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences. Within a particular subject there are often modules that must be taken to allow this progression and these modules are listed in each subject section on the Natural Sciences website.

For students following a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences, there are often specific modules required in each year and these are listed by subject on the website. For students not following a Joint Honours, there is often a free choice of Level 3 modules in the final year, unless the subject section on the website specifies particular modules. Note that B.Sc. students need to take a Capstone module in Year 3 and M.Sci. students must undertake a Project in Year 4.

Note that the final digit of each module code $\{1, 2, 3, 7, 8\}$ indicates whether it is a 20, 40, 60, 10 or 30 credits. Also, the first digit tells you the Level at which the module is delivered.

You can find out more details about each module on the website by clicking on the module code.

5.3 Rules for selecting modules: Freshers

There is a self-contained guide for selecting modules at

www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/freshers/

where Freshers follow the 4 steps and complete the form about what they want to study. These choices are not binding (students can change their mind up to the third week of term) but thinking carefully about what students want to get out of their degree, while they have time, will save time and stress on arrival in Durham. This is a separate process from the official registration process that takes place through DUO and will fast-track the approval of registration.

5.4 Changing Modules

The process of switching is electronic and students should visit the Director to switch a module or complete a form available on the Durham network from "DUO > Natural Sciences Info > Services". In the Science Faculty you can switch modules up until the end of Week 3 of Michaelmas. This is not uniform across the University, so significant changes in module registration should take place in Weeks 1 and 2 and minor changes in Weeks 2 and 3.

6 Changing Degree Programme

Switching between the B.Sc. and M.Sci. degree programmes is routine, but should normally take place in the first three weeks of Michaelmas Term or at registration in Easter Term.

Normally, there are two ways into the Natural Sciences degree programme:

- at the beginning of the first year, either via the normal UCAS application process or once students arrive in Durham which is preferred[9]
- at the end of the first year by transferring from a Single Honours degree within the Faculty of Science at Durham University (note that it is not possible to make this transfer from Engineering). Such a transfer will require students to pass your first year in your Single Honours degree to a high level.

[9];

All transfers require permission from the Deputy Head of Faculty (Education) which you should not assume will always be granted.

It is also possible, for students to transfer from a Natural Sciences degree to a Single Honours degree in the Faculty of Science at the end of the first year[10]. This assumes that you take the appropriate modules in the first year (normally 60 credits) and the department responsible for the Single Honours degree are willing to support the transfer and have space. Permission will also be needed from the Deputy Head of Faculty (Education)

7 International Opportunities

Durham currently offers Erasmus exchange programmes and in the future we expect to continue to do so. Within Natural Sciences students on the M.Sci. can apply to do a replacement year abroad in their Year 3 and B.Sc. students can do an additional year abroad between Years 2 and 3. Exchanges with universities outside of the EU are available which are allocated by the International Office

www.dur.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/exchange/outgoing/partnerunis/

on a competitive basis. Second year students need to attend the Study Abroad Fair, which takes place in late October or early November, where they can find out more about how to secure an overseas exchange placement as part of their Year Abroad degree. For summer schools, there would normally be a fee involved and unlike the Year Abroad degree your study would not count towards your degree but it would be a way to internationalize students CV.

8 Placement Opportunities

Placements are increasingly important for student employability. A recent report by High Fliers Research Limited entitled "The Graduate Market in 2013" stated that a third of 2013 entry-level positions were expected to be filled by graduates who have already worked for their organisations – either through industrial placements, vacation work or sponsorships. Also more than half of recruiters warn that graduates who have had no previous work experience at all are unlikely to be successful during the selection process and have little or no chance of receiving a job offer for their organisations' graduate programmes. With this in mind we are in the final stages of approval for a B.Sc. Natural Sciences with Placement degree. We envisage that placements would be carried out between the penultimate year and final year. 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 of the degree. Students must be in good academic standing with an average of at least 55% to be accepted for placement.

Students would be responsible for finding and securing their own placement. The Placement Officer would circulate details of any placement opportunities that they are made aware of via DUO. The Placement Officer would work with the Careers, Employability and Enterprise Centre to develop and circulate lists of possible placement providers. The placement must be at a recognised and reputable, UK based company, organisation or institution to ensure that students receive good quality and well supervised work experience in a healthy and supportive environment, preferably with opportunities to undertake their own research project. All placement providers must meet the Universitys Health and Safety criteria.

Placements (and placement providers) must be approved by the Placement Officer before the student accepts the offer. Assessment would be via a short report or reflective portfolio (6,000 word limit) that would be required that describes the work or an aspect of the work experience

[10] See https://www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/freshers/transfers/

that students undertook whilst on placement. The Natural Sciences Placement Officer will also ask the employer to prepare a short report about the student's performance whilst on placement. A placement tutor will visit the host organisation once and write a short report about the visit.

