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# Biomedical Sciences Course Information Sheet for entry in 2022

Biomedical science focuses on how cells, organs and systems function in the human body; an exciting and dynamic area that is highly relevant to the understanding and treatment of human diseases. Oxford is a highly respected and internationally recognised centre for biomedical research and students will benefit from tuition from leading experts working within a variety of nonclinical and clinical departments.

This course provides students with an intellectually stimulating education in modern molecular, cellular and systems biology and neuroscience. Please note this course does not provide medical training.

The Biomedical Sciences course at Oxford has been designed so that students initially acquire an integrated understanding of biomedical science that allows them to shape their subsequent studies towards the topics that interest them the most. Practical laboratory work forms an integral part of this programme and you will be required to complete these practical elements to a satisfactory standard in order to progress through the course. As the course progresses, increasing emphasis is placed on scientific research, as students obtain first-hand experience of laboratory research in the later stages. Students choose their own project and the possible areas for investigation within the University are wide ranging.

Students can elect to graduate after three years with a BA degree. On the basis of the specialisation initiated by the selection of second-year modules and confirmed by the choice of third-year options, students will be awarded a degree in either Neuroscience or Cell and Systems Biology. The research-intensive fourth year leads to the award of a Master's degree. Students who complete the fourth year will graduate with a Master's degree.

## A typical week

In your first year you would typically attend six to ten lectures, a Mathematics or Statistics class and a three-hour practical class each week. In addition, you will prepare for and attend weekly tutorials during which you will discuss, through consideration of experimental studies, the significance and limitations of a given topic with your tutors. Your remaining time will be available for independent study.

During the first two terms of the second year, your work is divided between around five lectures and one to two tutorials each week, in addition to practical classes, while the final term concentrates on experimental research in a laboratory. During the third year you will attend lectures, seminars and tutorials in your chosen specialist area.

During the fourth year, you will be working almost exclusively on your extended research project and attending original research seminars to bolster your understanding of experimental biomedical sciences.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes vary according to the type of class: workshops are typically 10 students, while practical classes are normally up to 40 students. Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by members of academic staff or research staff. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some tutorial and class teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are usually studying at doctorate level.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our Academic Year page and the Medical Sciences website.

## Course structure

| TERMS 1–3 (YEAR 1) | |
|---|---|
| **COURSES**<br>• Numerical and scientific skills (Mathematics and Statistics, Chemistry and Physics)<br>• Body and cells<br>• Genes and molecules<br>• Brain and behaviour | **ASSESSMENT**<br>Examined by five written papers at the end of the year. A satisfactory practical record is required for progression to Year 2. |

| TERMS 4–5 (PART I FINALS) | |
|---|---|
| **COURSES**<br>Students select courses totalling ten units from a wide range of subject areas, which currently include:<br>• Psychological processes and disorders<br>• Neurophysiology<br>• Cellular and systems physiology<br>• Intra- and intercellular signalling<br>• Genetics and developmental biology<br>• Pharmacology<br>• Cellular pathology and immunology<br>*The full list is available on the Biomedical Sciences website* | **ASSESSMENT**<br>Examined by two written papers at the start of the sixth term. An academic penalty will be applied for an unsatisfactory practical record. |

| TERMS 6–9 (PART IIA FINALS) | |
|---|---|
| **COURSES**<br><br>**Terms 6-8**<br>Students work on their short research project and specialist review.<br><br>**Terms 6-9**<br>Students select from a wide range of specialised options that cover:<br><br>• Cell and systems physiology and pharmacology<br>• Neuroscience<br>• Psychology<br>• Pathology and developmental biology<br>Students will choose whether they wish to graduate from the course with either a degree in Cell and Systems Biology or a degree in Neuroscience. The degree awarded will depend on the pattern of options chosen.<br><br>*The full list of current options is available here.* | **ASSESSMENT**<br>Examined by three written papers during the third term of the final year. Students will also submit a project report, deliver a presentation on their research findings to the examiners and submit a specialist review. Performance at 2:1 level in Years 2 and 3 is required for progression to Year 4. |

| TERMS 10–12 (PART IIB FINALS) | |
|---|---|
| **COURSES**<br><br>**Term 10**<br>Students receive skills based teaching<br><br>**Terms 10-12**<br>Students work on their extended research project and a review article on state of the art research in a chosen field. | **ASSESSMENT**<br>Students will submit an extended project report and deliver a presentation on their research findings to the examiners. Students will also submit their review article. |

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency.

For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions. For the latest information on the University's Covid-19 response and how it affects students please go to the Oxford University Covid-19 Response site.

## Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2022.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your Terms and Conditions.

| Fee status | Annual Course fees |
|---|---|
| Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man) | £9,250 |
| Overseas (including most EU students– see Note below) | £30,640 |

**Note:** Following the UK's departure from the EU, most EU students starting a course in 2022/23 will pay fees at the 'Overseas' rate. Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme will be eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the Undergraduate fee status and the Oxford and the EU pages for more information.

## Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2022 are estimated to be between £1,215 and £1,755 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

## Living costs breakdown

| | Per month | | Total for 9 months | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Lower range | Upper range | Lower range | Upper range |
| Food | £290 | £410 | £2,610 | £3,690 |
| Accommodation (including utilities) | £680 | £810 | £6,120 | £7,290 |

| | Per month | | Total for 9 months | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personal items | £135 | £260 | £1,215 | £2,340 |
| Social activities | £45 | £120 | £405 | £1,080 |
| Study costs | £45 | £100 | £405 | £900 |
| Other | £20 | £55 | £180 | £495 |
| **Total** | **£1,215** | **£1,755** | **£10,935** | **£15,795** |

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students' Union conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS). The likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only. In addition to reviewing the information above, you should fully consider and research your personal likely living costs.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2022-23, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

## Additional Fees and Charges Information for Biomedical Sciences

In the third term of the second year, students who undertake a research project may wish to remain in Oxford after the end of full term to facilitate completion of their project. (See the likely range of living costs for an additional month in Oxford.) However, this extended residence in Oxford is not a requirement and students should be aware that no financial support is available to help with any additional living costs during this time.

In the (optional) fourth year of the Biomedical Sciences course, students will need to be in residence for an extended first term to begin their research project. You will need to be in Oxford for 12 weeks in the first term. This extended term means that you will need to budget for slightly higher living costs in the final year, as you will be required to be in Oxford for longer than the standard term. The additional work in the fourth year means that you will graduate with an MBiomedSci – a master's degree – as well as invaluable research experience that will be excellent preparation for further study or a range of careers.