

**BSc Nutrition with Food Consumer Sciences**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2011/2**

**UCAS code: B4D6**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	i) Biosciences and ii) Agriculture, Forestry, Agricultural and Food Sciences
Faculty:	Life Sciences Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	15/May/2013
Programme Director:	Dr Daniel Commane
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Food and Nutritional Sciences
Accreditation:	Not applicable

**Summary of programme aims**

The aim is to provide a programme of education, which can enable graduates to enter a career in government, the food industry or other sectors involved in the food chain, education, science communication or health, as scientists, and to develop their capacity to critically evaluate research into the science of food and health. Graduates should be able to provide advice and leadership in meeting public health / policy challenges in food reformulation and behaviour change challenges from a consumer perspective.

The testable learning outcomes will be the ability to:

- Integrate the scientific disciplines relevant to nutrition, food, aspects of consumer science relevant to food, psychology and health
- Communicate and apply scientific knowledge in nutrition, food, selected aspects of consumer science, psychology and health to meet the needs of consumers, industry and food regulatory authorities for the development and evaluation of safe and quality foods.

The programme aims to:

- Provide a programme of education which can enable its graduates to enter a career in a wide range of public and private organisations, as scientists, capable of supporting the relation between food and health through product development and evaluation of consumer acceptance of quality food.
- Provide a broadly based scientific education whose graduates can also enter into employment in related scientific sectors where they can apply their scientific skills.
- Allow individuals to develop their capacity to critically evaluate research into the science of food and health.
- Provide undergraduates with opportunities to develop their inter-personal and communication skills.
- Enable graduates from the programme to meet the qualification and curriculum requirements for postgraduate qualification as 'Registered Nutritionist'.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication (both written and oral), interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of information technology and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Students will also have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management and team working.

**Programme content**

The Nutrition with Food Consumer Sciences programme provides an opportunity for students to follow a core curriculum that will allow them to gain post graduation registration as a 'Registered Nutritionist' with opportunity to diversify their subject knowledge through selection of specified optional modules. The programme is also designed to allow graduates from the course to be recognised as competent nutrition scientists with understanding of food consumer sciences to function within the food and health industries in technical, development, advisory and marketing roles.

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the core Nutrition with Food Consumer Sciences modules) and, for Part 2 and 3, the lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the optional modules).

The fundamental science modules in Part 1 have been selected to ensure students gain a thorough grounding in biology, chemistry, mathematics and elements of psychology and marketing, necessary to form the basis for further study in Nutrition and Food Consumer Sciences. The Human Physiology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry and Metabolism modules provide an essential base for the health related and mechanistic aspects of nutrition that will be studied later in the course. The Chemistry modules help provide knowledge of the chemistry of food components, whereas the mathematics and computing material ensures that this group of students has sufficient numeracy skills to underpin their later studies. For the optional modules, students are free to select any module that is not a compulsory module so as to make 120 credits in each Part.

### Part 1 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
AP1EM1	Introduction to Marketing	10	4
BI1BA1	The Living Cell	10	4
BI1BB2	Biochemistry and Metabolism	10	4
CH1FC3	Molecular Studies for Life Sciences	10	4
FB1EQ2	Quantitative Skills for Life Sciences A	10	4
FB1GFN	Key Skills in Food and Nutritional Sciences	10	4
FB1PH1	Public Health Nutrition 1	10	4
PM1PB2	Human Physiology	20	4
FB1MB1	Introduction to Food Microbiology	10	4
AP1EE3	Economics 1	10	4

*Plus 10 credits from the following modules (choice dependent on qualifications):*

CH1FC1	Fundamental Concepts in Chemistry	10	4
PY1IN	Introduction to Neuroscience	10	4
PY1PC	Perception	10	4

### Part 2 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
BI1BE2	Pathology: Introduction to Human Disease	10	4
AP2EC1	Consumer Behaviour	10	5
FB2AG1	Farm to Fork: Primary Production of Food	10	5
FB2N1	Fundamentals of Human Nutrition	20	5
FB2FC1	Food Choice and Regulation	10	5
FB2EFA	Food Processing A	10	5
PY2CN1	Cognition 1	10	5
PY2CN2	Cognition 2	10	5
FB2MF1	Microbiology of Food Spoilage and Preservation	10	5
FB3PFAXXX	Research Methods for Food and Nutritional Sciences	0	6
FB2PYA	Industrial Training Preparation	0	5

*Optional modules (20 credits):*

FB2BBE	Biochemistry and Enzymology	10	5
MM270	Practice of Entrepreneurship	20	5

<i>Either</i>				
PY1CG*	Cognition and Learning	10	4	
<i>or</i>				
LA1ME1*	El Mundo Espanol	10	4	
<i>or</i>				
LA1MF1	Le Monde Francais	10	4	

*\*Students are only permitted to take a maximum of 10 credits of level 4 optional modules*

### **Part 3 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FB3PFA	Research Methods for Food and Nutritional Sciences	10	6
FB3GPD	Food Product Development	10	6
FB3GSE	Sensory Evaluation	10	6
FB3N2A	Diet and Disease	10	6
FB3N2B	Genes, Lifestyle and Nutrition	10	6
FB3GSA	Consumer Attitudes to Food Quality	10	6
FB3RP**	Research Project	30	6
FB3PN2	Public Health Nutrition 2	10	6

