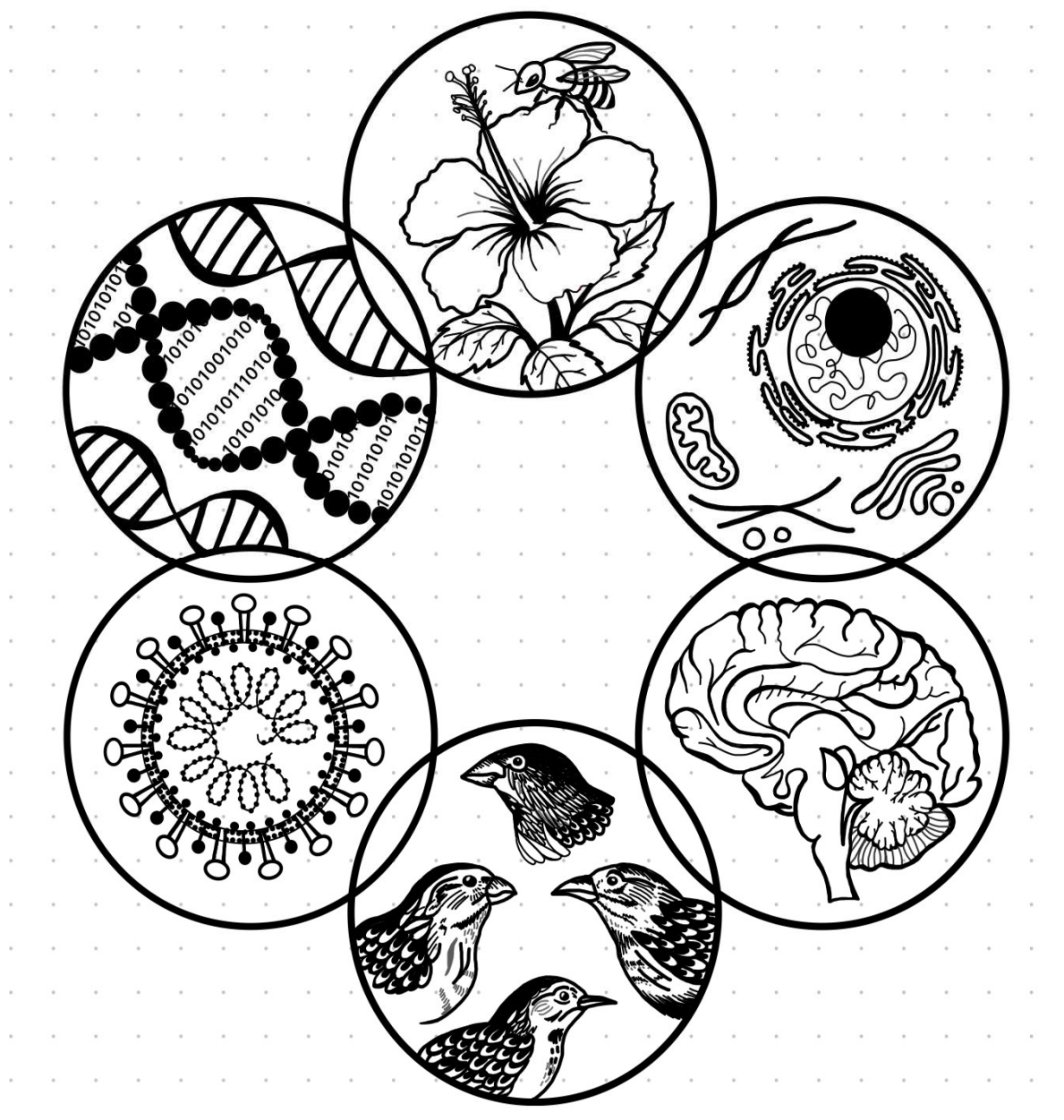


The Biology UG handbook



The Biology Programme at Ashoka University

Ashoka is India's leading liberal arts research university. The education at Ashoka emphasises foundational knowledge, thorough academic research based on rigorous pedagogy, and hands-on experience with real-world challenges.

Ashoka University envisions its Biological Science programme to be the cornerstone of its Natural Sciences Programme. Built on the foundations of Chemistry and Physics and drawing upon the resources of other disciplines such as Data Sciences, Climate and Environmental Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities, the Biological Science programme at Ashoka will seek unique directions in and catalyse the emergence of new areas of research.

This handbook brings to you our philosophy of teaching and training in the diverse areas of life sciences, along with a list of current faculty and their research areas and accomplishments, details of teaching and research infrastructure, and undergraduate curricula with brief syllabi.

Introduction to the Biological Sciences Programme at Ashoka University

Biosciences at Ashoka has adopted multi-dimensional approaches to impart biology education and carry out biology research across various scales. These range from molecules to cells, tissues to individuals, and organisms to ecosystems. Teaching is inherently embedded with research and students of different levels are exposed to modern biological research from their formative years. With a foundation laid in Chemistry and Physics, this programme also involves understanding and learning from other disciplines such as Data Sciences, Climate and Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Students and faculty at Ashoka are equal partners in this journey. Our collective aim is to generate new knowledge and explore its applications to address social problems. We also believe that our students would be better prepared to handle future problems facing mankind. While breadth across all scales of size and complexity in the life sciences is important for education and training in the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, we do give sufficient attention to the depth that is needed for productive research outcomes. In this direction, we have recently established The Trivedi School of Biosciences with the help of a generous donation from Mr. Ashok Trivedi. The school promotes advanced research in genomics, Data Science, and emerging areas in disease biology. The school envisages state-of-the-art infrastructure, strengthening faculty numbers in complementary thematic areas, and continuous support and mentorship in the pursuit of high-quality research capable of generating meaningful social impacts. Towards this we have recently

also established the Koita Centre for Digital Health (Ashoka), embedded within the school, with generous support from Rekha and Rizwan Koita, where digital health is seen as a convergence of the genomic and digital revolutions with health and society.

