

School of Biological Sciences

ALTERNATIVE

PROSPECTUS



University of  
Leicester

## A low-angle photograph of a tall, modern building with a glass facade and a red brick base, set against a blue sky with white clouds. The building is viewed from below, looking up, emphasizing its height. The glass facade reflects the sky and clouds. The red brick base is visible in the foreground.



## “The Alternative Prospectus for Biological Sciences”

- The Courses
- The University
- Accommodation





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***Tony Large-it (Legend)  
The resident DJ!***



***Fun and photos  
with friends!***

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# Teaching and Learning

It could be the winning smiles, it could be the flawless beauty of our students (hmmm?), it could be the 500 cans of beer stacked precariously in a pyramid in my room, but I feel it might be something else.



This recognition is probably due to the hard work and effort, not only by our lecturers, but also by our students, who always aim to improve the way in which we are taught.



You may have discerned from the title of this section that is going to be based a little bit on your teaching and learning. The process in which you attempt to cram loads of information into the indescribable workings of the student mind, often in a very short space of time! Only in the hope that you can one day remember that vital fact when you need it and not an hour later!

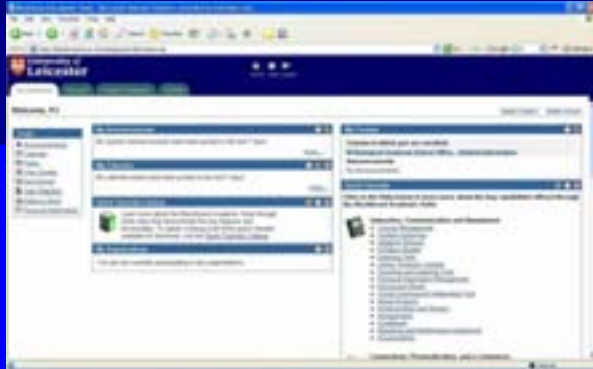
Well Leicester seems to be pretty good at this, not only has the University been ranked very highly by the students that have studied here in the national students survey, but the government standards people seem to like our style to.

*"So how am I actually taught?" I hear you yell! "Stop telling us how you're so great and tell us how we are taught!"*



- It's simple take 55 students put them in a lecture theatre and talk at them for an hour at a time whilst they fall asleep one by one. Wrong! Here we do it slightly differently.

# Teaching and Learning



**“All of the laboratories have been refurbished and now offer a fantastic experimental and learning environment!”**



## Lectures

These still take place, and you still have to listen. You can expect to have around 16 hours of lectures a week in your first year, which decreases gradually over the next two years. However, that's not the only way you while away your time.

## Blackboard

...Is an online learning environment in which you can access all the slides that lecturers put up during their lectures. Meaning if you're really organised you can print out the lecture before you go and make notes on the slides (clever, huh!?). It also provides a place for the submission of work and sometimes even some assessments themselves. Loads of vital information is on Blackboard. It is also a means to contact anyone on your course.

Along side this there are also:

## Seminars/ Tutorials

Though these are compulsory and registered, they are more informal sessions usually held in a classroom. You can ask questions and discuss ideas with the lecturers and your classmates.



## Drop in Sessions

These are non-compulsory sessions designed to allow you to bring specific problems to a tutor. They are usually before the seminar and are extremely useful.

Finally, if all else fails or even if you just want a chat, everyone is assigned a personal tutor!

## Personal Tutors

This is a member of staff who is someone you can always rely on for any issue academic or not. They provide a great deal of support when you need it, and can often become more like a friend. If you are having problems with the course or any area of life, your personal tutor is always there to point you in the right direction.



# Courses



The School offers 10 degree courses:

- Biological Sciences C100
- Biological Sciences (Biochemistry) C700
- Biological Sciences (Genetics) C400
- Biological Sciences (Microbiology) C500
- Biological Sciences (Physiology & Pharmacology) B1B2
- Biological Sciences (Zoology) C300
- Medical Biochemistry C720
- Medical Genetics C440
- Medical Physiology B120
- MBiol Sci C000

All the courses above allow for module choices from the second year, giving you the freedom to study what you want!

Spent too much time looking at course specifics? Well this is the prospectus for you! Leicester offers a range of courses within biological sciences, but I can guarantee that they all include learning how things grow, live and die. Other than that the differences are down to you. Leicester runs a module based system where each module counts for a certain number of credits. This means that from your 2nd year you choose what you study!

