CareerReady

Sample report Sample Learner

WHAT THIS REPORT FOUND OUT ABOUT SAMPLE · GRADE 12

You keep asking why until things make sense. You do best with the living, natural world. You want a balance of certainty and upside.

That mix is why these four careers came up, and not others. Here is what sits behind it.

Sample, you keep asking why until things make sense. Your top match is Marine Biologist.

WHAT THIS IS BUILT FROM

HOW YOU WORK

Asking why

You keep asking why until things make sense.

WHERE YOU ARE STRONGEST

English Home Lang.	50–60%
Geography	50–60%
Life Sciences	50–60%

English Home Lang. and Geography and Life Sciences are tied for your best marks.

WHAT YOU WANT FROM WORK

Steady income
Flexible hours
Remote work
Working alone
Room to grow

You chose a balance between income security and upside.

Why science, and not another field?
A pattern like this can fit more than one field. What pointed yours to science: you keep asking why until things make sense and your best marks are in Geography and Life Sciences.

YOUR FOUR CAREERS

1. Marine Biologist	2. Environmental Scientist	3. Agricultural Scientist	4. Botanist
STRONG FIT	STRONG FIT	GOOD FIT	GOOD FIT

HOW THIS REPORT IS LAID OUT

01
Your assessment
Who you are at work, your marks and your four careers.

02
Your plan
What to lift first and what to try.

03
For parents
How a parent can help this week.

Your first move: lift Mathematics to 50% and Physical Sciences to 50%, then compare the listed entry options.

Your top four, side by side

The four careers that fit you best, with what each one is, what it pays to start and how likely you are to find work. The pages after this one take each career in turn.

Career	What they do	Starting pay estimate	Job demand	Study and APS
1. Marine Biologist Strong fit	Marine Biologist: a career in Science.	R13,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate (On 1 of 3 DHET lists)	Study: 3 years. APS 32
2. Environmental Scientist Strong fit	Environmental Scientist: a career in Science.	R14,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate (On 1 of 3 DHET lists)	Study: 3 years. APS 32 to 34
3. Agricultural Scientist Good fit	Agricultural Scientist: a career in Science.	R20,000 - R24,000 a month	High (On 3 of 3 DHET lists)	Study: 4 years. APS 32
4. Botanist Good fit	Botanist: a career in a field that fits your answers.	R18,000 - R25,000 a month	Low (On 0 of 3 DHET lists)	Study: 3 years. APS 32

Pay figures are estimates from named salary surveys. Job demand comes from the DHET high-demand lists and Stats SA where they cover the career.

01

SECTION 1 OF 3

What your assessment found

How you work, your marks and the four careers that fit you best.

For: Sample

Who you are at work

You keep digging until something genuinely makes sense.

Your personality at work

Thinking

Asking why

You keep digging until something genuinely makes sense.

Helps: Marine Biologist, Environmental Scientist, Agricultural Scientist, Botanist (asking why helps you investigate living things and test explanations).

Work simulations

> Choosing a work lifestyle You chose a balance between income security and upside.

Your marks and your APS

19 out of 42

Total APS, best six subjects. Life Orientation is not counted.

YOUR MARKS BY SUBJECT

English Home Language	50–60%	**4 pts**
Life Sciences (Biology)	50–60%	**4 pts**
Geography	50–60%	**4 pts**
Afrikaans First Additional Language	40–50%	**3 pts**
Mathematics	30–40%	**2 pts**
Physical Sciences	30–40%	**2 pts**

Your four matches are on the cover. Marks do not change their match scores.

Your work lifestyle

Your actual choices; working conditions depend on the employer, not just the job title.

Your choice	What it means for the work
Income stability A balance of certainty and upside	Compare salaried and contract offers rather than assuming either suits you.
Working hours A mix of fixed and flexible hours	Ask about set hours; releases, incidents or support cover may extend the working day.
People contact and location Hybrid work	Ask how often the team is on-site; a hybrid arrangement is not guaranteed.
Working alone or in a team A mix of solo and team work	Try both the focused task and explaining its results to another person.
Pace and pressure Moderate stretch	Compare ordinary weeks with busy periods before judging the pace.

