



Peter Fidczuk
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Friday, 28 July 2023

Dear Peter

Recognition

I am writing to confirm the University of Leeds would accept the International Baccalaureate HL Certificate in Biology (AAQ) for entry onto the related programmes below, alongside two appropriate A Levels including any other subject specific requirements. This is subject to our annual review of qualifications suitable for entry to our courses. Please check [Course Search](#) for our most up to date entry requirements.

- Biology BSc
- Biological Sciences BSc
- Biomedical Sciences BSc
- Ecology and Conservation Biology BSc
- Genetics BSc
- Microbiology BSc
- Midwifery BSc
- Psychology BSc
- Zoology BSc
- Medical Engineering BEng/MEng
- Environment and Business BSc
- Food Science BSc/MSci
- Food Science and Nutrition BSc/MSci
- Nutrition BSc/MSci
- Natural Sciences BSc/MSci

The courses listed above reflect those that can accept this qualification as meeting subject-specific requirements. Where any such requirements are met through A Levels, the AAQ can be considered as a third subject.

How the content aids progression to HE programmes in related subjects

We have found that the grades achieved by applicants holding the IBO Level 3 Certificate in HL Biology are an accurate guide to potential achievement in undergraduate courses at the university and are an effective part of the selection process.

We encourage applications from students undertaking Higher Level (HL) IB courses. We will consider applicants who present three HL courses, or a combination of HLs with A-Levels, in which case three unique subjects must be undertaken. Please note that subject-specific requirements may apply to some courses.

The IBO Level 3 certificate in HL Biology (AAQ) provides a firm foundation in the principles of biology allowing candidates to progress successfully to undergraduate courses where a deep knowledge of



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biology is a pre-requisite. The qualification content covers the fundamental principles of biology which includes:

- Biological molecules, water, nucleic acids, carbohydrates and lipids, proteins
- Cell structure and specialisation
- Membranes and membrane transport
- Organelles and compartmentalisation
- Diversity of organisms
- Classification and cladistics
- Evolution and speciation
- Conservation of Biodiversity
- Gas exchange
- Transport
- Muscles and motility
- Adaptation to environment
- Ecological niches
- Enzymes and metabolism
- Respiration
- Photosynthesis
- Chemical signalling
- Neural signalling
- Integration of body systems
- Defence against disease
- Populations and communities
- Transfers of energy and matter
- Mutations and gene editing
- Cell and nuclear division
- Gene expression
- Water potential
- Reproduction
- Inheritance
- Homeostasis
- Natural selection
- Stability and change
- Climate change

Additionally, the qualification develops the key skills necessary for students to access undergraduate biology and other undergraduate science courses:

- Experimental techniques
- The use of appropriate technology to collect, analyse and model data
- The use of mathematics



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In our undergraduate courses we expect our students to take an inquiring approach to their studies. The IBO Level 3 Certificate in HL Biology (AAQ) qualification supports this aspect through its inquiry process through which candidates demonstrate independent thinking, initiative, and insight through the following:

- Exploring and designing
- Collecting and processing data

Current recognition of similar qualifications

We currently accept the International Baccalaureate Diploma. We also accept IB HL Certificates in lieu of A Levels, provided any specific level 2, English or subject specific requirements have been met from other recognised qualifications.

The University uses the following equivalence scale to compare the IBO Level 3 Certificate in HL Biology to A level Biology:

IBO Level 3 Certificate in HL Biology (AAQ) grade	A Level Biology grade
7	A*
6	A
5	B
4	C

The University of Leeds is registered with the Office for Students.

We understand that this letter of support will be publicly available via IBO's MyIB Portal for as long as we recognise the qualification. We are happy for a copy to be shared with the DfE.

I have consulted with the relevant faculties, and we have agreed this at our Admissions Group meeting and have the authority to sign on behalf of our institution.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jeff Grabill

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education