

# Natural Sciences at Bath

Our student stories



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

The best people to tell you what it's like to **study Natural Sciences** at Bath are our students.



**This brochure was written by our students, based on questions they had before they started their course.**

If you have any specific questions about living or studying here, please speak to staff and students at an Applicant Visit Day, or contact us directly – see back page for details.



**Imogen Smerdon,**  
BSc



**Zoe Saunders,**  
BSc with placement



**Rosie Fatscher,**  
MSci with placement



**Peter Rory Hall,**  
BSc with study year  
abroad

**Joseph Wakefield,**  
MSci with placement

Written by  
students, for  
students



**Hannah King,**  
BSc with placement



**Louise Miller,**  
BSc with placement

# Settling in

For most students, the first week at Bath will be **Freshers' Week** which is all about finding your way around, meeting new people and getting used to a new routine.

2<sup>nd</sup>

Bath has been ranked as the **2nd safest University City** in the UK in the most recent THE Student Experience Survey (2018)

"I live in the Quads. The social spaces provided are incredible and really helped us out when **making friends** in Freshers' Week! They include the kitchen (shared between 10) and the lounge (shared between 20)."

Zoe



"The city is such a lovely place. It has everything you could need, as well as lots of great places to go for a night out! The **buses back up to the university are 24/7** which is amazing. Never once have I felt unsafe in the city, all the people are lovely and it really has an atmosphere of community."

Zoe

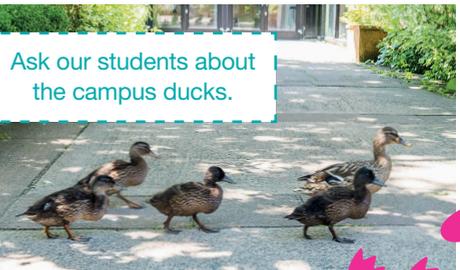
"Freshers' week was great fun and you get to meet loads of people on your course who you can then find in the lectures."

Peter Rory



"There is a wide **choice of accommodation** all across campus and in the City. I lived in Westwood, which was very sociable. Nine of us shared a kitchen and we got to know each other pretty quickly as we were often helping each other get the hang of cooking."

Rosie



Ask our students about the campus ducks.

In first year, most students choose to live in university accommodation, either on-campus or in the City.  
[go.bath.ac.uk/student-accommodation](http://go.bath.ac.uk/student-accommodation)



# Join a society

Learn new skills Meet new people Try something new



BATH UNIVERSITY  
NATURAL SCIENCES  
SOCIETY

“Bath University Natural Sciences Society (BUNSS) is a great way to **get to know other Natural Sciences students** from your course or even other years who can offer great advice. I highly recommend getting involved in their organised activities such as a football team and Natural Sciences ball.”

*Hannah*



“You’ll **never be bored** with the variety of events on campus. There are pub quizzes, cocktail evenings, pizza and board game night, and even a sports club night (SCORE). These are held in the Plug and Tub which also has pool tables and a gaming station.”

*Hannah*

The SU put on lots of events throughout the year from day trips to movie nights.

[instagram.com/thesubath](https://www.instagram.com/thesubath)



“This year I have taken up Lacrosse which is really fun, both the sport and the social side. It is a great way to make friends outside my course.”

*Imogen*

 You could also get involved in the arts:  
[go.bath.ac.uk/arts](https://go.bath.ac.uk/arts)

 We have our own on-campus bar and nightclub (Plug and Tub).



## Did you know?

We have clubs for around **50** sports?

[thesubath.com/sport](https://thesubath.com/sport)

There are over **160** student groups, from societies to volunteering:  
[thesubath.com/groups](https://thesubath.com/groups)

# The step-up to university

"I found the transition to university exciting and despite being so far away from home, I was immediately comfortable in my new environment. The **support provided** by lecturers, personal tutors and wellbeing services ensures that the change is smooth."

*Hannah*

"The lectures are interesting as well as challenging and of really good quality. The lecturers usually hang around after to see if anyone has any questions."

*Peter Rory*

"The first year has started building on what I learnt at A Level. It's given me the chance to work on some topics I didn't understand before, be introduced to some new topics and recap what I already know."

*Imogen*

**"Staff at the University are great!**

Everyone I have come across is willing to help – even if it is just pointing you in the right direction."

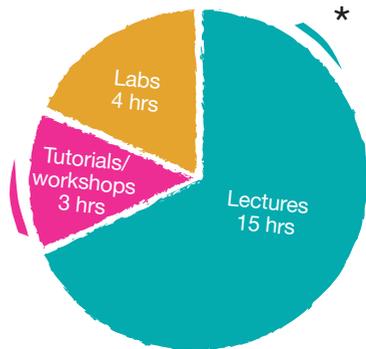
*Imogen*



If you're ever **struggling with Maths**, MASH – the University's Mathematics Resource Centre – can help. They run **daily drop-in sessions** where you can ask general questions or **get help with specific maths problems**.  
[go.bath.ac.uk/mash](http://go.bath.ac.uk/mash)



# A typical week



“The course is split into majors and minors and you take two units from each as well as an additional unit from the course selection. I really like this set up as it is flexible but still provides a basic learning structure. The first year has started by building on what I learnt at A Level.”

*Imogen*

“I am really enjoying the course as we cover a range of subjects whilst still learning each in lots of detail. I can also tailor it to my skill set - my subject choices mean I do experiments every few weeks rather than weekly.”

*Peter Rory*



You'll share some lectures and labs with students from other science departments.

