

Imperial College London

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

Scheme for the Award of Honours Biological Sciences Degrees 2019-20

For students admitted before 2019-20



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Scheme for Honours for Biological Sciences Degrees 2019-20

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1. Scheme for Honours for Biological Sciences Degrees 2019-20

1.1. General

This scheme is that formally accepted by Imperial College London for the award of BSc Honours in:

- C100 Biological Sciences (3-year)
- C500 Microbiology(3-year)
- C180 Ecology and Environmental Biology (3-year)
- C102 Biological Sciences with a Research Abroad (4-year)
- C110 Biological Sciences with a Year in Industry/Research (4-year)
- C1N2 Biological Sciences with Management (3-year)
- C1NF Biological Sciences with Management and a Year in Industry/Research (4-year)
- C1NG Biological Sciences with Management (4-year)
- C1NA Biological Sciences with Management and a Year in Industry/Research (5-year)
- C1R1 Biological Sciences with French for Science (4-year)
- C1R2 Biological Sciences with German for Science (4-year)
- C1R4 Biological Sciences with Spanish for Science (4-year)

1.2. Degree Classification

1.2.1. Taking a Course

The word 'take' in the context of these regulations means that the student has (unless prevented by mitigating circumstances, Section 1.3.5) attended the timetabled parts of a course, sat its examination and submitted the course work specified for it.

1.2.2. Course ECTS Point Values

Each course is assigned a **European Credit Transfer Scheme (ECTS) points value**. A course's ECTS points value is used as that course's weight in students' average marks for the year in which the course is taken.

The requirement for an Honours BSc degree depends on the student's year of admission as shown in the Table overleaf.

Students take courses specified for their programme (Section 2) and **pass all courses** to obtain the necessary ECTS points. This includes passing the courses and gaining the ECTS points allocated to the year spent outside the Department in programmes with a Placement Year (even though this year is zero-weighted) or Management Year.

Course ECTS Point Values and Unit Values

	Course's ECTS points for all programmes except Language for Science programmes	Course's ECTS points for Language for Science programmes (C1R1, C1R2, C1R4)
First Year		
• First Year courses (each , x4)	15	15
• First Year language component (Language for Science only: C1R1, C1R2, C1R4)		12
Total in First Year	60	72
Second Year		
• Applied Molecular Biology with Bioinformatics	10	10
• Genetics with Statistics	10	10
• Other Second Year courses (each, x 3) and <i>Tutored Dissertation</i>	8.5	8.5
• Second Year <i>Horizons</i> or <i>Management</i> option (except Language for Science: C1R1, C1R2, C1R4)	6	
• Second Year language component (Language for Science only: C1R1, C1R2, C1R4)		12
Total in Second Year	60	66
Placement Year*		
• Reports (Language for Science: C1R1, C1R2, C1R4)		66
• Reports (Year in Industry/Research: C110, C1NF, C1NA)	60	
• Reports (Year in Research Abroad: C102)	60	
Total in Placement Year	60	66
Third Year†		
• Standard Third Year courses (each, x3)	13	13
• either Third Year <i>Research Project</i>	21	21
• or Third Year <i>Literature Project</i>	13	13
○ and Third Year <i>Science Communication</i>	8	8
• Third Year language component (Language for Science only: C1R1, C1R2, C1R4)		6
Total in Third Year	60	66
Management Year‡		
Total in Management Year	60	

* Placement Year *overall* is zero-weighted in all programmes that have one (C102, C110, C1NF, C1NA, C1R1, C1R2, C1R4).

† Third Year of study *within* the Department of Life Sciences: this is the Third Year for C100, C300, C500, C180 and C1NG; the Fourth Year for C102, C110, C1NA, C1R1, C1R2 and C1R4; and not applicable for C1N2 and C1NF.

‡ For those joint programmes with Management that have one (C1N2, C1NF, C1NG, C1NA).

