

Microbiology

 MBiolSci

COURSE DETAILS

- A level requirements: [AAB](#)
- UCAS code: C502
- Study mode: Full-time
- Length: 4 years

KEY DATES

- Apply by: [25 January 2023](#)
- Starts: 25 September 2023

Course overview

Microbiology is the study of microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses and parasites. You will study aspects of microbiology including the identification of microorganisms, how they are transmitted, how they interact with the host in disease and how they can be controlled.

INTRODUCTION

Our BSc Microbiology course involves the study of microorganisms with particular emphasis on the biology of bacteria, viruses and fungi. In spite of their size, the impact of microorganisms on the planet is so extensive that life as we know it could not exist without them.

In addition, microorganisms cause many of the known diseases of humans, animals and plants. Knowledge of microbiology will enable you to improve the quality of our lives in relation to the environment, to fight disease, and to combat pollution.

Microbiology plays a key role in genetic engineering and other modern biotechnologies, such as antibiotic production and the exploitation of new sources of food and energy.

Our degree programme aims to give you an appreciation of the full range of Microbiology while also allowing you to pursue areas of specific interest. During the course of your degree you will study modules such as Virology, Biotechnology, Bacterial disease mechanisms, Microbiomes and Advanced Microbiological Techniques. You will also have the opportunity to select from a wide range of optional modules.

The programme is taught by a mixture of lectures, workshops, seminars, tutorials, and laboratory courses, culminating in an extended research project in your third year. This is your chance to study an area of cutting edge microbiology in depth, while getting a real taste of life in an active

research environment and the opportunity to work alongside microbiologists working in the Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences, the Institute of Systems, Molecular and Integrative Biology and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

The MBiolSci in Microbiology (C502) is a four-year master's programme, in which students first follow the three-year BSc in Microbiology and then continue into a fourth year, subject to performance.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Independent and collaborative work
 - Becoming literate in finding, interpreting, evaluating, managing and sharing information
 - Self-management skills
 - Problem-solving
 - Using programming language for analysis and visualisation of large data sets
 - Using lab equipment correctly and safely
 - Ability to evaluate and interpret the subject knowledge to solve problems
 - Research and communication skills
 - Analysis and interpretation of real-world data
 - How to access and critically evaluate scientific literature
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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

YEAR ONE

In year one, you will develop key skills and subject knowledge that will equip you for more advanced and specialised modules in the later years of the degree. You will recognise the basic structure, composition

and function of cell mechanisms and explore key concepts, theories and research processes.

COMPULSORY MODULES

MOLECULES AND CELLS (LIFE101)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module describes the detailed composition of cells and the processes by which they obtain and generate energy, grow, replicate and eventually die.

The lectures will be supplemented with on-line resources and illustrated with some of the latest research methods that are used to study cell structure and function.

Students will be given guided reading, and regular formative assessment exercises will enable students to evaluate their understanding of the module.

The module will be assessed by both continuous assessments and by a final examination.

EVOLUTION (LIFE103)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module describes the evolutionary processes that have resulted in the generation of the diverse life forms that populate the planet.

This includes the theory of evolution by natural selection, and the genetic processes that result in gene evolution and diversity.

Selected scenarios and case studies will apply evolutionary concepts, showing the fundamental importance of evolution to a broad range of the life sciences.

The module is split into two parts: the first part (A) is the same for all students, the second part (B) contains a number of parallel strands tailored to students interest.

Students will be advised by their programme director which strand to follow.

The lectures will be supplemented with a variety of on-line resources.

Students will be given guided reading, and regular formative assessment exercises will enable students to evaluate their understanding of the module.

The module will be assessed by continuous assessments.

GRAND CHALLENGES IN BIOLOGY (LIFE105)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 1

This module introduces students to how grand challenges (scientific and societal) are addressed in universities and in particular at the University of Liverpool. Students will be introduced to four major topics (Infections and Global Health, Ageing, Food Security, Personalised Medicines) by experts in the respective fields. Emphasis will be placed on students understanding concepts and assembling information rather than memorizing facts. The material will be delivered based on the concept of a scientific conference with plenary talks and parallel sessions presented by the lecturers, and (in light of Covid-19 driven procedures at scientific meetings) a video session driven by student input. Assessment of lecture material and associated readings will be by continuous assessment.

EXPERIMENTAL SKILLS IN CURRENT BIOLOGY (LIFE107)

Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session

This is the first practical module that students will take in the School of Life Sciences. The skills that students acquire will be needed for other practical modules that they will take in semester 2 Year 1, and during Year 2 and will prepare them for their year 3 research project and for their subsequent career.

This module is designed to teach the basic multidisciplinary skills required in the biological sciences.

It aims to develop careful working practices, experimental design and interpretation of results. Skills acquired in this module will be both utilised and enhanced by the co-requisite module LIFE 109 (communication and study skills and quantitative skills).

The way in which LIFE 107 is taught and assessed is designed to place emphasis on encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning. Demonstrators and academic staff will be on hand to answer questions or show students how to use lab equipment.

Resources will be available online via VITAL and include a weekly Blog, technical manual, module handbook, lab instruction manual and weekly lectures.

