

What type of student might Biology suit?

Before we even take a look at what the Leaving Cert Biology course entails, we should see if it's a course for you.

For years people have always chosen Biology as an easy option for getting points. Well those days have well and truly gone. Leaving Cert Biology is an extremely tough course at Higher Level and involves vast amounts of information that must be learned and understood as well as a lot of technical language "PHOTOPHOSPHORYLATION, GEOTROPISM" for example.

So take your time and consider your choices as they will have a huge effect on your College prospects.

Students who enjoyed the science subject in the Junior Certificate might wish to consider studying biology at Senior Cycle. The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in a lot more detail. It is particularly suited to students who have scored highly in Junior Cert Science.

In Brief

By choosing biology you will gain an understanding of yourself and how we function as well as the natural world in which you live. The course uses practical activity and investigation to develop your skills and knowledge. The scope of biology is wide and varied and covers not only the traditional study of plants and animals but also areas such as molecular biology and biotechnology which have clear relevance to modern society.

What is Biology

Biology is the study of life. Through the study of biology students employ the processes of science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment. They become aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment.

Students are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding to pursue further education, training and employment in biology-related fields, and to make judgements on contemporary issues in biology and science that impact on their daily lives and on society. The syllabus consists of approximately 70% biological knowledge, understanding and skills; the remaining 30% deals with the technological, political, social and economic aspects of biology.

The syllabus introduced in 2002 has been developed in response to current knowledge and application of biology. Account has been taken of the need to include contemporary biological technologies such as DNA profiling and genetic screening. It aims to create in students an awareness of the application of biological knowledge to modern society and to develop an ability to make informed evaluations about contemporary biological issues.

The course covers a wide range of topics, including cell structure and diversity, metabolism, genetics and human and flowering plant anatomy and physiology. The general principles of ecology are studied, and one particular ecosystem is examined in detail. Particular emphasis is placed on the practical aspects of biology, and there are a number of mandatory activities that each student must carry out for themselves.

Associated Careers?

The types of courses and careers where the study of Biology at second level might be helpful would include the following;

Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Nursing and associated careers.
Agriculture, Applied Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Botany, Ecology, Earth Science and Environmental Science, Genetics, Marine Science and Aquaculture, Microbiology and Zoology,
Psychologist, Astronomer, Teacher and Researcher.

Subject Requirement for 3rd Level?

It is needed as a matriculation subject for studying Medicine at TCD. It is counted as a science subject in any course which has a science subject as a requirement (NUI Universities).