1.2.3. Discontinued or Radically Changed Courses

In any strongly research-led degree programme, it is natural that courses may change radically or be discontinued. Because of examination failures or mitigating circumstances, it is possible that not all students will successfully complete a course when it is last run in its existing form. When a course is run and examined for the last time before it is discontinued or changed radically, students who have not yet completed it successfully have the right to take resit examinations with comparable examination papers wherever possible (up to the normal limit of a total of three attempts that are not subject to mitigating circumstances; see section 1.3.4). We will endeavour to accommodate students for whom mitigating circumstances have prevented successful completion of the course (see section 1.3.5) for up to two years after the course is discontinued, wherever possible. However, if such students have not been able to complete the course successfully within two years, they may have to choose a suitable alternative course. Exceptionally, where comparability of future papers or their marking cannot be guaranteed, the Board of Examiners can recommend that students who have narrowly failed a course be deemed to have passed; such a recommendation is at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and requires approval of an External Examiner.

1.2.4. Years of Study and Year Weightings

A student's final degree mark is the weighted mean of the mean percentage total marks scored in their Years of study. Note that some Years of study do not contribute to the final degree mark.

1.2.4.1. Year Weightings

The Year weightings are tabulated below:

Code	C100	C500	C180	C1N2	C1NF	C1NG	C1NA	C1R1 C1R2 C1R4	C102	C110
Title	Biological Sciences	Micro-biology	Ecology + Env Bio	Biological Sciences + M	Biological Sciences + M + YII/R	Biological Sciences + M	Biological Sciences + M + YII/R	Biological Sciences + F/G/Sfs	Biological Sciences + RA	Biological Sciences + YII/R
Years	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	4	4	4
Y1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Y2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Y3	5	5	5	3	0	5	0	0	0	0
Y4					3	5	5	5	5	5
Y5							5			

Students cannot enter directly into the Second Year of C1N2 *Biological Sciences with Management* (3-year), C1NF *Biological Sciences with Management and a Year in Industry/Research* (4-year) or C1R1/C1R2/C1R4 *Biological Sciences with French/German/Spanish for Science*. The weighting of Years for students entering directly into the Second Year onwards will be those of the programme they enter, with the year weights rescaled to sum to 1.

1:3:5 is equivalent to 11.1% : 33.3% : 55.6%

1:3:3 is equivalent to 14.3% : 42.9% : 42.9%

1:3:5:5 is equivalent to 7.2% : 21.4% : 35.7% : 35.7%

(note: the per cent weightings do not necessarily add up to 100% due to rounding)

1.2.5. Class Boundaries

1.2.5.1. Class Boundaries

The pass mark is 40%. Students must additionally **obtain a minimum of 35% for both the examination and coursework** components of a course to pass. The final degree mark will be used to classify BSc Honours degrees according to the following notional boundaries:

First class	70-100%
Upper second class (2A or 2:1)	60-69%
Lower second class (2B or 2:2)	50-59%
Third class	40-49%
Fail	0-39%

1.2.6. Aegrotat Degree Provisions

A student who is unable to complete their Final Year exams because of mitigating circumstances, may be considered for a degree under Aegrotat Degree provisions, as follows:

- If the student has satisfied the requirements for the degree, they may be awarded a normal, classified degree, **or**
- If the student is effectively prevented from satisfying these provisions, they may apply to the Board to be recommended for an Aegrotat Degree in lieu of resitting the relevant exams the following year; such an Aegrotat Degree is then normally awarded without classification.

1.3. Assessment of Performance

1.3.1. Taught Courses

Most courses of the Biological Sciences programmes are assessed by a combination of a **written examination** (normally weighted 75%) and **coursework**, consisting of assessed essays, reports, practical class write-ups and other assignments (normally weighted 25%). Final Year field courses are examined by a **written examination** (one third), a **mini-dissertation** (one third) and **practical write-up** (one third). The Final Year *Science Communication* course will be examined wholly by coursework. The Second Year *Tutored Dissertation* is assessed by coursework only. The Final Year *Research Project* and *Literature Project* are assessed as given in Section 1.3.3.

