

OTHER ROUTES INTO SCIENCE

University isn't for everyone! There are other routes into Science and the marine world.



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are nationally recognised programmes that let you **earn a salary while gaining a qualification**. You'll learn through a combination of on-the-job training, dedicated study time, and practical work experience as part of a team.

Apprenticeship qualifications range from GCSE level to Master's degree level, depending on the programme. UCAS provides up-to-date information on available apprenticeships and their qualification equivalents.

Unlike university applications, apprenticeships have **no fixed national deadlines**. Employers set their own closing dates, meaning opportunities are available throughout the year. You can apply for multiple apprenticeships and usually apply directly through the employer.

Higher National Diploma (HND)

Higher National Diploma (HND) is a **practical, career-focused qualification** that typically takes two years to complete through a further education college or online provider. It **combines academic learning with industry-relevant skills**, offering a faster route into employment than a traditional degree.

A HND is equivalent to the first two years of a bachelor's degree, and many courses allow you to complete a final "top-up" year to achieve a full bachelor's degree. HNDs are particularly valued in fields such as engineering, science, technical research, and communications.

Higher National Certificate (HNC)

HNC is a **practical course** that helps you to gain day one skills for the work place. If you are unsure of your career path or have had a study break this can be a useful way to develop new skills. An HNC is equivalent to the first year of an undergraduate degree with a variety of courses on offer.



Marine biology is one branch of marine science that studies ocean life, from microscopic plankton and viruses to larger marine animals.

While many people are drawn to the subject through interests in dolphins, whales, or coral reefs, most marine biologists work in applied areas such as fisheries, pollution research, conservation, analytical chemistry, or satellite imaging.

The field offers a wide range of career opportunities beyond working directly with marine mammals.

SKILLS

- Project management
- Fundraising
- Strong verbal and written communication
- Interpersonal skills
- Ability to work alone
- IT proficiency
- Database management
- Time management

