Getting Started with Science
2014

Cover:
Is this my better side? Photogenic bearded dragons.
Photo by Marina Cheng, UNSW Science Student.
Studying Science at UNSW

The world is changing faster than ever before. And – rather than politicians or lawyers or economists – it’s scientists who are leading this charge into the unknown. Everyday their research and exploration is opening up new frontiers while their discoveries provide the raw material for life-changing inventions.

Our schools of thought
UNSW Science consists of nine Schools: Aviation; Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences; Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences; Chemistry; Materials Science and Engineering; Mathematics and Statistics; Optometry and Vision Science; Physics; and Psychology.

Putting science under the microscope
Forget the stereotype – science is no longer just about people in laboratories wearing thick-rimmed glasses and white coats. In this day and age, science encompasses a wide range of fields, and suits an equally wide range of people. You should think about studying science if you:

– Have a curious mind
– Would like to help advance our society
– Are enjoying your high school Maths and Science subjects
– Hope to pursue a fulfilling career in a wide variety of sectors
– Are an all-rounder who’s keen to further develop life skills like leadership

Our capacity for innovation is taking us beyond frontiers we didn’t even know existed just a generation ago, and this dramatic change is transforming lives, cultures, politics, industries and economies. At UNSW Science, you can be at the forefront of this revolution.

Professor Merlin Crossley
Dean, Faculty of Science

Five reasons to study science at UNSW

1. Our prestige
Our Bachelor of Science degree has one of the highest entry requirements in NSW (83.05 ATAR in 2013), which means we accept some of Australia’s best and brightest young people into our courses. Our membership of the Group of Eight (Go8) coalition of research universities shows just how well regarded we are.

2. Our size
Sometimes big really is better. With a population of around 50,000 students – at UNSW you’ll enter a truly dynamic, culturally diverse and internationally focused learning environment.

3. Our industry connections
Connections matter, and that’s why we’re continually developing our links with the business community. This enables us to develop our research, while providing lifelong learning experiences and partnerships. Our industry partnership programs are extra incentives that help us attract the most promising students into our Faculty.

4. Outstanding career prospects
University life is great, but it’s more important that you’re able to line up the job you want when you finish. Fortunately, in the 2012 Good Universities Guide we obtained a five star rating for graduate employment, starting salaries and positive graduate outcomes. This is proof that our students are highly sought after in government, industry and the not-for-profit sectors.

5. Your ticket to the world
Interested in travel or study abroad? We have one of Australia’s largest international exchange programs, giving you the opportunity to study at more than 200 prestigious universities around the world.

“Professor Merlin Crossley
Dean, Faculty of Science”
Your first steps into Science

Choosing your school subjects
For most of our Science degrees, we’ll assume that you’ve completed the following subjects:

- HSC 2-unit Mathematics
- HSC Chemistry

We’ll also look for one or more of the following:

- HSC Biology
- HSC Physics
- HSC Mathematics Extension 1
- HSC Earth and Environmental Science

Some degrees assume slightly different subjects, so if you need more information, get in touch with us using the details at the back of this guide. Or check the website science.unsw.edu.au/future-students/undergraduate-degrees

Making the cut
Our ATAR cut-offs vary from year to year, but as a general rule the minimum ATAR to get into Science at UNSW is around 83.00. Other selection criteria may also apply for some degrees, including the dual Bachelor of Optometry/ Bachelor of Science. Jump onto unsw.edu.au/entryrequirements to find out all the details.

Earning bonus points
In our HSC Plus program, you can be awarded up to five bonus points if you do well in key HSC subjects. For Science degrees, these subjects may include: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, 2-unit Mathematics, Earth and Environmental Science, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, Geography and English Advanced. Take a look at unsw.edu.au/HSCPlus for more information.

Making your application
Applications to study Science at UNSW are completed online through the University Admissions Centre (UAC), and are usually due in September the year before you intend to start at university. Take a look at uac.edu.au for further information and all the deadlines.

Keeping your options open
If you’re not sure which area of science you want to study, then we recommend you sign up for our most flexible degree – the Bachelor of Science. This enables you to study core science subjects while specialising in your areas of interest. It’s built on a solid foundation of science subjects including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Psychology, and Earth and Environmental Science. You don’t have to select a specialisation until your second year, so there is plenty of time to explore before making up your mind.

Applying for a scholarship
There are many scholarships available to our Science students, and most applications are due in September the year before you intend to start at university. Jump onto scholarships.unsw.edu.au for more information on the scholarships we have available.

I chose the Commerce/Science degree as I have always been interested in Science, and while I didn’t see myself becoming ‘a Scientist’, I knew it was important to study something I loved.

Josh Glass
Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Science (Honours) Pharmacology, plus Business Strategy and Economic Management
Making the most of student life

Being a student at UNSW involves much more than just attending classes. Across the campus there are a huge range of sporting, social and intellectual activities available to make your time at UNSW as memorable and fun as possible.

Take a look at these sites to find out more about what’s available at UNSW:

- studentlife.unsw.edu.au
- arc.unsw.edu.au
- international.unsw.edu.au

Our Science degrees

**Single degrees**
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science (Advanced)
- Bachelor of Science (Advanced Mathematics)
- Bachelor of Science (International)
- Bachelor of Science and Business

**Specialised degrees**
- Bachelor of Aviation (Flying)
- Bachelor of Aviation (Management)
- Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology)
- Bachelor of Environmental Science
- Bachelor of Engineering (Materials Science and Engineering)
- Bachelor of Medical Science
- Bachelor of Medicinal Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science (Nanotechnology)
- Bachelor of Optometry/Science
- Bachelor of Psychology
- Bachelor of Psychological Science

**Dual degrees**
Options available in –
- Arts and Social Sciences
- Commerce
- Education
- Engineering
- Law
- Music

The academics that I am learning from are also some of the best researchers and experts in their fields in the world.

Cathy Liu
Bachelor of Materials Science and Engineering / Master of Biomedical Engineering

The best part about my degree is all the opportunities to actively participate in research; these were so different from the usual classes and allowed me to put everything I was learning into practice.

Sinead Keaveney
Bachelor of Science (Advanced)
Major in Chemistry

Important dates in 2013

- **20, 23, 29 May 2013**
  Year 10 Evenings
  whatson.unsw.edu.au

- **7 September 2013**
  UNSW Open Day
  openday.unsw.edu.au

Visit us
For information on upcoming events
science.unsw.edu.au/events

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