The strength of Ashoka lies in its highly qualified faculty across all disciplines. Our bioscience faculty come trained from all over the world and are some of the best in their respective fields, with expertise in areas that are not represented in India. Our faculty also:

- Innovate in education in biological sciences
- Carry out experimental research including cellular and molecular studies, field studies, computational/ mathematical/ theoretical biology research, health research.
- Collaborate with affiliated faculty from other disciplines such as physics, chemistry, mathematics, social sciences and data science who work on biological problems; the affiliated faculty also contribute to teaching the students in the Biological Sciences programme.

Overview of the Undergraduate Program

Students of Ashoka start by querying the growth of human thought, the origin and growth of the human civilization in general, and the Indian civilization in particular. They are introduced to the origin of scientific inquiry and study the relationships and interdependencies between science and other domains of human creativity and critical thinking. On this foundation, the fundamental principles of physics are taught to all students, in a way that brings in both, the elegance of the principles of the natural world, and the complexity that still needs to be unravelled. Subsequently, students are introduced to the chemical, biological, and human worlds, not as independent disciplines, but as a continuum of the physical world. Mathematics is taught as a language that connects all these disciplines of science and also as an abstract method by which we understand our surroundings.

Our model of education is concept-based and inquiry-driven, as opposed to the more traditional content-based models. Biology faculty at Ashoka pursue research in those areas that are related to the topics they teach to undergraduate students. Our vision is to integrate research and teaching at all levels of biology education. Biology at Ashoka is rooted in experiments, and does not take the rigid “objectives, apparatus, method, and conclusion” form. Students learn through both courses taught in the classrooms, and by employing experimental methods in research labs of the faculty. Students are also exposed to the frontiers

of the field through seminars, symposia, and national and international conferences that are routinely organised on the campus of Ashoka.

The undergraduate program in Biology is targeted at students who have strong interests in Biology (Biology Majors) as well as those who are interested in learning more about Biology or for meeting their scientific temperament needs (Biology Minors). Courses are taught keeping in mind that some students may or may not have prior exposure to basic concepts of Biology.

All students majoring in Biology will have an opportunity to learn how to design an experiment and to implement that design, figuring out the art of the approximation, understanding the power of simple models and how to conceptualise them, and developing the ability to convert an idea into concepts and models. The contents of the courses themselves are equivalent in every way to those that are taught at the best universities outside of and within India. At Ashoka, students will transfer concepts learnt in class into experimental thinking, verifying for themselves the power and generality of scientific principles.

Courses for Biology majors will provide a strong foundation for research and careers in the biological sciences, medicine, pharmaceutical and biotech industry, teaching, and other related fields.

The Faculty (<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/roles/faculty/?yearby=26&filterby=20>,
<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/roles/faculty/?yearby=26&filterby=21>)



Kavita Agarwal

Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka University
 DBT-Ramalingaswami Fellow

Ph.D. National Institute of Immunology,
 New Delhi.

✉ kavita.agarwal@ashoka.edu.in



Anurag Agrawal

Head, Koita Center for Digital Health at
 Ashoka
 Dean, BioSciences and Health Research,
 Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka
 University

MBBS, PhD, Diplomate American Board
 (Int Med, Pulm Dis, Crit Care)

✉ anurag.agrawal@ashoka.edu.in



Rama Akondy

Associate Professor of Biology, Ashoka
 University

Ph.D. National Institute of Immunology,
 New Delhi

✉ rama.akondy@ashoka.edu.in



Sandeep Ameta

Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka
 University

PhD, Heidelberg University

✉ sandeep.ameta@ashoka.edu.in



Alok Bhattacharya

Professor of Biology, Ashoka University

Ph.D. Jawaharlal Nehru University

✉ alok.bhattacharya@ashoka.edu.in



Balaji Chattopadhyay

Assistant Professor, Trivedi School of
 Biosciences, Ashoka University

Ph.D. Madurai Kamaraj University

✉ balaji.chattopadhyay@ashoka.edu.in



Dipyaman Ganguly

Head of the Department, Biology,
 Professor of Biology, Ashoka University

Ph.D. University of Texas

✉ dipyaman.ganguly@ashoka.edu.in



Tanmoy Roychowdhury

Associate Professor of Biology, Ashoka
 University

Ph.D. Jawaharlal Nehru University

✉ tanmoy.roychowdhury@ashoka.edu.in



Imroze Khan

Assistant Dean, Research and Associate
 Professor of Biology, Ashoka University

DBT-Wellcome Trust Intermediate Fellow,
 Ph.D. IISER Kolkata

✉ imroze.khan@ashoka.edu.in



Shivani Krishna

Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka
 University

Ph.D. Indian Institute of Science Education
 and Research (IISER)-Thiruvananthapuram

✉ shivani.krishna@ashoka.edu.in



Dilip Kumar

Assistant Professor, Trivedi School of
 BioSciences, Ashoka University

Ph. D. (Biotechnology)

