



### Biomedical Sciences Information Sheet for entry in 2019

Biomedical scientists focus 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. This course does not provide a medical training.

Oxford is a highly respected and internationally recognised centre for biomedical research and on this interdisciplinary course students will receive the benefit of tuition from leading experts working within a variety of non-clinical and clinical departments. This course provides students with an intellectually stimulating education in modern molecular, cellular and systems biology and neuroscience.

The course has been designed so that students first acquire an integrated understanding of biomedical science that allows them to shape their subsequent studies towards the topics that interest them the most.

As the course progresses, increasing emphasis is placed on relating knowledge to scientific research. That emphasis is demonstrated by the opportunity for all students to obtain first-hand experience of laboratory research in the later stages of the course. Students choose their own project and the possible areas for research within the University are wide ranging.

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 Neuroscience or Cell and Systems Biology.

For further details on the structure of the course, please refer to [www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/bms](http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/bms).

#### A typical week

A first-year student would typically attend six to ten lectures, a Mathematics or Statistics class and a three-hour practical class. Practical work undertaken in laboratories forms an integral part of this programme; students are required to complete practical work to a satisfactory standard in order to progress through the degree course. In addition, students prepare for weekly tutorials during which students and tutors discuss, through consideration of experimental studies, the significance and limitations of a given topic. Students' remaining time is available for self-directed study and extra-curricular activities.

During the first two terms of the second year, work is divided between lectures (about five a week), tutorials (one or two a week) and practical classes. The final term of the second year concentrates on experimental research in a laboratory. During the third year students attend lectures, seminars and tutorials in their chosen specialist area.

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.

## Course structure

| Terms 1–3 (1st year)  |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerical and scientific skills (Mathematics and Statistics, Chemistry and Physics)</li> <li>• Body and cells</li> <li>• Genes and molecules</li> <li>• Brain and behaviour</li> </ul> <p>Delivered by lectures, classes and practical sessions</p>  | <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Examined by five written papers at the end of the year. A satisfactory practical record is required for progression to Year 2.</p>   |
| Terms 4–5: Part 1 Finals  |  |
| <p><b>Courses</b></p> <p>Students select courses totalling ten units from a wide range of subject areas, which currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychological processes and disorders</li> <li>• Neurophysiology</li> <li>• Cellular and systems physiology</li> <li>• Intra- and intercellular signalling</li> <li>• Genetics and developmental biology</li> <li>• Pharmacology</li> <li>• Cellular pathology and immunology</li> </ul> <p>The full list is available on our website</p>  | <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Examined by two written papers at the start of Term 6. These papers contribute 20% to the final degree mark. An academic penalty will be applied for an unsatisfactory practical record.</p>   |
| Terms 6–9: Part 2 Finals  |  |
| <p><b>Term 6-8</b></p> <p>Students work on their research project.</p> <p><b>Terms 6–9</b></p> <p>Options currently offered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neuroscience (cellular and systems)</li> <li>• Molecular medicine</li> <li>• Cardiovascular, renal and respiratory biology</li> <li>• Infection and immunity</li> <li>• Cellular physiology and pharmacology</li> <li>• Experimental psychology</li> </ul> <p><b>Cell and Systems Biology:</b> students study two options from the first five above.</p> <p><b>Neuroscience:</b> students study the Neuroscience and Experimental psychology options.</p> <p>Students select topics within an option to study in depth.</p> <p><i>The full list of current options is available at <a href="http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/bms">www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/bms</a></i></p> | <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Examined by four written papers during the third term of the final year. Students will also submit a project report and deliver a presentation on their research findings to the examiners. 80% of the final degree mark is determined by performance in the written papers and the project report/presentation.</p> |

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

### **Fees**

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2019.

| <b>Fee status</b>                          | <b>Annual Course fees</b> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Home/EU                                    | £9,250                    |
| Islands<br>(Channel Islands & Isle of Man) | £9,250                    |
| Overseas                                   | £27,240                   |

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

### **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.

## Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,058 and £1,643 per month in 2019-20. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

|                                     | Per month     |               | Total for 9 months |                |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                                     | Lower range   | Upper range   | Lower range        | Upper range    |
| Food                                | £265          | £371          | £2,387             | £3,342         |
| Accommodation (including utilities) | £566          | £739          | £5,093             | £6,655         |
| Personal items                      | £122          | £271          | £1,098             | £2,435         |
| Social activities                   | £42           | £126          | £380               | £1,138         |
| Study costs                         | £40           | £88           | £359               | £788           |
| Other                               | £23           | £48           | £208               | £432           |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>£1,058</b> | <b>£1,643</b> | <b>£9,525</b>      | <b>£14,790</b> |

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.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2019-20, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.