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http://www.biology.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/nst/bbs
1. Introduction

The aim of NST Part II Biological and Biomedical Sciences (called NST Part II BBS) is to provide a rigorous and intellectually challenging alternative to a single biological Part II subject for both third year Natural Scientists and Medical and Veterinary Science students.

NST Part II BBS allows students to maintain some breadth in their study at Part II, rather than specialising in a single subject, and requires the submission of a dissertation rather than a practical laboratory-based research project.

NST Part II BBS is therefore suited to Natural Science students who wish to pursue career paths in, for example, teaching, management or consultancy, rather than those who wish to continue in a research career. It is also suited to Medical and Veterinary Science students who wish to remain in the Faculty of Biology at Part II, but who do not wish to take a single subject NST Part II.

Additional information about the course is available on the Faculty of Biology website at:

http://www.biology.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/nst/bbs

2. Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

Aims: The course aims to:

- provide a route for students who would prefer to follow a broader biological curriculum than that offered in single subject Part II courses
- provide an education of the highest calibre in biosciences, leading to graduates of the quality sought by the medical and veterinary professions, the public service, industry and teaching
- provide an intellectually stimulating and challenging learning environment in which students have the opportunity to develop their skills and interests to the best of their potential
- provide training in scientific principles and experience in evaluation of research
- contribute to the national need for practitioners and leaders in the medical and veterinary professions

Learning Outcomes: The course will provide:

- advanced, in depth, understanding of the core principles and their experimental basis of a chosen Major Subject
- additional advanced understanding of the more limited area of a chosen Minor Subject
- experience of independent work, including an introduction to aspects of scientific research skills
- development of skills in analysis of arguments and data from research papers
- development of skills of reasoned argument in written and oral presentations of scientific investigations
- verbal and written communication skills
3. **Course Management**

NST Part II BBS is managed by the Biological Sciences Committee for the Faculty of Biology.

The overall Course Coordinator is Dr Catherine Linden, who is a member of the Department of Pharmacology. The administration of the course is undertaken by Dr Chad Pillinger in the Faculty Board Office, which is located at 17 Mill Lane. If you have any administrative problems with the course, which cannot be solved within a particular department or by your College Director of Studies, please contact the Faculty Office (tel: (7)66899 or FacBiol@admin.cam.ac.uk).

In addition, Departmental Course Organisers are responsible for the detailed arrangements of the individual Major and Minor Subjects. A current list of Departmental Course Organisers, together with their contact details, are available on the Part II BBS web site.

**You should contact the Course Organiser for the Major/Minor Subject if you need any information about the arrangements of lectures, dissertations or examinations.**

Departments will provide the same infrastructure for student support, departmental access, use of facilities, and supervision arrangements as they provide for their single subject students.

4. **Course Structure**

The course has three main components

- a ‘Major’ Subject, which will typically draw on the core teaching of a single Part II subject, but may draw on modules offered by more than one department. The ‘Major’ Subject will involve a minimum of 96 contact hours (excluding supervisions)

- a ‘Minor’ Subject, normally provided by another department, which will involve 24-30 contact hours (excluding supervisions)

- a dissertation of up to 6,000 words

5. **Dissertations**

You will be required to write a dissertation on a topic related to either your Major or Minor Subject, of up to 6,000 words excluding appendices, tables, figures, footnotes and bibliography. You will be required to submit your title (chosen from a list offered by the Departmental Course Organiser or suggested by you) by Division of Michaelmas Full Term. Your title is approved by your Supervisor the Departmental Course Organiser, and then returned to the Faculty Office for final approval by the BBS Course Coordinator, who will also establish that all students taking the course have submitted an appropriate title. Your dissertations must be submitted to the Departmental Course Organiser by the first Friday of the Easter Full Term.