✉ dilip.kumar@ashoka.edu.in



Krishna Melnattur

Assistant Professor of Psychology and
 Biology, Ashoka University

PhD, University of Massachusetts

✉ krishna.melnattur@ashoka.edu.in



Bittu Kaveri Rajaraman

Associate Professor of Biology and Psychology, Ashoka University

Ph.D. Harvard University

✉ bittu@ashoka.edu.in



Sougata Roy

Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka University

Ph.D. University of Montreal

✉ sougata.roy@ashoka.edu.in



Laasya Samhita

Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka University

Ph.D. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

✉ laasya.samhita@ashoka.edu.in



Sudipta Tung

Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance Early Career Fellow, Department of Biology, Ashoka University

Ph.D. IISER, Pune

✉ sudipta.tung@ashoka.edu.in



Gautam Menon

Dean, Research and Professor of Physics and Biology, Ashoka University

Ph.D. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

✉ gautam.menon@ashoka.edu.in



Kasturi Mitra

Associate Professor of Biology, Ashoka University,

DBT-WellcomeTrust Senior Fellow, Adjunct Faculty, Genetics department, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Ph.D. CCMS, Hyderabad

✉ kasturi.mitra@ashoka.edu.in



Anup Padmanabhan

Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka University

DBT-Wellcome India Alliance Intermediate Fellow, Ph.D. National University of Singapore

✉ anup.padmanabhan@ashoka.edu.in



Deblina Raychaudhuri

Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka University

Ph.D. IICB, Kolkata

deblina.raychaudhuri@ashoka.edu.in



Anindya Dasgupta

Group leader, KCDH-A
Ph.D. Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York

anindya.dasgupta@ashoka.edu.in



Ujjaini Dasgupta

Research group leader and SERB Power fellow, KCDH-A
Ph.D. Delhi university

ujjaini.dasgupta@ashoka.edu.in



Kedar Natarajan

Professor, KCDH-A
Ph.D. Imperial college, London



Shraddha Karve

Assistant Professor, Research
Ph.D. IISER Pune



Hiroshi Hamada

Distinguished Visiting Professor of
Biology, Ashoka University

✉ hiroshi.hamada@ashoka.edu.in



Shahid Jameel

Visiting Professor, Trivedi School of
Biosciences,
Visiting Faculty, Young India Fellowship,
Ashoka University

*Wellcome Trust International Senior
Research Fellow, PhD Biochemistry,
Washington State University, USA*



L.S. Shashidhara

Visiting Professor of Biology (Honorary),
Ashoka University

Ph.D. University of Cambridge
✉ ls.shashidhara@ashoka.edu.in



Bhramar Mukherjee

Visiting Professor of Biology, Ashoka
University

Ph.D. Purdue University
✉ bhramar.mukherjee@ashoka.edu.in



Mary-Anne Hartley
Assistant Professor, Research
Ph.D. University of Lausanne

Course Catalogue (Please see the end of this handbook for the degree rules table)

Programme	4-yr BSc Hons in Biology	4-yr BSc Hons in Biology with research	4-yr Biology minor
Credits	(80-credits)	(92-credits)	(24-credits)
Overview	20 courses	22 courses	6 courses
Core courses	12 courses (8 theory + 4 lab courses)	14 courses (8 theory + 4 lab courses) + one 4-credit thesis proposal + one 8-credit thesis	4 theory courses
Electives	8 courses *Not more than 3 cross-listed courses *Maximum of one 4-credit ISM	8 courses *Not more than 3 cross-listed courses *Maximum of one 4-credit ISM	2 courses

Core Theory Courses:

(BIO-1200) Introduction to biology: Genetics and Evolution (Theory)

4 credits

(Prerequisite: None)

Overview: This is an introductory course for students interested in biology. We will follow the development of ideas and experiments that best explain how life came to be. In doing so, we will explore concepts of both genetics and evolution, touching upon key ideas and debates that have shaped our current understanding. By the end of the course, students should have a broad understanding of both areas, laying the foundation for the biology curriculum at Ashoka University.

(BIO-2214 Introduction to biology 2: Cell Biology (Theory)

4 credits

(Prerequisite: BIO-1200)

Overview: Cells are the fundamental unit of life. It carries out all (well... almost all!) the physiological processes essential for its survival and propagation. Within the cell, each of these processes is

accomplished by molecular-machines. What are these processes and how do these mini machines carry out cellular functions? How do these cellular machines know the right place and the right time to carry out appropriate functions?

(BIO-2201) Introduction to biology 3: Molecular Genetics and Molecular Biology (Theory)

4 credits

(Prerequisite: BIO-1200)

Overview: How is an organism's structure and function regulated? The address this question molecular level understanding of organisms. Convergence of genetics and biochemistry resulted in the emergence of molecular biology. Today molecular biology is used in all phases of life from food to medicines, new discoveries tend to employ molecular biology approaches not only to diagnose and find better cure for deadly diseases like cancer but also to design smart plants and microbes to enhance the quality and quantity of food and secondary metabolites such as biofuel. Hence a thorough knowledge of molecular biology and molecular genetics is an absolute requirement for biologists to comprehend the complexity of living organisms.

(BIO-2300) Chemical Basis of Life (Theory)

4 credits

(Prerequisite: BIO-1200)

Overview: The highly regulated biological systems and their environment are governed by fundamental chemical principles. Therefore, to appreciate the complexity of biological systems, we also need to look at them from a chemical perspective. This course aims to introduce basic concepts of chemistry necessary for studying biological systems. The course is designed to provide a framework to students for understanding the basics of chemistry, biomolecules, their interactions, and mechanisms. In addition, the course will also provide a glimpse of how various chemical entities and their interactions led to the transition from chemistry to biology. The first half of the course will cover the basics of chemical bonds, structures, chemical thermodynamics, reactions, equilibrium, and kinetics. The second half will teach about the basic building blocks constituting life nucleic acids, lipids, carbohydrates, sugar, protein, and concepts of metabolism).

