

Biology

Nature of Biology

Biology is the science of life. It involves looking at how organisms interact and function at all levels and an interest in life is fundamental for most humans.

'Biologists attempt to understand the living world at all levels using different approaches and techniques. At one of the scale is the cell, its molecular construction and complex metabolic reactions. At the other end of the scale biologists investigate the interactions that make whole ecosystems function. Many areas of research in Biology are extremely challenging and many discoveries remain to be made.'¹

Learning about Biology helps students to make sense of the world around us, explain ordinary observations and articulate views and beliefs about recent findings.

Teaching Approach

Students are expected to develop skills in several areas, including thinking, communication, social, self-management, research. As Biology is an experimental science, students are expected to participate in field work and class practical work, eventually being able to design experiments that will answer their own questions about the world around them. They will also gain and understanding of the nature of science and scientific endeavour.

Students would normally have completed Science in Year 10 and progress into the course. They will study topics in cell biology molecular biology, genetics, ecology, evolution and biodiversity. Students are also introduced to human physiology. As Fiji is a small island state, topics in ecology, biodiversity and conservation are particularly relevant and to this end, students doing the IB Diploma Program adopt Ecology and Conservation as their optional topic.

Where does it lead to?

Studying Biology provides students with a variety of skills and experiences that are invaluable in future academic programs and a variety of careers such as medical, veterinary, food and marine sciences, agriculture, biotechnology, environmental rehabilitation, biosecurity, quarantine, conservation and eco-tourism.

¹ IB DP Biology Guide First assessment 2016. IBO, UK 2014.