**TIP:** If you don't like coursework, then don't do the modules that are over 65% coursework. Makes sense right?

Modules also mean there are two exam periods in each year January and June, kind of like your A levels.

Year 1:

The first year of any of the courses here aim to bring you and your class mates up to the same speed, so depending on what you studied at A level you may find some parts easy and some a little more challenging! The overall aim is for you to achieve 40% or more in each module and be allowed to continue into your second and third years.

Lectures normally start around 9:30am and finish at either 4:30 or 5:30. "WHAT!" I hear you say; well yes and no. There are breaks throughout the day for you to relax, an hour here, another there! But here's the best thing, use that free time to do your essays and projects; unlike many other students you will find loads of time in the evenings and weekends to have fun!

"How?" I hear you asking. Well, whilst you are working hard at University during the day, the arts students haven't even got out of bed yet, and therefore haven't done any work either. So deadline days come round and no surprises they're up all night every night for a week writing and reading. But the demigod status that we scientists hold means we are able to go out, play sports, and just chill out whilst the underlings that are the Arts students have to lock themselves away and work like the lowest of the worker ants in my experimental ant farm!

That's not to say that you will never have to work at night, but if you are wise you will only have to make a few trips into the dark places inhabited by the Arts!

# Courses

## Year 2:

You may think that by your second year, like so many courses, the number of taught hours will be reduced dramatically. Well, you would be wrong! There is a slight decrease in contact hours but this is because of the increase in expectation for you to direct some of your own learning. Don't worry though, its not like you're left standing in the middle of Leicester wearing only the pair of woolly socks your Gran knitted for you; there is still help at hand. Lecturers, tutors and the like are always available to help, or in most cases give you a poke in the right direction. The contact hours in seminar sessions allow for discussion of problems and questions, and let's be honest, time for you to catch up with your mates!



## Year 3:

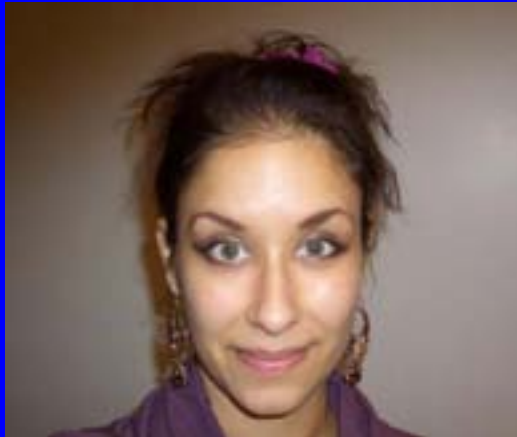
This is it, you have made it to year 3 and you're staring your dissertation project in the face. What do I do? How do I do it? So many questions, I mean so many that if I get one more my head is going to explode.

"I wonder if that's possible?" **POP!**

Well fear not my young nimble minded geniuses; you are all assigned a project supervisor. Someone you can rely on and tell you when you have just taken a mighty leap into a black hole, and it happens to be the wrong one! Instead of finding what you wanted at the bottom, all you found was a big pile of nothingness! And you couldn't understand why? Unfortunately, or fortunately, they will.

# Student Story

Leela Shaikh  
(Medical Biochemistry)



Hi, my name is Leela and I have completed a three year degree in Medical Biochemistry. My three years at Leicester have been wicked. Basically the first year of the degree just gives you a general over view of biochemistry as many of my lectures are shared with students from biological sciences, medical genetics and obviously the medical biochemists. Some of the first year modules include biological molecules, membranes and receptors and metabolism, all which are fairly interesting. However you do have to cover genetics, key skills and a number of chemistry practicals, which I hated, but I may just be your cuppa tea. So, first year is O.K you can pass all the modules with minimal revision and you're through to the next year.

Second and third year are a lot more interesting. Third year is fantastic because you get to study cutting edge scientific discoveries in cancer biology and neuroscience but also look at depression, diabetes, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and many more. You also get the option to do a library or a laboratory project for your dissertation. I hated labs so I chose a library project on stem cell biology. I pretty much lived in the library for my third year as I didn't have the internet at home, but I really enjoyed researching a topic that is still being explored by some of the top scientists across the world.