(BIO-2300) Ecology (Theory)**4 credits**

(Prerequisite: BIO-1200)

Overview: The course covers a range of topics from individuals to ecosystems with an emphasis on theoretical foundations and recent developments in the field. It begins with how ecological understanding is achieved, how conditions and resources influence individual species and then moves to processes at higher levels of organisation and ends with rethinking some of the big questions in ecology.

(BIO-2300) Bioinformatics and Biostatistics (Theory)**4 credits**

Overview: This course is application oriented with a focus on understanding and making use of data in biology. Biology is all about big data and interpreting data is a major challenge. This course aims to equip students with the basic knowledge about different types of data, concept of probability, hypothesis testing, and how to analyse data. The major emphasis of the course is to be able to analyse data using the approaches being taught in the class.

(BIO-4209) Research Methodology and ethics (Theory)**4 credits**

Overview: Science provides an integrative approach to understand the society around. Therefore, as a scientist it is crucial to understand how our actions will impact the society and environment. This course aims to educate students about scientific philosophy, methodology, and ethical consideration required for carrying out scientific research. Starting from basics of working in a lab, this course aims at covering topics of data handling, understanding, interpreting, and communicating. The students will then be taught details of ethics in science and educate them to understand the impact of their actions on the society around.

(BIO-3423) Physiology (Theory)**4 credits**

(Prerequisite: None)

Overview: When seen from the lens of physiology, the human body is a biological machine evolved to carry out the processes of life. Death and disease are natural consequences of the failure of such processes. The course will examine life, death, and in between disease states from a physiological lens, outlining the core processes of respiration, circulation, metabolism, and disposal, studied from the view point of measurement and management

Core Laboratory Courses:

(BIO-1002/ES-2901) Exploring life in the Neighbourhood Lab

4 credits

(Prerequisite: None)

Overview: This course aims to bring students from various backgrounds— i.e., not limited to Biology only, but also from other sciences, humanities and social sciences— and introduce them to their local ecosystem and the intricacies of biological interactions using some basic and simplified concepts of ecology, evolution and animal behaviour, followed by field observations as well as laboratory experiments. The course will have many open-ended exercises, encouraging students to develop small questions based on classroom discussions and observing various natural patterns (e.g., diversity of life) and processes (e.g., sexual interactions, prey-predator, disease spread, cannibalism).

(BIO-2212) Laboratory Course 2: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

4 credits

(Prerequisites: BIO-1200)

Overview: In this course, the students will gather hands-on experience in applying the principles and techniques of molecular biology and biochemistry. The course emphasises and strengthens the previously learned theoretical concepts from lectures and textbooks. This will prepare the students for the upcoming more advanced laboratory courses, develop hands-on skills in designing experiments, know the basics of data collection, and learn to store and analyse their data. This course will also enable them to understand the basics of protein expression and purification and quantitative and qualitative assessment of purified proteins.

(BIO-2202) Laboratory Course 3: Cell Biology and Genetics

4 credits

(Prerequisite: BIO-1200)

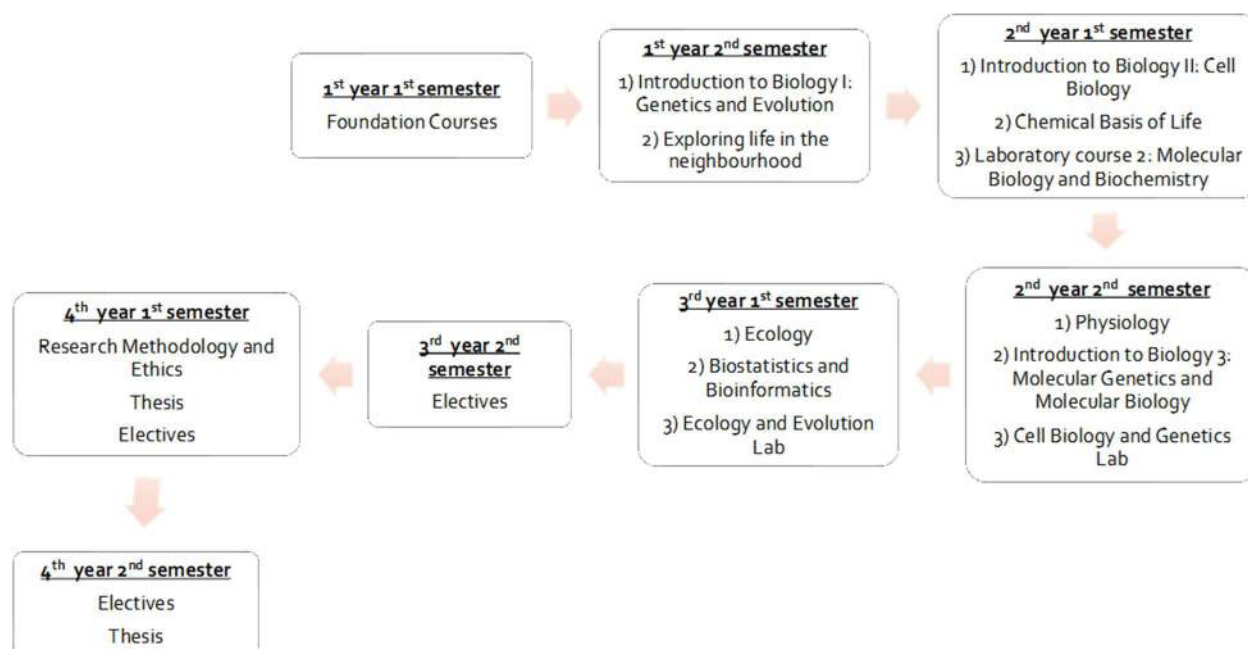
Overview: This course aims to teach students the concepts of forward genetics by subjecting microorganisms to harsh environmental conditions and observing the phenotypes. Then, these mutated microorganisms will be used as an infection model system in the eukaryotic model organism in order to observe the effect of mutated microorganisms in the feeding environment of other organisms. The course will provide students with a basic understanding and hands-on experience in handling, manipulating, and investigating cell-biology problems using genetic tools. During the course, students will also learn several cell biology techniques useful in observing and characterising the phenotypes in biological systems.

