

Programme Specification

Award and title: BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with Placement)

<i>School:</i>	Science, Technology and Health
<i>Subject area:</i>	Biomedical Science
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2024-25
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Institute of Biomedical Science Royal Society of Biology
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Biological Sciences Diploma of Higher Education Biological Sciences BSc (Ord) Biological Sciences BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences BSc (Hons) Biological Science (with placement)
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	7Y63
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	QAA subject benchmark statements Biomedical Science and Biomedical Sciences (2023)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Non-standard period of study as follows: • Full-time for 4 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction

Biomedical Science is at the forefront of innovation, serving as the link between biology and medicine. It encompasses the causes of disease and the effects of disease on the normal structure and functions of the human body. It also provides an understanding of the scientific basis for laboratory investigation, diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of disease.

In our programme, you will embark on a journey of discovery, exploring the fundamental principles that govern life and applying them to understand the mechanisms of health and disease. From the molecular intricacies of DNA to the complexities of organ systems, our curriculum provides a comprehensive and integrated approach to the study of the human body. Our programme is designed to ignite intellectual curiosity, foster scientific inquiry, and equip you with the knowledge and skills to unravel the intricacies of the human body at the molecular, cellular, and systemic levels.

We take pride in offering a curriculum that balances theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience in our bespoke state-of-the-art laboratories which have been developed to support extensive laboratory experience in small student groups. Your laboratory competency will be established from many practical classes plus extensive supported open learning activities. You will also have technology enhanced learning activities both within modules and also as part of extra-curricular self-development, this experiential learning approach not only enhances academic understanding but also cultivates the critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for success in the rapidly evolving field of Biomedical Science.

As a student on our Biomedical Science program, you will join a community of professionals dedicated to advancing scientific knowledge and improving human health. Whether your passion lies in genetics, microbiology, pharmacology, or any other facet of Biomedical Science, our programme provides you with the foundation for a rewarding and impactful career in the Pharmaceutical or Biotechnology Industry, or other related industries such as academia, research or teaching.

Special features

Our programme is externally accredited by the professional body, the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) and you will be eligible to apply for year-long NHS or industry placements during Level 5 of the Biomedical Science programme. Applicants will be offered placements after detailed consideration of each individual application, academic performance in Level 4 and 5, selection process by the Placement Tutor involving practitioners / industrial colleagues plus an interview with their chosen placement provider. Successful completion of this programme therefore enables you to apply to the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to register as a Biomedical Scientist following graduation with the honours degree and following successful completion of laboratory experience and the IBMS Registration Training Portfolio.

You will undertake such a placement from September to September, following level 5. There is no bursary available to support students during this year, but you can access your student loan during this year to cover commuting costs to the placement provider. Whilst undertaking the placement, you will be enrolled on a Placement module at York St John University, to allow you access to the library and VLE during this year.

Prior to placement the University will ensure you have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS check), if required. You will also have started a programme of vaccination against hepatitis B for NHS placements. The University will meet the cost of the enhanced DBS check and the purchase of the IBMS portfolio for each student who is selected to go out on an NHS placement. At the end of the NHS placement, the IBMS will organise for the verification of the portfolio to take place, prior to you returning to university to complete your final year of study. The IBMS certificate of competence will be awarded at the end of the final year of study. Following successful completion of the IBMS portfolio and the Level 6 modules, the Placement Tutor will notify Registry of the names of the students to be awarded the Biomedical Science (with placement) award. The IBMS will notify the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) of the names of students that have successfully completed their verification of the portfolio to be admitted to the register as Biomedical Scientists. This will allow you to practice as a Biomedical Science Practitioner in NHS laboratories.

For industrial placements, the Placement Tutor will also notify Registry of the names of the students that successfully complete their year placement and Level 6 modules to be awarded the Biomedical Science (with

placement) degree title. Following completion of your degree, you could find employment as a laboratory-based or non-laboratory-based scientist in the Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology or other related industries, academic research and teaching. In addition, whilst the degree provides a qualification necessary to start your professional career you will need to continue to develop skills throughout your working life. This programme couples a scientific education with the development of the skills necessary for lifelong learning.