To be honest you need to put in a lot of hours for this degree but in my opinion this is one of the best degrees to study if you have prospects of doing medicine. I achieved a first class honours and I am now studying Medicine here at The University of Leicester. Having said that I still made time to relax and socialize. What ever it is you enjoy, there is something here for everyone, whether it be clubbing, shopping, eating, sports or arts. I spent plenty of my time shopping, socializing with mates, munching in the dirty lil' restaurants on London Road and training for my black belt in karate.



# The University

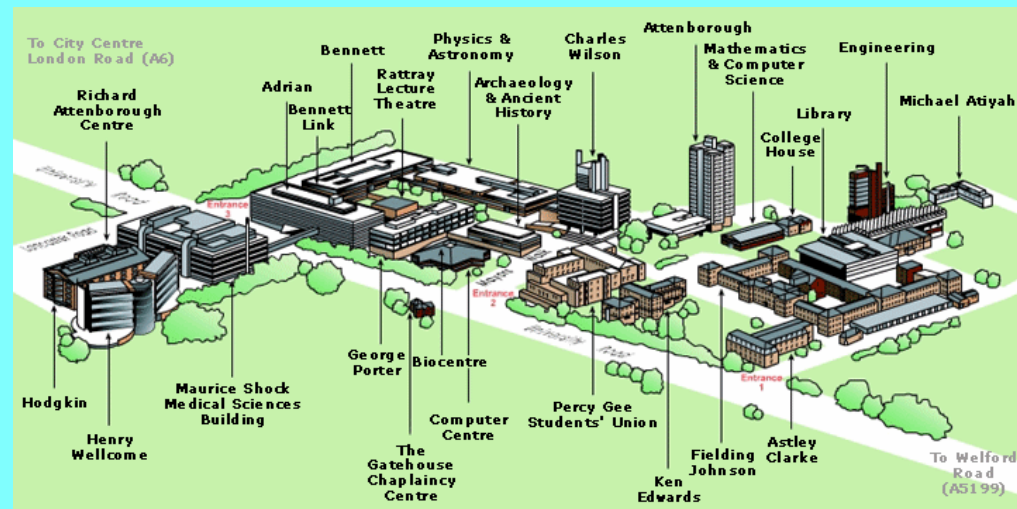
For more info Visit: [www.le.ac.uk](http://www.le.ac.uk)

**So how does the campus work? Central to it all is the Students Union. This will provide you with all you need for your day and indeed your year:**

- Shop
- Elements (Coffee lounge)
- Redfearn (Bar)
- International Students Office
- Accommodation Advisory
- Welfare Office
- Education Office
- Sports
- Societies



So what is the University really like? I'm sure you have all read the exciting information about the buildings designed by "Sir I haven't a clue what your name is" and how they are of significant architectural and historical value (zzzzzzz!). But I bet you haven't heard that the big one in the middle that looks like a transformer's head was meant to be as tall as the other skinny one. Why isn't it? Well rumour has it that the foundations were set too close to the other tower, and so if built to its full height the wind creating a vortex between the two would have pulled one of them over!



After that the campus is fairly simple, with most of your studies being based in the biological sciences Adrian Building and the Maurice Shock Medical Building. One down side is that the library is the other end of campus, which means you do have to make the MASSIVE 3 minute walk to get there (ah well, life is tough). The library itself has been vastly extended and improved and is also MASSIVE. If you can't find what you need there or they don't know how to get it then it isn't worth knowing!

# Sports and Societies



**Katy Ponsford: LUT Social Secretary**

**“A thriving and diverse student population means that there is something for everyone, be it sports or societies.”**



For full details visit  
[www.le.ac.uk/sports](http://www.le.ac.uk/sports) or  
<http://www.leicesterstudent.org/main/activities/socs>

## Sports:

The range of activities offered at Leicester is extensive and covers most mainstream sports but also includes some that aren't always as common, such as the American Football team and the Hill Walking club. With over 40 different choices of clubs it is a great way of making friends and meeting people from all around the university.



## Societies:

If sports aren't for you might like to try drama with the Leicester University Theatre (LUT) or maybe you want to join the Socialist Society or the Real Ale Appreciation society. And after looking at over 60 societies, if there is nothing that you want to do you can apply for funding to setup your own group!

Average drinks prices in the union are about £1.50 for a shot and mixer and the same for pint!