“My week consists of about 12 lectures and some tutorials. I also have one lab per week for chemistry and I have had a few biochemistry labs in my first semester too. These last between 3-4 hours and are good fun.”

*Imogen*

“The course is challenging but varied, and has allowed me to become a **multidisciplinary scientist**, broadening my career options as I have a strong understanding in many scientific areas.”

*Hannah*



There's **no teaching on Wednesday afternoons**, so it's a good time to take part in non-course activities such as sports, arts or join a society.

*\*This pie chart is intended to give you an idea of your potential first year timetable breakdown and does not include time spent on independent study. Your actual timetable may vary.*



# Join a supportive community

“All of the staff have been even more supportive than I could have expected!”

*Joseph*



 In your first year, you'll also have access to Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) schemes in the different departments, where students from the year above can help with lecture content, exam questions and coursework.

“As a first year, we all have a **Peer Mentor** assigned to us during Freshers' Week, who is normally a second year student. They are really helpful and reassuring, especially when settling into the rhythm of university life.”

*Zoe*

“Natural Sciences at Bath is **very friendly and supportive**. In Freshers' Week, there were lots of activities, including welcome talks and meet the Nat Sci squad, which helped us to understand more about the course as well as meet other students.”

*Rosie*

 You'll be introduced to your Personal Tutor in your first week.





“Being dyslexic, the student support services have been great in ensuring that I get all the help I need to support my studies. I have been able to get some specialised technology to help me in lectures and with my own work.”

*Imogen*



**Tutor groups** run regularly and are made up of around six people. They are a chance for you to ask your tutor any questions you have about the course.

“Bath has such a community feel. Both across the university and on the course, everyone is so friendly and always willing to help you out with work or pastoral issues.”

*Peter Rory*

“I have met with my Personal Tutor every other week to discuss any issues, academic or unrelated. The tutor groups give us all an extra **opportunity to make some close friends**, whilst also giving the personal tutors a chance to really get to know us individually.”

*Zoe*



If you ever need a bit of **extra support** whether it's money worries or mental health, we've got a range of services to help you out.

[go.bath.ac.uk/student-services](http://go.bath.ac.uk/student-services)



# Learn in our labs



"The facilities in each department are very impressive compared to what I was used to at A Level – the **labs are very large with so much equipment**. Being a Natural Scientist also means that you have exposure to a variety of labs depending on the sciences you choose."

*Louise*



"I really like the fact that the Nat Sci course has 3 South as its 'hub'. Downstairs there is a big foyer with sofas where you can relax in-between lectures, but it also has a **quiet study area** with desks which is ideal for doing work as well."

*Imogen*

"The **lab demonstrators** are PhD students and are very willing to help you if you get stuck – everyone's in the same boat!"

*Louise*

"The investigations we carry out during labs often aligns with content being covered in lectures and provides that extra layer of understanding to aid learning."

*Zoe*

"Our first few laboratory sessions in first year were aimed at introducing us to all the **new equipment and techniques**, including micro-pipetting and spectrophotometry. This allowed us to find our feet in the labs without feeling too overwhelmed which was really valuable."

*Zoe*

# Go on a placement year

Going on placement gives you the chance to try out different areas of work and could improve your employability. The majority of placements are paid and you may even have the opportunity to go abroad!

If you haven't applied for a course with a placement, you can switch after you've started the course.



Helen Mylne on placement at the African Lion and Environmental Trust (ALERT) in Zimbabwe

"The **Placements Team** have been **really helpful**. They have put on sessions about how to write CVs and cover letters and tips for interviews. They advertise lots of placements that are available all over the country (or abroad), some of which are only open to Bath students."

*Rosie*

"I am looking forward to my placement year because, as well as being **great work experience**, most placements are paid so it will also be an opportunity to **earn some extra money** before fourth year."

*Rosie*

"I chose to do a placement year due to the **benefits for graduate employment**, and I feel that having a year in work will guide me as to what I might like to do. There's so many **different types of placements** and you don't have to work in a lab if you don't want to. Some are even abroad if you want to get out of England for a year."

*Louise*

Our **Placements Team** are subject experts which means they know our Natural Sciences course well and will be able to help match your interests to the right employer.

[go.bath.ac.uk/science-placements](https://go.bath.ac.uk/science-placements)



Instead of a placement, you could spend a year **studying at a university abroad**. You'll get to experience a **different culture** and develop your independence, problem solving and communication skills, which are **highly valued by employers**.

[go.bath.ac.uk/study-abroad](https://go.bath.ac.uk/study-abroad)

Securing a placement or study year abroad involves a competitive application process and therefore cannot be guaranteed. Overseas opportunities are subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

# Ways you can find out more



Read our student blogs: [blogs.bath.ac.uk/students](https://blogs.bath.ac.uk/students)

## Chat to a current student:

In early 2022, all offer holders will have the opportunity to **ask a student** any questions about living and studying at Bath. You don't need to do anything, simply look out for a call or email from a current student sometime in early 2022.

## Join us on social media:



[www.facebook.com/uniofbath/](https://www.facebook.com/uniofbath/)



[www.twitter.com/uniofbath](https://www.twitter.com/uniofbath)



[www.instagram.com/uniofbath/](https://www.instagram.com/uniofbath/)

## Contact the Department

[natsciapplicants@bath.ac.uk](mailto:natsciapplicants@bath.ac.uk)

01225 385864

[go.bath.ac.uk/nat-sci](https://go.bath.ac.uk/nat-sci)



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