The purpose of the dissertation is to give you an opportunity to produce a substantial piece of original work. It should be an extended account of a topic or question that lies broadly within the field of either your Major or Minor Subject. In producing your dissertation, you will be expected to show skills in researching primary literature, critically evaluating published information, and marshalling arguments to produce a structured critical assessment of a defined topic. Detailed guidance for both students and supervisors is available on the BBS website.

You can expect to receive a maximum of four supervisions with your Dissertation Supervisor to provide guidance on your dissertation.
6. **Major and Minor Subjects and Permissible Combinations**

The Major Subjects (Papers 402 - 428) and the Minor Subjects (Papers 103 - 129) available in 2017-18 are shown on the following tables.

The permissible combinations of Major Subjects and Minor Subjects are also shown. Please note that subjects and combinations offered are subject to change - these will be detailed in the *Reporter*.

*You will need to consult the Department or Reporter Lecture List for detailed timetables when they are published.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Major Subjects</th>
<th>Permissible Minor Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>402</td>
<td>Pathology (A &amp; B)</td>
<td>103 105 107 108 109 111 113 114 116 118 119 120 122 123 124 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>403</td>
<td>Pathology (A &amp; C)</td>
<td>104 105 107 108 109 111 113 114 116 118 119 120 123 124 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>404</td>
<td>Pathology (A &amp; D)</td>
<td>104 105 107 108 109 111 113 114 116 117 118 119 120 122 123 124 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>405</td>
<td>Pathology (B &amp; C)</td>
<td>105 107 108 109 111 113 114 116 118 119 120 122 123 124 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>406</td>
<td>Pathology (B &amp; D)</td>
<td>103 105 106 107 108 109 111 113 114 116 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>407</td>
<td>Pathology (C &amp; D)</td>
<td>104 105 107 108 109 111 113 114 116 117 118 119 120 122 123 124 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>408</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>104 107 108 109 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 122 123 125 126 127 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>409</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>107 115 124 125 — Students may choose additional Minor Subjects that do not have lecture clashes with the Psychology modules chosen — please consult the relevant lecture timetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>411</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>104 109 113 114 122 128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Maximum 7 candidates</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>412</td>
<td>Plant Sciences</td>
<td>105 106 107 108 109 115 116 118 119 121 122 124 125 127 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>(Cellular— M1, M2, L1, L3)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>413</td>
<td>Plant Sciences</td>
<td>104 105 106 107 108 109 111 113 114 118 121 122 124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>(Ecology—M3 and Zoology M2, L2 and Zoology L4)</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Major Subjects</td>
<td>Permissible Minor Subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>414</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>104 105 107 108 109 113 114 115 116 118 122 125 127 128 129 (a fifth Genetics module can be taken as a Minor Subject)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>415</td>
<td>Physiology, Development &amp; Neuroscience</td>
<td>Students may choose Minor Subjects that do not have lecture clashes with their chosen PDN modules - Please consult the relevant lecture timetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>424</td>
<td>Pathology (B&amp;E)</td>
<td>103 104 107 108 109 113 114 116 118 122 123 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>425</td>
<td>Pathology (C&amp;E)</td>
<td>104 107 108 109 113 114 116 117 118 122 123 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>426</td>
<td>Pathology (D&amp;E)</td>
<td>103 104 107 108 109 113 114 116 117 118 122 123 126 128 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>427</td>
<td>Zoology (Choose 2 from Zoology Modules M1 to M8 or Plant Sciences M3, and 2 from L1 to L7 or Genetics Module 5)</td>
<td>Maximum 25 candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>428</td>
<td>Psychology, Neuroscience &amp; Behaviour</td>
<td>Students may choose Minor Subjects that do not have lecture clashes with their chosen Psychology, Neuroscience &amp; Behaviour modules - Please consult the relevant lecture timetables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Minor Subjects</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-------</td>
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<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Health and Disease (HSPS Paper BAN8) <em>(Maximum 20 candidates)</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Human Evolution and Palaeolithic Archaeology (HSPS Paper BAN3) <em>(Maximum 20 candidates)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Behavioural Ecology and Adaption (HSPS Paper BAN2) <em>(Maximum 20 candidates)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Neural Degeneration and Regeneration (PDN Module N5) <em>(Maximum 15 candidates)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Philosophy &amp; Ethics of Medicine (History &amp; Philosophy of Science) <em>(Maximum 50 candidates)</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Health, Medicine, and Society (HSPS Paper Soc 13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>The Family (Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Paper 11) - Limited Spaces</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Central Mechanisms of Reward, Punishment and Emotion (PDN Module N6) <em>(Maximum 15 candidates)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Early Medicine (History &amp; Philosophy of Science Part II Paper 2) <em>(Maximum 12 candidates)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Modern Medicine &amp; Biomedical Sciences (History &amp; Philosophy of Science Part II Paper 5) <em>(Maximum 12 candidates)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Psychology of Education (Education Studies Tripos Part II) <em>(Maximum 10 candidates)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Sociology of Education (Education Studies Tripos Part II)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Minor Subjects</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Philosophy of Education (Education Studies Tripos Part II)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>History of Education (Education Studies Tripos Part II)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Plant and Microbial Genetics (Genetics Module 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Human Genetics (Genetics Module 4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Evolutionary Genetics (Genetics Module 5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>ETECH Project in Entrepreneurship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Development and Psychopathology (Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Paper 8 - Limited Spaces)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Psychology and Social Issues (Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Paper 9) - Limited Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Gender Development: Biological, Psychological and Clinical Perspectives (Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Paper 10) - Limited Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Exploring Music Psychology (Music Part II Paper 17) (<em>Maximum 3 candidate – candidates must demonstrate some musical knowledge to be permitted to study this option</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Conservation Science (Zoology Module M2) (<em>not available to students taking Zoology Module M2 as a Major Subject</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Bioinformatics (<em>Maximum 46 candidates</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>General Practrice and Primary Care Research (<em>Maximum 8 candidates</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further Minor Subject information is available at the NST Part II BBS website at: [http://www.biology.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/nst/bbs/subject-combinations](http://www.biology.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/nst/bbs/subject-combinations)
7. **Course Descriptions by Department**