The module will be taught in weekly practical classes and it will be assessed through continuous assessment (assessment 1-2) and a final exam (assessment 3).

MICROBIOLOGY (LIFE110)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS FOR THE LIFE SCIENCES (LIFE113)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 1

For any student studying the Biological Sciences a firm grasp of quantitative skills is an absolute necessity. This module will provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to manipulate numbers and analysis/visualise data using digital tools. The module emphasises a "learn by doing" approach to the development of quantitative skills and is heavily workshop based.

BIOCHEMICAL METHODS (LIFE122)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 2

This course introduces widely used laboratory concepts and practical techniques that are relevant to academic research, industry and medical applications.

COMMUNICATION AND STUDY SKILLS FOR THE LIFE SCIENCES (LIFE130)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: whole session

OPTIONAL MODULES

BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (LIFE102)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will provide the foundation for future studies on the molecular basis of life and disease. It covers basic biochemistry and immunity and how these fields can provide a molecular explanation for life and disease. The module will encourage confidence, teamwork and communication through active learning in lectures and workshops centred around authentic assessments.

INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES, EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH (LIFE126)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module will introduce the biology of a range of veterinary infectious diseases. Basic concepts in disease epidemiology, surveillance and control will be introduced and the effects/association diseases have on animals, society and the environment. Students will be taught in small tutorial groups by research active teaching staff to develop information on a specific disease and present their group findings as a PowerPoint presentation at a "mini-conference". The module is assessed through the presentation and a final exam.

INTRODUCTION TO GENETICS AND DEVELOPMENT (LIFE128)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module introduces students to modern genetics and developmental biology at an introductory level. Using examples taken from across the biosciences and medicine, students will develop their understanding of the inheritance of genetic traits, how mutation can lead to disease and the molecular techniques used to study genes. They will also be introduced to development from meiosis and germ cell formation through to organogenesis, emphasising both the underlying genetic and molecular mechanisms involved and the embryological processes. Students will explore current advances in both fields including current and potential use of gene editing techniques and stem cells in therapeutics, and will consider the ethical implications of these advances.

The module is taught through a combination of lectures and workshops incorporating problem solving and discussion, with an emphasis on an appreciation of the techniques and experimental evidence underpinning the material. Assessment is by a combination of a written examination and a group ethics poster presentation.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

YEAR TWO

In year two, you will have several compulsory modules but you can choose from a range of optional modules that

allow you to pursue and focus on your own specific interests.

COMPULSORY MODULES

VIROLOGY (LIFE209)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module is an introduction to modern virology.

The module provides an overview of different virus families and aims to explain the fundamental properties of different viruses, their infection in different organisms, their detection and control, and positive applications of viruses.

The lectures will be supplemented with online resources. Students will be given guided reading, and regular formative assessment exercises will enable students to evaluate their understanding of the module.

The module will be assessed by both continuous assessments and by a final examination.

BIOTECHNOLOGY (LIFE210)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will examine the ways in which biological processes are applied for solving technological processes.

Examples of specific processes will be used including production of antibiotics, biomass, single cell protein, biopolymers, vaccines and other therapeutic agents.

The lectures will be supplemented with on-line reading resources. Students will be given guided reading, and regular formative assessment exercises will enable students to evaluate their understanding of the module.

The module will be assessed by two assessments.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR THE LIFE SCIENCES 2 (LIFE223)

Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session

This module will continue, extend, and broaden the transferable skills developed in Year 1. It will focus on improving the students' analytical, communication, quantitative, and employability skills. The communication skills component is assessed through a portfolio whereas the quantitative skills component is assessed through a group poster and SAQ.

TECHNIQUES IN CELL BIOLOGY (LIFE227)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 1

This practical module aims to provide practical and theoretical experience in techniques currently used in cell biology. These techniques include assay, culture, histology and microscopy. The module is assessed through coursework and a final exam.

ADVANCED MICROBIOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES (LIFE228)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester:

This practical module aims to provide students with an opportunity to learn and apply a range of microbiological laboratory techniques in order to develop their ability to plan and execute research projects in microbiology. The module is continuously assessed.

OPTIONAL MODULES

FROM GENES TO PROTEINS (LIFE201)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module aims to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental processes whereby genetic information is expressed as proteins in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. Lectures will be supplemented with on-line resources. Students will be given guided reading, and regular formative assessment exercises will enable students to evaluate their understanding of the module. The module will be assessed two assessments.

CELL SIGNALLING IN HEALTH AND DISEASE (LIFE202)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will describe the molecular mechanisms that allow cells to communicate with each other;

The basic properties common to all signalling pathways will be studied and then a series of individual pathways will be examined in more detail, in the light of these general principles;

The importance of cellular signalling mechanisms will be illustrated by examining diseases (e.g. cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, neurological disorders) that result from defects in these mechanisms;

The lectures will be supplemented with on-line resources. Students will be given guided reading, and regular formative assessment exercises will enable students to evaluate their understanding of the module;

The module will be assessed by continuous assessment

MOLECULAR AND MEDICAL GENETICS (LIFE208)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module aims to introduce students with an interest in Genetics and Molecular Biology to the range of biological mechanisms that control structure and stability of the genetic material and their impact on health and disease.