1. Marine Biologist

Strong fit

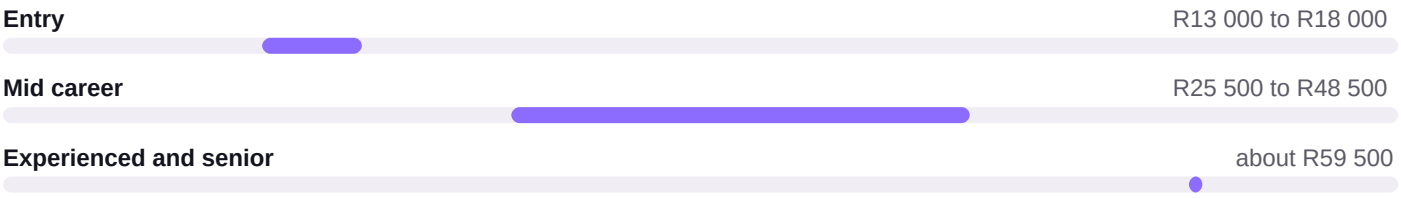
STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R13,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate On 1 of 3 DHET lists	3 years	32 degree routes listed

What the job is: Marine Biologist: a career in Science.

Why it fits you:
Marine Biologist is in your top four because the subjects you enjoy and your lifestyle choices fit what the work demands more closely than most careers.
How you work: you stay curious and keep asking why; this work rewards curiosity.
Lifestyle: You want a steady, predictable income, and this career is usually built around a salary.

What to look out for:
You lean towards indoor work, which may be an issue because much of this job happens in the field.
Maths is where to focus first: the routes ask for 70% and you are in the 30-40% band.
Physical Science is the next to lift: the routes ask for 60% and you are in the 30-40% band.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH

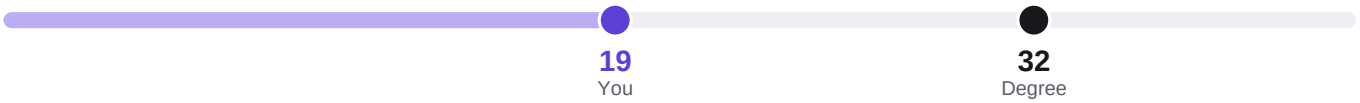


Estimates, not promises.

Pay by experience: Entry	R13,000 - R18,000 a month. PayScale early-career average; WageIndicator starting pay from R17,890.
Mid career (about 5 years)	R25,500 - R48,500 a month. WageIndicator, biologists, botanists and zoologists, after 5 years of service, 2025.
Experienced and senior	up to about R59,500 a month. top of the WageIndicator range for this occupation group, 2025.
What moves pay	Years of experience; the employer (government and parks bodies, consultancies, or private companies); your qualification level (degree, honours, master's or PhD); the city; and specialist skills such as GIS or environmental consulting. These are estimates, not promises. PayScale 2026 · WageIndicator (biologists, botanists, zoologists) 2025
Demand	It was on the DHET high-demand list in 2020 but is not on the latest one (2024). It was once a scarce skill, so we rate it Moderate rather than Low. No Stats SA figure for this career. DHET list 2014 (Gazette 38174) · DHET list 2020 (Gazette 43937) · DHET list 2024 (Gazette 50510)
Critical Skills List	No Critical Skills List entry found for this career.

How to get there

WHERE YOU STAND AGAINST THE ENTRY MARKS (APS)



Where you stand: no listed degree route is confirmed as met by your marks today. For the next Marine Biologist qualification, BSc in Zoology at University of Pretoria requires APS 32, 13 above your current total.

If your marks are far from Marine Biologist: Lift your marks before you finish school. Start with Mathematics to 50%, Physical Sciences to 50%, English Home Language to 60%; compare the resulting APS and every subject minimum above. Upgrade after school if your final marks still fall short. Ask about rewriting the subjects you need. The next-step plan includes the government rewrite option.

Closest alternatives you can reach sooner

Marine Biologist usually needs a degree. These are related qualifications in the same field with lower entry points. They lead to related jobs, not the identical one, so read what each leads to.

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of Mpumalanga

- **Entry rule:** APS 28 or more, plus the diploma-entry NSC minimum; English 50%; Life Sciences 50%; Mathematics 30% or Mathematical Literacy 50%.
- **Your marks:** English: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Life Sciences: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 30% needed and you are in the 30-40% band. Met.
- **APS:** 28 needed; yours is 19, 9 points short.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning with an employer).
- **Leads to:** work in the conservation sector: protected areas, nature reserves, game parks and natural tourist attractions.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma, then postgraduate study.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of South Africa (Unisa)

- **Entry rule:** Diploma-endorsed NSC; 50% in the language of teaching; 50% in Mathematics; 40% in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Agricultural Sciences.
- **Your marks:** English: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 50% needed and your band is 30-40%. Lift it by about 10 percentage points. Life Sciences: 40% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met.
- **Length:** Standard length not stated; online study, up to 8 years allowed.
- **Leads to:** conservation officer roles supporting resource managers, and work in ecosystem management, environmental education and ecotourism.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · Nelson Mandela University

- **Entry rule:** Not published on the department page; ask the university admissions office for the current requirements.
- **Your marks:** Ask the university how your marks compare.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning at a conservation organisation or reserve).
- **Leads to:** nature conservationist, wildlife manager, field ranger, ecologist, environmental restoration, biosecurity monitoring or environmental education work.
- **Next step:** the one-year Advanced Diploma, then an Honours in Natural Resource Management.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Who gets hired: what employers advertise

• **Conservation Officer (on reserve), CapeNature:** A National Diploma in Nature Conservation, or an equivalent NQF 6 qualification in a nature conservation field.