There is a strong emphasis on employability throughout the whole programme, together with personal resilience and leadership skills to facilitate professional development in work-based environments. In all levels of study, you will interact with Biomedical Science practitioners and other professionals from a range of careers and 'live briefs' to develop employability skills.

The programme includes an inter-professional agenda, and you will be encouraged to consider the role of different professions, alongside biomedical scientists, and how they are involved across a person-centred journey. This may take the form of multiprofessional simulation-based scenarios with other York St John University students, case scenarios, case discussion and visiting speakers from a variety of different clinical and industry environments. By integrating interprofessional learning with critical problem-solving and leadership skills you will be encouraged to make a unique contribution to your new profession, right from the start of your new career. Developing a respect for providing a person-centred approach is weaved throughout the theoretical and practical components of the programme and there is a strong commitment to social justice, sustainability, and enhancing cultural intelligence by encouraging you to be aware of, and address, social, environmental and economic concerns to create a better world.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must have:

- A minimum of 112 UCAS points (BBC) including a grade B or above in Biology A level or biology based BTEC extended diploma (Chemistry is also desirable at A2).

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>). In order to register with HCPC you must be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent to level 7 of the IELTS, with no element below 6.5.

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

The overall aim of the programme is to produce graduates who are able to excel within the context of biomedical science and who have the knowledge, resilience and confidence to contribute to the profession in areas such as healthcare, research, or industry.

- To empower the development of resilient and competent scientists, capable of meeting expectations in different settings within the current employment market.
- To provide an inclusive, intellectually stimulating and aspirational programme of study in Biomedical Science for all students from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds.
- To develop subject knowledge and understanding in the core areas of Biomedical Science including an ethical awareness of the implications of ethnicity, gender as well as social and cultural diversity in health and disease.
- To develop evidence-informed, person centred, problem-solvers and decision-makers that can adapt to the demands of contemporary practice.
- To develop core discipline specific and research skills to be able to contribute to the discipline body of knowledge.

- To foster self-awareness and curiosity as a basis for ongoing professional development
- To empower graduates to become leaders within their chosen employment settings

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Describe the underlying concepts and principles of core aspects of Biomedical Science, analyse how those principles have developed and source and interpret scholarly research
- 4.2 Present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop research skills, lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of Biomedical Science
- 4.3 Communicate the results of their study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments to a variety of formats to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- 4.4 Demonstrate a range of personal transferable skills including communication, information technology (including the use of databases, statistics, artificial intelligence (AI) and other sources of information and means of communication), team working, negotiating, decision-making, personal responsibility; awareness of ethics; health and safety assessments; good laboratory practice, problem solving, quality control and assurance skills that are required in a working environment and prepare you for lifelong learning

Level 5

- 5.1 Select, evaluate and appraise research, experimental and clinical laboratory techniques of cellular pathology, clinical biochemistry, clinical immunology, clinical genetics and microbiology, plus haematology and transfusion science. and be able to apply them to theoretical, experimental and laboratory investigations
- 5.2 Prepare, process, analyse (including numerical and statistical analysis) and interpret experimental/clinical laboratory data and present data in an appropriate format; applying creative, critical and analytical thinking to tackle and solve problems
- 5.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the principles and practices of equity, diversity and inclusion in biomedical research and its impact on society in a socially responsible context.

Placement Year

- P.1 Demonstrate competency in the standards of proficiency of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), by successful completion of the IBMS Registration Training Portfolio (NHS placements only). OR
- P.2 Demonstrate the professional behaviour and competencies required in a commercial laboratory setting, evidenced by the successful completion of an individual presentation and a mandatory training log.