(BIO-3012) Ecology and Evolution Lab**4 credits**

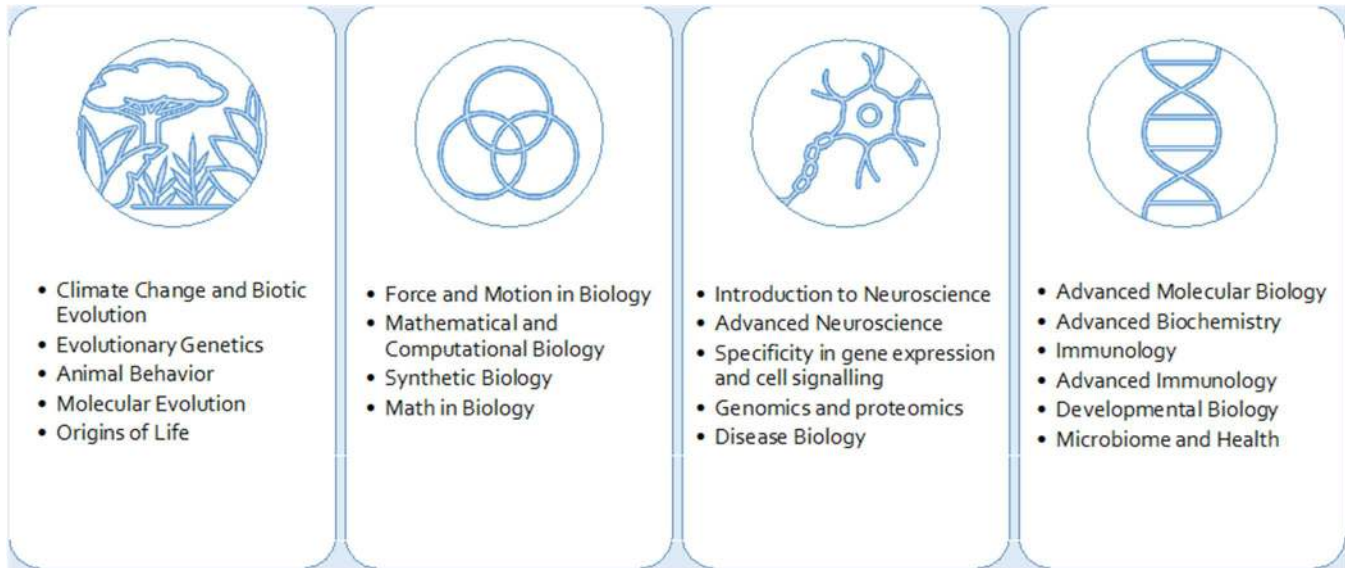
(Prerequisite: BIO-1200)

Overview: The course offers hands-on experience to apply concepts from evolutionary biology and ecology theory courses. Students will be introduced to quantitative methods and processes of research in ecology and evolution, which include experimental design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and scientific writing using field and laboratory studies.

The Department of Biology recommends the following sequence for taking compulsory/core courses for a biology major:



The department offers a variety of electives to allow students to specialise in their area of interest and build quantitative skills. We also provide interdisciplinary courses like Archaeology and Science, and cross-list courses offered by other departments. Some of the elective courses are listed below.



Electives (non-exhaustive)

(BIO-3452) Climate Change and Biotic Evolution

4 credits

Prerequisites: BIO 1200

Overview: Climate change has played a critical role in shaping the biological diversity in our planet. It aims to introduce participants to the effects of climate change to biotic diversity, biogeography and human evolution. This course aims to equip students with conceptual and methodological knowhow of related evolutionary research and both case studies and hands-on exercises will be frequently used in this regard.

(BIO-2103) Introduction to Neuroscience

4 credits

Overview: The goal of this class is to enable students to understand how a biological system mostly composed of salty proteinaceous water bounded by fat is able to signal information, perform complex computations and produce behaviour. We will start by understanding how single neurons can perform computations and can be understood in the same framework as electronic circuitry.

(BIO-3443) Immunology

4 credits

Prerequisites: BIO 2201 and 2214

Overview: Immunology is the study of the immune system - a complex network of organs, cells and proteins that protect the body from disease (except when it doesn't!). It is an evolving field that is difficult to understand and memorise, making it a challenging subject to learn. This course focuses on introducing fundamental concepts rather than a comprehensive coverage of the subject. UG, ASP and PhD students who want to grasp key concepts of how the immune system works should consider this course. This immunology course can complement student interest / knowledge of cancer therapy, vaccine biology and infectious diseases.