• **Advertised pay:** R42,542 to R49,132 a month (advertised range, negotiable within it; a 2026 advert, not a guaranteed starting salary). Advert

• **Field Ranger, CapeNature:** Grade 12 and at least 2 years of experience, with an emphasis on protected areas and estuary, coastal or marine environments.

• **Advertised pay:** R19,754 to R22,715 a month (advertised range in a 2026 advert, not a guaranteed starting salary). Advert

These are single employer adverts, shown as examples of what is asked for, not a count of jobs. Confirm entry rules with each institution before you apply.

Qualifications at a glance

Level	Qualification	Institution	Entry requirement	Length	Roles and starting pay
Degree	BSc with Marine Biology major (Faculty of Science)	University of Cape Town	UCT own scoring: Faculty Points Score at least 550 of 800 (not APS)	Confirm with the institution	Roles vary; pay estimate R13,000 - R18,000 a month
Degree	BSc in Zoology	University of Pretoria	APS 32	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R13,000 - R18,000 a month

Each qualification is listed once per institution. Entry requirements use each institution's own scoring and are not converted into APS.

Every way in · APS 32

University of Pretoria

• **BSc in Zoology** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · 13 APS points short. link

University of Cape Town

• **BSc with Marine Biology major (Faculty of Science)** · UCT own scoring: Faculty Points Score at least 550 of 800 (not APS) · Maths 70% or higher; Physical Science 60% or higher; non-NSC applicants need Chemistry for Marine Biology · Check the stated admission conditions link

Your marks vs required

Subject	Your mark	Highest minimum
Maths	30-40%	70%+
Physical Science	30-40%	60%+
English	50-60%	60%+

Week 1: free, under an hour.
Fill a clear glass with tap water and add a pinch of salt; fill another without salt. Drop a small piece of the same food (e.g. a grape) in each and record whether it floats or sinks, then explain what salt does to water. Write three questions a marine biologist might ask about sea life from this.

2. Environmental Scientist

Strong fit

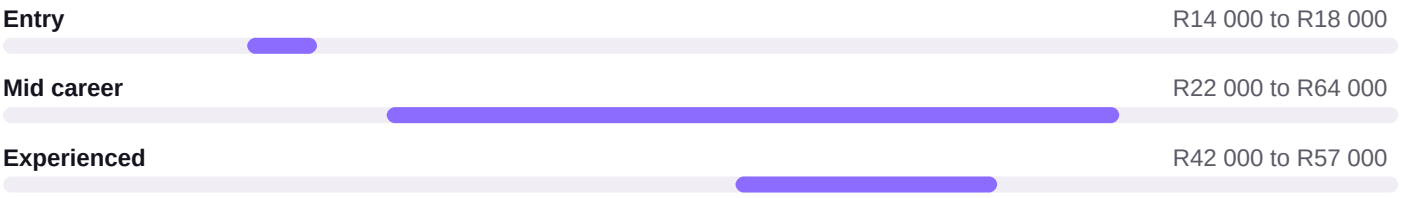
STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R14,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate On 1 of 3 DHET lists	3 years	32 to 34 degree routes listed

What the job is: Environmental Scientist: a career in Science.

Why it fits you:
Environmental Scientist is in your top four because the subjects you enjoy and your lifestyle choices fit what the work demands more closely than most careers.
How you work: you stay curious and keep asking why; this work rewards curiosity.
Lifestyle: You want a steady, predictable income, and this career is usually built around a salary.

What to look out for:
You lean towards indoor work, which may be an issue because much of this job happens in the field.
Mathematics is where to focus first: the routes ask for 60% and you are in the 30-40% band.
Physical Sciences is the next to lift: the routes ask for 60% and you are in the 30-40% band.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH

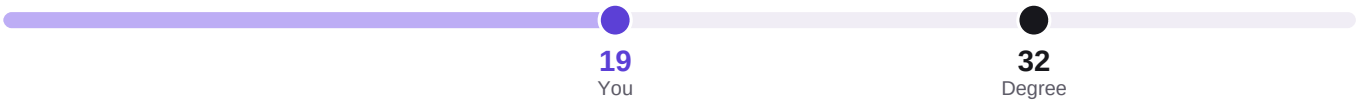


Estimates, not promises.

