



INTEGRITY



MANAAKITANGA



EXCELLENCE

COURSE OUTLINE - 2025

Course: Year 12 Biology	Code: 12BIO	NCEA: Level 2	Contact: s.rhodes@wc.school.nz
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Course Information

Level 2 Biology explores the living world in more depth and breadth, helping you understand how organisms function, survive, and interact. You'll study genetic variation, gene expression, cell processes, ecological patterns, and how plants and animals are adapted to their environments.

Through both practical investigation and theory, you'll gain insight into key biological processes such as photosynthesis, respiration, inheritance, and evolution. You'll also learn how to critically evaluate biological information in the media – a vital skill in today's world.

This course includes a balance of internal and external assessments (19–22 credits total) and builds skills in scientific thinking, analysis, and communication – all essential for careers in science, health, environmental studies, or agriculture.

Studying Level 2 Biology will:

- Strengthen your understanding of key biological concepts
- Prepare you for Level 3 Biology and NCEA Scholarship Biology
- Open pathways to tertiary study in science, medicine, and health-related fields

Level 2 Biology is a strong foundation for anyone curious about life and how it works.

→ Resources and equipment required

LEVEL 2 BIOLOGY (EXTERNALS) sciPAD

→ NZQA Biology Subject Resources

Can be found here: <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/subjects/select-subject/biology/>

→ School policy for assessment

Students should be aware of the school procedures and policies for assessment. They can be found [here](#) on our website, including forms for applying for extensions or reconsiderations.

Assessment

The following standards will be offered and assessed. Please note that assessment dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Unless advised otherwise, assessment submissions will be scheduled for 8.50am on a Monday.

Standard Number	Standard Name / Description	Credit value	Assessment Type (Internal/External Formative/Summative Mode)	Is this a UE Literacy standard?	Is Resubmission offered with this standard?	Is there a further assessment opportunity?	Term and week of assessment
AS91158 2.6	Investigate a pattern in an ecological community, with supervision	4	Internal	No	No	No	Term 1 Week 9
AS91155 2.3	Demonstrate understanding of	3	Internal	No	Yes	No	Term 2 Week 2

	adaptation of plants or animals to their way of life						
AS91154 2.2	Analyse the biological validity of information presented to the public	3	Internal**	No	No	No	Term3 Week 2
AS91156 2.4	Demonstrate understanding of life processes at the cellular level	4	External	Reading No Writing Yes	No	No	Term 4
AS91157 2.5	Demonstrate understanding of genetic variation and change	4	External	Reading Yes Writing No	No	No	Term 4
AS91159 2.7	Demonstrate understanding of gene expression	4	External	No	No	No	Term 4

*can be assessed orally

**is an optional assessment

Course Planner 2025

(note this is subject to change)

Term 1

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11
Investigate a pattern in an ecological community, with supervision						Demonstrate understanding of adaptation of plants or animals to their way of life				

Term 2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
Demonstrate understanding of life processes at the cellular level							Demonstrate understanding of genetic variation and change	

Term 3

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10
Demonstrate understanding of genetic variation and change				Demonstrate understanding of gene expression				Derived Grade Exams	Revision

Term 4

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
Revision								

Scholarship

Scholarship Biology is an advanced extension course for students who are independent, motivated, and passionate about biology. It challenges you to analyse, integrate, and apply biological knowledge in complex and unfamiliar contexts.

The assessment consists of three extended-answer questions requiring you to:

- Analyse biological scenarios
- Integrate concepts from ecology, genetics, evolution, and cell biology
- Justify conclusions with scientific reasoning
- Communicate clearly and precisely using appropriate biological terms

To succeed, you'll need strong critical thinking, the ability to link and apply ideas, and well-developed writing skills. Outstanding performance involves original insight, abstraction, and independent reflection.

This course is ideal for students preparing for university study in science, medicine, health, or environmental fields. While Level 3 Biology is recommended, it is not compulsory for capable and committed learners.

Scholarship success earns national recognition, monetary awards, and signals academic excellence to universities.

For more information contact Steven Rhodes s.rhodes@wc.school.nz