It uses examples from both prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms, to develop principles that explain DNA replication, repair and recombination. These principles and processes are then discussed in a clinical/medical genetics context.

The lectures will be supplemented with on-line resources. Students will be given guided reading, and regular formative assessment exercises will enable students to evaluate their understanding of the module.

The module will be assessed by both continuous assessments and by a final examination.

VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH (LIFE216)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The aim of this module is to develop knowledge of the important parasitic diseases of companion and food producing animals in the U.K. and globally, leading also to an understanding of the importance of these diseases to human and animal public health. The lectures will be supplemented with on-line resources.

Students will be given guided reading, and regular formative assessment exercises will enable students to evaluate their understanding of the module.

The module will be assessed by two items of continuous assessment and by a final examination.

THE IMMUNE SYSTEM IN HEALTH AND DISEASE (LIFE221)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module will develop knowledge and understanding of the immune system, the molecules, cells and tissues that are involved in its function, its role in combating infection and how its dysfunction can contribute to disease.

Lectures will be supplemented with on-line resources. Problem solving workshops dedicated to case studies will be held to help students prepare for the assessments. Students will be given guided reading, and formative and summative assessment exercises held during the course will enable students to monitor and evaluate their progress and to prepare for the final assessment.

The module will be assessed by two assessments.

E-BIOLOGY: INFORMATICS FOR LIFE SCIENCES (LIFE225)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 1

Many aspects of modern biology are being revolutionized by high-throughput methods that make copious amounts of data available in digital form. The aim of this module is to provide students with a practical appreciation of the nature and significance of this revolution. While the focus will be on analysis of data from areas such as genome sequencing, gene expression, and protein structure studies, the module will also look at use of such data in the context of understanding higher order phenomena within cells, such as metabolism, gene regulation, and protein-protein interaction. The module is continuously assessed.

ADVANCED GENETICS TECHNIQUES (LIFE226)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 2

This practical module aims to provide practical experience in a range of genetic techniques including the production and characterisation of specific deletion mutants, mutagen screening, cytogenetics and karyotype analysis, population studies, molecular analysis of genomes and bioinformatics. This module is required for students intending to enter the Genetics Honours School. The module is continuously assessed.

MOLECULAR SCIENCE (LIFE237)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 1

This module is a 6 weeks molecular biology practical to provide experience in techniques to isolate, clone and analyse genes (analysis of DNA fragments by agarose gel electrophoresis, PCR, transformations, plasmid DNA preparations, gene cloning). The module has a range of different formative and summative assessments to include in-course problem-solving exercises, online quizzes and abstract writing, which ensure the student becomes confident to continue genetic manipulations in specialist Year 2 Semester 2 practical modules and for project work in Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology. The module will encourage confidence, teamwork and communication through active learning in lectures and practicals centred around authentic assessments.

E-BIOLOGY: INFORMATICS FOR LIFE SCIENCES (S2) (LIFE242)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 2

Many aspects of modern biology are being revolutionized by high-throughput methods that make copious amounts of data available in digital form. The aim of this module is to provide students with a practical appreciation of the nature and significance of this revolution. While the focus will be on analysis of data from areas such as genome sequencing, gene expression, and protein structure studies, the module will also look at use of such data in the context of understanding higher order phenomena within cells, such as metabolism, gene regulation, and protein-protein interaction. The module is continuously assessed.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

YEAR THREE

In year three, you will be building on the knowledge that you have gained in previous years culminating in a research project. There are multiple options in optional modules to specialise in areas of

study that you would like to pursue as part of your career plan. There is also an option to take part in a work-based placement.

COMPULSORY MODULES

BACTERIAL DISEASE MECHANISMS (LIFE318)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module describes the mechanistic diversity and common themes of bacterial infection. The pathogenesis of infection is described from first contact with the host to explain the importance of attachment, colonisation and avoidance of the immune system through to persistence and chronic infection. Pathogenesis is described in terms of common themes and the variation between pathogens due to their complement of virulence determinants by covering multiple, key bacterial pathogens. Lectures are delivered on broad aspects such as subversion of the host, expression of bacterial toxins and expression, motility loci and intracellular survival. Specific disease mechanisms used by major human pathogens are outlined to demonstrate the complexity and multicomponent aspects leading to successful infection. The use of infection models to study infection and techniques to assay the contribution of both individual and multiple genes are described. The importance of temporal regulation of virulence determinant expression is outlined along with gene mobilisation via phages, plasmids and transposons. Resistance to antimicrobials and the future prospects for treatment are featured. The module is assessed by formal examination and continuous assessment.

VIRAL DISEASE MECHANISMS (LIFE320)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module provides a review of the role of viruses as important pathogens of humans and animals. A broad overview of viral virulence mechanisms, immune evasion and vaccine development will be given followed by detailed consideration of significant groups of viruses. The module is assessed by formal examination and continuous assessment.

MICROBIOMES – MICROBIAL DIVERSITY AND HOST INTERACTIONS (LIFE343)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Microbiome research is a new and important area of microbial research. This course is relevant to the full range of students in health and life sciences from ecologist to health professionals.

