

COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY FAQs

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1. What is computational biology / the Computational Biology Programme?

Computational biology is the intersection of biology and computer science, using computational and mathematical approaches to interpret biological data to enrich our understanding of life. The Computational Biology Programme is a four-year multidisciplinary programme focusing on computer-based analysis of biological problems, a fast-growing area of the life sciences.

2. What is the difference between Computational Biology and Life Science programme?

The Life Sciences programme has more emphasis on laboratory experiments, technologies, and fieldwork. The Computational Biology programme develops skills for rigorous analysis of data, application and development of algorithms, and computational models to interpret and design experiments.

3. What are the requirements to study Computational Biology?

Applicants should have good 'A' Level or H2 passes (or equivalent) in Mathematics/Further Mathematics and either Biology or Chemistry. Students without 'A' Level or H2 passes (or equivalent) in either Biology or Chemistry should have at least an 'O' Level pass (or equivalent) in it.

4. If I don't have 'A' Level Biology, can I still take Computational Biology?

Yes. However, it is preferred for students to have at least an 'O' Level pass in Biology (or equivalent) so that they can better cope with the contents of the bridging module.

5. Can I do a double major?

Yes, it is possible. Nevertheless, we wish to highlight that the curriculum for Computational Biology is very tight and hence it may take more than 10 regular semesters to complete the degree requirements of two majors, given the possibility of timetable clashes.

6. Can I change to another major later on?

Yes. Students who wish to change major will have to write in to the department to request for a change in major. It is also advisable that they do so within their first two semesters.

7. Can I minor in Computational Biology?

No. This is only offered as a major programme.

8. How do I apply for the programme?

Application form for the programme will be made available online in June each year to Faculty of Science's students. Students will need to complete the form and send it to compbio@nus.edu.sg with the relevant supporting documents before the closing date. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/compbio>

9. When will I know the results of my application?

Applicants will be notified via email within a week of the closing date of the application.

10. What are the career prospects for graduates of Computational Biology?

Graduates can look forward to employment in research institutions, hospital-associated institutions, pharmaceutical companies, biomedical industries, biotechnology companies, commercial organisations which have bioinformatics and related activities.

They can also pursue postgraduate studies in many disciplines related to life sciences, biomedical sciences, computational biology and bioinformatics. The more entrepreneurial graduates have also set up their own business ventures.

11. Where can I find more information about Computational Biology?

Please visit our website: <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/compbio> to find out more information.