# Union Day & Night



During the day the students union boasts a large range of services and places to socialise. However, at night it becomes a hive of activity, with many live bands, events and DJs visiting us throughout the year.

## ***Element:***

Just finished a hard lecture and have an hour till the next one? Well Element could be the place for you! With a large selection of coffee, tea and cold drinks to quench your thirst, or perhaps a light snack to fill the mid-morning hunger strike. It is a light, modern coffee bar, playing chilled out music throughout the day.

Fancy a cocktail at the 60's and 70's night, or perhaps you want to hold your own party? This stylish bar offers a versatile setting for many events.



## ***Redfearn:***

Hungry? Then the student cook book specials could be for you. The professional kitchen staff produces an ever changing variety of menu choices on a weekly basis so that you never get bored. And if you're not hungry, then maybe just a game of pool and a drink with an ever changing selection of music. 'The Fern' as many students call it, is a fully licensed bar until at least 11pm every night.



## ***Venue:***

This is the University's very own night club where there are two student nights every week. Many mainstream and up and coming bands come and play right throughout the year! Wednesday nights host those who love the rock and music of the 90's in the spectacular that is Red Leicester! Whilst Friday's Madfer-It sees the dance and party anthems of the last decade right through to the early hours of Saturday morning.



# International Perspective!

Neha Sanghrajka



## Helpful links

<http://www.le.ac.uk/international>

<http://www.leicesterstudent.org>

[isa@le.ac.uk](mailto:isa@le.ac.uk)

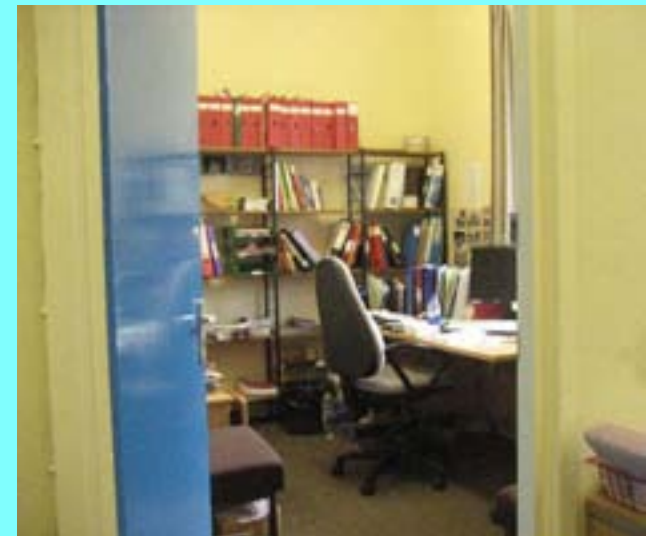
[internationaloffice@le.ac.uk](mailto:internationaloffice@le.ac.uk)

The University of Leicester is unique the support it offers to international students. Coming from Kenya I had never lived in the UK before and only briefly visited London when I was 12. Being an international student and miles away from family and friends I remember the waves of home sickness that engulfed me when I first arrived. Getting involved is a sure fire way of dealing with the culture shock and five years on I feel completely immersed in university life and the community around me.

The orientation week is packed with numerous events designed to familiarise you with the university, the city and the wide array of support mechanisms available. This is an opportunity for international students to settle in and make friends.

The Fresher's fair is a fun-filled week and allows one to explore not only the different activities and societies that the university has to offer but also to try out new things and broaden horizons. One particularly important society for international students is the International Students Association based in the Global Village in the Students Union. It organizes trips around the UK, social events and there is of course the infamous annual Cultural Night which is a spectacular show encompassing acts from around the world.

I joined the ISA committee in my first year and eventually was elected the President. In this capacity I have developed a better understanding of the issues that affect international students and ways of helping them. Leicester is one of the only university's that has a sabbatical officer dedicated to international students. The VP Internationals office is always open for help, advice or simply a chat. In addition there is the international office staff who many of you have possibly met before coming to the university at university fairs. They are friendly and have a wealth of knowledge in the welfare of international students. All in all the University is a fantastic student experience for all.



**So what's it really like? Are the rooms small and dark? Will I get fat if I eat the food?**

These are all probably questions that you have thought about at one point or another, so if a couple were answered now it would probably help right?

