

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with Foundation Year)
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	480 Credits Level 3: 120 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	4 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with Foundation Year)
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Biomedical Science CertHE Biomedical Science
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: A minimum of 80 UCAS tariff points, or equivalent. General Studies A Level will not be considered. Five GCSEs at grade C or above (or equivalent) to include English, Mathematics and Science
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	J751

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with Foundation Year) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 3 in the 2021-22 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The Foundation Year provides a route for those students who lack the required qualifications for the three year programme. The aim of the Foundation Year is to provide students with the subject knowledge, study skills and personal confidence to succeed at degree level in a biomedical science subject. This year provides a supportive route to degree level study for students from a wide variety of education and working backgrounds.

¹For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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](#).

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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 subject areas with clinical pathology specialist areas through the study of pathobiology of human disorders, disease processes and their investigation.

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.

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);
- Provide the skills required to analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific data and literature;
- 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.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with Foundation Year) course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been

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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 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 standards as set by 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:

- University of Suffolk Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards;
- QAA Subject benchmarks for Bioscience (2019);
- QAA Subject benchmarks for Biomedical Science (2019);
- Health and Care Professions Standards;

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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- Institute of Biomedical Science criteria for accreditation;
- Royal Society of Biology criteria for accreditation;
- HEA Embedding Employability Framework.

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with Foundation Year) comprises modules at levels 3, 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 3			
	Scientific Study Skills	20	Mandatory
	Principles of Biology	20	Mandatory
	Mathematics for Science	20	Mandatory
	Fundamentals of Biochemistry and Biophysics	20	Mandatory
	Foundations of Anatomy and Physiology	20	Mandatory
	Investigative Project	20	Mandatory
Level 4			
	Scientific Skills	20	Mandatory
	Human Physiology I	20	Mandatory
	Biochemistry	20	Mandatory
	Cell Biology	20	Mandatory
	Introduction to the Genome	20	Mandatory
	Introduction to Biomedical Science	20	Mandatory
Level 5			
	Immunology	20	Mandatory
	Medical Microbiology	20	Mandatory
	Biology of Disease	20	Mandatory
	Research Methods and Scientific Communication	20	Mandatory
	Data Analysis and Statistics	20	Mandatory
	Molecular Biotechnology	20	Mandatory
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	Mandatory
	Advanced Biomedical Practice	20	Mandatory

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

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	Haematology and Blood transfusion	20	Mandatory
	Histology	20	Mandatory
	Regenerative Medicine	20	Optional
	Clinical Nutrition	20	Optional
	Developmental Biology	20	Optional
	Pharmacology and Toxicology	20	Optional

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with Foundation Year). Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Biomedical Science on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Biomedical Science on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with Foundation Year) are likely to have approximately 288 contact hours at levels 3, 4 and 5 and 210 contact hours at level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activities, revision quizzes, tutorials, guided VLE and Reading Week activities. Students will normally be expected to undertake 36 hours of independent study in an average week, but 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. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess intended learning outcomes of each module. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 50% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and 50% written and practical examinations.

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. 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.

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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 (with Foundation Year) will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£13,725 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,287 per 20 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.

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](#).