1.3.2. Coursework

Receipt of marks for assessed coursework is absolutely dependent upon the student delivering the work by the stated deadlines (making due allowance for mitigating circumstances). Marks for assessed practical class reports can be gained only by students who attend and perform the relevant practical work.

1.3.2.1. Penalties for Late Coursework Submission

Work submitted up to one (1) day after the assessment deadline (date and time) will be marked but capped at the pass mark. Work submitted more than one (1) day late will not be accepted as a valid attempt and a mark of **zero** will be recorded. For the final year project report, the penalty is 1% per hour with a maximum penalty of 5% per day. For items where multiple submissions are required (*e.g.* a hard-copy and an electronic copy), penalties will usually apply unless all the required items have been submitted.

1.3.2.2. Penalties for Plagiarised Coursework

Electronically submitted essays will be uploaded to TurnItIn UK and the resulting homology report will be manually reviewed. Any plagiarism brought to light by this will be dealt with as per the College plagiarism policy.

1.3.2.3. Penalties for Absence from Tutorials and Practicals

For students who fail to attend scheduled practicals, tutorials, and other timetabled assessed coursework sessions without valid mitigating circumstances, we reserve the right to cap the mark for the course work item affected at the pass mark.

1.3.3. Final Year *Research Project* or *Literature Project*

The Final Year *Research Project* (lab-, field- or computer-based) and *Literature Project* (literature-based) will have multiple assessed components, each of which will have an appropriate set of marking criteria.

For the *Research Project*, the final mark is determined from the following weighted components:

- Online and printed poster: 10%
- Specialist examiner assessment of the written report: 27.5%
- Assessors assessment of the written report: 27.5%
- Presentation & viva assessment: 20% (10% each)
- Supervisor assessment of written report & lab performance: 15%

For the *Literature Project*, the final mark is determined from the following weighted components:

- Specialist examiner assessment of the written report: 30%
- Assessor assessment of the written report: 30%
- Presentation & viva assessment: 25% (12.5% each)
- Supervisor assessment of the written report: 15%

Project marks will be moderated by a sub-board of the Biological Sciences Board of Examiners, who can require a project to be marked independently by an additional member of staff. Any revised mark must be agreed by the Chair of the Board of Examiners.

1.3.4. Resit Examinations

A student who fails a course may be reassessed for it in the following ways:

1.3.4.1. Failed Examinations

If the examination mark is below the minimum required (see 1.2.5.1), and the course failed overall, the student is entitled to resit the written examination the next two times it is offered. Normally the first opportunity will be immediately before the start of the next academic year for First Year or Second Year exams. Only a pass mark may then be gained for the exam (though exceptions may be made if failure is deemed due to serious mitigating circumstances). For Final Year exams, students with mitigating circumstances (Section 1.3.5) may retake exams in the following academic year, when Final Year exams are next set. Students still failing three or more courses in the First or Second Years after the first resit examinations will normally be asked to consider withdrawing from the course.

1.3.4.2. Failed Coursework

A student who has attended most of a course but does not complete the coursework component because of mitigating circumstances will normally be allowed to resubmit the coursework by a new deadline, or, if a reasonable proportion of the coursework has been completed, the mark may be scaled up proportionately at the discretion of the Chair of the Board of Examiners.

If the coursework mark for the course is below the minimum required, and the course failed overall, without mitigating circumstances being presented, the normal consequence is to fail the course. Substitute work may be set at the discretion of the Chair of the Board of Examiners, but only a pass mark for the overall coursework component of the course may then be gained. Students may not normally resubmit coursework items that they have already submitted. For the *Tutored Dissertation*, a student failing to pass may be set a resit dissertation on a different topic to be completed during the summer term of the Second Year, again capped at the appropriate pass mark.

