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Biomedical Sciences (BA) (three-year course); (MBiomedSci) (four-year course) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026

Entry requirements

Visit [Admission requirements for 2026 entry](#) to view a summary table of each undergraduate course's entry requirements.

If English is not your first language you may also need to meet our [English language requirements](#).

About the course

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. Students on this course 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 the significance and limitations of a given topic with your tutors, through consideration of experimental studies. 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. 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 [Biomedical Sciences website](#).

Significant self-study is expected of all students – for further details see [workload and independent study](#) information. Undergraduate courses at Oxford are full-time during term time. Students typically spend approximately 40 hours per week on academic work.

Course structure

Terms 1-3 (YEAR 1)

COURSES

- Numerical and scientific skills (Mathematics and Statistics, Chemistry and Physics)
- Body and cells
- Genes and molecules
- Brain and behaviour

ASSESSMENT

In person examinations and other types of assessment at the end of year 1.
A satisfactory practical record is required for progression to Year 2.

Terms 4-5 (Part A finals)

COURSES

ASSESSMENT

Terms 4-5 (Part A finals)

Students select courses totalling ten units from a wide range of subject areas, which currently include:

- Psychological processes and disorders
- Neurophysiology
- Cellular and systems physiology
- Intra- and intercellular signalling
- Genetics and developmental biology
- Pharmacology
- Cellular pathology and immunology

The full list is available on the [Biomedical Sciences website](#).

In person examinations at the start of the sixth term.

An academic penalty will be applied for an unsatisfactory practical record.

Terms 6-9 (Part B finals)

COURSES

Terms 6-8

Students work on their short research project and specialist review.

Terms 6-9

Students undertake advanced study, including consideration of material selected from a wide range of specialised options that cover:

- Cell and systems physiology and pharmacology
- Neuroscience
- Psychology
- Pathology and developmental biology

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.

View the [full list of current options](#) available.

ASSESSMENT

In person examinations during the third term of the final year.

Students will also submit coursework and deliver a presentation on their research findings to the examiners.

Performance at 2:1 level in Years 2 and 3 is required for progression to Year 4.

Terms 10-12 (Part C finals)

COURSES

Term 10

Students receive skills-based teaching

Terms 10-12

Students work on their extended research project and a review article on state-of-the art research in a chosen field.

(Not all options may be available every year – these are subject to change, as explained in the [Terms & Conditions](#) and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options.)

ASSESSMENT

Students will submit coursework and deliver a presentation on their research findings to the examiners.

Most Oxford courses are assessed by examinations. These are typically at the end of the first and last years but you may have assessments at other times and some courses have exams in the second year also. First year examinations are often called Prelims or Moderations, and you need to pass these exams to progress to the second year. You must pass your final year exams, or 'finals', to pass your degree. For more information on assessment for your course, please see the Course Structure.

Finals also determine the classification of your degree. For some courses you may also be assessed on your practical work, or you may be required to submit a dissertation. Please check the assessment details for your course.

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. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#) and information about [potential course changes](#).

You are also referred to the [Student Handbook](#) (which is updated every September).

Fees

These annual fees in 2026/27 are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2026. Information about how much fees and other costs usually increase each year is set out in the [University's Terms and Conditions](#).

For details of annual increases, please see our [guidance on likely increases to fees and charges](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees in 2026/27
Home	£9,790
Overseas	£54,990

In the 2027-28 academic year course fees for Home fee status students will rise to £10,050 (in line with the government fee cap.)

[Further details about fee status eligibility](#) can be found on the fee status webpage.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2026 are estimated to be between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month you are in Oxford. Students at Oxford can benefit from our [world class resources](#) and [college provision](#), which may help to keep costs down. Entitlement to certain types of support may depend on your personal financial circumstances.

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. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545	£2,835	£4,905
Accommodation (including utilities)	£825	£990	£7,425	£8,910
Personal items	£160	£310	£1,440	£2,790
Social activities	£50	£130	£450	£1,170
Study costs	£35	£90	£315	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	£1,405	£2,105	£12,645	£18,945

In order to provide these estimated likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University in collaboration with the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey in May 2025 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 current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2026-27, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

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.

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. Visit the [likely range of living costs](#) for an additional month in Oxford.

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.

Regulation - The University of Oxford is regulated by the [Office for Students](#) and subscribes to the [Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education](#) student complaints scheme.