

BIOLOGY COURSES AT HARLOW 2006

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

It is planned to give **two** academic courses at Harlow in 2006:

B4910 (**Vertebrate Diversity and Adaptation**) and B4911 (**Field Course in Applied Biology**). Information on B4910 can be obtained from the Drs Burton (burton@mun.ca) and on B4911 from Dr Colbo (mcolbo@mun.ca).

The courses will be given sequentially; students who wish to do both courses may be given preference. Formal instruction and attendance at Harlow, for the courses, will be:

B4910	1 st May - 12 th May 2006
B4911	15 th May - 26 th May 2006

It is expected that the main group will leave St. John's for Heathrow on the 28th or 29th April 2006, the date chosen will depend on seat availability. Return to St. John's (for the main group) will likely be 27th May 2006. Spaces on these courses will be limited, and a deposit of \$100 will be expected. This deposit will not be returned if a student cancels, except for duly authenticated and unanticipated serious medical (or similar) problems.

COSTS

It is not possible yet to give firm costs, but the following gives estimates for travel, accommodation and the programme fee, based on projections. Travel insurance should also be obtained, and medical coverage double-checked before travelling.

Please note that the exchange rate British Pound (GBP) to the Canadian Dollar, fluctuates, and this will affect accommodation costs, and our calculations for site visits from Harlow. Currently the exchange rate is very favourable but we cannot assume it will remain so.

Estimated costs to students (normal registration fees will also apply):

Airfare (taxes included)	\$ 800
Programme fee* (to be approved)	\$ 275 (B4910)
	\$ 375 (B4911)

Accommodation (per two week course, sharing a room) GBP 183-201**

This amount will translate into Canadian dollars at the exchange rate operating in May 2006; recently it has been as high as \$2.5 to GBP1, currently very low, at \$2.1 to GBP1.

*covers travel to and from Heathrow if the students travels with the group, entrance fees where applicable and field or site-visit travel

**depends on room size

ANY STUDENT INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ONE OR BOTH COURSES SHOULD SIGN UP AT THE BIOLOGY OFFICE, GIVING STUDENT NAME, STUDENT #, AND CLEAR CONTACT INFORMATION (TELEPHONE AND EMAIL)

BIOLOGY COURSES AT HARLOW 2006

The two attached sheets give the timetable for B4910 and B4911 taught earlier this year. They are for illustrative purposes only, and although next year's courses will likely be similar in structure they will differ in detail; site visits, for B4911 in particular, may be quite different.

The objectives of the two courses at Harlow are given below, following which there will be information about this year's site visits, to give some understanding of the scope achieved.

The deposit (\$100) for the courses will be expected during the Winter Semester.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Introduce Biology students to a wide range of scientific material not available in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Provide a balance in visits to museums, live collections, urban and rural locations.

Encourage discussion and independent study.

Expose students to new ideas and experiences.

Build students' understanding of opportunities available in the biological field.

Enhance students' professional skills.

B4910

Study vertebrate diversity on a global and local scale, including extant and extinct species.

Study vertebrate adaptations for survival and success, in a wide variety of habitats.

Note: Harlow offers unique opportunities for this scale of study

B4911

Study the breadth and scope of applied biology in a modern-day context, including:

-Issues associated with conservation in a densely populated region, its management, and the range of governmental and non-governmental agencies involved, e.g.* Parndon reserve (Local Nature Reserve), Epping Forest (Field Studies Council), Minsmere reserve (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), Wakehurst/Kew (Royal Horticultural Society).

-Biomedical applications, e.g.* London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Fleming Museum

-Commercial applications, e.g. *Ashlyn's Organic Farm, Chelsea flower show.