Detailed course descriptions are available on the web and in course handbooks: the following brief outline gives a basic introduction to course content.

7.1 **Pathology**

The department offers one Major Subject.

*Papers 402 - 407 & 424 - 426 Pathology*

Students are able to take various combinations of the single subject modules:

- Module A  
  Cancer and Genetic Diseases
- Module B  
  Immunology
- Module C  
  Microbiology and Parasitology
- Module D  
  Virology
- Module E  
  Dynamics of Infectious Diseases

[http://www.path.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/third_year/NST-PartII-BBS](http://www.path.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/third_year/NST-PartII-BBS)
7.2 Pharmacology

The department offers one Major Subject.

**Paper 408 Pharmacology**

Students follow the same lectures as for the single subject. The course is divided into two sections which typically covers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Systems Pharmacology</th>
<th>Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology of Transporting Epithelia</td>
<td>Signalling by Cyclic AMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Pharmacology</td>
<td>G-Protein Coupled Receptors &amp; G Proteins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol and Diabetes</td>
<td>Ca(^{2+}) Signalling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreatic Islet and Gut Hormones</td>
<td>Ca(^{2+}) Signalling in The Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammation and Angiogenesis</td>
<td>Adipose Tissue Development and Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circadian Rhythms in Pharmacology</td>
<td>Inositide Signalling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology of Psychiatric Disorders</td>
<td>Voltage-Gated Ion channels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Discovery</td>
<td>Synaptic Mechanisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem Cells</td>
<td>Nociception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombosis and G Protein-Coupled Receptors</td>
<td>Glutamatergic Transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension, NO and Endothelium</td>
<td>Cys-Loop Family of Ligand-Gated Ion Channels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Therapies</td>
<td>Molecular Aspects of Multidrug Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Protein Folding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cell Cycle and Ubiquitination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulation of Transcription</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information see:

[http://www.phar.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/bbs](http://www.phar.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/bbs)
7.3 Psychology

The department offers one Major Subject.