RESEARCH PROJECT (LIFE363)

Credits: 30 / Semester: whole session

This module provides students with experience in the planning, design, and execution of a research project in the area of their programme discipline. The project will encompass a range of approaches including laboratory work, fieldwork, outreach work and data, and / or literature analysis depending on the nature of the project. Students will write an evaluative report on a relevant scientific area and work in collaboration with an academic supervisor to develop, plan, carry out, and record research work. The supervisor will hold regular discussion meetings with the student, and both will contribute to a reflective record of progress. Students will be expected to communicate their findings orally and in a variety of written formats.

OPTIONAL MODULES

ADVANCED SKILLS IN MICROBIOLOGY (LIFE325)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module aims to provide a set of communication and critical reflection skills in the context of Microbiology. These skills will help students enhance the execution and presentation of their research project, prepare them for Level 6 assessments and maximise their employment and personal development opportunities. The module is taught through seminars and tutorials, but has a strong emphasis on independent learning. Learning material is provided through VITAL. The module is assessed by continuous assessment.

ADVANCED BIOTECHNOLOGY (LIFE327)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module describes the exploitation of microorganisms and microbial processes in the context of modern developments in biotechnology.

Economic and ethical aspects of the development of novel products and the potential environmental benefits and risks of using biotechnological processes will be examined.

Specific aspects to be examined will be antibiotic production, plant biomass conversion, microbial informatics and biofuels.

The module is taught through standard lectures and workshops, and it is assessed by formal examination and continuous assessment.

TOPICS IN GLOBAL HEALTH (LIFE340)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module gives students a broad understanding of the public health significance of tropical infectious and non-infectious diseases.

It aims to enhance awareness of the global distribution of disease and the impact of poverty induced inequalities in access to effective and affordable treatments.

The module is assessed by equally weighted formal examination and continuous assessment.

GENOME BIOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY (LIFE342)**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module aims to develop an advanced understanding of genome structure, organisation and evolution across all domains of life.

In addition it will provide advanced awareness of genomic technologies, how they can be applied to a wide range of biological research questions as well as translational applications.

The module will provide molecular, comparative and evolutionary perspectives to allow students to appreciate how knowledge from different systems can be applied to the understanding of the human genome. Also, how genomes from a range of species can develop our understanding of different biological phenomena, such as genome expansion, polyploidy and the evolution of sex chromosomes.

Modern advances in technology will be explained with examples of how they have advanced our understanding of subjects as diverse as cancer and microbial ecology.

The module is assessed through continuous assessment and a final exam.

PARASITOLOGY (LIFE361)**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module aims to describe the major features of the structure and life histories of a range of protozoan and helminth parasites of humans. It describes the causes of major clinical symptoms and pathology attributable to these parasites and describes major approaches to their prevention and control. The module is delivered in four main themes, diagnostics, pathogenesis, epidemiology, and control. The module will be delivered through lectures and is assessed by formal examination and continuous assessment.

LIFE SCIENCES WORK BASED PLACEMENT (LIFE399)**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module allows students to undertake an employment placement that will be undertaken during the summer-break between Year 2 and Year 3. Students will have to find and secure their own placement, which will need to be approved by the module leader beforehand. Placements will typically be 6–8 weeks. Early in Year 2 there will be an introductory event to present the module and advise students on how to search for placement opportunities. This session will be available to all students (including those who do not wish to enrol on the placement module). Students will be encouraged to search for placements during Semester 1, with the support of Academic Advisers and the Careers and Employability Service. Other seminar activities will take place during Semester 2 of Year 2 to prepare students for the placement work. More taught sessions will be delivered in early Semester 1 of Year 3, which include lectures on relevant psychological theories and research (e.g., workplace performance, leadership, motivation) and reflective group sessions on placement experience. The module will provide students with an opportunity to develop their employability skills by direct engagement in a commercial, research, voluntary or similar professional organisation that will support future plans, develop skills and graduate attributes. Module assessments include a skill audit and reflective log to be completed before and during practical work placement, and final written recommendations-to-employer report based on reflection on the placement experience of the individual student and the wider cohort, supported by relevant employability and occupational theories.

COMPUTING 1 ()

Credits: 20 / Semester:

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

YEAR FOUR

The fourth (Master's) year aims at developing enhanced research and personal skills for students seeking a high-level career in research (eg studying for a PhD or working in industry) or those seeking to enhance their qualification. Students take advanced modules and will join a Core modules

- Research Methods and Applications in Biological Sciences
- Research Project

research team to undertake a significant research project. Students can also apply for a six-week summer research internship in the UK or overseas or apply to spend time working in industry or in other enterprises in the final year.

COMPULSORY MODULES

RESEARCH PROJECT (LIFE700)

Credits: 60 / Semester: whole session

The School offers a range of projects that allow students to conduct research individually at Masters level under the supervision of a member of academic staff. Topics are closely allied to the research field of the supervisor, and the basis of the project may involve data collection by observation and experimentation in situ (field projects), in vitro (laboratory projects), or in silico (bioinformatics). However, all types of projects have the same learning outcomes (that is, all students should acquire the same kinds of skills; see below), achieved by in-depth study. The nature of the lab or field-based projects might be adapted if the field trips or labs access are limited due to unavoidable circumstances.

