NAME OF THE PROGRAMME: MASTER OF SCIENCE BY RESEARCH (BIOLOGY)

Programme Type	Research
Status	Proposal
Start Date	August and January
Module	SB-5000
Description	The Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Programme offers Master of Science by Research degree in Biology. It provides a broad laboratory and/or field training, and a comprehensive educational experience in environmental and life sciences, which can lead to a variety of careers in the government agencies and private sectors. Fields of study include cell and molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry and biotechnology, developmental and reproductive biology, ecology (terrestrial, marine and aquatic) and conservation biology, behavioural ecology, marine and aquatic biology, invasive ecology, plant and animal sciences, microbiology, botany, plant taxonomy and systematics, ethnobotany and medicinal plants, environment and climate change. The excellent laboratory and outdoor field facilities, and a field studies centre in the tropical rainforest (under Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, IBER) strengthen both teaching and research in the broad field of Biology. Candidates will perform a research project under the supervision of staff from the Environmental and Life Sciences Programme and frequently in collaboration with staff members from other disciplines.
Research Facilities	Postgraduate students undertake part-time or full-time research in a project supervised by one or more academic staff who are experts in their field. The expectation is that postgraduate students will publish their research in top-tier, international journals. The Environmental and Life Sciences Programme and Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, IBER are equipped with modern scientific equipment and facilities, including herbarium, museum, plant, shade and animal houses, BioFOS boats, wet lab, field map, GPS, UV-Vis spectrophotometers, spectrophotometers, AAS, FIA, microwave and block digestors, microscopes (inverted, stereo, dissecting, compound), muffle furnace, fiber analysis and solvent extraction systems, PCR, DNA sequencer, microtome, ball mill and grinders, rhizotron, etc.
Degree Requirements	A written thesis is judged acceptable by the Board of Examiners. The thesis, based on the findings of an approved original research investigation, shall not normally exceed 60,000 words. As stipulated in the relevant UBD regulations, the examiners may subject a candidate to an oral examination or any other test they think necessary to assess the acceptability of the thesis.
Entry Requirements	At least a Second Class (or equivalent) honours Bachelor's degree in Biology, Biological Sciences or a relevant discipline from a

	recognised University. Shortlisted applicants may be interviewed on a case by case basis.
Language Requirements	Relevant English language requirement stipulated by UBD.

Programme Details

Aims and Scope	The MSc Programme in Biology aims to make scientists with high level specialised training, in order to cover the increased needs of Industry in related aspects. Also, students wishing to continue their studies at a PhD level will be able to prepare for the conduction of PhD research on relevant topics. The scope of the Programme is to provide students the necessary specific scientific information, as well as to train them to develop their skills and analytical capabilities.			
Structure	Students conduct an approved research project, with the supervision of one or more staff members. Upon completion of their research, they submit a Thesis, which normally does not exceed 60,000 words.			
Language	The thesis will be written in English; any potential courses will also be given in English.			
Duration of Programme	Full-Time: minimum 12 months, maximum 24 months		Part-Time: minimum 24 months, maximum 48 months	
Areas of Research/Specialisation	Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Developmental Biology, Reproductive Biology, Ecology, Conservation Biology, Plant and Animal Sciences, Microbiology, Botany, Plant Taxonomy and Systematics, Behavioural Ecology, Marine and Aquatic Biology, Invasive Ecology, Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants, Environment and Climate Change. More areas will be provided upon arrival of new staff.			
Attendance Type	Full-Time/Part-Time			
Period of Candidature	Ful-Time:	12-24 months	Part-Time:	24-48 months
Assessment	Assessment includes examination of the thesis by internal and external examiners. As stipulated in the relevant UBD regulations the examiners may subject a candidate to an oral examination or any other test they think necessary to assess the acceptability of the thesis. Periodic assessment of the progress of the candidate is carried out as stipulated in the relevant UBD regulations.			
Demand	Applicants are expected to join the programme from Brunei Darussalam and overseas. The number of applicants is expected to increase in the future, as the programme develops a track record.			
Future Development	The programme is expected to attract students and to develop according to the demands of the community and the industry. New supervisors that will join Environmental and Life Sciences Group in UBD will also add new disciplines of research. Increasing number of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research is expected to be developed.			

Major Areas	Cell and Molecular Biology, Biochemistry and Biotechnology,

	Developmental and Reproductive Biology, Ecology and Conservation Biology, Plant and Animal Sciences, Microbiology, Botany, Behavioural Ecology, Marine and Aquatic Biology, Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants, Environment and Climate Change.

For More Information

Contact	Programme Leader in Environmental and Life Sciences, Faculty of Science (FOS), UBD