Paper 409 Psychology

Students take the same lectures and exam papers as for the single subject. The course provides students with the conceptual tools and background knowledge required to understand developments in the sciences of mind and brain, including appreciation of the range of behavioural and physiological sources of evidence and multiple levels of theoretical analysis.

The examination format is as follows:

Paper 1 is subdivided into three sections:

- Statistics;
- Methodology and experimental design;
- Essay questions that address conceptual and historical issues.

Papers 2, 3, and 4 are divided into one section each

- Section A. Cognitive and Experimental Psychology (Paper 2);
- Section B. Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience (Paper 3);

Each Section contains several lecture courses that range from 4 to 24 lectures in length, with all lectures taking place in the Michaelmas and Lent terms only.

*Students must have taken MVST Part IB or NST Part IB Experimental Psychology to take this Major Subject.*

http://www.psychol.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/ug/nst-ii/info
7.4 Biochemistry

The department offers one Major Subject.

**Paper 411 Biochemistry**

The course is grouped into four 24 lecture modules, one of which has a branched structure to provide internal choice. In addition there is a series of methods and skills sessions and students are expected to attend the Departmental Research Seminar Series.

Module A: Structural and Chemical Biology  
Module B: From Genome to Proteome  
Module C: Stem - The Dynamic Cell  
   plus either:  
   Branch 1 - Bioenergy OR  
   Branch 2 - Molecular Microbiology of Infectious Disease  
Module D: Cell Cycle, Signalling and Cancer

Methods and Skills classes: These feature key methods such as bioinformatics. Also included are data handling classes using past examination papers as core material to study approaches to data analysis and interpretation. Teaching of transferable laboratory and communication skills (such as graphic illustration, record keeping, data analysis, database searching and essay and report writing) are embedded in the course.

For more information see:

[http://www.bioc.cam.ac.uk/teaching/third-year/biochemistry/part-ii-biochemistry](http://www.bioc.cam.ac.uk/teaching/third-year/biochemistry/part-ii-biochemistry)
7.5 Plant Sciences

The department offers two Major Subjects.

**Paper 412 Plant Sciences - Cellular**

This comprises modules M1, M2, L1 and L3 from the single subject:

- M1 Plant Signalling
- M2 Microbes: Evolution, Genomes and lifestyle
- L1 Genomics, Epigenetics and Synthetic Biology
- L3 Frontiers in Plant Metabolism: a focus on food and fuel security

**Paper 413 Plant Sciences - Ecological**

This comprises M3 with Zoology M2 and L2 with Zoology L4

- M3 Evolution and Ecosystem Dynamics
- Zoology M2 Conservation Science
- L2 Responses to Global Change
- Zoology L4 Applied Ecology

[http://www.plantsci.cam.ac.uk/teaching/plants](http://www.plantsci.cam.ac.uk/teaching/plants)
7.6 Genetics

The department offers one Major Subject.

**Paper 414 Genetics**

Students take four of the five modules offered for the single subject:

- Module 1 Chromosomes and the Cell Cycle
- Module 2 Plant and Microbial Genetics
- Module 3 Developmental Genetics
- Module 4 Human Genetics, Genomics and Systems Biology
- Module 5 Evolutionary Genetics

The fifth module may be offered as a Minor Subject by students taking Major Subject Genetics. Modules 2, 4 and 5 are offered as Minor Subjects to students who are not taking Major Subject Genetics.

[http://www.gen.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/nst2-genetics-overview](http://www.gen.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/nst2-genetics-overview)
7.7 **Physiology, Development and Neuroscience**

The department offers one Major Subject.