ADVANCED STATISTICS FOR BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH (LIFE707)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Successful research in the biological sciences inevitably depends on the power that statistical inference provides for hypothesis testing. Understanding which test to use and when is the key to success. This module aims to further this understanding of, and competence in, the use of statistical techniques in the design of experiments in biological research, and in the analysis and interpretation of data.

The module is available to students who are on-campus (LIFE707) or, alternatively, who are studying on a University of Liverpool programme while off-campus (LIFE607), for example in a yearly placement in industry or while studying at an overseas University.

The learning and teaching materials are delivered as an online set of resources (available through Canvas). The module aims to provide a guide to the statistics that students will need to complete an advanced research project (M-level or PhD), and the ability to develop a research-level statistical approach to the analysis of biological data. The module will also introduce students to the powerful open access statistical software package, R.

ADVANCED STATISTICS FOR BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH (OFF-CAMPUS) (LIFE607)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Successful research in the biological sciences inevitably depends on the power that statistical inference provides for hypothesis testing. Understanding which test to use and when is the key to success. This module aims to further this understanding of, and competence in, the use of statistical techniques in the design of experiments in biological research, and in the analysis and interpretation of data.

The module is available to students who are on-campus (LIFE707) or, alternatively, who are studying on a University of Liverpool programme while off-campus (LIFE607), for example in a yearly placement in industry or while studying at an overseas University.

The learning and teaching materials are delivered as an online set of resources (available through Canvas). The module aims to provide a guide to the statistics that students will need to complete an advanced research project (M-level or PhD), and the ability to develop a research-level statistical approach to the analysis of biological data. The module will also introduce students to the powerful open access statistical software package, R.

RESEARCH METHODS AND APPLICATIONS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (OFF-CAMPUS) (LIFE631)

Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session

This module will provide students with an understanding of the processes and methods required for the successful planning and delivery of research projects. It will also introduce students to the latest, cutting edge technologies that will support their research field of interest. It will develop in students the transferrable communication skills that will enable them to disseminate their findings to both scientific and general audiences.

INFORMATICS FOR LIFE SCIENCES (OFF-CAMPUS) (LIFE621)**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Bioinformatics is a key skill needed in many research settings. This module gives students a theoretical and technical grounding in a range of application areas including bioinformatics-related topics such as sequence analysis, phylogenetics, and the modelling of proteins, and others. While lectures are provided on core topics, there is a strong emphasis on practical exercises to demonstrate the application of common tools and data sources in these contexts. Teaching is delivered in the form of a weekly lecture and workshops. Students will be given guided reading and online activities to support their learning. The module will be assessed by three data analysis continuous assessments.

RESEARCH METHODS AND APPLICATIONS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (LIFE731)**Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session**

This module will provide students with an understanding of the processes and methods required for the successful planning and delivery of research projects. It will also introduce students to the latest, cutting edge technologies that will support their research field of interest. It will develop in students the transferrable communication skills that will enable them to disseminate their findings to both scientific and general audiences.

INFORMATICS FOR LIFE SCIENCES (LIFE721)**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Bioinformatics is a key skill needed in many research settings. This module gives students a theoretical and technical grounding in a range of application areas including bioinformatics-related topics such as sequence analysis, phylogenetics, and the modelling of proteins, and others. While lectures are provided on core topics, there is a strong emphasis on practical exercises to demonstrate the application of common tools and data sources in these contexts. Teaching is delivered in the form of a weekly lecture and workshops. Students will be given guided reading and online activities to support their learning. The module will be assessed by three data analysis continuous assessments.

OPTIONAL MODULES**RESEARCH INTERNSHIP (LIFE701)****Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 1**

The internship is undertaken as placement in the summer period between years 3 and 4 of the MBIoSci programme. The student will work with a research group working on a specific project or a set of related projects. A senior member of the project team will provide day today supervision. The purpose of the internship is for the student to understand the objectives of the research (in light of the research strategy of the group or institute), how the research is conducted and managed, and how the data are recorded and analysed. The student will also learn how project design is influenced by factors such as, the business strategy of the company, the research priority areas of the country, and ultimately the funding opportunities available to support the research.

EVOLUTION AND BEHAVIOUR (LIFE709)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module serves as a focal point for students on the M.Biol.Sci, M.Sc. & M.Res whose interests include evolution, ecology and behavioural biology

The module will make use of varied teaching methods including structured discussions on selected texts as student-led seminars.

The content will focus on areas of evolutionary and behavioural biology that are currently important in the senses (i) that they are progressing rapidly and (ii) that they address fundamental questions of general importance. In addition we will also highlight the key papers and ideas in recent evolutionary biology, showing how research fields develop after pivotal work is published.

The module will have two coursework assessments which are designed to show depth of understanding and an evaluative approach to theory and data in evolutionary biology. There will be some group work, related to one of the assessments.

