

Job of The Week

Marine Biologist

Key Skills

- knowledge of Biology
- Maths knowledge
- analytical thinking skills
- excellent written communication skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to work well with your hands
- the ability to use your initiative

Salary

£15,609 - £50,000

Working hours

38 – 40
evenings / weekends
bank holidays

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Marine Biologist

Post 16 studies

You will need a strong background in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Geography. It would help to study these subjects at A Level or BTEC.

Career path and progression

With experience you could:

- become a manager
 - teach in schools, colleges or universities
 - go into science communication, such as media and scientific journalism
 - work freelance as a scientific consultant
- If you work in academic research, you could also start to lead research projects and become a senior research fellow or professor.

University

You'll usually need a relevant degree and often a postgraduate master's qualification in a life science subject like:

- biology
- biological science
- ecology
- marine biology

Employers may also want you to have experience in your area of interest and possibly a PhD.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English, Maths and science OR 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including biology for a degree a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study.

Apprenticeship

The following degree apprenticeships may be relevant to this role:

- Level 6 Laboratory Scientist
 - Level 7 Research Scientist
 - Level 7 Bioinformatics Scientist
- The level 6 apprenticeship typically takes around 60 months to complete.

The level 7 apprenticeships are likely to have a higher entry criteria and typically take 30 months to complete.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship.



Top Tips
Laboratory experience would be useful for this career.

Day to Day tasks:

- supervise support staff
- clean polluted rivers
- protect plants and animals
- design and carry out experiments
- improve productivity in livestock or crops
- develop new methods to diagnose, monitor and treat illness or disease
- prevent food contamination or create ways to dispose of waste safely
- make observations, write reports and publish scientific papers
- teach students, if based at a university or teaching hospital



Working conditions
Your working environment may be outdoors some of the time. You could also work in a laboratory, at a university or visit sites.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Biological scientists and biochemists	
Weekly Pay £810	Annual Pay £42,120
Hours/Week 37h	Hourly Pay £22
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 39.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 3,500 jobs. In the same period, 39.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 42,600 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Scientific research Education Public admin. & defence Architectural & related 	
More info	Clear card

Conservation professionals	
Weekly Pay £650	Annual Pay £33,800
Hours/Week 39h	Hourly Pay £17
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 39.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 500 jobs. In the same period, 39.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 6,100 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport & recreation Construction Head offices, etc Membership organisations Social work 	
More info	Clear card

Natural and social science professionals n.e.c.	
Weekly Pay £840	Annual Pay £43,680
Hours/Week 41h	Hourly Pay £20
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 39.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 1,500 jobs. In the same period, 39.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 18,000 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Scientific research Public admin. & defence Office admin. 	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Biological scientists and biochemists

Biological scientists and biochemists examine and investigate the morphology, structure, chemistry and physical characteristics of living organisms, including their inter-relationships, environments and diseases.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies the physical and chemical form, structure, composition and function of living organisms;
- identifies and studies the chemical substances, including microbial infections, involved in physiological processes and the progress of disease;
- performs tests to study physiological and pathological characteristics within cells and other organisms;
- researches the effects of internal and external environmental factors on the life processes and other functions of living organisms;

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Clear card

Conservation professionals

Conservation professionals are responsible for ensuring that landscapes, habitats and species are protected and enhanced via appropriate management and conservation. They promote public understanding and awareness of the natural environment and help to develop and implement appropriate policies to achieve these objectives.

Common tasks in this job:

- promotes and implements local and national biodiversity action plans, particularly with regard to threatened species and habitats;
- carries out environmental impact assessments and field surveys;
- implements, evaluates and monitors schemes for the management and protection of natural habitats;
- provides advice and information to government at national and local levels, clients, landowners, planners and developers to facilitate the protection of the natural environment;

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Clear card

Natural and social science professionals n.e.c.

Jobholders in this unit group perform a variety of scientific research and related activities not elsewhere classified in MINOR GROUP 211: Natural and Social Science Professionals.

Common tasks in this job:

- plans, directs and undertakes research into natural phenomena;
- provides technical advisory and consulting services;
- designs tests and experiments to address research objective and find solutions;
- applies models and techniques to medical, industrial, agricultural, military and similar applications;

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Clear card

Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Useful Websites

[Explore | UCAS](#)

[So you want to become a Marine Biologist? | National Marine Aquarium \(national-aquarium.co.uk\)](#)

[Sixth Form Prospectus – Bourne Academy](#)

[Marine biologist job profile | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Just One Ocean – Committed to saving the ocean for future generations](#)

[What Is Marine Biology? ~ MarineBio Conservation Society](#)

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

How to become a Marine Biologist



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qggwuL07JtI&pp=ygUnYSBkYXkgaW4gdGhllGxpZmUgb2YgYSBtYXJpbmUgYmlvbG9naXN0>

Best Job Ever



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rThDFJFaRow&pp=ygUQbWFyaW5lIGJpb2xvZ2lzdA%3D%3D>

Marine biology at University



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ai40R8iH-Jc&pp=ygUdbWFyaW5lIGJpb2xvZ2l5IGF0IHVuaXZlcnNpdHk%3D>

What does a Marine Biologist actually do?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61h3EWnLhII&pp=ygUQbWFyaW5lIGJpb2xvZ2lzdA%3D%3D>

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