(BIO-3433) Developmental Biology

4 credits

Overview: The field of developmental biology aims to understand how an organism develops from a single cell to fully matured. Interplay of various gene products (proteins) guide key cellular processes to allow the appropriate developmental task to happen at the right time and place. Errors in developmental processes lead to serious disorders and diseases. The course will take a multidisciplinary approach and will aim to cater to students beyond the biology department with the goal of training minds to contribute in tackling major outstanding tasks in the broad field of fundamental developmental biology.

(BIO-3454) Force and motion in biology

4 credits

Overview: Modern biology is changing rapidly, and it has become unimaginable to teach biology in silos without discussing the underlying physical and chemical processes. One of the main precepts behind this course is to discuss and analyze the physical concepts underlying biological phenomena. This elective course is aimed at students who wish to understand how physical principles governing molecular interactions come together during biological processes. The course will begin with simple order-of-magnitude estimates in biology. We will then move on to the basic quantifiable physical journal properties of biomolecules. We will then discuss the application of principles of physics to complex biological systems.

(BIO 4605) Critical reading and scientific writing in biological sciences

4 credits

Overview: This course offers students the opportunity to engage deeply with academic literature while preparing for research. In this course students will be introduced to the essential skills of scientific reading, critical analysis and academic writing. Students will learn to develop effective literature search strategies, use citation management tools and critically evaluate research papers. Through literature

exploration, guided discussions and concept mapping, students will synthesize existing knowledge and construct a well-structured literature review on a topic aligned with their thesis work. They will also discuss and present key research papers within their chosen area of study. Each class will be of 3 hours duration, consisting of 1.5 hours of instruction followed by 1.5 hours of hands-on exercises and practical application by the students.

Please note that not all electives are offered each year and plan your choice of courses based on the courses offered in different semesters as well as in different years.

Internship Credits

Foundation courses, co-curricular courses, and internship credit requirements are determined by the University. A summary of internship credit policy is below: Ashoka students may earn credits through internships after they have completed at least two semesters full-time at the University. *At least two internship credits* are mandatory in the new four-year programme. While they may earn any number of such credits during their tenure as undergraduates, *up to four credits* will count towards satisfying degree requirements. *Note that one teaching assistantship on a four credit course will count as two internship credits.* The credits that are counted towards the degree will be shown on the transcript along with other courses, whereas additional internship credits which are not counted towards the degree – whether academic or non-academic will be shown in a separate certificate issued by the OAA. An internship credit can reflect (i) work done under the direct supervision of an Ashoka faculty member, to whom the student will report, or (ii) work done elsewhere but evaluated by an Ashoka faculty member using a well-defined evaluation scheme. One internship credit requires 2 hours a week for 15 weeks, i.e. a total of 30 hours. This requires an appropriate conversion for projects done during the summer or winter breaks; this is left to the discretion of the reporting authority for a project. We recommend a conversion of four weeks of full-time work during the winter break to 2 credits, eight weeks of full-time work during the summer break to 4 credits, and half-time work during the monsoon or spring semester to 4 credits.

Activities of the Department of Biology

The Department of Biology organises a wide range of seminars, workshops, and conferences to provide a platform for the exchange of scientific ideas. These events have attracted audiences ranging from high school students to international and national policy makers.

During the academic year, the Department of Biology organises weekly colloquia with international and national speakers from eminent universities across the world to discuss their fascinating specialisations within biology. These colloquia can be centred on topics ranging from molecular genetics to ecosystems ecology. These talks reach beyond disciplinary boundaries and provide exemplary examples of interdisciplinary cutting-edge research to all those who attend. They are often followed by informal interaction sessions which give learners the opportunity to ask speakers questions about their personal journeys, research trajectories, and the challenges that they have encountered along the way.

One of the key events organised by the science departments is the Ashoka Science Research Festival. It is a STEM-focused research symposium organised in collaboration with the student-led science societies. This annual event creates a platform for scientific exploration and collaboration, with an emphasis on research. It includes a variety of events, including thought-provoking panel discussions, informative poster presentations, and captivating microscopy and science-art competitions. By bringing together students from various scientific disciplines, the festival encourages the exchange of ideas, fosters interdisciplinary research collaborations, and ignites a passion for scientific inquiry.

Ashoka's Biology society (Bio-soc)

Ashoka University's Biology Society is a student-led organisation committed to fostering a passion for the life sciences and cultivating a thriving biology community on campus. Regardless of your current knowledge of the field, BioSoc offers a welcoming environment for anyone eager to explore the wonders of this fascinating field.

We organise a diverse range of engaging events throughout the academic year. From field trips to ecological hotspots and movie nights showcasing thought-provoking biology-centric films to insightful talks by distinguished speakers and fellow students, we strive to create more avenues for students to interact with biology and deepen their knowledge. Through peer mentorship programs and Q&A sessions with seniors, we hope to create a valuable support system for all students engaging with biology at Ashoka. We also organise a mixer every year for students across batches and professors to interact with each other, share their academic interests and spark the potential for research collaborations.

We also engage in collaboration with other academic societies to enhance the scientific culture of our university. BioSoc participates in the annual inter-university STEM Fest 'Chimera' which is organised by Ashoka University's branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. As part of this STEM

extravaganza, we help organise biology-centric competitions and ideathons. This provides a great opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge and scientific prowess, and forge connections with a wider inter-collegiate STEM community.

We invite you to participate in BioSoc's initiatives and embark on a journey of discovery into the captivating world of biology!