CODING FOR LIFE SCIENCES (LIFE733)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module is aimed at postgraduate students in the Life Sciences, wishing to learn about methods for use in data-intensive research. The module provides a broad introduction to the use of Python coding for performing basic tasks in the biological sciences. The student will get practical experience in writing their own Python scripts for basic bioinformatics tasks, such as manipulating DNA, RNA and protein sequences, file input/output and working with other programs, such as BLAST. There is also an introduction to data visualisation using Python, and simple techniques used in data science, including a basic introduction to machine learning.

Around 10 hours of lectures will be provided on core topics, with a strong emphasis on practical activity in workshops and tutorials (totalling around 40 hours), allowing students to gain confidence in writing scripts for their own tasks. The module will be assessed by two short coding assignments, one team working coding assignment building a bioinformatics pipeline, and a data science mini-project.

CELLULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL IMAGING (LIFE749)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Modern biotechnology and bioimaging applies novel tools and approaches to address today's global challenges.

You will learn a variety of methods in mammalian cell biotechnology as well as imaging technologies that range from the microscopic scale to cellular and organ imaging in vivo. You will develop knowledge of a diversity of cell analysis techniques. Furthermore, the use of reporter genes for various types of imaging will be explained, including imaging technologies for cell analysis on the microscopic level as well as for cell imaging and functional analysis in animal models of disease.

The lectures will convey basic knowledge and include examples of applications from actual research publications, or the lecturer's own research work, in equal measure. The students will have learning tutorials on critical appraisal of literature. There will also be a practical workshop on contemporary microscopy.

The module will be taught through a combination of lectures, workshops and practical exercises. There are two written assessments in this module.

EMERGING INFECTIONS AND PANDEMICS (LIFE751)**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This is a key module for students on the MSc Infection and Immunity Programme and might also be taken by other MSc, MBioSci and MRes students whose interests include infection and immunology. The module is topical in light of the pandemic and will address areas of research-connected infection biology teaching across areas of broad relevance to infectious disease, as well as to coronavirus. The module includes research connected lectures, workshops and structured discussions on selected texts as student-led topics. The content will focus on areas of infectious disease that support the programme and are relevant in that: (i) they are current/topical or (ii) they address fundamental questions of general importance. In addition, students will also be supported with key research and ideas in emerging infections and pandemics, showing how interconnected nature of health and disease through integrating aspects of biology and society. The module assessments are aimed at: 1) writing a report on a selected emerging pathogen that communicates the multifactorial considerations for researchers and society 2) presentation of a key factor that contributes to or affects disease emergence and the response by society or an agency. The factor focused on will be selected from workshops and student-led discussions

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (ENVS423)**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

Biodiversity, the Earth's support system, is in decline. Conservation of remaining ecosystems and restoration of disturbed ones is essential and urgently needed. Here we cover controversial issues and current debates in conservation with topics covering approaches to protected area management (terrestrial and marine), ecosystem restoration and conservation policy. The module is run as a dynamic, interactive advanced tutorial course. The sessions are mostly run as lectures with background reading and discussion lead by a member of staff, but also include seminars, group work and student-led presentations.

ANALYSING CLIMATE PROCESSES AND VARIABILITY (ENVS475)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will introduce the students to a range of large climate data sets from the whole Earth-atmosphere-ocean climate system these data sets will range from satellite data sets of ocean processes, satellite rain estimation to gridded climate data sets of the ocean and atmosphere, produced from observations, reanalysis and forecasts or projections and the introduction and use of paleorecords of climate change and variation.

FRONTIERS IN CANCER RESEARCH AND TREATMENT (LIFE724)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module will address three main topics: hallmarks of cancer, cancer diagnosis and biomarkers, and cancer therapies & current challenges. These topics will be taught using various cancer models that have been selected based on the expertise at the University of Liverpool and to illustrate research, diagnostic and therapeutic problems.

This module will be taught by both scientists and clinicians who are experts in cancer research. The module will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, case-based learning tutorials and workshops. The lectures will convey basic knowledge and include examples of applications from actual research publications and the lecturer's own research work.

The students will take part in case-based learning tutorials on critical appraisal of scientific seminars provided by cancer researchers. Workshops will cover literature search, referencing, and preparation of oral scientific presentations in preparation for the final assignment which is a conference style talk. A practical workshop will also cover tumour pathology and will train students in the identification and interpretation of tumour biopsies.

The module will be assessed via two assessments. The first assessment consists of a seminar report, based on a pre-recorded seminar provided by a cancer researcher. The final assessment will be an oral presentation, in which students will be required to give a conference-style lecture on an emerging cancer research topic related to one of the lectures and provide an abstract of their presentation.

CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS (LIFE726)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Clinical trials are the key final step to translate medical research into the benefit of patients. The Liverpool Clinical Trials Unit is one of the largest in the UK, running a wide variety of surgical and oncology studies, that range from phase I studies to large, practice-changing phase III studies, as well as more novel trial designs. Since new therapies have become available in the treatment of cancer, the methods used in clinical trials have also evolved. The module in Cancer Clinical Trials is aimed at developing the knowledge and understanding of decisions affecting the design, delivery and assessment of clinical trials. This module will be taught by clinicians, researchers, statisticians and trial methodologists at the Liverpool Trials Unit, and cover fundamentals of clinical trials and designs, as well as the challenges that arise at each of these strategies. The module in Cancer Clinical Trials is ideal for current in-service health professionals looking to broaden their role in the design, management, analysis and reporting of clinical trials. It is also suited to those wishing to gain an understanding of clinical trials. The module will be taught through a combination of lectures, case-based learning tutorials and workshops, and assessed via a poster presentation and a written assessment, involving the design of a clinical trial.