Pay by experience: Entry	R14,000 - R18,000 a month. PayScale entry-level average; WageIndicator starting pay from R17,890.
Mid career (senior scientist)	R22,000 - R64,000 a month, typically about R38,000. PayScale senior environmental scientist, 6 profiles, Mar 2026.
Experienced	about R42,000 a month on average, up to about R57,000. PayScale experienced environmental scientist, 13 profiles, Feb 2026.
What moves pay	Years of experience; the employer (government and parks bodies, consultancies, or private companies); your qualification level (degree, honours, master's or PhD); the city; and specialist skills such as GIS or environmental consulting. These are estimates, not promises. PayScale 2023 · WageIndicator (biologists, botanists, zoologists) 2025 · PayScale senior 2026
Demand	It is on the latest DHET list (2024) but was not on the 2014 and 2020 lists. Employers now report a shortage, but it is too new to call it long-term high demand. No Stats SA figure for this career. DHET list 2014 (Gazette 38174) · DHET list 2020 (Gazette 43937) · DHET list 2024 (Gazette 50510)
Critical Skills List	No Critical Skills List entry found for this career.

How to get there

WHERE YOU STAND AGAINST THE ENTRY MARKS (APS)



Where you stand: no listed degree route is confirmed as met by your marks today. For the next Environmental Scientist qualification, BSc in Zoology at University of Pretoria requires APS 32, 13 above your current total.

If your marks are far from Environmental Scientist: Lift your marks before you finish school. Start with Mathematics to 50%, Physical Sciences to 50%, English Home Language to 60%; compare the resulting APS and every subject minimum above. Upgrade after school if your final marks still fall short. Ask about rewriting the subjects you need. The next-step plan includes the government rewrite option.

Closest alternatives you can reach sooner

Environmental Scientist usually needs a degree. These are related qualifications in the same field with lower entry points. They lead to related jobs, not the identical one, so read what each leads to.

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of Mpumalanga

- **Entry rule:** APS 28 or more, plus the diploma-entry NSC minimum; English 50%; Life Sciences 50%; Mathematics 30% or Mathematical Literacy 50%.
- **Your marks:** English: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Life Sciences: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 30% needed and you are in the 30-40% band. Met.
- **APS:** 28 needed; yours is 19, 9 points short.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning with an employer).
- **Leads to:** work in the conservation sector: protected areas, nature reserves, game parks and natural tourist attractions.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma, then postgraduate study.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of South Africa (Unisa)

- **Entry rule:** Diploma-endorsed NSC; 50% in the language of teaching; 50% in Mathematics; 40% in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Agricultural Sciences.
- **Your marks:** English: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 50% needed and your band is 30-40%. Lift it by about 10 percentage points. Life Sciences: 40% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met.
- **Length:** Standard length not stated; online study, up to 8 years allowed.
- **Leads to:** conservation officer roles supporting resource managers, and work in ecosystem management, environmental education and ecotourism.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management · Southern African Wildlife College

- **Entry rule:** APS 30 with Mathematics (31 with Mathematical Literacy); English 50%; Mathematics 40% or Mathematical Literacy 50%. Places are limited.
- **Your marks:** English: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 40% needed and your band is 30-40%, so your exact mark decides it.
- **APS:** 30 needed; yours is 19, 11 points short.
- **Length:** 3 years (years 1 and 2 blended online with two campus visits a year; year 3 is project-based work-integrated learning).
- **Leads to:** work with conservation and natural resource organisations such as SANParks and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

- **Next step:** further study; ask the college which qualifications accept this diploma.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · Nelson Mandela University

- **Entry rule:** Not published on the department page; ask the university admissions office for the current requirements.
- **Your marks:** Ask the university how your marks compare.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning at a conservation organisation or reserve).
- **Leads to:** nature conservationist, wildlife manager, field ranger, ecologist, environmental restoration, biosecurity monitoring or environmental education work.
- **Next step:** the one-year Advanced Diploma, then an Honours in Natural Resource Management.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Qualifications at a glance

Level	Qualification	Institution	Entry requirement	Length	Roles and starting pay
Degree	BSc in Zoology	University of Pretoria	APS 32	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R14,000 - R18,000 a month
Degree	BSc in Ecology	University of Pretoria	APS 32	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R14,000 - R18,000 a month
Degree	BSc in Geography (Geography and Environmental Science option)	University of Pretoria	APS 34	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R14,000 - R18,000 a month

Each qualification is listed once per institution. Entry requirements use each institution's own scoring and are not converted into APS.

