

Botany

Botany is the scientific study of plants—commonly also known as plant science or plant biology. Traditionally, Botany has also included the study of fungi (mycology) and embraces everything from molecular biology/biotechnology, through whole organism biology to ecology and evolution.

Plants are a vital component of the biosphere and are responsible for the environmental conditions essential for all life on earth. Current international concerns about rising atmospheric carbon dioxide and global warming highlight the importance of understanding how plants respond to climate change. Understanding the way in which plants cope with environmental stress is also an important consideration for crop production in many regions of the world. Plants are also the main-stay of human diets and they provide medicines, timber, paper and clothing, as well as a diverse range of raw materials. Increasingly, plants are being exploited as a basis for bioenergy and biofuel production.

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Careers

Botany graduates pursue such diverse careers as environmental consultants, pollution biologists, molecular geneticists, cell biologists, wildlife officers, national park supervisors, conservation officers, University lecturers, teachers and research scientists in third level or industrial institutions. Many of our graduates also find employment in areas not directly related to their degree, but in which the training in scientific thinking and analysis they have acquired, is of benefit to their chosen career.

The recent upsurge in employment and the increased funding in the Science and Technology sector as a whole, provide a bright future for graduates who wish to use the skills gained in their degree in Ireland. The increasing demands of environmental and conservation legislation, the expansion of the research infrastructure and increasing opportunities for research and development within the pharmaceutical and medical sectors, form the backdrop for teaching developments within the School.