IMMUNOLOGY (LIFE728)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This is a key module for students on the MSc Infection and Immunity Programme and might also be taken by other MSc, MBioSci and MRes students whose interests include infection and immunology. The module is topical in light of the pandemic and will address areas of research-connected immunology teaching across areas of broad relevance to infectious disease, as well as to coronavirus. The module includes research connected lectures, workshops and structured discussions on selected texts as student-led seminars. The content will focus on areas of immunology that support the programme and are relevant in that: (i) they are current/topical or (ii) they address fundamental questions of general importance. In addition, students will also be supported with key research and ideas in immune mechanisms and host defence, showing how research fields progress and our understanding of defence mechanisms develop. The module assessments are aimed at: 1) using graphics to show illustratively specific and complex immunological host-pathogen interactions and will aid skills in image design; and 2) poster presentation to demonstrate immunological interactions based on the student-led workshops on host defence and microbial evasion.

DIAGNOSTICS, THERAPEUTICS AND VACCINES (LIFE732)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

For students with interests in infection biology, the module will enhance skills and enable critically evaluation of key concepts, technologies and multifactorial considerations circumscribing diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. The module is topical in light of the current pandemic. The research-connected teaching will focus on prevention, limitation and treatment of infectious disease.

The module comprises lectures, workshops and seminars and uses active-learning delivery methods to ensure students can synthesise and evaluate relative merits, attributes, issues and applications of the topics. There are two coursework assessments in the module: 1) writing a report on a selected emerging pathogen that communicates the multifactorial considerations for researchers and society 2) presentation of a key factor that contributes to or affects disease emergence and the response by society or an agency. Materials will be included on the VLE to develop digital fluency and promote assimilation and appraisal of the module content.

COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY (LIFE752)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

With the advent of genomics and functional genomics, biology has become a quantitative data-rich discipline. This has created unprecedented opportunities in virtually every area of life sciences. With the right tools, it is now possible to address fundamentally important biological questions simply analysing already available datasets. This module is designed to prepare students for this very challenge. The module covers the most important aspects of computational biology. These range from the analysis of large datasets to infer biological mechanisms to the use of mathematical modelling to conceptualize and simulate complex biological phenomena. In addition to providing an intuitive overview of the basic theoretical principles, the module will focus on real life applications through multiple cases studies. Among these, students will learn how to identify drug targets and mechanisms of drug resistance and how to understand mathematical models of biological systems. They will then learn aspects of quantitative system pharmacology and physiologically based pharmacokinetic modelling pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic modelling.

The module will be taught through a combination of lectures, workshops and seminars. The module will be assessed via a written a report and a literature critique.

PROTEOMICS METABOLOMICS AND DATA ANALYSIS (LIFE754)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Proteomics and metabolomics represent powerful tools towards unbiased, quantitative and high-throughput analysis of biological systems. Rapid "omic" technological developments in the post-genomic era have provided insights into protein structures, biosynthesis and interactions, as well as the complex metabolic processes that are of significant importance in biological and medical research. The aims of this course are to provide a comprehensive understanding of proteomic and metabolomic techniques and related data analysis, and to illustrate how they can be applied in fundamental biological research and industrial applications. The module will be taught by lectures and workshops. The module will be assessed via two a scientific reports.

SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (LIFE756)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Synthetic Biology and Biotechnology will provide an in-depth understanding of the grand challenges in biotechnological applications and the principles underlying synthetic biology and modern biotechnological techniques that are designed to sustainably address specific problems. The module also aims to teach tools and strategies being developed and applied in the rapidly expanding field of synthetic biology and train students with practical experience in green biotechnology.

The module will be taught through a combination of lectures and workshops. The lectures will convey basic knowledge or the lecturer's own research work. The workshops will provide students with the opportunity to analyse relevant data relevant to the biotechnology field. The module will be assessed via a scientific report and a scientific review.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS (LIFE747)

Credits: 15 / Semester:

This module covers the ways different food systems function with regards to production, supply and utilisation in the context of the challenge of global food security. It highlights the highly interdisciplinary nature of food systems and how they have evolved and now need to be developed to ensure future sustainable nutritious healthy diets. Successful students will have a thorough appreciation of the linkages between terrestrial and aquatic production systems, supply chains and consumer behaviour in defining food systems and how the linkages influence sustainability. The module is delivered, through e-lectures, small group learning and directed self-learning and assessed by continuous assessment. The module assumes level 6 prior knowledge in one of a biological, psychological, environmental science or business studies discipline. Such knowledge and understanding will be augmented in the context of the interdisciplinary curriculum of the module by guided reading (material made available on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), recognising levels of prior knowledge, and through provision within e-lectures). Each curriculum topic is introduced through an e-lecture which develops learning and through in-built formative assessments advises supplemental reading as required. Each topic is followed by a staff-led small group learning session in which the topic is discussed.

