

Programme Specification

BSc Engineering with Physiology

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

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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	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Engineering with Physiology with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only) BSc Engineering with Physiology with Industrial Year - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Engineering

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a thorough degree level education in biomedical engineering, equipping you to deliver engineering solutions to complex healthcare problems. You will learn to apply a grounding in the fundamental principles of engineering and relevant aspects of biology to the design of devices, systems, and techniques for the diagnosis, monitoring, management and treatment of diseases, lesions, disorders and infirmity.

Our course combines lectures with active learning approaches and digitally-enabled learning activities to enrich your educational experience, providing you with the core discipline-specific knowledge and practical and transferable skills to help you to flourish in your professional career.

With a distinctive emphasis on technological advances within biomedical engineering, our programme provides you with the ability to evaluate and create revolutionary advancements in medical diagnostics and therapy, placing you at the leading edge of modern medicine.

The course is structured to allow seamless transition and incremental progression which builds on prior knowledge and experience and is designed to reinforce core material while introducing challenging and stimulating new concepts at stage-defined timepoints. The end result is a carefully-choreographed learning environment which promotes acquisition of transferable skills and theoretical knowledge but also the self-confidence and assuredness with which to apply them in a professional setting.

Part 1:	Part 1 (year 1): Introduces you to the fundamental underpinning principles and techniques in biology and engineering needed for a career in biomedical engineering.
Part 2:	Part 2 (year 2): Provides you with the ability to apply your knowledge and understanding in more advanced areas of biomedical engineering, building upon the fundamentals learned in Part 1. You will gain additional practical skills and experience, and will work in teams to design and develop an engineering solution for a real-world health-related need.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Placement/Study abroad year: A placement year, if undertaken, provides the opportunity to obtain practical experience and apply academic knowledge. It also helps provide focus in the final year of academic study. Students gain transferable skills demanded by graduate employers and on return to university are better informed about future career paths. A year abroad provides the opportunity for students to broaden both their academic and cultural awareness.
Part 3:	Part 3 (year 3): Gives you the opportunity to specialise in the areas of biomedical engineering that interest you the most, with a range of options informed by current research and clinical practice. You will gain experience in planning, managing, and conducting your own in-depth research project in biomedical engineering.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Engineering with Physiology

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	Apply knowledge of mathematics, statistics, natural science and engineering principles to the solution of complex biomedical problems. Some of the knowledge will be at the forefront of biomedical engineering.
2	Select and apply appropriate engineering concepts and computational and analytical techniques to analyse, model and solve complex biomedical problems, drawing on first principles of mathematics, statistics, natural science and engineering and recognising the limitations of the techniques employed.
3	Search for, critically analyse, integrate, synthesise and evaluate scientific literature to draw conclusions, make hypotheses and suggest solutions.
4	Use a creative, innovative and evidence-based approach to propose realistic solutions for complex biological and real-world problems in light of continued scientific advances.
5	Evaluate the environmental and societal impact of solutions to complex problems and minimise adverse impacts; identify and analyse ethical and social concerns and make reasoned ethical choices informed by professional codes of conduct; use a risk management process to identify, evaluate and mitigate risks (the effects of uncertainty) associated with a particular project or activity; adopt a holistic and proportionate approach to the mitigation of security risks; and adopt an inclusive

	approach to engineering practice and recognise the responsibilities, benefits and importance of supporting equality, diversity and inclusion.
6	Safely and competently use a range of practical laboratory and/or field skills and techniques to generate accurate records and robust datasets
7	Select and apply appropriate materials, equipment, engineering technologies and processes, recognising their limitations.
8	Discuss the role of quality management systems and continuous improvement in the context of complex problems.
9	Apply knowledge of engineering management principles, commercial context, project and change management, and relevant legal matters including intellectual property rights.
10	Organize and manage workload to complete tasks and projects effectively, both independently and collaboratively as part of a team.
11	Effectively communicate subject specific knowledge, concepts and research outputs to technical and non-technical audiences using a range of multimedia formats.
12	Recognize and apply principles of good scientific practice, including ethical integrity, accountability, the generation of accurate and reproducible data, transparent and responsible reporting, and the importance of reflective practice (including planning and recording self-learning and development as the foundation for lifelong learning/CPD).

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.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
Study Abroad By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution. Placement By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI1AP3	Anatomy and Physiology	20	4
BI1CMP1	Cellular and Molecular Principles of Life	20	4
BI1MA3	Mathematics	20	4
BI1PE2	Essentials of Physics for Medicine	20	4
BI1PR3	Programming	20	4
BI1RM3	Robotics in Medicine and Prosthetics	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI2ME2	Medical Equipment	20	5
BI2PPI1	Principles of Physical Interventions in Medicine	20	5
BI2PS1	Biomedical Problem Solving	20	5
BI2RP3	Research and Professional Skills	20	5
BI2SI1	Biomedical Signal Processing and Imaging	20	5
BI2SW2	Biomedical Sensors and Wearable Technology	20	5

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI2PEX	Professional Experience	120	5

The BSc Engineering with Physiology with Industrial Year includes a year-long industrial placement. Many students find that the experience and knowledge gained during the Industrial Year allows them to make better use of their final year of University study, and provides useful background knowledge for more permanent career choices.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI3RP3	Research Project	40	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, tutorials, practical classes and project work. Some modules may include group work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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 written examinations and coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study

abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including industrial year and study year abroad

Part 2: one-third

Industrial year: Placement year not included in the classification

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

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

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

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

Additional costs of the programme

Participation in any residential field based optional modules offered, is subject to fees payable by the student.

If you undertake a Placement Year, associated costs will vary according to the nature and location of the placement and/or the study abroad host institution, and individual travel and subsistence arrangements.

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.

BSc Engineering with Physiology for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28
10 June 2026

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