The report and performance review collectively will be awarded a provisional pass or fail for the placement year. The external examiner will review the submitted work and the provisional pass/fail designation during the June exam period. Subsequent comments from the external examiner will be relayed to the Natural Sciences Board of Examiners at the final exam June meeting and official awarding of the pass or fail designation be conferred at this meeting by the Board of Examiners.

If the student passes the year, the degree title conferment will be "with placement". If the student fails the year, the degree will not carry the "with placement" designation however failure will have no impact on the student's overall average or final degree classification.

9 Accredited Routes Through Natural Sciences

Certain routes through the Natural Sciences degree will result in degrees that are accredited by a professional body. These routes can be followed as part of a Joint Honours degree or a Natural Sciences degree in more than two subjects. Currently accredited pathways exist for the Royal Society of Chemistry, Geological Society and the British Psychology Society. Definitive information on accreditation can be found in the B.Sc. and M.Sci. programme regulations. in the final few paragraphs.

10 Student Engagement

Natural Sciences students have three levels of relationships in their learning: module; department; programme. The University requires that questionnaires be filled in by all students for each module they attend. The questionnaires are intended for you to tell your departments about your learning experience in a way that will lead to the development and improvement of teaching. Further, an annual survey is made to give your views at a programme level.

10.1 Commenting on a module or on the Degree Programme

A channel to air views about modules is at the departmental Student-Staff Consultative Committees. Students who wish to make comments about a module, should go to their department Liaison Officer as a first point of contact, see Section 13.2. You can contact these members of staff via the Services tab in DUO. The role of the Natural Sciences Student-Staff Consultative Committee is overarching where we consider the Natural Sciences degree and broader issues, not problems with specific modules which should be raised with the department SSCC.

If you have any comments about the degree programme itself these can be made to the Director of Natural Sciences or your representative on the Natural Sciences Student-Staff Committee Committee.

The Director of Natural Sciences uses a number of modes to obtain student input and feedback, such as focus groups and pop questionnaires. The results of such ad hoc consultation is reported to the Natural Sciences Management Committee and to the SSCC.

10.2 Questionnaires

You will be asked to complete questionnaires for modules and your replies will be considered carefully by the Departments responsible for the module. You will also be asked to complete an annual questionnaire for the Natural Sciences degree programme. Your responses will be carefully considered by the Management Committee for the Natural Sciences degree.

The National Student Survey is an on-line questionnaire for final year students. The results of the survey are published nationally and are used by prospective applicants to assist them in their choice of university.

11 Assessment

The University's Learning and Teaching Handbook, see

www.dur.ac.uk/learningandteaching.handbook/.

provides definitive information on everything related to learning, teaching and assessment procedures.

Modules may be assessed using a variety of methods. Details are given under the Section headed "Summative Assessment" on each module description on the Faculty Handbook web pages, see

www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/

12 Serious Adverse Circumstance, Medical Evidence and Personal Difficulties

If students feel that they are having personal difficulties that are affecting your ability of study effectively, then they are *strongly* encouraged to visit the Director of Natural Sciences at your earliest convenience. It is important that you do this as soon as you are aware of the problem, for instance on receipt of the first warning from the department as the longer you leave your personal difficulties the harder it is to make a satisfactory solution.

13 Student Support and Guidance

13.1 Introduction

In this section we provide information about getting academic advice, for other forms of advice see the Student Welcome Guide, see Page 2, which is *extremely informative*. In particular it offers advice on: Careers and Employment; International Support; Health Safety and Security; Services for Students with Disabilities; University Counselling Service.

Overarching aspects of academic performance and progress (where the sum of modules are to be considered) are provided by the Director of Natural Sciences through an open door policy. The Director can provide guidance, advice and support to students of appropriate future modules to take. All support and guidance is provided through a number of mechanisms which include, but are not limited to: talks on progression; bookable individual meetings; open door policy; webpages; DUO; e-mail.

Where students wish to find out about individual module performance, progress, feedback or content at a module level, these needs are best addressed by the departments, see next section.

13.2 Academic Advisors and Natural Sciences Liaison Officers

The twelve departments that contribute to the Joint-Honours degrees in Natural Sciences have Liaison Officers who are able to advise directly on: module content; skills and knowledge developed by studying modules in that department; members of staff who are responsible for dealing with Mitigating Circumstances and Serious Adverse Circumstances. The list of contacts is available on the Natural Sciences website under the "Current Students" area.

