CareerReady

Sample report Sample Learner

WHAT THIS REPORT FOUND OUT ABOUT SAMPLE · CONSIDERING A CHANGE OF DEGREE

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.

WHAT YOU BRING WITH YOU

Asking why

You keep digging until something genuinely makes sense.

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.

YOUR FOUR CAREERS

1. Marine Biologist
STRONG FIT

2. Environmental Scientist
STRONG FIT

3. Agricultural Scientist
GOOD FIT

4. Botanist
GOOD FIT

HOW THIS REPORT IS LAID OUT

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

02
Your plan
Your next moves and what to try.

03
Making the switch
How to change direction without losing ground.

Your first move: try the Marine Biologist task this week.

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 four matches are on the cover.

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 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.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH

Entry R13 000 to R18 000

Mid career R25 500 to R48 500

Experienced and senior about R59 500

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

Your route in: your matric results were not part of this assessment, so no route below has been checked against them. Each route lists what it asks for. Compare that with your results or existing qualification, and ask the institution about credit for prior learning and mature-age admission where they apply.

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 · Nelson Mandela University

- **Entry rule:** Not published on the department page; ask the university admissions office for the current requirements.
- **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

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%.
- **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.
- **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

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 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 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

University of Pretoria

• **BSc in Zoology** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

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

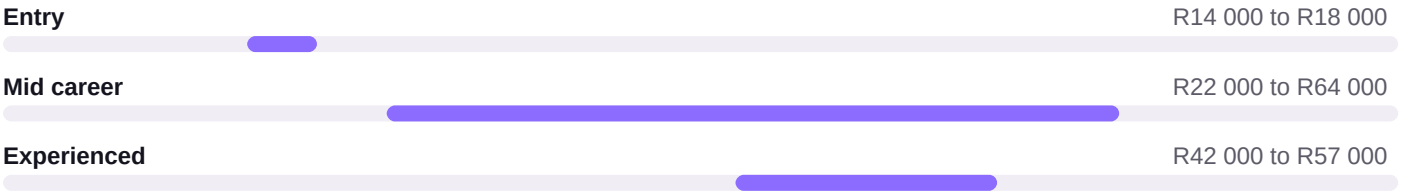
STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R14,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate On 1 of 3 DHET lists	3 years	32 to 34 degree routes listed

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

Why it fits you:
Environmental Scientist is in your top four because 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.

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

Your route in: your matric results were not part of this assessment, so no route below has been checked against them. Each route lists what it asks for. Compare that with your results or existing qualification, and ask the institution about credit for prior learning and mature-age admission where they apply.

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 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.
- **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.
- **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

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%.
- **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.
- **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

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 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

• **BSc in Ecology** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

• **BSc in Geography (Geography and Environmental Science option)** · 3 years · APS 34 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

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

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: 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.

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

Your route in: your matric results were not part of this assessment, so no route below has been checked against them. Each route lists what it asks for. Compare that with your results or existing qualification, and ask the institution about credit for prior learning and mature-age admission where they apply.

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.

• **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 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

• **BScAgric in Animal Science** · 4 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution 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 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

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.

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

Your route in: your matric results were not part of this assessment, so no route below has been checked against them. Each route lists what it asks for. Compare that with your results or existing qualification, and ask the institution about credit for prior learning and mature-age admission where they apply.

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 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.

• **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.

• **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

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%.

• **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.

• **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

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 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

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

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 answers point to Marine Biologist, Environmental Scientist, Agricultural Scientist, Botanist. Your matric results were not part of this assessment, so entry requirements are listed for each route but not checked against you. Use the career pages to compare what each route asks for, and the closing section for the steps that fit your situation.

Your options, honestly

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

Making the switch

How to change direction without losing ground.

For: Sample, your student adviser and the people backing you

You are not starting again; you are redirecting what you have already built. A switch done well keeps your credits, your study habits and the money already spent.

Good thinking.
Questioning a degree is easiest and cheapest early. By checking your fit with real evidence instead of drifting through, you are giving your next few years the same care a family gives a big purchase.

What carries over

Whatever you have studied so far, these strengths come with you into Marine Biologist. They come from how you answered, so they are yours, not the old course's.

Skill	What you showed	How to prove it
Analytical questioning	You show this in how you answered: getting to the cause of a problem instead of patching the symptom.	Have an example ready: a problem where your questions found the real cause. Use it in applications and interviews for Marine Biologist.

Bring your record. Print your academic transcript. Highlight modules that overlap with Marine Biologist, such as maths and statistics, research methods, academic writing, programming, accounting, biology or communication. These are the modules to ask about for credit.

Before you change anything

Book a meeting with your faculty student adviser first, and bring this report and your transcript. Ask:

1
Which of my completed modules count towards the Marine Biologist route, and how many credits transfer?

2
What is the last date to change programme without losing the year or the fees?

3
Does the new programme have its own entry requirements for internal transfers, such as an APS, subject marks or a selection test?

4
If I leave, what happens to my record and any modules I have passed?

5
Is there a mid-year or late intake, and would I lose time waiting for it?

6
How does changing programme affect my funding? (See below.)

Do not drop your current programme until the place in the new one is confirmed in writing.

Deadlines to watch

Applications
most universities close first-year applications around the end of September for the next year, and some programmes close earlier or select in rounds. Look up the exact date for the Marine Biologist route.

Late and mid-year windows
some institutions reopen for a late or second-semester intake. Ask the faculty.

Changing programme
internal changes usually have to happen in the first weeks of the academic year. Check the faculty calendar.

Funding and accommodation
they have their own deadlines. Do not assume they move with your programme.

Funding rules before you change

Funded years
NSFAS and most bursaries fund a set number of years for the qualification they approved. Changing degree can use up funded years or need the funder's approval, so ask in writing before you move.

NSFAS
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). Check the current rules on nsfas.org.za.

More funding and study options
the government's National Career Advice Portal lists bursaries, loans and institutions.

Bursary contracts
a bursary tied to your current field may require you to repay if you change. Read the contract first.

Student loans and fees
ask the finance office what you still owe on this year before you leave.

Test the new field first

Four weeks, no cost, no commitment. Do the four weekly tasks in Part 2, sit in on a first-year lecture in Marine Biologist if the department allows it, and ask the faculty to put you in touch with a third-year student. If you still want it after four weeks, you are choosing from evidence.

Talking to the people backing you

Start with what you learned
not with "I want to quit". Show the report: it gives your reasons in writing.

Bring a plan
Say what you will study, what it costs, how many years it adds, and what happens to your current credits.

Name their worry
"Wasted time and money" is the usual one. Answer it with the credit and funding answers from your adviser.

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Ask for support, not permission

Say what would help: a conversation with a lecturer, help with the application, patience while you test it.

Invite them to check the facts

Hand them the sources in the career pages so they can confirm entry requirements and pay for themselves.

A compass, not a verdict.
This report shows where your answers point today. It cannot predict results or guarantee a place or a job, and it does not replace your adviser. Confirm every requirement with the institution before you apply or withdraw.

The choice is yours.

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