Every way in · APS 32 to 34

University of Pretoria

- **BSc in Zoology** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · 13 APS points short. link
- **BSc in Ecology** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · 13 APS points short. link
- **BSc in Geography (Geography and Environmental Science option)** · 3 years · APS 34 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · 15 APS points short. link

We currently list only University of Pretoria for this career. Ask other universities and colleges about similar programmes.

Your marks vs required

Subject	Your mark	Highest minimum
English	50-60%	60%+
Mathematics	30-40%	60%+
Physical Sciences	30-40%	60%+

Week 2: free, under an hour.
Walk around your home or school for 20 minutes and list every type of litter or waste you see. Sort it into plastic, paper, food and other, count each, and suggest one simple change that would cut the biggest pile.

3. Agricultural Scientist

Good fit

STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R20,000 - R24,000 a month	High On 3 of 3 DHET lists	4 years	32 degree routes listed

What the job is: Agricultural Scientist: a career in Science.

Why it fits you:
Agricultural Scientist is in your top four because the subjects you enjoy fit what the work demands more closely than most careers.
Lifestyle: You want a steady, predictable income, and this career is usually built around a salary.

What to look out for:
You want to work remotely, which may be an issue because most of this work is done on site or in the field.
You lean towards indoor work, which may be an issue because much of this job happens in the field.
Mathematics is where to focus first: the routes ask for 60% and you are in the 30-40% band.
Physical Sciences is the next to lift: the routes ask for 60% and you are in the 30-40% band.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH

Entry R20 000 to R24 000

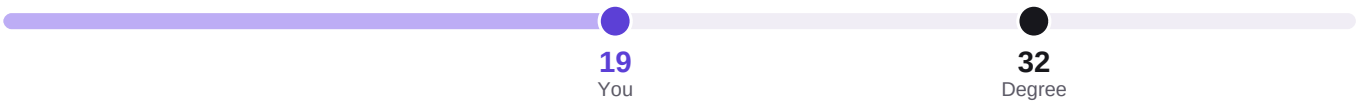
Mid career about R42 000

Estimates, not promises.

Pay by experience: Entry	R20,000 - R24,000 a month. PayScale early-career agriculture specialist, 1 to 4 years, 12 profiles, 2025.
Mid career (5 to 9 years)	about R42,000 a month on average. PayScale agriculture specialist, 12 profiles, Sep 2026; the survey range is wide.
What moves pay	Years of experience; the employer (government and parks bodies, consultancies, or private companies); your qualification level (degree, honours, master's or PhD); the city; and specialist skills such as GIS or environmental consulting. These are estimates, not promises. PayScale 2025
Demand	It is on the DHET list of occupations in high demand for 2024 and was also listed in 2014 and 2020, so the shortage has lasted across surveys. No Stats SA figure for this career. DHET list 2014 (Gazette 38174) · DHET list 2020 (Gazette 43937) · DHET list 2024 (Gazette 50510)
Critical Skills List	No Critical Skills List entry found for this career.

How to get there

WHERE YOU STAND AGAINST THE ENTRY MARKS (APS)



Where you stand: no listed degree route is confirmed as met by your marks today. For the next Agricultural Scientist qualification, BScAgric in Applied Plant and Soil Sciences at University of Pretoria requires APS 32, 13 above your current total.

> If your marks are far from Agricultural Scientist: Lift your marks before you finish school. Start with Mathematics to 50%, Physical Sciences to 50%, English Home Language to 60%; compare the resulting APS and every subject minimum above. Upgrade after school if your final marks still fall short. Ask about rewriting the subjects you need. The next-step plan includes the government rewrite option.

Closest alternatives you can reach sooner

Agricultural Scientist usually needs a degree. These are related qualifications in the same field with lower entry points. They lead to related jobs, not the identical one, so read what each leads to.

Diploma in Agriculture · Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute (Western Cape Department of Agriculture)

- **Entry rule:** Diploma-endorsed NSC with an aggregate of at least 40% (without Life Orientation); 40% in English or Afrikaans; 40% in Mathematics or 50% in Mathematical Literacy; 40% in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Agricultural Sciences.
- **Your marks:** English: 40% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 40% needed and your band is 30-40%, so your exact mark decides it. Life Sciences: 40% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met.
- **Length:** 3 years; you choose Plant Production, Animal Production, Plant and Animal Production or Cellar Technology.
- **Leads to:** hands-on plant, animal or wine-cellar production work.
- **Next step:** the page does not name a next qualification; ask the institute.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Qualifications at a glance

Level	Qualification	Institution	Entry requirement	Length	Roles and starting pay
Degree	BScAgric in Applied Plant and Soil Sciences	University of Pretoria	APS 32	4 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R20,000 - R24,000 a month
Degree	BScAgric (Faculty of AgriSciences)	Stellenbosch University	Stellenbosch own scoring: NSC average of at least 60% (not APS)	Confirm with the institution	Roles vary; pay estimate R20,000 - R24,000 a month
Degree	BScAgric in Animal Science	University of Pretoria	APS 32	4 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R20,000 - R24,000 a month

Each qualification is listed once per institution. Entry requirements use each institution's own scoring and are not converted into APS.