Any student that takes 40 credits in any *science* subject (namely Group 1) will automatically be allocated an advisor in the first few weeks of Year 1. If this fails to happen, then visit the department/school office to politely request for one. The role of the advisor should be described is described at:

www.dur.ac.uk/learningandteaching.handbook/2/principles_for_student_support/

and fleshed out in the Department Handbook[11] **It is important** to understand that you will not be allocated an Advisor from without science and therefore in those circumstances, you should raise questions with your Liaison Officer.

In the first instance your science academic advisor(s) in that Department/school should be the first point of contact if the question is not Natural Sciences specific. Note that if you take modules outside of Groups 1 and 2 and you need advice, seek the relevant Combined Honours Coordinators.

13.3 Difficulties with the Content of a Module

If you are having academic difficulties in a particular module, you should consult: the lecturer or your tutor; Departmental Advisor; Liaison Officer. If you feel unable to do this or you are continuing to struggle, you are *strongly* encouraged to visit the Director of Natural Sciences to discuss the issue and possible solutions at an early date.

13.4 Academic Skills Programme

The Academic Skills Programme is based in the Careers Centre. The programme aims to support all undergraduate students to develop their study skills and comprises face-to-face workshops, online provision and one-to-one support in six thematic areas: IT Skills; Maths and Statistics; Communication Skills; Information Skills; Literacy Skills; Personal Effectiveness, see

https://www.dur.ac.uk/academic.skills/

for more details.

13.5 Self-Support: Bespoke Information

By logging at a CIS PC, then at "DUO > Natural Sciences Info > Services" existing students can find bespoke information:

- A personalized timetable;
- Other Natural Sciences students registered on their modules;
- Sources of departmental advice, including the Student-Staff representatives and liaison offices;

[11] A link to an old description of what you might expect to happen each year can be found by clicking on this link in the softcopy.

- Guidance on module progression.

There is also a gallery of photographs of Natural Sciences students on the corridor leading to the Directors Office.

13.6 Self-Support: FAQ's

The "Frequently Asked Questions" Section on the Natural Sciences website (see Page 1) gives answers to frequent queries about the degree programme.

A few very specific pieces of useful advice:

- The Physics Report writing guidelines, see
  www.dur.ac.uk/physics/students/assessment/reportwriting/
  provides excellent advice for any Natural Sciences student.

- If you have to find a room, you will be interested to know that for the iPhone there is a "DU Guide" app. Static links where you can find out about rooms at
  www.dur.ac.uk/cis/local/facilities/search/
  www.dur.ac.uk/timetable/local/roominfo/location/
  and there is an excel spreadsheet:
  www.dur.ac.uk/timetable/roominfo/durhamrooms/

- The list of library webpages and liaison librarians for each subject highlight information sources and also provide links to research skills training materials from these pages, see
  www.dur.ac.uk/library/resources/subject/

14 Career Prospects

14.1 Introduction

Durham University has an excellent record for graduate recruitment. Natural Sciences offers you a broad career path. Many employers prefer a broadly based multidisciplinary science degree rather than specialism in a single field. Recent graduates have gone into accountancy, administration, advertising, the Armed Forces, banking, the "City", the Civil Service, financial management, general management, information technology, sales, marketing, publishing, retailing, teaching, telecommunications, industrial, academic research and many other careers. The Natural Sciences Careers website

www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/prospective/careers/

gives a good account of what our students have done with a Natural Sciences degree. To quote Deloitte:

> We offer a vast scope of services to a wide range of clients from a variety of industry sectors. As such, it is essential that this diversity of client base is reflected in our people and the skills they can offer. Attributes gained from a Durham University degree include critical thinking, an analytically approach and ability to reason with information; alongside experience in building relationships and leading teams. These skills are put into daily practice in Professional Service and is why, year on year, we return to Durham University to recruit such talented individuals to our Firm.

14.2 Placement Years

Students are encouraged to find work experience (including placements and/or internships) during their studies, in order to maximise their chances of securing the job they want after graduation. The careers service have an online database[12] of such opportunities, which all students can access.

Full year placements in students' penultimate year of study are not currently formally recognized as part of the degree, although we hope to be able to introduce one in the near future. Students are advised to talk to the Director prior to application to receive appropriate advice and support.

Placement years with employers are recognised as a valuable way of increasing employability skills and gaining essential work experience to improve graduate job prospects; they also help to increase maturity, improve technical, industry or subject knowledge, and gain transferable skills which will support their final year academic studies.