The module will be assessed by an essay, presentation and literature review with an emphasis on critical reading, synthesis of concepts and scientific communication.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

HOW YOU'LL LEARN

You will experience a range of learning environments during your studies at Liverpool. These will include student-centred activities as well as lectures, tutorials, laboratory practicals, dissection classes, fieldwork, data handling sessions and computer workshops. Some of these activities will be performed individually, such as personal research projects, and others in small tutorial or project groups, in addition to formal lectures and workshops. You will have

research staff as well as your own academic adviser for individual tuition on our acclaimed tutorial programme.

HOW YOU'RE ASSESSED

As well as factual knowledge and understanding, biologists need practical and organisational skills, and an ability to work both alone and with other people. We record development of these abilities through continuous assessment during each semester and by final examination.

LIVERPOOL HALLMARKS

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

Careers and employability

Employability is embedded into your course, from lectures through to integrating it within your chosen modules.

Connecting you with the best student and graduate employers in the region. Career coaches to help you explore jobs, connect with employers and guide you through the application process.

4 IN 5 LIFE SCIENCES STUDENTS FIND THEIR MAIN ACTIVITY AFTER GRADUATION MEANINGFUL.

Graduate Outcomes, 2018-19.

- For those committed to a career as a professional scientist, higher degrees (M BiolSci, MSc, MRes, MPhil or PhD) at the University of Liverpool or elsewhere provide a flexible set of options for further study.
- In the public sector, Life Sciences graduates are in demand in research institutes, government departments, the National Health Service, forensic science and the Environment Agency.
- Commercial sectors that actively recruit graduates from the Life Sciences include the pharmaceutical, food, biotechnology, water and agriculture industries.
- A number of routes are available for graduates to enter the teaching profession one of which is taking a postgraduate qualification (PGCE).

PREPARING YOU FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

At Liverpool, our goal is to support you to build your intellectual, social, and cultural capital so that you graduate as a socially-conscious global citizen who is prepared for future success. We achieve this by:

- Embedding employability within your curriculum, through the modules you take and the opportunities to gain real-world experience offered by many of our courses.
- Providing you with opportunities to gain experience and develop connections with people and organisations, including

student and graduate employers as well as our global alumni.

- Providing you with the latest tools and skills to thrive in a competitive world, including access to Handshake, a platform which allows you to create your personalised job shortlist and apply with ease.
 - Supporting you through our peer-to-peer led [Careers Studio](#), where our career coaches provide you with tailored advice and support.
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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

TUITION FEES

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about tuition fees, funding and student finance.](#)

UK fees Also applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland	
Full-time place, per year	£9,250
Year in industry fee	£1,850
Year abroad fee	£1,385

International fees	
Full-time place, per year	£25,450

Fees stated are for the 2023-24 academic year.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This includes the costs associated with placements or internships, and the optional field course in Uganda.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

We offer a range of scholarships and bursaries to help cover tuition fees and help with living expenses while at university.

[Scholarships and bursaries you can apply for from the United Kingdom](#)

Select your country or region for more scholarships and bursaries.

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
A levels	<p>Typical A level offer AAB</p> <p>Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is ABB with A in the EPQ.</p> <p>You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme.</p> <p>If you don't meet the entry requirements, you may be able to complete a foundation year which would allow you to progress to this course.</p> <p>Available foundation years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biological Sciences (with a Foundation Year) leading to BSc (Hons)
GCSE	4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics
Subject requirements	<p>Biology and a second science, preferably Chemistry, at A level</p> <p>Also accepted as a second science: Environmental Science, Mathematics, Physics, Geography, Psychology, Geology and Applied Science.</p> <p>For applicants from England, where A levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics have been taken, we will also require a pass in the Practical Endorsement</p>

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	<p>D*DD in Applied Science with a selection of preferred units in Biology and Chemistry, to include Distinction in Units 1 and 5 (Principles and Applications of Science I and II).</p> <p>For previous BTEC (QCF) qualification:</p> <p>D*DD in Applied Science with a selection of preferred units in Biology and Chemistry, with at least 120 Level 3 credits at Distinction.</p> <p>Please note alternative BTEC subjects are not acceptable for this programme.</p>
BTEC Applied Science unit requirements	<p>View the BTEC Applied Science unit requirements.</p>
International Baccalaureate	<p>34 points, including 6 in Higher Level Biology, and 5 in another Higher Level Subject</p>
Irish Leaving Certificate	<p>H1, H1, H2, H2, H2, H3</p>
Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher	<p>Not accepted without Advanced Highers at grades ABB</p>
Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced	<p>Accepted at grade B as equivalent to a third non-science A level at grade B.</p>
Access	<p>45 Level 3 credits in graded units in a relevant Diploma, including 30 at Distinction and a further 15 with at least Merit. 15 Distinctions are required in each of Biology and Chemistry. GCSE Mathematics and English grade C/4 also required.</p>

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
International qualifications	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements. </div> <p>Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.</p>

ALTERNATIVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
 - [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.
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THE ORIGINAL

REDBRICK