

## LIFE SCIENCES FAQs

# NUS-College of Humanities and Sciences Open House 2023

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## PROGRAMME INFORMATION

### 1. What is the difference between Life Sciences and Biological Sciences in NUS?

Hosted by the Department of Biological Sciences, the undergraduate programme for Life Sciences is jointly taught by six departments in the Faculty of Science and the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS. The Major, Second Major and Minor in Life Sciences are offered under the new College of Humanities and Sciences (CHS).

### 2. What are the unique features of the Life Sciences Major with the College of Humanities and Sciences?

The Life Sciences Major embraces the values of versatility in the curricular structure. With a core foundation of four essential courses, you progress to choose from a wide variety of electives based on your preferred focus in life sciences. The research project milestone ensures every Life Sciences Major student experiences the process of scientific research first-hand. The option is available to pursue one of two specialisations (i.e., **Biomedical Science**, and **Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity**). You can also broaden your learning experiences through overseas exchanges, overseas concurrent/joint degree programmes, undergraduate research, and internships. This versatility, coupled with the interdisciplinary emphasis of the College of Humanities and Sciences, further enhances the undergraduate course in Life Sciences with many academic and real-world opportunities.

### 3. What are the new items in the Life Sciences Major under the College of Humanities and Sciences?

The Life Sciences Major has a new gateway course called Biological Challenges and Opportunities for Humankind, and a compulsory research project milestone. The Specialisation in Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity replaces the previous Specialisation in Environmental Biology.

## APPLICATION/ADMISSION

### 4. How many students choose to read the Life Sciences Major every year?

Every cohort year, there are about 350 students reading Life Sciences as their primary discipline.

### 5. How do I apply to read the Major in Life Sciences with College of Humanities and Sciences?

The information is available [here](#).

### 6. I have been offered a place with the College of Humanities and Sciences. I would like to read the Life Sciences Major. Is there an additional selection round to read this Major?

Admission to the College of Humanities and Sciences makes you eligible to take up the Major in Life Sciences, and there is no additional selection to go through.

### 7. If I am holding a local Polytechnic Diploma that is not accepted for Life Sciences, can I still read Life Sciences as the Primary Major?

Successful applicants to the College of Humanities and Sciences with any full-time local Polytechnic Diploma may choose to read Life Sciences as the Primary Major. If your Diploma is not accredited for the Life Sciences Major, you are required to read and pass the corresponding biology/chemistry bridging course within first year of studies.

**8. Will I be able to read a Life Sciences Major even if I did not pass Biology/Chemistry at H2, GCE 'A' Level or IB Higher Level or equivalent?**

Yes, and in this case you will need to read and pass the corresponding biology/chemistry bridging course within first year studies.

**9. By taking the bridging course, will I be behind others in terms of the typical study plan?**

No, a delay to academic progress is not likely. The bridging course is to be completed during the first year of studies concurrently while doing the Common Curriculum for the College of Humanities and Sciences, and it serves as an Unrestricted Elective for graduation requirements. The Major study plan should proceed as per normal by the second year of studies.

**10. I am interested to join the Joint Degree Programme/Concurrent Degree Programme offered to Life Sciences Major students. When and how do I apply, and what is the intake quota?**

Students reading the Primary Major in Life Sciences are eligible to join the Joint Degree Programme NUS-University of Dundee (JDP) and the Concurrent Degree Programme NUS-The University of Melbourne Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (CDP). Invitations to apply will be sent to Year 1 students via email when the intake cycle opens in Semester 2. The JDP takes in up to 15 students every year and the CDP accepts up to 10 students each intake.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

**11. What are the career prospects as graduates from the Life Sciences Major?**

There has always been a need for life sciences graduates as they advance society through scientific progress in fields as diverse as agriculture and food safety, conservation and sustainability, genomics and proteomics, biotechnology and biomedical engineering, medical diagnostics, and drugs and pharmaceuticals, to name a few. A general Science degree, coupled with the scientific thinking and analytical skills acquired during the undergraduate years, enables our graduates to be eligible for a wide array of careers that seek BSc degrees as the entry qualification. Aspiring graduates can embark on graduate studies at NUS or overseas as well as enter graduate medical education such as the Duke-NUS Medical School.

NUS Life Sciences training provides a good foundation for professional careers in biological, biomedical, and biotechnological contexts, as well as agricultural, horticultural and environmental issues. Prospective employers include research institutes, government ministries and statutory boards such as National Parks Board (NParks), National Environment Agency (NEA), Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and Singapore Food Agency (SFA), specialist medical centres and clinics, and government and private hospitals. Many of our graduates work as teachers in schools, junior colleges, polytechnics and universities. Multinational corporations (MNCs) and local companies from the private and industrial sectors involving biotechnology, medical, pharmaceutical, food production and environmental technology are also common options considered by our graduates.

In addition, NUS Life Sciences graduates have also embarked on a wide spectrum of non-life sciences related professions such as mass media productions, communications and information services, banking and finance, law and public services, defence and security. The more entrepreneurial graduates have also set up their own ventures.

The growth and disruption spurred by emerging technologies have created new career opportunities. For instance, advances in computational biology have created new opportunities to apply data analytics, algorithms and computer-based analysis of biological problems in fields such as healthcare, amongst others.