

Department of Zoology, OUSL
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN ZOOLOGY
Academic Year 2025/2026

The BSc Honours Degree in Zoology is a Level 6 qualification offered by the Department of Zoology. The purpose of this qualification is to provide a broad education in Zoology to equip graduates with knowledge, practice and methodology that enable them to obtain appropriate qualifications and prepare them for research/practice based postgraduate studies. This qualification will help to consolidate and strengthen the student's knowledge of Zoology and to develop research capacity and skills.

Programme Aims

- To provide opportunities to develop scientific skills and knowledge application with emphasis on practical work that develop technical and analytical skills
- To develop positive attitudes, values and transferable skills such as communication and ICT, teamwork and problem-solving skills required of zoologists
- To develop a pool of future Zoologists to give leadership in research and innovation, academics with the additional advantage of having experience in open and distance learning
- To enhance the potential to pursue postgraduate studies

Expected Performance Standards

A Zoology Honours student should:

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge, comprehension, and appreciation of subject contents in Core areas of Zoology and Elective areas of Zoology
- Construct and sustain arguments to demonstrate a conclusive understanding and explanation of Zoological phenomena from molecular level to the level of the biosphere
- Demonstrate competency in basic and advanced practical skills and field techniques
- Propose solutions to practical problems applying theoretical knowledge and modern techniques in a professional manner
- Demonstrate the ability to extract relevant literature from a variety of sources, including web-browsing
- Present Zoological information effectively as written material and oral presentations following appropriate scientific writing styles and presentation skills
- Exercise personal/team responsibility and leadership in an assigned task in a professional environment during industrial visits/field training
- Carry out a research project, critically analyse qualitative and quantitative data collected to test the research hypotheses, and report findings
- Develop through curricular and extracurricular activities additional competencies to pursue further studies, take-up responsibilities of future careers and to be responsible citizens

Curriculum

This is a minimum four-year programme, comprising a total of 120 credits of courses from Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6. The curriculum of the BSc Honours Degree in Zoology is designed to give students an in-depth knowledge in Zoology. At Levels 5 and 6 students will study at a deeper scientific level to consolidate and strengthen their knowledge and practice and develop research capacity.

A wide selection of courses is available (refer undergraduate handbook), which are applied and multidisciplinary in nature. Students will be exposed to practical experience to combine theory and practice with respect to advanced laboratory tools and field-based components to experience wildlife first-hand and will be prepared for further reading and to conduct research. The courses will be delivered via a blended mode of study with a considerable component of face-to-face teaching, seminars, a research project, etc. Attendance is compulsory for all academic activities at Levels 5 and 6 of this programme. Please note that this programme will be conducted only at CRC.

Admission criteria

Students will be selected for the Zoology Honours Degree on the completion of Levels 3 and 4.

To be eligible to register, a student should fulfill the following criteria, within **four (04)** consecutive academic years from initial registration in BSc Programme.

- a) **Level 3:** A minimum of C grades for 30 credits of regular courses at Level 3, with 8 credits of Zoology, AND,
- b) **Level 4:** A minimum of C grades for 24 credits at Level 4, including 12 credits from Zoology courses and, at least eligibility for sitting final examination for the other 06 credits, AND
- c) **GPA:** A minimum GPA of 3.00 in 20 credits of Levels 3 and 4, from Zoology courses, AND,
- d) **Continuing Education courses:** At least a Pass/Exemption for CYE3200, LEE3410/LTE3401 and CSE3213

Award of the Degree of BSc Honours in Zoology

Calculation of GPA

The Grade Point Average (GPA) of a student is computed by considering the courses at Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6. GPA is the course credit and level weighted mean of all individual GPVs obtained for 120 credits of courses. Weight of Levels 3 and 4 courses is 2, while Levels 5 and 6 courses carry a weight of 3. The grades obtained for the continuing education courses are not included in the GPA calculation. The GPA is calculated subject to a maximum of 4.00.

Award of Pass and Classes

1. To be considered for the award, with a **Pass**, a student must successfully complete:
 - a) a minimum of C grades for 30 credits at the Level 3; comprising 08 credits each from the chosen three subjects (including Zoology) and 06 credits from the open elective courses, AND,
 - b) a minimum of C grades for 30 credits at the Level 4; comprising 12 credits each from two major subjects, including Zoology, and 06 credits from the minor subject, AND,
 - c) a minimum of C grades for 30 credits at Level 5; comprising minimum of 24 credits from Zoology, including all compulsory courses specified, and remaining 06 credits from any subjects and/or open elective courses at the Level 5, AND,
 - d) a minimum of C grades for 30 credits from Zoology at the Level 6, including all the compulsory courses specified which shall include a minimum of 09 course credits of research component, AND,
 - e) a minimum GPA of 2.00 in 120 credits at Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6, AND,
 - f) at least a Pass grade/Exemption for CYE3200, LEE3410/LTE3401 and CSE3213, AND,
 - g) complete above requirements within 08 academic years from initial registration to the BSc Degree
2. To obtain a **Second Class (Lower Division)**, a student must,
 - a) Obtain a Pass in accordance with the Section 1 above, AND,
 - b) obtain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in 120 credits at Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6, AND,
 - c) obtain a minimum of B grades for 60 credits out of the 120 course credits; comprising a minimum of 39 credits from Zoology at Levels 5 and 6, AND,
 - d) complete the above requirements within six (06) academic years from initial registration to the BSc Degree
3. To obtain a **Second Class (Upper Division)**, a student must,
 - a) Obtain a Pass in accordance with the Section 1 above, AND,
 - b) obtain a minimum GPA of 3.30 in 120 credits at Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6, AND,
 - c) obtain a minimum of B⁺ grades for 60 credits out of the 120 credits; comprising a minimum of 39 credits from Zoology at Levels 5 and 6, AND,
 - d) complete the above requirements within six (06) academic years from initial registration to the BSc Degree
4. To obtain a **First Class**, a student must,
 - a) obtain a Pass in accordance with the Section 1 above, AND,
 - b) obtain a minimum GPA of 3.70 in 120 credits at Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6, AND,
 - c) obtain a minimum of A grades for 60 credits out of the 120 course credits; comprising a minimum of 39 credits from Zoology at Levels 5 and 6, AND,
 - d) complete the above requirements within six (06) academic years from initial registration to the BSc Degree

Progression: Completion of the BSc Hons in Zoology Degree meets the minimum entry requirement for admission to SLQF level from 7 to 12.

Fall-back option: Those who do not complete within the stipulated period may exit at Level 5 to be considered for the Bachelor of Science General Degree or at Level 4 to be considered for Higher Diploma in Science, based on the relevant Regulations.

How to apply

Those interested in following the BSc Honours Degree Programme in Zoology and have acquired the necessary eligibility criteria for admission as specified in this document are required to submit the duly completed application form to: **Assistant Registrar/Faculty of Natural Sciences, OUSL**, on or before **30th June 2025**. The Application Form is available on the Faculty of Natural Sciences website.

Please note that only those who satisfy the admission criteria, based on academic performance at Levels 3 and 4* and the interview conducted by the Department of Zoology will be selected. *Those awaiting Semester 2 results may apply, however, will be considered only if the relevant criteria are satisfied when results are released for the Semester 2 final examinations.

Best Wishes!

Prof. Uthpala Jayawardene, Head/Zoology