The Master of Biological Science gives students an understanding of the molecular evolution, structure, physiology, reproduction, behaviour and ecology of organisms, and the skills to apply this knowledge to the management of natural systems and the species they support.

Western Australia is widely renowned as one of the world’s hotspots for terrestrial and marine biodiversity. There are about 13,000 species of plants in Western Australia, with more being discovered all the time. About 3,000 of these species are yet to be formally named. Nearly 70% of Australia’s mammal species are found within the state, with 25 species being found nowhere else. Reptile species are even more diverse. Up to 80 per cent of the region’s fish and invertebrates are found nowhere else in the world. All of this biodiversity means that Western Australia is the ideal place to study biological sciences at all levels of organisation- from ecosystems to molecules.

Specialisations

- **Conservation Biology** - focuses on the ecology, conservation, evolution and management of plants and animals and the ecosystems in which they occur. A graduate will have advanced knowledge of the evolution of our flora and fauna and the ecosystems in which they occur, and will be well-prepared to engage in field as well as desktop studies to analyse and mitigate species and ecosystem threats. Our teaching is supported by the world class research of the Kings Park and Botanic Gardens Biodiversity Conservation Centre, the WA Biogeochemistry Centre, the Ecosystem Restoration Laboratory, the Centre for Evolutionary Biology, The Oceans Institute and the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management.

- **Marine Biology** - includes a study of all marine life from seaweeds through to marine megafauna, considering their biology, ecology, behaviour, conservation and management. Through carefully designed and executed field studies, you will gain a first-hand experience of our fascinating temperate ecosystems and the organisms they support. You will understand the problems facing marine organisms at local and global spatial scales, together within short and long-term time frames. Our teaching is supported by the world class research of the Oceans Institute, Centre for Marine Futures, and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).

- **Zoology** - provides you with a comprehensive understanding of the structure, function, diversity and evolution of animals, as well as the interaction of animals with each other and the environment. You have the opportunity to study animals and their habitats. These habitats are diverse, and range from deserts through to temporary wetlands and rainforests and ultimately the sea. This specialisation integrates theory with practical (both field and laboratory) studies utilising many of the animals and ecosystems from the diverse state of Western Australia as examples. Our teaching is supported by the world class research of the Centre for Evolutionary Biology, the Oceans Institute, and the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management.

You will study the core units for the Master of Biological Science:

- BIOL4409 Ecological Field Methods
- SCIE4402 Data Management and Analysis in the Natural Sciences

Each specialisation has four core units in addition to the two units listed above, with other units selected as options. Visit handbooks.uwa.edu.au/courses/coursedetails?id=c165 for details.

You may apply to replace the equivalent of half a year’s units with a research project.

UWA is ranked 1st in Australia for Agriculture and Life Sciences!
About UWA
Located on the beautiful Swan River in Perth, Western Australia, UWA is recognised internationally as a leading university, ranked in the top 100 in the world in the highly respected Shanghai Jiao Tong University’s Academic Ranking of World Universities. It is the only Western Australian university to belong to the Group of Eight. It is a science-focused university, renowned for excellence in teaching and research.

Our strengths
Integration from genes and molecules to whole ecosystems in marine, terrestrial and agricultural environments:
- Ecosystem ecology
- Ecosystem restoration
- Conservation biology
- Population biology
- Plant and animal (eco)-physiology
- Evolutionary biology
- Plant and animal taxonomy
- Molecular biology
- Genetics
- Theoretical biology
- Modelling and statistics

Why study Biological Science at UWA?
- Southwestern Australia: a biodiversity hotspot with many unique ecosystems
- Learn about the threats and challenges that our ecosystems and plant and animal species face and what we can do to mitigate them using the latest scientific findings and cutting edge technology
- Opportunity to work with world class researchers recently rated in the highest ERA category (i.e. well-above world standards)

Career opportunities
Graduates are employed in private sector companies such as conservation and restoration, marine research, fisheries, aquaculture and management and in government departments (for example Environment and Conservation) and in public agencies (such as museums and zoos).

Admission requirements
A relevant bachelor’s degree, that aligns with one of the specialisations of this course, or an equivalent qualification as recognised by UWA. You must also demonstrate a minimum level of English Language Competence. See studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate-coursework/requirements/english

Key Information
While the standard timeframe for completion of this degree is two years (full time), if you have previously completed an undergraduate degree in a cognate (relevant) area it may be possible to complete within 1.5 to 2 years. Subject to academic performance, you may apply to replace the equivalent of half a year’s units with a research project.

About Intake
Intake periods:
- February and July each year

Scholarships
- Scholarships for international students:
  visit: studyat.uwa.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/2756398/Science-International-Scholarships.pdf
- Domestic students: This course qualifies for a Commonwealth Supported Place

Visit the Future Students website for more information, including fees, refund policy and support services:
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How to apply:
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Course enquiries: postgrad-science@uwa.edu.au

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