# Accommodation Halls



Any of the accommodation at the University of Leicester will provide you with a nice place to live, and with the large range of accommodation to choose from there will be something for you. Catered Halls offer food morning and night, meaning no real cooking necessary. These halls also function around a dedicated social club called the JCR (junior common room) they organise lots of events so you get to know each other, and party throughout the year! For those who don't want to be catered for, there is also a large range of self catered accommodation both near the Halls and the University.



All the rooms that are provided are of a functional size. Don't forget you don't live in your room all day everyday all the time, there are kitchens common rooms and bars for you to hang in. As such your room is really just for you!



## Sub-wardens

Central to the university support in Halls is the sub-warden team. These are carefully selected groups of people, postgraduate students or even members of staff. Who are there to help and support you no matter what the issue no matter what the time 24/7. This team is not only responsible for your wellbeing but also socialises with you and helps in many other respects. They are kind of like the big brother you never had, or the one that you left at home.

# Accommodation Houses

What to bring?

This is the eternal question for any student, what exactly will I need? How many clothes? What type of clothes? Do I need bedding? And so on!

So if I was to give you a quick guide to what to bring that would probably help right!

I suppose it makes sense to start with you, bringing yourself is always a start and often proves useful. In time we may learn not to bring ourselves however I think we are a way off that yet. So after having brought you it's often useful to bring something to cover you. Normally most students will wear comfortable clothes during the day (you know ones that you can sit in for an hour and listen to someone talk and talk and talk about proteins etc...) Boys this doesn't mean your skirts, save those for the evenings. This is when people put in the effort or not! At university it honestly doesn't matter what you wear it's down to what you feel comfortable in.

For your room you will need anything and everything that you want to stay happy. Maybe a computer or TV, or maybe your collection of books to read. What ever it is do remember you can always bring more. The rooms although great aren't a house, and as such one won't fit inside.

Couple of things to remember:

Insurance is a great idea and is relatively cheap from student companies around £50 for the year. (More for laptops etc...)

If you bring a TV you are required to have a licence of your own!

## Housing 2nd / 3rd Years

In your second and third years you will most likely want to move out into a house with your friends. This can be great fun as long as you follow some simple rules:

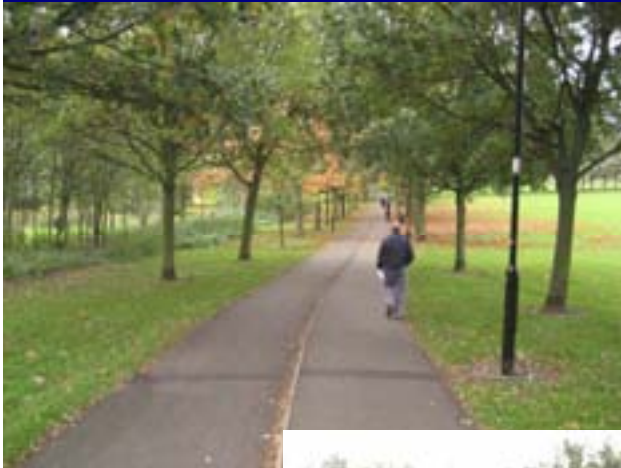


- Choose who you live with carefully it's for a year!
- Use a university approved letting agent.
- Don't pay more than £55 you're being ripped of.
- Student Housing in Leicester is abundant and therefore cheap don't pay over the odds.

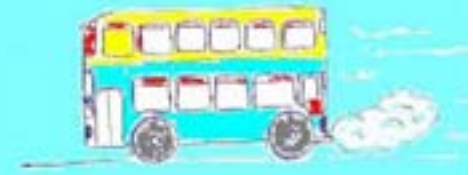
•And finally remember landlords must have yearly gas and electricity checks. Ask to see the certificates its your **right**!



# Transport



Getting round Leicester is a relatively easy task. It's not the largest of cities, and as such most of the things you will ever need are near at hand. The university itself is a kind of split campus, though not in a bad way. True the main halls of residence are just under 2 miles away, however once at the main campus everything you need is there. Some self-catered accommodation is much closer. It can also be said that the halls are all located together as well meaning you're always near events and your friends.



## Getting to University:

Longest walk takes about 35mins whilst by bike it is 15min and on the bus in rush hour about 20min.

