

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

ORIENTATION SPEECH – 2020/2021

BACKGROUND

The Department of Life Sciences is one of the five departments in the Faculty of Science Technology and Environmental studies (FSTES) of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT). The Department aims to educate informed citizens, biologists, future teachers, and the next generation of biomedical researchers and practitioners.

The department of Life Sciences offers the following programmes: Bachelor of Science General (B.Sc. Gen), Bachelor of Science with education (B.Sc. Ed.), Postgraduate Programmes (M.Sc and PhD in Biological Sciences), and Non-Degree Programmes: Certificate and Diploma in Poultry Production and Health.

Further information on Life Sciences Programmes and its admission procedures could be obtained from the faculty handbook, University prospectus and/or by physical visit to the nearby OUT regional centre or at our temporary Headquarters, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam as well as through department webpage: <https://www.out.ac.tz/deptlifesciences/>

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

1. Bachelor of Science General (B.Sc. Gen.)
2. Bachelor of Science with education (B.Sc. Ed.)

1. Bachelor of Science General

A student admitted to pursue B.Sc. General will have to do a combination of two subjects out of the following subjects namely Biology, Zoology, and Botany, specializing more in one subject and take the other as a minor. Further details about the courses under these subjects could be obtained in the University Prospectus and faculty handbook.

B.Sc. General students must successfully complete **36 units** to be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science - General. These units shall be obtained as follow: at least 20 units from prescribed **CORE** courses in a major subject; at least 12 units from prescribed **CORE** courses in a minor subject; 1 unit from OCP 100 course (i.e. Introduction to Microcomputer studies and information Technology I); 1 unit from OFP 017 course (i.e. Communication Skills); and 2 units from any of the elective courses in the major or minor subjects.

Bachelor of Science with Education

B.Sc. Ed. graduates are expected to work as teachers in secondary schools, tutors in colleges and can progress to postgraduate programmes (M.Sc. and PhD) in various areas in Biological Sciences or Education.

A student doing B.Sc. Ed. will have to take a combination of two teaching subjects out of the following subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. From a Life Sciences standpoint, a B.Sc. Ed. student is supposed to do the following teaching subjects; Biology and Chemistry or Biology and Physics. These subjects are detailed under the section titled “B.Sc. Education” within the University Prospectus.

B.Sc. Ed. students must successfully complete **38 units** to be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science with Education. These units shall be obtained as follows: 12 units from the first teaching subject, including **ALL** prescribed **CORE** units; 12 units from the second teaching subject, including **ALL** prescribed **CORE** units; 12 units from education courses; 1 unit from OCP 100 course (i.e. Introduction to Microcomputer studies and information Technology I); and 1 unit from OFP 017 course (i.e. Communication Skills).

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Regardless of a degree programme one is pursuing, it is a mandatory requirement for all students in the department of Life Sciences to conduct an independent research project (Special Project) and attend Science Practical Sessions.

- 1. Special Project:** A student should conduct a Special Project of his/her own choice under the guidance of a supervisor from OUT who is an expert in the field or a supervisor from any other reputable institution within or outside the country. Students are advised to allow at least 8-10 months for conducting special project prior to the anticipated completion of their degree

programmes. For those, intending to work with a supervisor(s) from outside OUT they must first inform the Head of Department of Life Sciences for approval.

- 2. Science Practical:** All students taking Biology courses should attend 3-week-long science practical sessions each academic year for up to 3 years. The sessions are held at the Kinondoni Regional Centre, DSM. However, further information regarding date, timetable and other arrangements are communicated to our students by the Faculty-Science Practical Coordinator through our regional centres.

NON-DEGREES COURSES

1. Certificate courses in Poultry Production and Health
2. Diploma courses in poultry Production and Health.

These courses are also offered by distance/blended mode of delivery. Students get access to the course materials after paying at least the first installment of the annual tuition fee. The study materials are prepared in a house-style which is suited for distance learners such that they are stimulating and thought provoking for learners.

Moreover, students are required to attend practical sessions at designated established institutions as well as field attachments to designated poultry farms and enterprises. Furthermore, students are required to attend face to face sessions designed in such a way that students can get direct assistance from their tutors as well as raising any concerns/challenges with respect to their study.

STAFF LIST AND THEIR CONTACTS

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