*examples from 2005

Site visits B4910 (2005) included museums (The Natural History Museums at South Kensington and Tring) which exhibit respectively very good collections of extinct and extant vertebrates, Epping forest for live amphibia and reptiles, The Zoological Gardens and Wildlife park at Regent's Park and Whipsnade to see (mainly terrestrial) live vertebrates and the London Aquarium to see live aquatic vertebrates. Zoogeography, animal colouration and morphological/functional adaptations were high-lighted. The class also visited Down House, Charles Darwin's home which gives interesting background to the development of his evolutionary theory, underlying the diversity and adaptation of vertebrates.

Sites visited for B4911 included British mammal captive breeding at Wildwood (Kent), a major wildlife reserve in Suffolk (Minsmere) which concentrates on coastal bird habitat, and ancient woodlands (Parndon, Loder at Wakehurst) as well as part of the Lee River Valley conservation area. Penicillin's discovery was well described at the Fleming museum, and the development of counter-measures to global diseases like malaria was a theme at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The very important Millenium seedbank at Wakehurst was also visited.

Arrive Harlow Sunday May 1st: Show students shops etc. Note May 2nd is a Bank-Holiday and there is no evening meal provided on campus.

Week 1

B4910

- Monday May 2nd Harlow (Bird-walk pm)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Tuesday May 3rd Natural History Museum, South Kensington (Train/tube)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Wednesday May 4th Harlow
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Thursday May 5th Regent's Park Zoo, London (Train/tube)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Friday May 6th Down House, Kent (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 8am
Bus leaves Down at 2.00pm

Optional

- Saturday May 7th Visit to London (Students will pay for own travelcard, no other expenses envisaged).

Week 2

B4910

- Monday May 9th Tring, The Rothschild collection (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
Bus leaves Tring at 3.30pm
- Tuesday May 10th London Aquarium (Train/tube)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Wednesday May 11th Epping (FSC minibus)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Thursday May 12th Whipsnade (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
Bus leaves Whipsnade at 4pm
- Friday May 13th Harlow, wrap-up

Week 3**B4911**

- Monday May 16th Harlow (Tree-walk p.m.)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Tuesday May 17th Harlow/Parndon
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
Parndon wood 2pm (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 1.30pm
- Wednesday May 18th Wildwood, Kent (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 7am
- Thursday May 19th Lee River, Essex (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Friday May 20th London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Train/tube)
Students meet faculty main desk 9.30am

Week 4**B4911**

- Monday May 23rd Minsmere, Suffolk (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 8am
- Tuesday May 24th Ashlyn's organic farm, Essex (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 9.30am
- Wednesday May 25th Wakehurst, Sussex (Bus)
Students meet faculty main desk 7.30am
- Thursday May 26th Fleming museum am/Chelsea Flower show pm (Train/tube)
Students meet faculty main desk 9am
- Friday May 27th Harlow, wrap-up
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- Saturday May 28th Leave Harlow

BIOLOGY COURSES AT HARLOW 2006

B4910 Vertebrate Diversity and Adaptation *May 1st – May 12th 2006

For this course it is preferable to have completed B2210, Biology of Vertebrates

B4911 Field Course in Applied Biology May 15th – May 26th 2006*

For this course it is preferable to have completed the second year Biology core

*Recommended travel times from St. John's April 28th or 29th (TBA), returning May 27th

Details available from the Biology Office

ANY STUDENT INTERESTED IN TAKING EITHER OR BOTH OF THE BIOLOGY COURSES AT HARLOW IN MAY 2006 SHOULD

- a) SIGN UP AT THE BIOLOGY OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
- b) PAY THE DEPOSIT OF \$100 AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WINTER SEMESTER, PREFERABLY BEFORE JANUARY 31st 2006, BUT NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 21st 2006.
- c) NOTE THE DEPOSIT OF \$100 IS NON-REFUNDABLE IF THE STUDENT WITHDRAWS EXCEPT FOR DULY AUTHENTICATED AND UNANTICIPATABLE SERIOUS MEDICAL OR FAMILY REASONS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK AT THE BIOLOGY OFFICE OR EMAIL (Biology Office, wmcevoy@mun.ca or the Drs Burton, burton@mun.ca or Dr Murray Colbo mcolbo@mun.ca)