Bikes: there are bike stores at all the halls and keys can be obtained from the receptions upon arrival. The cost is about £5 for the year, with all stores being undercover. The ride itself is straight forward and safe there are cycle paths all over Leicester making it user friendly.

Buses: The University has an agreement with Arriva buses that during term time there is a university specific bus that runs at the times that students will need it. This is about £2.50 for a return to University however a yearly bus pass is available. This enables you to use any bus in the centre of Leicester as many times a day as you like for an entire year. They are around £210 from the shop or can be bought online with 10% discount. This often can work out about 50% cheaper for simply getting to and from university.

**For further information  
please contact:**

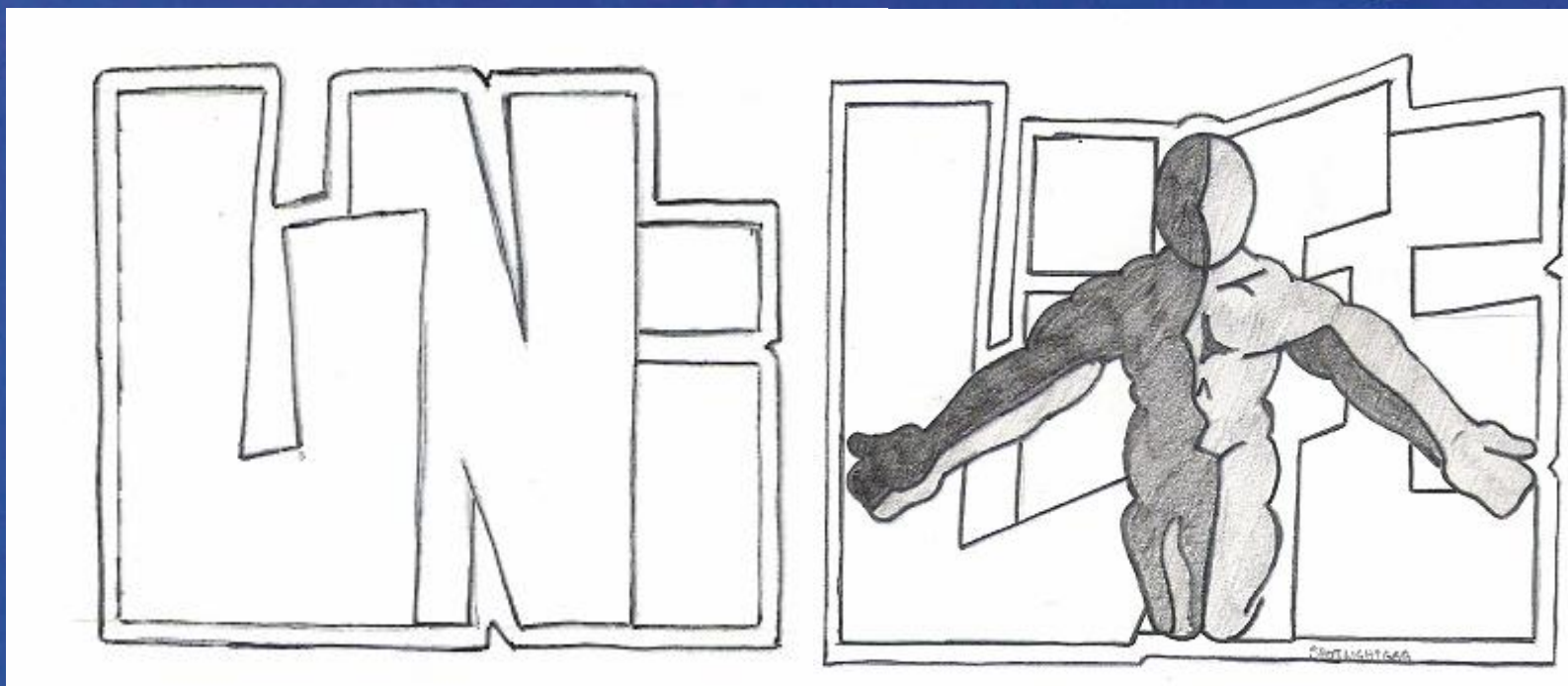
Admissions Secretary

Tel 0116 252 3323/2907

Fax 0116 252 5659

E-Mail [biolsci\\_admiss@le.ac.uk](mailto:biolsci_admiss@le.ac.uk)

<http://www.le.ac.uk/bs>



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