Every way in · APS 32

University of Pretoria

- **BScAgric in Applied Plant and Soil Sciences** · 4 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · 13 APS points short. link
- **BScAgric in Animal Science** · 4 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · 13 APS points short. link

Stellenbosch University

• **BScAgric (Faculty of AgriSciences)** · Stellenbosch own scoring: NSC average of at least 60% (not APS) · Afr or Eng L4; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L4 · Check the stated admission conditions link

Your marks vs required

Subject	Your mark	Highest minimum
English	50-60%	60%+
Mathematics	30-40%	60%+
Physical Sciences	30-40%	60%+

Week 3: free, under an hour.
Put a few dry beans on damp paper in two cups: one in light, one in a dark cupboard. Check after 30 minutes and again the next day, recording any changes. Write down which conditions you think help seeds start growing and why.

4. Botanist

Good fit

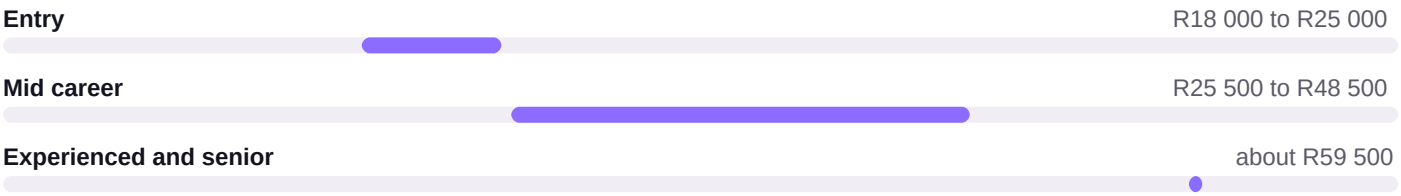
STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R18,000 - R25,000 a month	Low On 0 of 3 DHET lists	3 years	32 degree routes listed

What the job is: Botanist: a career in a field that fits your answers.

Why it fits you: How you work: You keep digging until something genuinely makes sense; in this work, asking why helps you investigate living things and test explanations.

What to look out for:
Mathematics is where to focus first: the routes ask for 60% and you are in the 30-40% band.
Physical Sciences is the next to lift: the routes ask for 60% and you are in the 30-40% band.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH

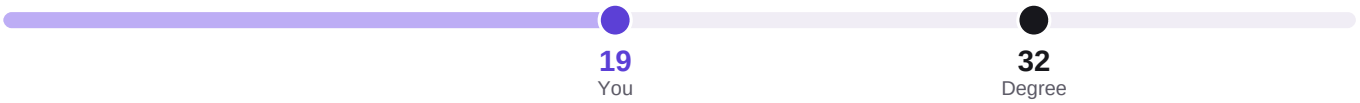


Estimates, not promises.

Pay by experience: Entry	R18,000 - R25,000 a month. WageIndicator starting pay from R17,890; PayScale average about R25,000 across all levels.
Mid career (about 5 years)	R25,500 - R48,500 a month. WageIndicator, biologists, botanists and zoologists, after 5 years of service, 2025.
Experienced and senior	up to about R59,500 a month. top of the WageIndicator range for this occupation group, 2025.
What moves pay	Years of experience; the employer (government and parks bodies, consultancies, or private companies); your qualification level (degree, honours, master's or PhD); the city; and specialist skills such as GIS or environmental consulting. These are estimates, not promises. PayScale 2025 · WageIndicator (biologists, botanists, zoologists) 2025
Demand	It has not been on the DHET high-demand list in the surveys we checked (2014, 2020 and 2024), so we cannot call it a scarce skill. That does not make it a bad career; it means jobs are likely to be competitive and employers are not reporting a national shortage. No Stats SA figure for this career. DHET list 2014 (Gazette 38174) · DHET list 2020 (Gazette 43937) · DHET list 2024 (Gazette 50510)
Critical Skills List	No Critical Skills List entry found for this career.

How to get there

WHERE YOU STAND AGAINST THE ENTRY MARKS (APS)



Where you stand: no listed degree route is confirmed as met by your marks today. For the next Botanist qualification, BSc in Plant Science at University of Pretoria requires APS 32, 13 above your current total.