1.3.4.3 Field Courses

Those field courses that run during the summer holiday or at the beginning of autumn term (*Third Year African Biology Field Course*) contribute to the Third Year's credit. However, under College regulations, it is not possible for a student to progress to the following Year until the Board of Examiners has approved the previous Year's marks. Therefore, students take these Third Year field courses subject to the following regulations:

- Students who find that they have not qualified to progress to the following Year whilst already *on* the field course must continue to write up all coursework in the same way (and to the same deadline) as the students who are qualified, but they defer any credit for 12 months, and will not take the field course exam (for the field courses with such exams) in the January following the field course, but will (if qualified) take the exam 12 months later.
- Students may choose to leave a field course at any time, but in this case, any costs incurred by the student will not be reimbursed and they will not normally be allowed to retake the field course at a later date.

1.3.5. Mitigating Circumstances

In any year, there will be some students who have problems that interfere with their studies. Personal, physical, mental health, family, financial or other serious problems can make it hard to work effectively, to submit coursework on time, and to take exams. The Department can support and help students who are facing such mitigating/extenuating circumstances, but only if the students inform the Life Sciences Education Office in writing (including e-mail) **as soon as possible**. The Department may then be able to help by *e.g.* extending deadlines for coursework, directing the student to Departmental, College and other services, *etc.* However, the Department cannot modify exam or coursework marks after the event, because there is no fair way of deciding how much a mitigating circumstance has affected a mark. Students are reminded that exams that are passed cannot be re-sat. Therefore, if mitigating circumstances make it unlikely that a student will be able to perform satisfactorily in an exam, the student must **contact the Life Sciences Education Office in advance**, who will advise that sitting an exam under such circumstances carries the risk of a low mark.

For mitigating circumstances to be considered by the Board of Examiners, the student must complete a Mitigating Circumstances form, and submit it to the Life Sciences Education Office **at least one week prior to the meeting of the Board of Examiners**. To substantiate a *prolonged* period of ill-health as a reason for poor performance in the exams, students must *regularly* obtain medical notes during the period of illness and submit them to the Life Sciences Education Office. Documentation is **always** required for mitigating circumstances. Course Convenors, Personal Tutors and Supervisors of *Research Projects* or *Literature Projects* have a responsibility to **inform students of this arrangement** if the student makes them aware of any problems.

Submissions will be considered by a Mitigating Circumstances Committee, normally consisting of the Senior Tutor (Chair), Chair of the Board of Examiners, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Year Convenors, two other members of the academic staff, the Life Sciences Examinations Officer and a representative from the Life Sciences Education Office, who will make recommendations to the Board of Examiners.

In recent years, there have been a small number of instances where a student has performed badly in exams, and/or has been asked to withdraw. Subsequently, the student has appealed to the College on the grounds that there were mitigating circumstances of which the Board of Examiners was unaware. Such retrospective submission of mitigating circumstances has been accepted **only** in those few cases where very strong, reasonable, and compelling grounds were presented by the student to explain why these circumstances had not been presented *before* the affected exams or courses were taken.

Rest assured that all information you submit about mitigating circumstances is treated with the utmost confidentiality.

1.3.6. Degree Classification Moderation

1.3.6.1. Moderation Zone

Normally, students with an overall mark up to and including 2.5% below the threshold mark for each degree class are considered for moderation. The criteria for moderation of degree classifications reflect our view that there are a range of reasons why borderline students may deserve to be promoted to the higher classification. These criteria replace the previous system whereby borderline students were assessed by an external examiner in a *viva voce* exam (though the Board of Examiners retains the right to request such an exam in exceptional circumstances).

1.3.6.2. Criteria for Moderation for Biological Sciences degrees other than those "with Management"

The criteria are applied to final-year marks and apply only to those students whose Final Year is taken within the Department of Life Sciences. For these criteria, "Project" means either (i) a *Research Project*, or (ii) the weighted combination of a *Literature Project* and the *Science Communication* course. "Final Year scientific courses" are all courses except *Science Communication*.