15 English Language Centre

Durham University provides English language and literacy support as part of the university's overall tuition package which is free of charge to Durham University students. All students wishing to receive this support are required to take the University's English language assessment so we can provide you with the tuition you need and help you join the most appropriate classes. See

www.dur.ac.uk/englishlanguage.centre/

16 University Codes of Practice

The University has a number of Codes of Practice and Conduct on a number of matters ranging Diversity & Equality; Respect at Work and Study; Freedom of Speech; ITS Public Facilities; etc., see

www.dur.ac.uk/university.calendar/volumei/codes_of_practice/

17 Admissions

Admission to all degree programmes at Durham is via the UCAS system. To obtain an application form you should contact your School or College or write to UCAS, P.O. Box 28, Cheltenham, Glos., GL50 3SA or visit the UCAS website

www.ucas.com

[12] Students should follow this link: https://www.dur.ac.uk/careers/ and click on the tab Access the student services portal this will take you to the database, you can then apply filters to look for a range of vacancies internships, placements, paid work, volunteering etc. and also filter by sector e.g. scientific services, education, engineering etc.

17.1 Admission Codes and Statistics

University Code	DUR
Institution Code	D86
Campus Code	see www.dur.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/
Degree	Natural Sciences
UCAS code	CFG0 (B.Sc.)
	FGC0 (M.Sci.)
Programme length	3 years (B.Sci.)
	4 years (M.Sci.)
Short name:	Either B.Sc./NatSc or M.Sci./NatSc
Further details	see Page 5
Applications for 2017 entry	931
Offers made for 2017 entry	751
Entry Quota for B.Sc. and M.Sci. for October 2017	206
2016-2017 candidates carried forward for 2017 entry	13
2017-2018 applications for 2018 entry	14
Offers made for 2018 entry to 2016-2017 applicants	13
Standard offer	A*AA
Average UCAS Tariff	571

There are details about the compilation of UCAS Tariff on their website.[13]

17.2 Entry Requirements

You must satisfy our general University requirements; need three A-levels (excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking) or equivalent with at least one of these in a Science; passes in specific A-level subjects in order to read particular subjects as part of your degree, see

www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/prospective/bscnatsci/
www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/prospective/mscinatsci/

and **Download as a PDF** for precise details. Anthropology, Business, Earth Sciences, Geography, Philosophy and Psychology do not need specific grades to study as part of your degree. Typically, the A* requirements above are aligned with the home Department entry requirement.

If you have qualifications other than GCE/GCSE awards, we will welcome your application. We consider all standard EU qualifications for University entry including vocational qualifications and the International or European Baccalaureate. We also consider mature applicants with other formal qualifications or appropriate experience and abilities.

17.3 Visiting Durham

If you wish to visit Durham before deciding whether to apply, we participate in University wide pre-application open days in June and September. Students are strongly encouraged to attend these so that they can see all of the facilities offered by Departments, Colleges and the University. There are no plans to offer other pre-application talks.

The University normally holds two post-offer visit days in March each year for applicants who receive offers, so it will be possible for them to visit Durham and get the full College and Department experience.

[13] See http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/explore-your-options/entry-requirements/tariff-tables: 140/120 Points for an A*/A at A-level

The dates and the details of the pre-application and post-offer visit days are available on the Natural Sciences website, see Page 1.

17.4 Interviews

We do not interview applicants for Natural Sciences.

17.5 Deferred Entry

A number of applicants apply for deferred entry, that is, for entry the year after the current year. For instance, in the 2016-2017 application year, candidates who apply for entry in 2018 are referred to as deferred entry candidates. Applicants use this year to work in industry, travel or do community service. You are encouraged to apply for deferred entry. It is not unusual for 10% of the students entering Natural Sciences to have taken a gap year.

17.6 Completing the UCAS Form

If you wish to follow a Natural Sciences degree or a Joint Honours degree within Natural Sciences, please write the subjects you wish to study in decreasing order of preference in Section 3f (Further Details) of the UCAS form. Please use the abbreviations in Table 4.6 on Page 5 as there is not much space on the UCAS form. If you do not complete this section, you may not be permitted to study certain subjects if you do come to Durham.

Note that:

- The B.Sc. Natural Sciences degree and the B.Sc. Joint Honours degrees within Natural Sciences degree all have the same UCAS code — CFG0.
- The code for the M.Sci. Natural Sciences and the M.Sci. Joint Honours degrees within Natural Sciences is FGC0;
- Applications for the B.Sc. and M.Sci. degrees are treated identically;
- Applying to Natural Sciences twice at Durham is a wasted application as only one offer will be made;
- If you are applying for more than one type of course you can submit a "substitute personal statement" directly to us at

  www.dur.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/personalstatement/substitute/

17.7 Disability

If you have any difficulties as a result of a disability or medical condition which may affect your studies, we would be pleased to talk to you to discuss any help you may need during your time with us. More information about the services we can offer is available on the Disability Support Service website.

17.8 The Durham Admissions System

The Student Recruitment and Admissions Office is responsible for managing the admissions process within Durham University and the webpage:

www.dur.ac.uk/undergraduate/study/apply/

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