Level 6

- 6.1 Demonstrate autonomous learning to generate and critically analyse complex data and synthesise complex ideas to develop advanced techniques at the forefront of Biomedical Science, using current research in the discipline, as demonstrated by the research project

- 6.2 Organise and plan academic and laboratory work; evaluate ethical considerations; make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources and undertake autonomous learning, reflecting critically upon their own identities, experiences and values, and how they influence their learning and professional development in biomedical science.
- 6.3 Apply and critically evaluate empirical knowledge to develop entrepreneurial and creative problem-solving skills appropriate to Biomedical Science including leadership, teamwork and initiative in a professional context of employability

Programme structure – BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with placement)

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Compulsory or optional	Non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
BIO4007M	4	1&2	Personal & Professional Development 1	20	C	NC
BIO4008M	4	1&2	Human Anatomy and Physiology	20	C	NC
BIO4009M	4	1	Biological Molecules and Reactions	20	C	NC
BIO4010M	4	1	Molecular & Cellular Biology 1	20	C	NC
BIO4011M	4	2	Biochemistry and Metabolism	20	C	NC
BIO4012M	4	2	Introductory Microbiology and Immunology	20	C	NC
BIO5013M	5	1&2	Personal & Professional Development 2	20	C	NC
BIO5014M	5	1&2	Haematology, Immunology and Transfusion Science	20	C	NC
BIO5015M	5	1	Clinical Biochemistry	20	C	NC
BIO5016M	5	1	Molecular & Cellular Biology 2	20	C	NC
BIO5017M	5	2	Medical Microbiology	20	C	NC
BIO5018M	5	2	Cellular Pathology	20	C	NC
BIO5019P	5	Year	Placement Module	0	C	NC
BIO6009M	6	1&2	Research Project	40	C	NC
BIO6010M	6	1	Cancer Biology	20	C	NC
BIO6011M	6	1	Clinical Genetics	20	C	NC
BIO6012M	6	2	Biology of Disease	20	C	NC
BIO6013M	6	2	Pharmacology and Toxicology	20	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as compulsory. There is no compensation for the Biomedical Science programme, in accordance with the Institute of Biomedical Science accreditation criteria.

A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40 in order to progress).

Only students who successfully complete a one-year placement will be awarded the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with placement) degree title.

Learning, teaching and assessment

Learning & Teaching

The curriculum is designed to cultivate advanced knowledge, critical thinking, and practical skills in Biomedical Science. The learning and teaching strategy encompasses a dynamic blend of theoretical foundations and hands-on laboratory experiences to prepare you for a career as a Biomedical Scientist or as a scientist in one of the many other professions that you can choose to follow.

A blend of lectures / workshop sessions will deliver the theoretical underpinnings of biomedical science concepts alongside seminars to prompt deeper learning through interactive discussions, debate, critical analysis, and collaborative problem-solving. Hands-on practical laboratory sessions are integral to this programme. You will engage in practical tasks and experiments, applying theoretical knowledge in safe, environments that will encourage the development of your laboratory skills and promote deeper learning. You will see a progressive development in your skills in a spiralled approach across the programme to develop decision-making and teamwork, ultimately equipping you with contemporary employability skills in biomedical science. In addition, guest speakers from clinical and industry areas of practice and research will enhance real-world perspectives.

In Level 4, you will study normal human biology plus microbiology and immunology at the level of the molecule, gene, cell, organ and organism. You will be introduced to basic laboratory skills, alongside qualitative and quantitative data handling / interpretation. You will develop a reflective attitude to your learning and develop numerical, written and oral communication, IT and group working skills. In Level 5, you will start to examine the processes that disrupt normal human biological function and cause disease exploring the methods used to diagnose and treat disease. You will also develop personal transferable skills and reflect on how these will prepare you for the working environment. You will increase your depth of knowledge and laboratory and data handling skills developing autonomy in your learning. ***At the end of level 5 you will undertake a voluntary placement year here to complete a year-long placement in order to graduate with a Biomedical Science (with placement) award.*** In Level 6 you will study pathogenic mechanisms (endogenous and exogenous) associated with the development and progression of disease in human beings together with the laboratory diagnosis and management of a range of human diseases.