- **A First Class Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a First Class Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project or Literature Project*; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 69.5% (which is rounded to 70%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 67.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a First Class degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Final Year exam question marks are First Class
 - b. A Final Year Project mark of at least 80%
 - c. A weighted mark for the Final Year of at least 72%
 - d. Overall marks of at least 70.00% for all three Final Year scientific courses
 - e. At least one third of Final Year exam questions show mastery (*i.e.* marks exceeding 80%)
- **A 2A Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a 2A Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project or Literature Project*; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 59.5% (which is rounded to 60%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 57.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a 2A degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Final Year exam question marks are 2A standard or higher
 - b. A Final Year Project mark of at least 70%
 - c. A weighted mark for the Final Year of at least 62%
 - d. Overall marks of at least 60.00% for all three Final Year scientific courses
 - e. At least one third of Final Year exam answers receive First Class marks
- **A 2B Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a 2B Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project or Literature Project*; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 49.5% (which is rounded to 50%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 47.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a 2B degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Final Year exam question marks are 2B standard or higher
 - b. A Final Year Project mark of at least 60%
 - c. A weighted mark for the Final Year of at least 52%
 - d. Overall marks of at least 50.00% for all three Final Year scientific courses
 - e. At least one third of Final Year exam answers receive 2A or First Class marks
- **A Third Class Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a Third Class Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project or Literature Project*; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 39.5% (which is rounded to 40%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 37.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a Third Class degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Final Year exam question marks are Third Class or higher
 - b. A Final Year Project mark of at least 50%
 - c. A weighted mark for the Final Year of at least 42%
 - d. Overall marks of at least 40.00% for all three Final Year scientific courses
 - e. At least one third of Final Year exam answers receive 2B or higher marks

1.3.6.3. Criteria for Moderation for Biological Sciences degrees "with Management"

These criteria apply only to those students whose Final Year is taken within the Business School. For these criteria, "Project" means either (i) a Research Project, or (ii) the weighted combination of a Literature Project and the Science Communication course. There are three categories of students to consider:

- Students on a borderline where high performance in the year in the Business School could be used as evidence for promotion (3 and 4 year "with Management" programs)
- Students on a borderline where high performance in the scientific component of their degree could be used as evidence for promotion (3 year "with Management" programs)
- Students on a borderline where high performance in the scientific component of their degree could be used as evidence for promotion (4 year "with Management" programs)

In all cases students on the pass/fail borderline will be dealt with by the departmental exam board procedures that apply to all students in such cases.

1.3.6.3.1. Students on a borderline with relatively high performance in the year in the Business School (3 and 4 year "with Management" programs)

- **A First Class Honours degree** is awarded to students who have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project* or *Literature Project* (where applicable); **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 69.5% (which is rounded to 70%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 67.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a First Class degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. A weighted mark for the Management Year of at least 75%
 - b. Overall marks of at least 70% for at least 8 out of 10 Management Year modules
 - c. At least 4 out of 10 of Management Year module results show mastery (*i.e.* marks exceeding 80%)
- **A 2A Honours degree** is awarded to students who have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project* or *Literature Project* (where applicable); **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 59.5% (which is rounded to 60%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 57.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a 2A Class degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. A weighted mark for the Management Year of at least 65%
 - b. Overall marks of at least 60% for at least 8 out of 10 Management Year modules
 - c. At least 4 out of 10 of Management Year module results are first class
- **A 2B Honours degree** is awarded to students who have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project* or *Literature Project*; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 49.5% (which is rounded to 50%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 47.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a 2B Class degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. A weighted mark for the Management Year of at least 55%
 - b. Overall marks of at least 50% for at least 8 out of 10 Management Year modules
 - c. At least 4 out of 10 of Management Year module results are 2A or better

1.3.6.3.2. Students on a borderline with relatively high performance in the scientific component of their degree (3 year "with Management" programs)

