

## Programme Specification

**BSc Medical Science with Foundation**

**For students entering Foundation year in September 2024**

**UCAS Code: C751**

**UFMEDSCIFY**

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	Royal Society of Biology

### **Programme information and content**

This programme aims to produce graduates who have the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours to work as medical scientists in a wide range of healthcare roles and/or to be prepared for further higher education postgraduate courses and academia and to have the personal and intellectual attributes necessary for life-long professional development. You will study human anatomy and physiology and how it can be used in both diagnosis and treatment of disease. There will be an opportunity to study a range of diseases including cancer, cardiovascular disease, pathological infections and neurological disorders all of which present major challenges to global health. Through practical experience, you will develop knowledge and applied laboratory skills on the scientific methods used in medical research and on the diagnostic tools employed in clinical settings to study and identify disease. There will be opportunities to evaluate imaging diagnostics for cancers and understand the principles of radiotherapy in the clinical context. You will have the opportunity to develop clinical skills in simulated situations within the clinical suite and perform virtual human dissection using the 'Anatamage' tables. Graduates of Medical Sciences will be prepared to embark on a variety of careers including medical or pharmaceutical research, pathology and diagnosis, clinical trials, data management, drug development, public health and infection control, scientific and medical writing and many more within the health sector. Some may choose to go on to further study in clinical or scientific medicine.

Foundation year:	The Foundation Year will provide you with the scientific background required to succeed on the subsequent years of the course. You will acquire a broad foundation in Biology, Mathematics and Chemistry. Additionally, the Academic Skills module will give you the skills necessary to excel at university. The goal of Year 0 is to provide you with basic core knowledge suitable for your chosen pathway and the confidence of transitioning to higher education.
Part 1:	The main aim of Part 1 is to give you the core foundation knowledge on which the advanced medical subjects will build upon in your future studies. You will learn about the biochemical, molecular and cell biology basis of life, and will study the fundamentals of microbiology. You will be

	introduced to the anatomy and physiology of the human body and the major human pathologies affecting mankind. You will gain practical laboratory experience including performing basic laboratory techniques, and histology practicals and learn key clinical skills. You will additionally develop essential transferable skills (such as study and writing skills, mathematical skills, statistical analysis, data handling/interpretation, communication, academic integrity and teamwork) through activities embedded in the core modules.
Part 2:	In Part 2, you will expand your understanding of the fundamental molecular and cell biology processes that underpin the normal function of cells and tissues. You will gain specific knowledge on core medical science subjects, such as medical genetics, haematology (covering the study, diagnosis and treatment of blood disorders) and immunology (that considers the human defence system against pathogen attacks). You will be presented with a wide range of case studies to fully contextualise their learning. This knowledge will be applied in clinical settings where diagnosis and treatment options will be covered. You will also continue to enhance your clinical, practical and transferrable skills.
Placement/Study abroad year:	You will have the opportunity to undertake a placement year and discover what it is like to work in a professional setting. This will allow you to develop your skills further, expand your network and enhance your career prospects. The school has numerous contacts within and beyond the UK, ranging from the pharmaceutical to healthcare sectors. Students can express their interest to the school and receive guidance and support throughout the placement application process.
Part 3:	In Part 3 of the programme, there is a strong emphasis on the application of gained knowledge and skills. You will have the opportunity combine their knowledge to understand how cancer is imaged, staged and treated using radiotherapy. In Part 3, you will be able to create a personalised programme that aligns with your interests and career goals by choosing from a wide range of options at the frontier of knowledge such as cardiovascular biology, cancer, neurobiology and pathogenic bacteria/viruses. The highlight of the final year is the opportunity to work alongside an expert in the medical research field on a novel research project. This capstone experience will allow you to develop an advanced understanding of your chosen topic and apply the skills that you have acquired from your earlier years of study. This will allow you to further develop your personal and professional identity as a medical scientist.

<b>Module information</b>
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Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.
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<b>Foundation modules:</b>
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Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI0BF1	Foundation Programme: Biology	40	0
BI0MF1	Mathematics Foundation	20	0
CH0CHE	Chemistry	40	0
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0

International Students will need to select IF0ACA (Academic Skills), in place of IF0RAS (Foundation in Academic Skills) as IF0ACA is specifically targeted to the needs of International Students.

### Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI1AP3	Anatomy and Physiology	20	4
BI1CMP1	Cellular and Molecular Principles of Life	20	4
BI1FM1	Fundamentals of Microbiology	20	4
BI1HP2	Human Pathology	20	4
BI1PE2	Essentials of Physics for Medicine	20	4
PM1PS1	Professional Skills for Healthcare 1	20	4

### Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI2HI1	Haematology and Immunology	20	5
BI2MG2	Medical Genetics	20	5
BI2PPI1	Principles of Physical Interventions in Medicine	20	5
BI2RPS3	Research and Professional Skills	20	5

The remaining 40 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints.

### Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI2PEX	Professional Experience	120	5

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year 'with professional experience' programme. The placement year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

### Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI3DIR1	Diagnostic Imaging and Radiotherapy for Cancer	20	6

BI3RP3	Research Project	40	6
<p>The remaining 60 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints.</p>			

### **Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Additional costs of the programme**

Participation in any residential field based optional modules offered, is subject to fees payable by the student.

If you undertake a Placement Year, associated costs will vary according to the nature and location of the placement and/or the study abroad host institution, and individual travel and subsistence arrangements.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2023.

### **Placement opportunities**

#### **Placements:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

#### **Study Abroad:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

**Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught through lectures, seminars/tutorials, laboratory practical sessions and supervised project work, depending on the modules you choose.

The contact hours for your Programme are dependent on module choice. Information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

**Accreditation details**

This programme is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology

**Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

**Progression***Foundation Year*

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- (i) an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- (ii) no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%;
- (iii) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

BSc Medical Science with Foundation Specific Progression Requirements above Threshold.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BSc Medical Science, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(i) at least 40% in both the 20 credit Academic Skills (one of IFORAS, IF0ACA) and 20 credit subject skills (one of BI0MF1, PY0FIR, EN0SFS, PM0PHS) modules;

and achieve the following in the remaining 80-credits

(i) at least 55% in 40 credits;

(ii) at least 50% in another 40 credits;

(iii) at least 40% in all modules

The achievement of a threshold performance at Foundation Year qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### *Part 1*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

(i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;

(ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and

(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

### *Part 2*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

(i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and

(ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and

(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

#### *Professional/placement year*

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

In order to be eligible for the BSc Medical Science with Foundation, students must meet the requirements described in Section 17 of the Assessment Handbook Bachelor's (for cohorts entering in 2022/23 and onwards) (see, in particular, section 17.5); and

(i) must gain a mark of at least 40% in BI3RP3.

#### **Classification**

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

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

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

*Four year programmes, including study abroad*

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in:

Bachelor's (for cohorts entering in 2022/23 and onwards) (see, in particular, section 17.5)

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BSc Medical Science with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2024/25

21 July 2023

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