Bio-soc members 2024



The Ashoka Journal of Biosciences

The Ashoka Journal of Biosciences (AJB) is a student-led, reviewed journal dedicated to showcasing the research and writing prowess of undergraduate students at Ashoka University and beyond. The AJB recognises the dual role it plays in the scientific academia landscape, that of platforming student research and providing them exposure to the publishing process. Publishing is not only an occupational necessity for aspiring researchers, but it also serves as a crucial area where students lack exposure and training. The journal models its review and editorial processes on international scientific journals, offering students a firsthand experience of academic publishing. By doing so, the AJB aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, preparing students for the critical aspect of their future careers that is often overlooked. The journal welcomes submissions in a variety of formats and categories. Each submission can encompass pure biology or be of an interdisciplinary nature. The Ashoka Journal of Biosciences also holds scientific writing workshops and aims to communicate new advancements, ideas, and perspectives in an accessible and stimulating manner.

The inaugural issue of the journal was launched on May 1, 2024 and featured articles spanning microbiology, plant biochemistry, comparative developmental biology, and the ecology of parasitoid wasps.

We invite you to submit to the journal and become a part of a thriving community of future scientific leaders! For any queries, feel free to reach out to us at biojournal@ashoka.edu.in

Alumni Information

Alumni Name	Graduation Year	After Ashoka...
Adheesh Ghosh	2023	University College London, MSc Cancer
Fibion Mukwati	2023	Research- Infectious Disease Research Laboratory-Charles Rivers Private Labs
Prisha Tiwari	2023	Duke University - Master of Environmental Management
Priyadatha Sajan	2023	Erasmus Mundus International Master's in Innovative Medicine
Soham Sadashiv Kacker	2023	University of Oxford MSc Biodiversity, Conservation, and Management
Tanmay Singh	2023	MEME-Erasmus Mundus master's in Evolutionary Biology
Manasven Raina	2021	Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Program in Evolution (MEME), University of Groningen, Netherlands & University of Montpellier, France.
Prisha Tiwari	2023	Duke University - Master of Environmental Management
Priyadatha Sajan	2023	Erasmus Mundus International Master's in Innovative Medicine
Vedika Kalra	2023	Full-Time Mediator at Science Gallery Bengaluru
Besufekad Wolde	2022	Graduate School for Evolution, Ecology, and Systematics (EES) at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (DAAD scholarship)
Divya Akanksha T G	2021	Erasmus + International Masters in Innovative Medicine at Heidelberg University, and the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.
Shashwat Goyal	2021	M.Sc in cancer immunology and biotechnology from the University of Nottingham
Bhavya Dugar	2021	MSc. in Ecology and Conservation from Cardiff University
Aakashdeep Dutta	2022	Master's in Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Waikato, New Zealand.
Niharika Wagh	2021	Master's of Biotechnology at the University of Queensland.
Aryan Ramachandran	2023	MEME-Erasmus Mundus master's in Evolutionary Biology
Tanmay Singh	2023	MEME-Erasmus Mundus master's in Evolutionary Biology
Herman Ramesh	2021	NCBS MSc Wildlife Biology
Ronith Urs	2022	NCBS MSc Wildlife Biology
Aashka Kaushal Shah	2023	Research Fellow-Prof. Bittu's Lab
Sushmita Anant	2023	Research Fellow-Prof. Bittu's Lab
Rhea Lakhiani	2023	Research Fellow-Prof. Krishna Melnattur's Lab
Anudarsh S	2023	MSc. At Ashoka University

Student Achievements

Student Publications from Ashoka University

Student Name	Title of the Paper	Journal and Year
Devshuvam Banerji	Sexual conflict drives micro- and macroevolution of sexual dimorphism in immunity	BMC Biology, 2021
Manasven Raina	Carcass Scavenging Relaxes Chemical-Driven Female Interference Competition in Flour Beetles	The American Naturalist, 2021
Ritika Nara	Integrin regulated autoimmune disorders: understanding the role of mechanical force in autoimmunity	Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology, 2022
Ayush Mistry	Structurally different chemical chaperones show similar mechanical roles with independent molecular mechanisms	Nanoscale, 2023
	Elucidating the novel mechanisms of molecular chaperones by single-molecule technologies	Trends in Biochemical Sciences, 2023
	Pan-cancer analyses suggest kindlin-associated global mechanochemical alterations	Communications Biology, 2024
Riti Bhatia	Pan-cancer analyses suggest kindlin-associated global mechanochemical alterations	Communications Biology, 2024
Shreyansh Priyadarshi	Pan-cancer analyses suggest kindlin-associated global mechanochemical alterations	Communications Biology, 2024
Simran Wadan	Pan-cancer analyses suggest kindlin-associated global mechanochemical alterations	Communications Biology, 2024
Rhea Lakhiani	Comparative biology of sleep in diverse animals	Journal of Experimental Biology, 2023
Sahana Shanavas	Comparative biology of sleep in diverse animals	Journal of Experimental Biology, 2023
Abhijit Sreepada	Adhesion G protein-coupled receptor gluing action guides tissue development and disease	Journal of Molecular Medicine, 2022
Besufekad Wolde	Impacts of reduced water availability on vegetative and reproductive traits of a Solanum species	Plant Species Biology, 2024
Soham Kacker	Patterns of tree regeneration and their implications for succession in Himalayan pine-oak forests, India	Forest Ecology and Management, 2024

Poster Presentation in Conference/Symposium

Student Name	Title of the poster/talk/presentation	Conference /Symposium/Meeting	Year
Vedika Kalra	Characterising the Role of Glycocalyx in C.elegans Intestinal Infections	3rd Indian C. elegans Meeting, Trivandrum	2022
Sanjna Kartik	Investigating the Role of the Glycocalyx in Host-Pathogen Interactions	Asia Pacific Worm Meeting - 2024, Bengaluru	2024
Sanjna Kartik	Investigating the Role of the Glycocalyx in Host-Pathogen Interactions	Science Undergraduate research conference, Azim Premji University	2023
Anudarsh S.	Conservation of RNA-Interactome in Cyanobacteria and Plastids	Science Undergraduate research conference, Azim Premji University	2023