- **A First class Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a First Class Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 69.5% (which is rounded to 70%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 67.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a 1st class degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Second Year exam essay answers are 1st class standard or higher
 - b. A weighted mark for the Second Year of at least 75%
 - c. Overall marks of at least 70.00% for at least 4 out of 5 Second Year taught courses (not including the *Tutored Dissertation*)
 - d. At least one third of Second Year exam essay answers show mastery (*i.e.* marks exceeding 80%)
- **A 2A Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a 2A Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 59.5% (which is rounded to 60%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 57.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a 2A degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Second Year exam essay answers are 2A standard or higher
 - b. A weighted mark for the Second Year of at least 65%
 - c. Overall marks of at least 60.00% for at least 4 out of 5 Second Year taught courses (not including the *Tutored Dissertation*)
 - d. At least one third of Second Year exam essay answers receive First Class marks
- **A 2B Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a 2B Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 49.5% (which is rounded to 50%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 47.5% and demonstrated their worthiness for a 2B degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Second Year exam essay answers are 2B standard or higher
 - b. A weighted mark for the Second Year of at least 55%
 - c. Overall marks of at least 50.00% for at least 4 out of 5 Second Year taught courses (not including the *Tutored Dissertation*)
 - d. At least one third of Second Year exam essay answers receive 2A or higher marks

1.3.6.3.3. *Students on a borderline with relatively high performance in the scientific component of their degree (4 year "with Management" programs)*

- **A First Class Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a First Class Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project or Literature Project*; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 69.5% (which is rounded to 70%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 67.5% **and** an overall weighted mark of at least 67.5% for the first three years of the degree **and** demonstrated their worthiness for a First Class degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Third Year exam question marks are First Class
 - b. A Third Year Project mark of at least 80%
 - c. A weighted mark for the Third Year of at least 72%
 - d. Overall marks of at least 70.00% for all three Third Year scientific courses
 - e. At least one third of Third Year exam questions show mastery (*i.e.* marks exceeding 80%)
- **A 2A Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a 2A Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project or Literature Project*; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 59.5% (which is rounded to 60%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 57.5% **and** an overall weighted mark of at least 57.5% for the first three years of the degree **and** demonstrated their worthiness for a 2A degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Third Year exam question marks are 2A standard or higher
 - b. A Third Year Project mark of at least 70%
 - c. A weighted mark for the Third Year of at least 62%
 - d. Overall marks of at least 60.00% for at all three Third Year scientific courses
 - e. At least one third of Third Year exam answers receive First Class marks
- **A 2B Honours degree** is awarded to students who do not satisfy the criteria for a 2B Honours degree but who nonetheless have:
 - Passed all courses and their *Research Project or Literature Project*; **and**
 - **either** attained a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 49.5% (which is rounded to 50%);
 - **or** achieved a weighted average mark across all Years of at least 47.5% **and** an overall weighted mark of at least 47.5% for the first three years of the degree **and** demonstrated their worthiness for a 2B degree by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. At least half of Third Year exam question marks are 2B standard or higher
 - b. A Third Year Project mark of at least 60%
 - c. A weighted mark for the Third Year of at least 52%
 - d. Overall marks of at least 50.00% for all three third Year scientific courses
 - e. At least one third of Third Year exam answers receive 2A or First Class marks

2. Details for Specific Degree Programmes

The list of approved courses for each degree programme may be subject to revision each academic year, but students will then be allowed to take an approved alternative without prejudicing their degree. The course requirements listed below are for the 2019-20 academic year. Students may take a maximum of one Third Year field course.

2.1. C100 *Biological Sciences* (3-year)

The student's choice of courses should normally be approved by their Personal Tutor. Requirements for this programme are as follows:

2.1.1. First Year

In the First Year, the student must take:

- The four compulsory First Year courses from the Biological Sciences syllabus.

2.1.2. Second Year

In the Second Year, the student must take:

- *Applied Molecular Biology with Bioinformatics*
- *Genetics with Statistics*
- Three consecutive approved Second Year courses from the Biological Sciences syllabus
- *The Tutored Dissertation*
- An approved course offered by the Business School **or** by the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication as part of the Horizons Programme

2.1.3. Third Year

In the Third Year, the student must:

- Take three consecutive approved Third Year courses from the Life Sciences syllabus.
- **either** (a) Conduct an individual supervised experimental, data analysis or theory-based *Research Project* on any approved topic, written up in dissertation format;
- **or** (b) Undertake an individual supervised *Literature Project* on any approved topic, written up in a review journal format and the Third Year *Science Communication* course.

