University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 6**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)**
Credit Structure[2]	**360 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits** **Level 6: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time and part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**3 years full-time**
Intended Award	**BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science**
Named Exit Awards	**BSc Medical Science** **DipHE Medical Science** **CertHE Medical Science**
Entry Requirements[4]	**Typical Offer:** **112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent)** **A levels – Biology or science related subject is preferred at grade C or above (or equivalent).** **Five GCSEs at grade C or above (or equivalent) including English, Mathematics and Science.**
Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk**
UCAS Code	**J750**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2025-26 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science degree utilises a multidisciplinary approach that will provide learners with knowledge of the workings of the human body at molecular, cellular, organ and systems level. The degree aims to integrate the basic knowledge of key biomedical

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

subject areas with clinical pathology specialist areas through the study of pathobiology of human disorders, disease processes and their investigation, in line with the requirements of our accrediting body: the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS).

The degree has a strong practical focus and provides a wide range of practical and analytical skills relevant to a career in the biomedical science sector and beyond. The aim is to help students progress to become employment-ready graduates and hence to equip students with a wide range of transferable skills that are so highly valued in the current, ever-changing, employment market. The degree is taught by an international team of highly qualified, research-active academics, and benefits from a close working relationship with local NHS trusts. This ensures that the course is relevant to students' future employment, is contemporary and at the forefront of science. Moreover, the modular structure comprising 30 and 15 credit modules allows opportunities for lifelong learning, as set out by the national UK Government's Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) initiative.

Course Aims

In providing this course, the University and the course team aim to:

- Equip students with the multidisciplinary knowledge and skills required for careers within biomedical science and related disciplines;
- Enable students to relate their knowledge to applied biomedical science;
- Equip students with understanding and appreciation of professional standards and codes of conduct as set by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS);
- Provide the skills required to analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific data and literature;
- Enable students to develop the skills necessary to communicate complex scientific data to a variety of audiences using a range of formats;
- Develop students' ability to undertake, and critically evaluate the validity and reliability of a range of methodologies;
- Engage students with contemporary developments and research activity in biomedical science;
- Make a contribution to widening participation in science higher education in the region and raise the local and regional expertise in graduates within biomedical science and related disciplines;
- Develop students' personal, professional and employability skills;
- Enable students to become independent life-long learners.

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Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

On successful **completion of this course** students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of contemporary research advances in biomedical science.
2. Use an interdisciplinary approach to apply the underlying principles of the biomedical sciences.
3. Demonstrate detailed knowledge and appreciation of professional codes of conduct and professional standards as set by the HCPC.
4. Critically analyse the validity and reliability of a range of scientific techniques, including current laboratory methods used for the study, investigation, diagnosis and monitoring of human health and disease.
5. Evaluate the significance of testing results with respect to scientific normative data.
6. Obtain and integrate science-based evidence to formulate and test current hypotheses relevant to biomedical science.
7. Design, plan, and conduct a research dissertation and critically evaluate the significance of the outcomes.
8. Demonstrate the acquisition of problem-solving techniques including the ability to critically collate and analyse original research data and draw conclusions.
9. Demonstrate the acquisition of a range of basic and specialist practical skills relevant to the biomedical sciences.
10. Demonstrate an appreciation of the continuing development and evaluation of new and current methods and therapeutic intervention strategies.
11. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in undertaking a task e.g. dissertation, project.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / Competency Frameworks:

- QAA Subject benchmarks for Bioscience (2023);
- QAA Subject benchmarks for Biomedical Science (2023);
- Heath and Care Professions Standards;
- Institute of Biomedical Science criteria for accreditation;
- Royal Society of Biology criteria for accreditation;
- HEA Embedding Employability Framework.

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 4			
	Scientific Skills for the Life Sciences	15	Mandatory
	Scientific Skills for Biomedical Science	15	Mandatory
	Biochemistry and Biomolecules	30	Mandatory
	Cell Biology	30	Mandatory
	Human Anatomy and Physiology	30	Mandatory
Level 5			
	Infection and Immunity	30	Mandatory
	Genetics and Molecular Biology	30	Mandatory
	Biology of Disease	30	Mandatory
	Clinical Biochemistry	15	Mandatory
	Pharmacology and Toxicology	15	Mandatory
Level 6			
	Dissertation	30	Mandatory
	Advanced Biomedical Practice	30	Mandatory
	Haematology and Blood Transfusion	30	Mandatory
	Histology and Histopathology	15	Mandatory
	Developmental and Stem Cell Biology	15	Mandatory

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a BSc Medical Science ordinary exit award on completion of 300 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and at least 60 credits at level 6. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for the exit award of DipHE Medical Science on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Medical Science on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science are likely to expect the following tutor-structured learning hours:

- Level 4: Approximately 288 hours
- Level 5: Approximately 270 hours
- Level 6: Approximately 180 hours

Tutor-structured learning includes a mix of teaching methods delivered in a 'block and blend' fashion, such as:

- Lectures – Providing core theoretical knowledge.
- Seminars – Encouraging interactive discussions and critical analysis.
- Laboratory Practical Sessions – Developing hands-on skills in a range of areas pertinent to Biomedical Science
- Workshops & Site Visits – Applying biomedical science principles to real-world scenarios, with opportunity to broaden employability horizons.

Students are also expected to engage in self-directed learning, typically 36 hours per week however, should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles, whilst developing a range of practical and soft skills relevant to the sector. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess the intended learning outcomes of each module. Assessment on the course overall will include coursework (including essays, laboratory reports, presentations, portfolios, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and written and practical examinations. Core components of assessments must be passed at 40%; moreover, all assessment components of modules containing clinical-relevant content are considered 'core' and must achieve a 40% pass mark.

Special Features

This award is accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), the leading professional body for scientists, support staff and students in the field of biomedical science. As such, it can be used towards obtaining a professional statutory registration as a biomedical scientist with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) through completion of the IBMS Registration Training Portfolio and award of the IBMS Certificate of Competence. Further information can be found on the IBMS website www.ibms.org

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) is the statutory body for regulation of professionals in health and care professions. The title Biomedical Scientist is regulated by statute and those using the title in their professional practice must be registered with the HCPC. The course is not yet accredited by the HCPC, and graduates will need to complete an additional year of placement or equivalent activity before applying to the HCPC. Eligibility to apply for registration is achieved by evidence compliant with the standards of proficiency for biomedical scientists. This is evidenced through completion of the IBMS Registration Training Portfolio and award of the IBMS Certificate of Competence. Further information is available on the HCPC website www.hcpc-uk.org and the IBMS website.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,535 per year
Part-time UK	£2,384 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£15,690 per year
Part-time EU/International	£3,922 per 30 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for course material printing, such as: lecture notes, assessed posters, recommended readings, amounting to a maximum of £150 per year payable as required.

Students are likely to incur other costs for optional field trips amounting to approximately maximum £700 per duration of study programme. Furthermore, our IBMS-accredited programme provides the students with the opportunity to optionally join this learned society and benefit from their provision at a voluntary cost of £13 for 2025. This fee will be covered for all students reaching Level 6.

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Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.