

Programme Specification

BSc Medical Science with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2027

UCAS Code: C751

UFMEDSCIFY

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	4 years
Accreditation	Royal Society of Biology
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement - Biosciences

Programme information and content

This programme is designed to equip you with the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours necessary to work in a wide range of healthcare roles as well as to prepare you for further education (postgraduate courses and academia), fostering attributes that are necessary for life-long professional development. This course offers the flexibility to explore a variety of topics, ranging from molecular, genetic and cellular levels through to diagnostics, treatments and interventions. You will have the opportunity to study the link between biomedical science and human anatomy and physiology in the healthy and diseased state and determine how it informs disease understanding, diagnosis and treatment. There will also be the opportunity to explore a range of diagnostic equipment and diseases, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, pathological infections and neurological disorders – all of which present major challenges to global health. Through practical experience, you will develop knowledge and applied laboratory skills on the scientific methods used in medical research to study and identify disease. Graduates of Medical Science will be prepared to embark on a variety of careers including medical or pharmaceutical research, pathology and diagnosis, clinical trials, data management, drug development, public health and infection control, scientific and medical writing and many more within the health sector. Some may choose to go on to further studies in clinical, biomedical or scientific medicine.

Foundation year:	The Foundation Year will provide you with the scientific background required to succeed on the subsequent years of the course. You will acquire a broad foundation in Biology, Mathematics and Chemistry. Additionally, the Academic and Scientific skills: Foundations for Tackling Global Challenges modules the Academic Skills module will give you the skills necessary to excel at university. The goal of Year 0 is to provide you with basic core knowledge suitable for your chosen pathway and the confidence of transitioning to higher education.
Part 1:	The main aim of Part 1 is to give you the core foundation knowledge on which the advanced medical subjects will build upon in your future studies. You will learn about the biochemical, molecular and cell biology basis of life, study the fundamentals of microbiology, discover the

	anatomy and physiology of the human body and explore major human pathologies. You can choose to focus on the fundamental principles of physics for medicine or delve deeper into the biochemistry. You will gain practical laboratory experience including performing basic laboratory techniques and histology practicals . You will also develop essential transferable skills (such as study and writing skills, mathematical skills, statistical analysis, data handling/interpretation, communication, academic integrity and teamwork) through activities embedded in the core modules.
Part 2:	In Part 2, you will be able to pursue your interests and career aspirations. by expanding your understanding of the fundamental genetic and molecular processes that underpin the normal function/dysfunction of cells and tissues. You can expand your knowledge on medical science subjects, ranging from haematology and immunology to clinical biochemistry. You will also continue to enhance your practical, transferrable and employability skills in your chosen modules.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Students may be permitted to transfer to a programme with Study Abroad / Placement Year.
Part 3:	In Part 3 of the programme there is a strong emphasis on the application of gained knowledge and skills. You will continue to create a personalised programme that aligns with your interests and career goals by choosing from a wide range of options at the frontier of knowledge, such as cardiovascular biology, cancer, neurobiology and pathogenic bacteria/viruses. The highlight of the final year is the opportunity to work alongside an expert in the medical research field on a novel research project. This capstone experience will allow you to develop an advanced understanding of your chosen topic and apply the skills that you have acquired from your first and second year. This will allow you to further develop your personal and professional identity as a medical scientist.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Medical Science with Foundation

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	Describe and explain the key concepts and principles in medical science, including human anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology.
2	Describe and explain the biological mechanisms underlying health and disease, including the aetiology, pathogenesis, and progression of various medical conditions.
3	Explain and critically evaluate the latest advancements in biotechnology, including the development of novel diagnostic tools and therapeutic agents.
4	Discuss global health issues and the role of medical science in addressing global health challenges.

5	Effectively communicate subject specific knowledge, concepts and research outputs to technical and non-technical audiences using a range of multimedia formats.
6	Analyse experimental and observational data using relevant statistical tests/ analytical tools and interpret the results, recognizing the limitation of data collection and statistical methodology.
7	Organise and manage workload to complete tasks and projects effectively, both independently and collaboratively as part of a team.
8	Search for, critically analyse, integrate, synthesis and evaluate scientific literature to draw conclusions, make hypotheses and suggest solutions.
9	Safely and competently use a range of practical laboratory and/or field skills and techniques to generate accurate records and robust datasets.
10	Use a creative, innovative and evidence-based approach to propose realistic solutions for complex biological and real-world problems in the light of continued scientific advances.

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	
N/A	

Module information			
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Foundation modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI0FB1	Foundation Biology 1	20	0
BI0FB2	Foundation Biology 2	20	0
CH0AS1	Academic and Scientific skills: Foundations for Tackling Global Challenges 1	20	0
CH0AS2	Academic and Scientific skills: Foundations for Tackling Global Challenges 2	20	0
CH0FC1	Foundation Chemistry 1	20	0
The remaining 20 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints.			

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI1AP3	Anatomy and Physiology	20	4
BI1CMP1	Cellular and Molecular Principles of Life	20	4
BI1FM1	Fundamentals of Microbiology	20	4
BI1HP2	Human Pathology	20	4

The remaining 40 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI2CM1	Advanced Studies in Cellular and Molecular Biology	20	5
BI2MG2	Medical Genetics	20	5
BI2RP3	Research and Professional Skills	20	5

The remaining 60 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list.

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

The remaining 80 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list.

Placement opportunities

N/A

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, seminars/tutorials, laboratory practical sessions and supervised project work, depending on the modules you choose.

The contact hours for your Programme are dependent on module choice. Information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

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

This programme is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology

Assessment

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

Progression

Foundation Year

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- (i) obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) achieve a module mark of at least 50% in both Foundation Biology 1 (BI0FB1) and Foundation Biology 2 (BI0FB2).

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.

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 Study abroad / Placement year

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad / Placement year: Year abroad / Placement year not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Supplementary Conventions

In order to be eligible for the BSc Medical Science with Foundation, students must meet the requirements described in the appropriate section of the Assessment Handbook please see link below for further details; and

(i) must gain a mark of at least 40% in BI3RP3.

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 Medical Science with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2027/28

10 June 2026

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