2.2. C500 *Microbiology* (3-year)

Conditions are the same as for C100 *Biological Sciences* (Section 2.1), with the following additional requirements.

Second Year courses taken should normally include:

- *Bacterial Physiology*
- *Virology*

Third Year courses taken should normally include:

- *Medical Microbiology* **or** *Metabolic & Network Engineering* **or** *Disease Ecology and Epidemiology*
- *Symbiosis, Plant Immunity and Disease* **or** *Advanced Topics in Infection and Immunity* **or** *Advanced Bacterial & Eukaryotic Cell Biological Sciences* **or** *The Microbiome*
- *Molecular Basis of Bacterial Infection* **or** *Synthetic Biological Sciences* **or** *Advanced Immunology*

A Microbiology-oriented *Research Project* or *Literature Project* should also be taken.

2.3. C180 *Ecology and Environmental Biology* (3-year)

Conditions are the same as for C100 *Biological Sciences* (Section 2.1), with the following additional requirements.

Second Year courses taken should normally include:

- *Resource Management*
- *Behavioural Ecology*
- *Ecology*

Third Year courses should normally include:

- *African Biology Field Course* **or** *Disease Ecology and Epidemiology*
- *Symbiosis, Plant Immunity and Disease* **or** *Biodiversity and Conservation Biology* **or** *Evolutionary Applications* **or** *The Microbiome*
- *Biodiversity Genomics* **or** *Global Change Biology*

An ecological/environmental *Research Project* or *Literature Project* should also be taken.

2.4. C102 Biological Sciences with Research Abroad (4-year)

Conditions for the First and Second Years are the same as for C100 *Biological Sciences* (Sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2) with the additional requirement that during the Second Year the student will normally take appropriate language tuition as their Horizons option (unless they are assessed as already fluent in that language). Before the student will be allowed to proceed to the Placement Year abroad (Third Year of study), they must satisfy the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication that they have reached the necessary standard in the language, and must satisfy the Department of Life Sciences that they have achieved a good standard in their First and Second Year courses (usually $\geq 60\%$). Conditions for the Fourth Year are the same as those for the Third Year of C100 *Biological Sciences* (Section 2.1.3).

2.4.1. Placement Year

The student should make their Placement Year arrangements in discussion with the Year in Research Abroad Coordinator. The Placement Year (Third Year of study) will be spent conducting a research project and taking courses in an approved Life Sciences department in a University in another European country. The Placement Year will be assessed as follows:

- The student may take, but will not have to pass, the relevant exams of the host Department. The student must, however, satisfy their supervisor as to attendance and performance.
- The student will write two reports:
 - The *Scientific Report* (consisting of a *Research Proposal* (6 ECTS) and a *Research Report* (44 ECTS)) on the scientific aspect of the placement.
 - The *Cultural Report* (10 ECTS) on another aspect of the year abroad.
- Both reports must be written in English, but must also include a summary written in the language of the host country. The student must achieve pass marks for these reports in order to proceed to the Fourth Year. This mark will not count towards the final degree.
- If the student fails this dual assessment, they will be required to transfer to a 3-year Biological Sciences programme.

2.5. C110 Biological Sciences with a Year in Industry/Research (4-year)

Conditions for the First and Second Years are the same as for C100 *Biological Sciences* (Sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). Conditions for the Fourth Year are the same as those for the Third Year of C100 *Biological Sciences* (Section 2.1.3). Before the student will be allowed to proceed to the Placement Year, they must satisfy the Department of Life Sciences that they have achieved a good standard in their First and Second Year courses (usually $\geq 60\%$).