**Paper 415  Physiology, Development and Neuroscience - Physiology & Development**

Choose *any* four modules from:

**Michaelmas:**
- N1 Developmental Neurobiology
- N2 Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience
- N4 Sensory Transduction
- P1 Cellular Physiology
- P3 Fetal & Placental Physiology
- P4 Development: Patterning the Embryo
- P9 Cell Assembly and Interactions

**Lent:**
- N3 Control of Action
- N5 Neural Degeneration and Regeneration
- N6 Central Mechanisms of Reward, Punishment and Emotion
- N7 Local Circuits and Neural Networks
- P2 Pluripotency and Differentiation
- P5 Bioinformatics
- P6 Development: Cell Differentiation & Organogenesis
- P7 Pathophysiology of Cancer
- P8 Systems and Clinical Physiology

Students must specify which 4 modules they intend to take.

If a student chooses Minor Subject 106, 111 or 128, they may not take that module for their Major Subject.

[http://www.pdn.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate-I/part-ii-courses](http://www.pdn.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate-I/part-ii-courses)
7.8 Zoology

The department offers a single Major Subject made up of modules offered in the single subject, and some modules offered by Plant Sciences and Genetics.

**Paper 427 Zoology**

Two modules from

- Module M1 Topics in Vertebrate Evolution
- Module M2 Conservation Science
- Module M3 Human Evolutionary Ecology
- Module M4 Neuroethology: The Neural Basis of Adaptive Behaviour
- Module M5 Evolution and Behaviour: Genes and Individuals
- Module M6 Cell Assembly and Interactions
- Module M7 From Genome to Proteome
- Module M8 Development: Patterning the Embryo

Plant Sciences M3 Evolution and Ecosystem Dynamics

and two from

- Module L1 Mammalian Evolution and Faunal History
- Module L2 Responses to Global Change
- Module L3 Evolution and Behaviour: Populations and Societies
- Module L4 Applied Ecology
- Module L5 Genetics, Development and Animal Diversity
- Module L6 Development: Cell Differentiation and Organogenesis
- Module L7 Cell Cycle, Signalling and Cancer
- Genetics Module 5 Evolutionary Genetics

A limited number of module combinations are not possible. Please check the timetable at:

[https://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/NST-II-Zoology/modules](https://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/NST-II-Zoology/modules)
7.9 Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour

The department offers a single Major Subject made up of modules offered by Psychology, PDN and Zoology.

Paper 428 Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour

Choose any four modules from a total of no fewer than 10 modules, which will be offered by the Departments of Psychology, PDN and Zoology.

If a student chooses Minor Subject 106 or 111, they may not take that module for their Major Subject.

Full timetable information for all Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour modules is not yet available. Updates will be published online and in the Reporter as further information becomes available.

Timetables & combinations subject to change. Please check website - http://www.natsci.tripos.cam.ac.uk/subject-information/part2/neurosci
8. **Registration Procedure**

Registration for NST Part II BBS is through the Part II Allocations Procedure used by biological departments for selection of students. You can indicate your preferred choice of department directly through the on-line portal in CamSIS, specifying that you wish to take the NST Part II BBS (dissertation) route. Details are available on the NST Part II website at:

http://www.natsci.tripos.cam.ac.uk/students/third/ii-subject-allocation

*The deadline for submission of choices through CamSIS is 8 May 2017*

9. **Examinations**

The maximum marks allocated for the course components are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Subject</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Subject</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The papers offered will normally be the same as those for the single Major Subject. For most Minor Subjects the paper is borrowed from another Tripos. There is a separate class list for NST Part II BBS.

The Faculty Board’s marking criteria are available on the web at:

https://www.biology.cam.ac.uk/exams/raven/markings-diss

10. **Student Support**

The department in which you are taking your Major Subject will be designated as your “home” department. If your Major Subject comprises modules offered by more than one department, one of these departments will be assigned as your “home”; this will usually be the department in which you are doing your dissertation. As an NST Part II BBS student you will have access to the same resources and support in your home department as single subject NST Part II students.