If your marks are far from Botanist: Lift your marks before you finish school. Start with Mathematics to 50%, Physical Sciences to 50%, English Home Language to 60%; compare the resulting APS and every subject minimum above. Upgrade after school if your final marks still fall short. Ask about rewriting the subjects you need. The next-step plan includes the government rewrite option.

Closest alternatives you can reach sooner

Botanist usually needs a degree. These are related qualifications in the same field with lower entry points. They lead to related jobs, not the identical one, so read what each leads to.

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of Mpumalanga

- **Entry rule:** APS 28 or more, plus the diploma-entry NSC minimum; English 50%; Life Sciences 50%; Mathematics 30% or Mathematical Literacy 50%.
- **Your marks:** English: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Life Sciences: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 30% needed and you are in the 30-40% band. Met.
- **APS:** 28 needed; yours is 19, 9 points short.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning with an employer).
- **Leads to:** work in the conservation sector: protected areas, nature reserves, game parks and natural tourist attractions.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma, then postgraduate study.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of South Africa (Unisa)

- **Entry rule:** Diploma-endorsed NSC; 50% in the language of teaching; 50% in Mathematics; 40% in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Agricultural Sciences.
- **Your marks:** English: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 50% needed and your band is 30-40%. Lift it by about 10 percentage points. Life Sciences: 40% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met.
- **Length:** Standard length not stated; online study, up to 8 years allowed.
- **Leads to:** conservation officer roles supporting resource managers, and work in ecosystem management, environmental education and ecotourism.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management · Southern African Wildlife College

- **Entry rule:** APS 30 with Mathematics (31 with Mathematical Literacy); English 50%; Mathematics 40% or Mathematical Literacy 50%. Places are limited.
- **Your marks:** English: 50% needed and you are in the 50-60% band. Met. Mathematics: 40% needed and your band is 30-40%, so your exact mark decides it.
- **APS:** 30 needed; yours is 19, 11 points short.
- **Length:** 3 years (years 1 and 2 blended online with two campus visits a year; year 3 is project-based work-integrated learning).
- **Leads to:** work with conservation and natural resource organisations such as SANParks and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

- **Next step:** further study; ask the college which qualifications accept this diploma.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · Nelson Mandela University

- **Entry rule:** Not published on the department page; ask the university admissions office for the current requirements.
- **Your marks:** Ask the university how your marks compare.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning at a conservation organisation or reserve).
- **Leads to:** nature conservationist, wildlife manager, field ranger, ecologist, environmental restoration, biosecurity monitoring or environmental education work.
- **Next step:** the one-year Advanced Diploma, then an Honours in Natural Resource Management.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Qualifications at a glance

Level	Qualification	Institution	Entry requirement	Length	Roles and starting pay
Degree	BSc in Plant Science	University of Pretoria	APS 32	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R18,000 - R25,000 a month

Each qualification is listed once per institution. Entry requirements use each institution's own scoring and are not converted into APS.

Every way in · APS 32

University of Pretoria

- **BSc in Plant Science** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · 13 APS points short. link

We currently list only University of Pretoria for this career. Ask other universities and colleges about similar programmes.

Your marks vs required

Subject	Your mark	Highest minimum
English	50-60%	60%+
Mathematics	30-40%	60%+
Physical Sciences	30-40%	60%+

Week 4: free, under an hour.
Collect three different leaves from plants near you (fallen ones are fine). Draw each, note its shape, edges and vein pattern, and group them by what they have in common. Write one guess about why each leaf is shaped that way.

02

SECTION 2 OF 3

Your plan

What your results add up to and what to do next.

For: Sample

What this adds up to

Your strongest marks and your career answers give you options to explore. Your APS is 19; check each institution's own APS and subject requirements shown in Part 1 before applying.

Your options, honestly

> Go for the top. Lifting Mathematics to 50%, Physical Sciences to 50%, English Home Language to 60% takes your APS from 19 to 24: 19 + 5 = 24. BSc in Zoology at University of Pretoria needs APS 32, 13 above your current total, leaving 8 points to close. Compare the named providers' extended and lower-entry options against their own requirements.

19 now | **+5** | **8 to close**

BSc in Zoology at University of Pretoria needs APS 32.

Lift your marks before you finish school; use the subject targets below first.

If you have already written matric, or cannot reach the needed marks before finishing, explore the DBE Second Chance Matric Programme.