2.5.1. Placement Year

The student should make their Placement Year arrangements in discussion with the Year in Industry/Research Coordinator. Progress to the Placement Year (Third Year of study) is contingent on fulfilling the academic requirement of the First and Second Years. Acceptance for/commencement on a placement is not an alternative to this requirement. In the Placement Year, the student will spend a total of 10-12 months working on an industrial placement. The Placement Year will be assessed as follows:

- The student must write a *Placement Report* and be examined by a viva on the industrial placement(s) (report to viva weighting 2:1), and achieve a pass mark on aggregate across the two components to progress to the Fourth Year. This mark will not count towards the final degree, but 60 ECTS will be credited for the Placement Year overall.

- Failure by the student to obtain a placement which meets the Department's standards, or to complete the industrial placement, or to complete the report, or to achieve a pass mark on the assessment, will require the student to transfer to a 3-year *Biological Sciences* programme.

2.6. C1N2 *Biological Sciences with Management (3-year)*

Conditions for the First and Second Years are the same as for C100 *Biological Sciences* (Sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2), with the additional requirement that a Management course should not be taken in the Second Year.

2.6.1. Management Year

The Third Year must be spent in the Business School at Imperial College London taking approved courses from the Business School syllabus.

The degree class will be based on the weightings given in Section 1.2.4, with the proviso that the final Joint Honours class awarded should not be more than one degree class above that achieved in either the Department of Life Sciences component or the Business School component separately.

Third Year marks will be assessed by a Business School Board of Examiners including Business School external examiners. The final degree will be assessed and the class awarded will be agreed by the Biological Sciences with Management Joint Honours Examination Board consisting of senior members of the Biological Sciences Board of Examiners, including one Biological Sciences external examiner, and at least one representative of the Business School.

2.7. C1NF *Biological Sciences with Management and a Year in Industry/Research (4-year)*

Conditions for the First and Second Years are the same as for C100 *Biological Sciences* (Sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2), with the additional requirement that a Management course should not be taken in the Second Year.

Conditions for the Placement Year (Third Year of study) are the same as for the Placement Year of C110 *Biological Sciences with a Year in Industry/Research* (Section 2.5.1).

Conditions for the Management Year (Fourth Year of study) are the same as for the Management Year of C1N2 *Biological Sciences with Management (3-year)* (Section 2.6.1).

2.8. C1NG *Biological Sciences with Management (4-year)*

Conditions for the First, Second and Third Years are the same as for C100 *Biological Sciences* (Section 2.1), with the additional requirement that a Management course should not be taken in the Second Year.

Conditions for the Management Year (Fourth Year of study) are the same as for the Management Year of C1N2 *Biological Sciences with Management (3-year)* (Section 2.6.1).

2.9. C1NA *Biological Sciences with Management and a Year in Industry/Research (5-year)*

Conditions for the First, Second, Third and Fourth Years are the same as for C110 *Biological Sciences with a Year in Industry/Research* (Section 2.5).

Conditions for the Management Year (Fifth Year of study) are the same as for the Management Year of C1N2 *Biological Sciences with Management (3-year)* (Section 2.6.1).

2.10. C1R1 *Biological Sciences with French for Science*, C1R2 *Biological Sciences with German for Science*, and C1R4 *Biological Sciences with Spanish for Science (4-year)*

Conditions for the First and Second Years are the same as for C100 *Biological Sciences* (Sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2), with the additional requirement that students also take Language modules within the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication, with weightings as described in Section 1.2.2. Before the student will be allowed to proceed to the Placement Year abroad, they must satisfy the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication that they have

reached the necessary standard in the language, and must satisfy the Department of Life Sciences that they have achieved a good standard in their First and Second Year courses (usually $\geq 60\%$).

The conditions for the Placement Year (Third Year of study) and *Scientific Report* (50 ECTS) are the same as those for C102 *Biological Sciences with a Year in Research Abroad* (Section 2.4); however:

- The *Cultural Report* is written in French/German/Spanish, with an additional abstract in English. It is marked by staff from the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication, and carries 16 ECTS rather than 10 ECTS.

Conditions for the Fourth Year are identical to those specified for the Third Year of C100 *Biological Sciences* (Section 2.1.3) except that students also take a Language module in the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication, with weightings as specified in Section 1.2.2.