*\*\*Students may take FB3PRE Science and Food Technology Education Project instead of*

#### *Optional modules (20 credits):*

FB3CF1	Special Topics in Food and Toxicology	10	6
FB3CF2	Selected Topics in Food Chemistry	10	6
FB3QAS	Food Quality Assurance and Safety	20	6
MM270	Practice of Entrepreneurship	20	5
LA1XX1	Institution Wide Language Programme	20	5

### **Progression requirements**

- To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and qualify for the CertHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, and have marks of at least 30% in AP1EM1, FB1EQ2 and FB1PH1.
- To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and qualify for the DipHE a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.
- To obtain the degree at the end of Part 3, students must obtain an overall average of 40%. In order to achieve a BSc Honours degree, students are required to achieve a mark of at least 30% in the final year project modules FB3PFA and FB3RP combined. Students who fail to achieve this mark will qualify for a PASS degree if they meet the other criteria.

### **Assessment and classification**

The University's honours classification scheme is:

<i>Mark</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
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

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: [www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/extra-class.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/extra-class.aspx).

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

Teaching is organised into modules - each module will consist of lectures, practicals, or a combination of these and other teaching methods. Students are assessed on each module, usually by a formal examination, although modules consisting only of practicals (or similar coursework) may not have a formal examination. All coursework is assessed and summative assessments contribute towards the modular marks. The Part 3 Project is an individual study requiring the submission of a formal report for assessment.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

GCSE: Grade C or better in Mathematics and English; and achieved Advanced Level (AS and A2):

- Grades A,B,B at A2 with at least one science subject, including either chemistry, biology, physics or maths
- A UCAS Tariff of 320 with 100 obtained in at least one core science

International Baccalaureat: 32 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBB

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr C Wagstaff

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

### **Career prospects**

There are many varied job opportunities for scientifically trained graduates in nutrition. This course specifically trains graduates who are equipped to operate in many organisations and industries involved in the development, supply and regulation of food and food products. Graduates are equipped to work in education, consumer information and government departments concerned with assurance of nutrition quality and health as well as in public health nutrition. Other opportunities arise in market research companies.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

There are no formal arrangements for study abroad.

Students who wish to undertake a year-long industrial placement may be eligible to transfer to the BSc Nutrition with Food Consumer Sciences with Professional Training. The placement year normally takes place between Parts 2 and 3 of this degree programme.

## Programme Outcomes

### Knowledge and Understanding

#### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Food and nutrient composition, nutrient action, adaptation to food and nutrient supply;
2. Biological basis of the interaction between food and health;
3. Methods and data for acquiring and interpreting information about diet and health and evidence based food policy;
4. Role of agriculture, food production, marketing, economic, social and behavioural factors affecting dietary adequacy;
5. Consumer food choice and approaches to consumer and market research in food markets;
6. Concepts, theories and evidence in cognitive and social psychology.

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Lectures and practical classes provide the basic knowledge. A variety of coursework gives opportunities for extending knowledge and techniques. Individual and group projects reinforce techniques and give experience of practical applications

#### Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. Project work, reports, oral presentations and computer-based exercises also contribute to the final assessment.

### Skills and other attributes

#### B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Analyse and solve problems;
2. Critically evaluate scientific literature, recognising strengths and weaknesses in research findings;
3. Assess problems and design experiments to test hypotheses;
4. Apply knowledge to new problems;
5. Plan, conduct and report on an individual research project.

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Topics 1 and 2 are essential components of the programme and are embedded in many parts of the programme. Topics 3 and 4 are introduced in Part 2 and Part 3 coursework. Topics 3, 4 and 5 are fully developed during the product development module and the individual research project in Part 3 of the programme.

#### Assessment

Coursework is structured to assess topics 1, 2, 3 and 4. Topics 3, 4 and 5 are assessed as components of the individual research project.

#### C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Perform nutritional, microbiological and sensory laboratory tests to assess the quality and safety of foods;
2. Appreciate principles associated with assessment and formulation of diets to meet specified requirements for individuals or populations;
3. Ability to record, collate and analyse nutrition-related data using appropriate statistical methods

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Topic 1 is introduced by lectures but is developed fully by appropriate laboratory exercises during all Parts of the programme. Topics 2, 3 and 4 are developed during lectures, exercises and group work in Parts 2 and 3 of the programme.

#### Assessment

All topics will be assessed by coursework.

#### D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. Work as an individual, in a small group or as part of a larger team;
2. Prepare reports and make presentations that

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The development of transferable skills is integrated into many parts of the programme. Students are required to work both as individuals and as part of

effectively present the results of investigations carried out;

3. Make effective use of information technology;
4. Consider and manage career choice;
5. Digest, summarise and communicate information concerning food and nutrition at a level appropriate to the needs of both specialist and non-specialist target audiences.

groups. Career skills (topic 4) are introduced in a Part 1 module, are reinforced by the work experience period between Part 1 and Part 2. Skills in communication and presentation are developed as part of seminar presentations (specialist and non-specialist), presentations of specialist material from laboratory classes and the research project.

*Assessment*

All topics are assessed both by coursework within the modules and in formal examinations.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**