If you have any other questions, you can write to your first point of contact:

- Biology Student Representative **biology_ugrep@ashoka.edu.in** ; or direct your queries to the
- Head, Department of Biology, Professor Alok Bhattacharya at **hod.bio@ashoka.edu.in**
- UG Programme Coordinator, Department of Biology, **ugcoordinator_biology@ashoka.edu.in**

Major Rules: Four Year Programme Structure

Major: Biology		
Degree: 3 Years (Hons.)		
Duration : 3 Years		
Major credits : 60		
Course Type	Credits	Courses
Required Courses	44	All of the following eleven (11): - BIO-1200- Introduction to Biology 1: Genetics and Evolution - BIO-2214- Introduction to Biology 2: Cell Biology - BIO-2201 - Introduction to Biology 3: Molecular Genetics and Molecular Biology - BIO-2300/BIO-6300 - Chemical basis of life - BIO-3020 - Ecology - BIO-3423 - Physiology - BIO-3005/BIO-6009/CS-2455 - Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Lab Course : BIO-1002/ES-2901- Exploring Life in the Neighborhood Lab Course : BIO-2212 - Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Lab Course : BIO-2202 - Cell Biology and Genetics - BIO-3012/ES-3301 - Ecology and Evolution Lab
Elective Courses	16	BIO courses from level 1000/level 2000/level 3000
Research	NA	
Total Major Credits	44 + 16 = 60	

Notes:

- These rules are applicable to incoming students of UG 2024.
- Each course is of four (4) credits unless specified otherwise against courses listed above.
- ISM credits, wherever allowed, shall be counted in the elective courses credits category.

Major Rules: Four Year Programme Structure

Maximum Cross Listed Courses Allowed	Three (3)
Maximum ISM credits allowed	4

Notes:

1. These rules are applicable to incoming students of UG 2024.
2. Each course is of four (4) credits unless specified otherwise against courses listed above.
3. ISM credits, wherever allowed, shall be counted in the elective courses credits category.

Major Rules: Four Year Programme Structure

Major: Biology		
Degree: 4 Years (Hons.)		
Duration : 4 Years		
Major Credits: 80		
Course Type	Credits	Courses
Required Courses	48	All of the following twelve (12): - BIO-1200- Introduction to Biology 1: Genetics and Evolution - BIO-2214- Introduction to Biology 2: Cell Biology - BIO-2201 - Introduction to Biology 3: Molecular Genetics and Molecular Biology - BIO-2300/BIO-6300 - Chemical basis of life - BIO-3020 - Ecology - BIO-3423 - Physiology - BIO-3005/BIO-6009/CS-2455 - Biostatistics and Bioinformatics - BIO-6603/BIO-4209/CHM-6606 - Research Methodology and Ethics Lab Course : BIO-1002/ES-2901- Exploring Life in the Neighborhood Lab Course : BIO-2212 - Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Lab Course : BIO-2202 - Cell Biology and Genetics - BIO-3012/ES-3301 - Ecology and Evolution Lab
Elective Courses	32	BIO non-core courses from level 1000-4999
Research	NA	
Total Major Credits	48 + 32 = 80	

Maximum Cross Listed Courses	Three (3)
Maximum ISM credits allowed	4

Notes:

- These rules are applicable to incoming students of UG 2024.
- Each course is of four (4) credits unless specified otherwise against courses listed above.
- ISM credits, wherever allowed, shall be counted in the elective courses credits category.

Major Rules: Four Year Programme Structure

Major: Biology		
Degree: 4 Years (Hons.) with Research		
Duration : 4 Years		
Major Credits : 92		
Course Type	Credits	Courses
Required Courses	48	All of the following twelve (12): - BIO-1200- Introduction to Biology 1: Genetics and Evolution - BIO-2214- Introduction to Biology 2: Cell Biology - BIO-2201 - Introduction to Biology 3: Molecular Genetics and Molecular Biology - BIO-2300/BIO-6300 - Chemical basis of life - BIO-3020 - Ecology - BIO-3423 - Physiology - BIO-3005/BIO-6009/CS-2455 - Biostatistics and Bioinformatics - BIO-6603/BIO-4209/CHM-6606 - Research Methodology and Ethics Lab Course : BIO-1002/ES-2901- Exploring Life in the Neighborhood Lab Course : BIO-2212 - Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Lab Course : BIO-2202 - Cell Biology and Genetics - BIO-3012/ES-3301 - Ecology and Evolution Lab
Elective Courses	32	BIO non-core courses from level 1000-4999
Research	12	- One 4-credit thesis proposal - One 8-credit thesis
Total Major Credits	48 + 32 + 12 = 92	

Notes:

- These rules are applicable to incoming students of UG 2024.
- Each course is of four (4) credits unless specified otherwise against courses listed above.
- ISM credits, wherever allowed, shall be counted in the elective courses credits category.

Major Rules: Four Year Programme Structure

Maximum Cross Listed Courses Allowed	Three (3)
Maximum ISM credits allowed	4

Notes:

1. These rules are applicable to incoming students of UG 2024.
2. Each course is of four (4) credits unless specified otherwise against courses listed above.
3. ISM credits, wherever allowed, shall be counted in the elective courses credits category.