**Applied for:** Biology

**Offers received:**

University of Gloucestershire – 120 points/Unconditional

University of Worcester – 96 points

I am fascinated by the diverse topics I have encountered studying Biology. The principles and theories regarding the fields of plant biology, ecology and biological molecules have really captured my imagination. As the course has developed, and more practical elements introduced, I have found that my interest has grown as my understanding has increased. Biology has provided me with a start point for understanding the world around me. This not only allows me to discuss relevant topics with fellow students, but has allowed me to maintain a methodical, self-motivated and disciplined approach to my studies. This is something which I have carried through from my successful GCSEs, into my A-Levels and I am now keen to extend this into Higher Education.

Practical experimentation is a key element of Biology which I really enjoy. The experiments I
have undertaken have allowed me to develop laboratory skills working both independently and as part of a team. I have learnt the importance of following standard procedures accurately to ensure that tasks are completed safely and correctly. During group work, I consider myself to be a valuable and dependable member of the team and I enjoy the responsibility of completing tasks allocated to me within a time limit. Experimentation has also allowed me to gain experience collecting, analysing and interpreting statistical data before presenting it as part of my conclusions. An example of this would be analysing the kinesis behaviour of woodlice and using the chi-squared test to see if there were statistically significant differences in their movements under varying conditions. Skills developed as part of my A-level Chemistry and History studies have benefitted my writing and presentation abilities.

Sixth form has enabled me to extend my knowledge and has given me the confidence to progress into a career with Biology as a core. I find it exciting that the broad range of topics
covered in a Biology degree allow access to careers as diverse as research projects or
teaching. In order to develop my independent research skills, I have undertaken Open Learn
courses. This has given me a taste of what is required at university and I have been fascinated by both ecosystems and cellular communication. In particular, I have enjoyed the
focus on the evolution of cell signalling pathways and Bacterial Quorum sensing which has
developed my knowledge of cell biology.

With the possibility of teaching as a future career I have volunteered to help Year 11 pupils
with GCSE science mentoring weekly during my personal time. This has given me first-hand
experience of students' varying abilities and different needs for learning. The sessions have
taught me the importance of correctly identifying the requirements for individual students and
working out the best approach to explaining a subject. It has given me the understanding that I must be flexible with my teaching methods and be prepared to repeat or adapt my approach if required. I get great satisfaction from seeing when my efforts benefit someone I have tutored, building their confidence. In addition to this, I have gained work experience in a local primary school. This has shown me that I enjoy the responsibility of working with young
children and it is an environment which could provide me with the opportunity to utilise my
enthusiasm and knowledge to engage and develop children's minds.

In summary, I feel that my strong academic background, solid practical experience and enthusiasm for the subject will help me to meet and enjoy the challenge of studying a Biology degree. I have enjoyed all areas of my A-level Biology and feel that this degree enables me to continue to study areas in more detail and not specialise too much; ideal for a career in teaching or to help with deciding which field of research to later specialise in.