Marks that move your APS

Subject	Target	Gain	Free help
Mathematics	30-40% to 50%	+2 APS to 21	DBE past examination papers
Physical Sciences	30-40% to 50%	+2 APS to 21	DBE past examination papers
English Home Language	50-60% to 60%	+1 APS to 20	DBE past examination papers

Test-drive your four careers

Week	Free task · under an hour	Reflect
[ ] Week 1 Marine Biologist	Fill a clear glass with tap water and add a pinch of salt; fill another without salt. Drop a small piece of the same food (e.g. a grape) in each and record whether it floats or sinks, then explain what salt does to water. Write three questions a marine biologist might ask about sea life from this.	Did you enjoy this? What part would you do again?
[ ] Week 2 Environmental Scientist	Walk around your home or school for 20 minutes and list every type of litter or waste you see. Sort it into plastic, paper, food and other, count each, and suggest one simple change that would cut the biggest pile.	Did you enjoy this? What part would you do again?
[ ] Week 3 Agricultural Scientist	Put a few dry beans on damp paper in two cups: one in light, one in a dark cupboard. Check after 30 minutes and again the next day, recording any changes. Write down which conditions you think help seeds start growing and why.	Did you enjoy this? What part would you do again?
[ ] Week 4 Botanist	Collect three different leaves from plants near you (fallen ones are fine). Draw each, note its shape, edges and vein pattern, and group them by what they have in common. Write one guess about why each leaf is shaped that way.	Did you enjoy this? What part would you do again?

Your one-week action step

Try the Marine Biologist Week 1 task and note what you enjoyed.

Before you apply Confirm every requirement on the institution's official website.

03

SECTION 3 OF 3

For parents and guardians

How to help Sample take the next step.

For: Parents and guardians

School teaches it. Home is where it sticks. You don't need to know the answers to help Sample keep what they learn.

Well done.
Most families research a car or a home carefully before they buy. By doing this assessment you gave Sample's future the same care, and the choices made in high school shape a lifetime.

What this report did, in minutes

	This report	By hand
Entry requirements	Checked against Sample's actual marks, route by route.	Every university and college site, each with its own rules.
Pay	A starting pay estimate with its sources.	Several salary sites to reconcile.
Job demand	A rating with the reasons behind it.	The government's high-demand lists, read across years.
Fit	Built from Sample's own answers.	A guess at personality and lifestyle.
Plan B	The closest alternatives and their requirements.	A hunt for diplomas and colleges.

A compass, not a verdict.
This report shows where Sample's answers and marks point today. It cannot predict future marks or guarantee a place or a job, and it does not replace teachers and careers counsellors. Confirm every requirement with the institution before applying.

What stands out in Sample

What the marks say
Sample's strongest subject right now is English Home Language (50-60%) — that is the mark to protect and build on.

Top matches
Marine Biologist, Environmental Scientist, Agricultural Scientist, Botanist.

How close
The APS total is 19. None of the listed routes is met by the current marks yet — Part 2 shows which subjects to lift first and by how much.

Where support will matter most

• **Maths:** Sample is in the 30-40% band and the routes ask for 70%. Each topic builds on the last, so one early gap keeps showing up. It is rarely about ability; it is usually missing steps, and missing steps can be filled.

• **Physical Science:** Sample is in the 30-40% band and the routes ask for 60%. Each topic builds on the last, so one early gap keeps showing up. It is rarely about ability; it is usually missing steps, and missing steps can be filled.

Your options

• **Aim the practice.** Ask the teacher which topics are weak, so practice is targeted, not general.

• **Little and often.** 20 to 30 minutes a day beats one long weekend session. Past papers and CAPS-aligned practice are free online.

• **Free help first.** School extra lessons or a study group, if the school offers them.

• **A tutor, if needed.** A strong university student or retired teacher can be enough, when the teacher agrees the gap is wide. Check the cost first.

School gives the foundation; practice at home turns it into marks. Your part is a calm routine and regular follow-up, not teaching the subject.

How you can help this week

Protect study time
One hour a day, phone out of the room.

Ask to be taught
"Teach me one thing you learned today", for 5 minutes.

Set up the space
A study spot and a wall calendar with exam dates.

Praise effort, not marks
Sleep and breakfast before exams.

Use free past papers
Print DBE past papers and time them.

Try a job-shadow
Ask whether Sample can job-shadow someone for a day, or arrange a 20-minute chat with someone you know who works as a Marine Biologist.

Money, honestly

• **Free:** the four weekly tasks and DBE past papers.

• **Funding:** NSFAS funds study at public universities and TVET colleges for South African citizens. The latest published limit is a household income up to R350,000 a year (R600,000 with a disability). For 2027 study, check the current rules on nsfas.org.za.

• **Extra help:** pay only if the teacher recommends it.

Three questions for the teacher

Which language marks should we use when checking applications?

What would help Sample lift Mathematics to 50%?

Which past papers should we start with?

This month

Look at Marine Biologist on its official page together.

The choice is Sample's and yours.

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