

Natural Sciences Tripos, Part III: Entry requirements 2023-24

The Committee of Management for the Natural Sciences Tripos, in consultation with the Faculty Boards of Physics and Chemistry, Biology, Earth Sciences and Geography, and the Board of History and Philosophy of Science, has defined the standards required for entry to each subject of Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos (see Regulation 5(a) for the Tripos (***Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 419**)), **with effect from the courses commencing in the academical year 2023-24**, as follows:

Astrophysics

In order to be a candidate for honours in Astrophysics in Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos, a student should have obtained at least a II.1 in Astrophysics or Physics, or in Part II of the Mathematics Tripos. Candidates will be considered on a case-by-case basis so that it can be ascertained that they have a good grasp of at least three appropriate applied mathematics courses in the examination.

Biochemistry

In order to be a candidate for honours in Biochemistry in Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos, a student should have obtained at least a II.1 in Biochemistry in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos.

Chemistry

In order to be a candidate for honours in Chemistry in Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos, a student should have obtained at least a II.1 in Chemistry in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos.

Earth Sciences

In order to be a candidate for honours in Earth Sciences in Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos, a student should normally:

- Either* have obtained at least a II.1 in Earth Sciences in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos;
- Or* have obtained a II.1 in Part II Physical Sciences with at least 70% in Half Subject Earth Sciences

Materials Science

In order to be a candidate for honours in Materials Science in Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos, a student should have obtained at least a II.1 in Materials Science in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos.

History and Philosophy of Science

In order to be a candidate for honours in History and Philosophy of Science in Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos, a student should have obtained at least a II.1 in History and Philosophy of Science in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos.

Students who have not taken History and Philosophy of Science in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These students should have obtained at least a high II.1 overall class in Part II.

Physics

In order to be a candidate for honours in Physics in Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos a student should have obtained at least a II.1 in Physics in Part II.

Students who have not taken Physics in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos (for example, those who have read Part II of the Mathematical Tripos, Part II Astrophysics, or Part II Physical Sciences Half Subject Physics) will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These students should usually have obtained at least a high II.1 overall class in Part II and have covered an appropriate range of courses in physics.

Systems Biology

In order to be a candidate for honours in Systems Biology in Part III of the Natural Sciences Tripos: a student should:

- Either* have obtained at least 55% in either Mathematics or Mathematical Biology in Part IA of the Natural Sciences Tripos;
- Or* have obtained at least 55% in Mathematics in Part IB of the Natural Sciences Tripos
- Or* have obtained at least 55% overall in Part IB of the Mathematical Tripos

And (2) have obtained at least a II.1 in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos or Mathematical Tripos. The subject choices taken in Parts I and II will be taken into consideration alongside the application statement and results achieved to date when making provisional decisions.

All subjects

In addition to the standards mentioned above, candidates should have fulfilled any subject prerequisites as outlined in the appropriate programme specification.

The application process for each subject is defined on the subject webpage together with details of any constraints on numbers or additional information that may be required.

Consideration of special cases

A student who has not met the required standard or who has not offered the required subjects as specified above, or who has not complied with the published deadline for receipt of applications, may request consideration as a special case. A request for special consideration should be forwarded by the student's Director of Studies or Tutor to the Secretary of the relevant Faculty Board using the pro forma provided, at the earliest opportunity and, at the latest, within two weeks of the results being announced. The Director of Studies or Tutor should state the reasons for requesting dispensation, confirm that the College supports the request and is able to support the student, and believes that the student will be capable of undertaking the Part III course successfully. The application must be accompanied by copies of supervision reports, and a detailed breakdown of the student's marks, year by year and subject by subject. The Committee nominated by the Faculty Board to consider special cases is not expected to consider circumstances of a nature on which the Examinations Access and Mitigation Committee would normally make a judgement.

Representations regarding progression decisions are allowed for under the review procedure for examinations for undergraduate and certain other qualifications.