

Frequently Asked Questions – BSc Animal Sciences

Difference Biology

BSc Animal Sciences studies animals in function for humankind, e.g. for food production, companionship, nature conservation or educational and recreational purposes. These domestic and captive animals are kept and cared for by humans, and are usually in a non-natural system. Biology studies all life forms, from bacteria to plants and algae to animals. With regard to animals, Biology focuses on wild animals in their natural habitat.

Difference Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary Medicine trains you to become a veterinarian. The course focuses on curing sick animal and monitoring animal husbandry. You will acquire in-depth knowledge on the anatomy and physiology of an animal. At Animal Sciences you will also learn this, but also gain knowledge on animal nutrition, genetics, animal husbandry systems and more. Animal Sciences encompasses all kinds of aspects that are important for the function that animals have for humans. In addition, it usually concerns healthy animals.

What does the programme of BSc Animal Sciences entails?

Animal Sciences stimulates you to study and explore the biological functioning of animals in our society – all types of domesticated animals, and fisheries, in any function for human use and well-being: e.g., food production, companionship, sports, waste management, nature conservation or for educational and recreational purposes. How can these animals adapt to their environment and how can we create the best possible environment for them regarding sustainable and ethical factors on a worldwide scale? Answering these questions demands a fundamental understanding of the biology of domestic and captive animals, as well as knowledge about animal management and care in our society.

Is Animal Sciences only about livestock?

Animal Sciences is all about domesticated and captive animals, animals for which we as humans have a responsibility to take care of and house them as optimally as possible. This concerns farm animals, pets, fish or, for example, zoo animals, and therefore not wild animals in their natural habitat. It is true, however, that farm animals are most prominent in the courses, as most scientific knowledge is available on this. Still, a large part of this information can also be applied to other animals.

What career perspective do you have after finishing your studies?

Animal Sciences is a broad programme. After completing the MSc Animal Sciences, many animal scientists find a job in the industry, at a research institute, the government or a non-profit organization. With ranging positions as, example given, a feed specialist, researcher, geneticist, policy officer, teacher. The options are limitless. That is why we have placed various alumni stories on our webpage where you will be able to read our 'dream books' at the bottom of this page with many examples of the first jobs of our graduates: <https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Bachelor/bsc-programmes/bsc-animal-sciences/future-career.htm>