

Programme Specification

MSc by Research Biomedicine (full-time)

PFTZRESBIOHS

For students entering in 2027/28

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc by Research Biomedicine (full-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	QAA Characteristics statement – Master’s degree Feb 2020

Programme information and content

This course aims to prepare you for subsequent PhD studies or for pursuing a research career in industry or academia. By undertaking this course, you will have the opportunity to gain practical experience of key laboratory techniques that are used in biomedical research, and develop your understanding of experimental design and statistical analysis. The course will also support you in developing your critical appraisal skills, aiding in your understanding of topics that are at the cutting edge of modern biomedical research. Your studies will culminate in the planning, management and completion of an in-depth laboratory-based research project, working alongside academics who are experts in their field.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc by Research Biomedicine (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Conduct expert searches of the literature
2	Critically appraise and evaluate the scientific literature
3	Explain the latest experimental techniques, including their theoretical basis and practical application
4	Design and plan experimental work
5	Effectively analyse data
6	Apply appropriate statistical methodology to analyse experimental data
7	Communicate effectively in a range of formats and in a manner that is appropriate to the intended audience, including preparing a report in the form of a short scientific paper

8	Apply advanced scientific biomedical knowledge and skills to the identification of solutions to novel problems
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You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BIMAPS1	Critical Analysis and Problem Solving	20	M
BIMBD23	Research Project	140	M
BIMPLE1	Project Planning, Laboratory Skills and Experimental Design	20	M

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

Not available on a part time basis

Placement opportunities

With the agreement of their dissertation supervisor, students may be allowed to study in a collaborator's lab or to learn a new research technique as part of their project work

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

There are no optional modules for this programme.

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, practical work, tutorials, seminars and small group discussions. Some modules may include group work to help develop team working skills.

The majority of the teaching will be delivered in person but some elements of your programme may be delivered via digital technology.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set

of modules on this programme is – 100 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of coursework (including written reports, presentations and class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits

(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits

(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits
- (ii) No credits with a mark below 40%

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

None

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSc by Research Biomedicine (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28
23 July 2026

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