

Te Kanorau Koiora, te Mātai Hauropi me te Kuneroa Undergraduate Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution



Study how organisms interact with each other and with their environments, from local ecosystems to global systems, through ecology and evolution.

What you will learn

Understanding the biology of whole organisms to ecosystems is the key to addressing the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

In the Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution major, you will study interactions and interconnections between and within species and biomes through the development of a solid grounding in ecology and/or evolution. There are options to focus on plants, animals and microbes across terrestrial, marine and freshwater systems.

By mixing a strong theoretical grounding and practical application, you will be well-placed to help Aotearoa New Zealand build a sustainable future that conserves our unique species and ecosystems in a changing world.

Learn from world-leading and emerging researchers in ecology and evolution to build your knowledge of how biological science is applied in conservation, biosecurity and other settings to better understand the living world.

Options within the Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution major include animal behaviour, terrestrial ecology and conservation, plant diversity and function, molecular genetics, environmental microbiology, plant pathology and marine ecology.

Programme highlights

You will experience a distinctive learning environment that includes transdisciplinary opportunities, relational learning with peers and academics, and technology-enhanced learning.

Specific to the Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution major is a focus on practical skills development through tailored laboratory and field-based study. Our one-day and residential field trips are very popular with students as an enjoyable and enriching learning experience.

The final-year capstone course provides the opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge developed throughout the curriculum. Working in groups, you will research a biological issue within its societal context, examining it from different perspectives – including Te Tiriti considerations – as well as the political, financial and ethical perspectives.



Career opportunities

Your developing biological knowledge will be complemented by development of skills in written and oral communication, teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking.

Your ability to interpret the latest research using emerging technologies will see you well-placed for employment in a range of fields or you can continue your studies through postgraduate pathways.

Jobs related to this major include:

- › Conservation biologist
- › Biosecurity officer
- › Ecology consultant or professional
- › Research scientist or lab technician
- › Entomologist
- › Science communicator or educator
- › Aquaculture, aquatic or marine biologist

Choosing this subject

Topics of study within this major include biodiversity, ecology, evolution and related fields with an introduction to research in these areas.

For a comprehensive biological sciences programme, consider a double major in Cell and Molecular Bioscience with Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution.

Choosing a complementary major in science will also help you establish a solid grounding of knowledge across different disciplines.

Complementary majors include:

- › Cell and Molecular Bioscience
- › Marine Science
- › Chemistry
- › Environmental Science
- › Exercise Sciences
- › Psychology
- › Statistics



Find out more about how your degree will be structured and what courses you need to take at

auckland.ac.nz/biodiversity-ecology-evolution

Applications close on 8 December.



"The absolute highlight of my Bachelor of Science was the field trips. Across my courses we visited an amazing diversity of different forests, freshwater and marine ecosystems, and got to experience applying the fundamental concepts and theories we were learning out in the real world. Auckland was really the perfect place for this."

Lucy Tregidga

Graduate: BSc in Biological Sciences

Student: MSc in Biological Sciences

Kuhua ki tō mātou hāpori, ā, Kimihia tōu Pūtaiao.
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Disclaimer: The information in this document is a general guide only for students and subject to alteration. All students enrolling at the University of Auckland must consult its official Calendar, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies. [2026]

Have any questions?
Contact the Student Hub

auckland.ac.nz/student-hubs