

Biomedical Sciences Information Sheet for entry in 2020

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.

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.

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.

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) | |
|---|--|
| <p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerical and scientific skills (Mathematics and Statistics, Chemistry and Physics) • Body and cells • Genes and molecules • Brain and behaviour | <p>ASSESSMENT</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 I FINALS) | |
| <p>COURSES</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"> • Psychological processes and disorders • Neurophysiology • Cellular and systems physiology • Intra- and intercellular signalling • Genetics and developmental biology • Pharmacology • Cellular pathology and immunology <p><i>The full list is available on the Biomedical Sciences website</i></p> | <p>ASSESSMENT</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 II FINALS) | |
| <p>Terms 6-8</p> <p>Students work on their research project.</p> <p>Terms 6-9</p> <p>Students select from a wide range of specialised options that cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell and systems physiology and pharmacology • Neuroscience • Psychology • Pathology and developmental biology <p>Students will choose whether they wish to graduate from the course with either a BA in Cell and Systems Biology or a BA in Neuroscience. The BA degree</p> | <p>ASSESSMENT</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> |



awarded will depend on the pattern of options chosen.

The full list of current options is available [here](#).

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 2020.

| Fee status | Annual Course fees |
|--|--------------------|
| Home/EU | £9,250 |
| Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man) | £9,250 |
| Overseas | £28,330 |

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

Please note that the course fees you pay include your fees for both University and college services and are divided between the University (including your department or faculty) and your college on a formula basis. More information is provided in your 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 £1,135 and £1,650 per month in 2020-2021. 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.

Living costs breakdown

| | Per month | | Total for 9 months | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Lower range | Upper range | Lower range | Upper range |
| Food | £270 | £385 | £2,430 | £3,465 |
| Accommodation (including utilities) | £630 | £760 | £5,670 | £6,840 |
| Personal items | £130 | £245 | £1,170 | £2,205 |
| Social activities | £45 | £110 | £405 | £990 |
| Study costs | £40 | £95 | £360 | £855 |
| Other | £20 | £55 | £180 | £495 |
| Total | £1,135 | £1,650 | £10,215 | £14,850 |

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 2020-21, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.