Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES)
Understanding and appreciation of the astonishing complexity of life. We have the unparalleled opportunity to embark upon a comprehensive exploration of the living world around us, and to emerge with a solid integrative expertise and ideas from diverse scientific fields to form a thriving international centre of research and learning. BEES students are supervised research projects. Our extensive inter-disciplinary environment makes BEES a unique entity within the Australian university system, Students in BEES are immersed in the natural sciences through lectures, practical laboratory courses, and abundant opportunities for sciences, palaeontology, ecology and evolution, to environmental management and conservation.

The School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences (BEES) is the university’s hub for investigation into all aspects of our living world. From the deep interior of the Earth to the upper atmosphere, and from the origins of life to the future of our planet, our research spans the natural sciences, geology to geography, earth and marine sciences, palaeontology, ecology and evolution, to environmental management and conservation.

Students in BEES are immersed in the natural sciences through lectures, practical laboratory courses, and abundant opportunities for supervised research projects. Our extensive inter-disciplinary environment makes BEES a unique entity within the Australian university system, integrating expertise and ideas from diverse scientific fields to form a thriving international centre of research and learning. BEES students have the unparalleled opportunity to embark upon a comprehensive exploration of the living world around us, and to emerge with a solid understanding and appreciation of the astounding complexity of life.

Undergraduate Studies in BEES

Bachelor of Environmental Management specialist degree

The Bachelor of Environmental Management program contains a core sequence of compulsory courses, a choice of disciplinary majors and choices from a group of electives. The majors include: Biology, Earth Science, Ecology, Environmental Chemistry, Geography and Marine Science. This degree will provide students with a strong education in the skills and knowledge necessary to work or carry out research as an environmental scientist. Students learn to place understanding of the scientific aspects of the environment within the general context of the policy and legal framework of environmental regulations, as well as economic, and social dimensions of environmental policy and management.

The School of BEES offers the following majors:

- Biology: The study of life and living organisms
- Earth Science: The study of solid Earth, fresh rock and mineral deposits and the processes by which they change
- Ecology: The relationships between organisms and their environments
- Geography: The study of the land, features, inhabitants and the phenomena of the Earth
- Marine Science: The study of the ocean, its ecosystems and its life forms, encompassing coastal to deep sea environments

These BEES majors can be studied within the following degree programs:

Bachelor of Life Sciences

The Bachelor of Life Sciences brings together the biological, environmental and medical sciences into a far-reaching and fascinating field of study. The life sciences domain will satisfy your innate curiosity about life, from the way things work at the molecular level, to the study of entire ecosystems.

Bachelor of Science

This degree program provides the widest range of options for study in more than 20 majors of science, providing flexibility and choice as well as insights into different scientific fields.

Bachelor of Science (Advanced)

This degree program is designed to challenge talented students, providing an early window into the thinking and practice of research. This program differs from the Bachelor of Science by the inclusion of advanced level courses, an Honours year, and options leading to an individual's aptitude and interests. Students will develop a working knowledge in areas of scientific investigation, and gain practical experience in research and discovery techniques.

The School of BEES offers specialised majors for Advanced Science students including Archaeology & Palaeoenvironments, Biological Science, Climate Dynamics, Climate Systems Science, Geochemistry, Human Geography, Marine and Coastal Science and Physical Geography.

A fourth Honours year is available in a number of BEES degree programs and can be undertaken by students who have maintained a credit average or above. The Honours year involves a full-time research project supervised by a UNSW researcher. More information about the benefits of Honours is available on the BEES website bees.unsw.edu.au

Admissions Details

Program | UAC code | UNSW program code | Length of study | Cut-off
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Bachelor of Environmental Management | 429540 | 3965 | 3 years full-time | ATAR 80.00
Bachelor of Life Sciences | 429050 | 3968 | 3 years full-time | ATAR 80.00
Bachelor of Science | 429000 | 3970 | 3 years full-time | ATAR 84.00
Bachelor of Science (Advanced) | 429350 | 3972 | 4 years full-time | ATAR 95.00
Bachelor of Science (International) | 429420 | 3987 | 4 years full-time | ATAR 87.00
Bachelor of Science and Business | 429100 | 3925 | 3 years full-time | ATAR 90.00
Career Opportunities

A degree from the School of BEES is recognized and respected internationally, and our graduates are well known to be highly skilled and broadly knowledgeable across diverse disciplines in the life sciences. In addition to earning an impressive and far-reaching scientific education, our graduates gain comprehensive, hands-on training in scientific research, statistical methods, critical thinking and problem solving. These skills prepare BEES graduates for virtually any career they may wish to pursue.

Our graduates are often employed by federal and state agencies, local government, business, non-profit organizations and universities. Selected examples include Department of Primary Industries, Office of Environment and Heritage, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Private Consultancies, the Mining Sector, Quelacoon, Nature Conservation Council, Taronga Zoo, The Australian Museum, just to name a few.

Some examples of job opportunities that BEES graduates might consider include Environmental Consultants, Groundwater Consultants, Remediation Officers, Research Assistants, Science Outreach Officers, Science Communication Officers, Environmental Educators, Exploration Geologists, Museum Curators, Lab Technicians, Park Rangers, and Conservation Managers. Our students also learn to communicate scientific ideas through writing and presentations and can work towards a career in teaching or in the media.

Alternatively, graduates may continue to develop their chosen specialty through postgraduate study and research, which can lead to fulfilling careers in research, teaching and scientific leadership. Postgraduate degrees offered by the School include Graduate Diploma by coursework, Master of Science by research or by coursework, and Doctor of Philosophy by research.

Student Testimonials

“The natural environment has always fascinated me. Doing a degree in the School of BEES has given me the chance to study all its component parts, from rocks and soils to plants and animals. Along the way, my experience in BEES has been enriched by some incredible opportunities like the Talented Students Program mentorships, courses that allow you to just do research, volunteering for post-graduate researchers, and funding to go to and present at conferences.”

Max Mallen-Cooper
Bachelor of Advanced Science (Ecology and Biological Science)

“Choosing a science major can be a daunting experience. But the interdisciplinary nature and diversity of subject areas in the School of BEES mean your options are wide open. Throughout my time at UNSW, BEES has provided me with the friends, mentors, resources and experiences to make my time as an undergraduate more than worthwhile. Not to mention the incredible opportunities like fieldwork in amazing locations, being a part of student-run organisation (UNSW GEOSOC), and connecting with leading academics in their fields. In addition, the field trip in virtually every course helps create an active community between faculty and students. This network becomes extremely useful when courses begin to get difficult, and makes approaching a lecturer to ask a question or get extra help really easy.”

Gurinda Nagra
Bachelor of Advanced Science (Earth Science)

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