

MSc BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES 2026-2027

TRACK ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION (TC Emily Burdfield-Steel)

Period 1		Period 2		Period 3	Period 4		Period 5		Period 6	Holiday	
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August

Research variant	Year 1	Current Trends in Ecology and Evolution (VU)	Elective courses 0-18 EC			Research Project 1 (30-60 EC, its size depending on the amount of elective courses) or Literature Review (12 EC)	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
			Environments through Time (UvA)	Global Ecology and Biodiversity (UvA)	Invasion and Conservation Biology (UvA)		
			Plastic & Chemical Pollution (VU)	Cooperation & Conflict in Nature (VU)	Tropical Ecosystems Field Course (UvA)		
		Ecological Data Analysis (VU)	Sustainable Landscape Challenges (VU)	Microbial Ecology (UvA)	Ecosystem Services and Scientific Advocacy (VU)		
		Optional early start of Research Project 1 or Literature Review-->					
Masterclasses in Ecology and Evolution (3 EC)							
Professional Skills (3 EC)							
Year 2	Research Project 2 (30-60 EC) and Literature Review (12 EC, if not done in year 1)						
	If not done in year 1: Elective courses and/or Masterclasses and/or Professional Skills modules						

Major variant	Year 1	Current Trends in Ecology and Evolution (VU)	Research Project 1 (30 EC) and Literature Review (12 EC)				If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier			
		Ecological Data Analysis (VU)								
		Masterclasses in Ecology and Evolution (3 EC)								
		Professional Skills (3 EC)								
	Year 2	Major Teaching or Big Biomedical Data Analysis (60 EC)								

Minor variant	Year 1	Current Trends in Ecology and Evolution (VU)	Research Project 1 (30 EC) and Literature Review (12 EC)				If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier			
		Ecological Data Analysis (VU)								
		Masterclasses in Ecology and Evolution (3 EC)								
		Professional Skills (3 EC)								
	Year 2	Research Project 2 (30 EC)		Minor Collective Futures (30 EC)						

NB: All courses are 6 EC, unless otherwise indicated

Darker colors mean obligatory curriculum elements

Lighter colors mean elective or free curriculum elements

Disclaimer: the information in the TER 2026-2027 is binding