Throughout the levels, the programme promotes a culture of inquiry and evidence-based practice. You will undertake a research project, aimed at contributing to the field of biomedical science and will be encouraged to critically engage with research literature and discuss how evidence can be used to support and develop theory and practice. The incorporation of e-learning and technology will facilitate deeper learning using online resources, virtual technology, and webinars to enhance accessibility and accommodate a diverse range of learning styles.

Interprofessional collaboration is emphasised throughout the programme. Shared learning experiences with other York St John healthcare students will prepare you for complex multidisciplinary team working and equip you with the communication and team-working skills to thrive in your chosen work-based setting. There is also a strong focus on employability, together with personal resilience and leadership skills to facilitate professional development in work-based environments. Developing a respect for providing a person-centred approach is weaved throughout the theoretical and practical components of the programme and there is a strong commitment to social justice, sustainability, and enhancing cultural intelligence by encouraging you to be aware of, and address, social, environmental and economic concerns to create a better world.

Assessment

A variety of assessment methods such as written assignments, lab reports, exams and research will develop your academic, critical and research thinking skills. Assessment on the programme has been designed to ensure that it supports your learning, in addition to monitoring your skills and understanding. This means that formative assessments are integral to all modules and are designed to engage you with meaningful feedback

and develop an ability to self-evaluate, prior to submission of the summative work. As you progress through your degree, the assessments change and become more challenging to reflect the increase in your knowledge and abilities.

All these assessments have been carefully scheduled to ensure they are progressive and well-spaced throughout the programme. The use of formal and informal feedback throughout the modules will develop your ability to evaluate your progress and build confidence. The programme design allows you to develop many skills that can be applied to new tasks and situations and helps you to engage with the curriculum. Technical skills will be assessed by a range of laboratory competency-based assessments in addition to the practical classes, data analysis and interpretation and technical badges awarded throughout the programme. Professional skills will be assessed via a range of assessment types including written and oral communication, group working and problem solving.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

This programme does not permit the option to study part time to redeem progression failure in level 4 and 5 due to a PSRB requirement.

Third attempts are not permitted either through appeal, SCP approval or under the University's regulations due to PSRB requirements.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- All modules are compulsory for the Biomedical Science programme, in accordance with the Institute of Biomedical Science accreditation criteria. You must demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes for all core aspects of the Pathology disciplines throughout the degree. This means that 120 credits must be passed in order to progress between levels and be eligible for a final award of BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science (with placement).
- You **must** successfully complete the year-long placement in order to be awarded the Biomedical Science (with placement) degree title at graduation. If you fail to complete the placement module you will be transferred onto the 'Biomedical Science' BSc and will start your final year of study the following September.
- If you have been unsuccessful in a module that is non-compensatable at levels 4 or 5, but you still meet the University's general regulations in respect of progression you may be able to transfer to the BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (with placement) exit award and progress to the next level of study. If you were to be transferred to this exit award then all modules that were previously non-compensatable would now be regarded as compensatable instead, additionally any qualifying marks for module assessments will be lifted and you will be eligible to receive your uncapped first attempt module mark. The standard University regulations for awards apply.
- If you have been unsuccessful in a 20-credit module that is non-compensatable at level 6, but you meet the University's general regulations in respect to compensation you may be able compensate the failure and achieve the BSc (Hons) Biological Science (with placement). Additionally, any qualifying marks for module assessments will be lifted and you will be eligible to receive your uncapped first attempt module mark. The standard University regulations for awards will apply. If you have met the credit requirements for an Ordinary degree, you are eligible for the award of a BSc (Ord) Biological Sciences.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)

- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#) Biomedical Science and Biomedical Sciences (2023)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency for Biomedical Scientists (2023)
- Institute of Biomedical Science Criteria and Requirements for the Re-accreditation of BSc (Hons) Degrees in Biomedical Science (22-23)

Date written / revised: March 2024

Appendix 1

Programme structure – BSc (Hons) Biological Science*

* Depending on the time of programme transfer the module diet for students may vary, and be a mix of module codes from the original intended award structure and the exit programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Compulsory or optional	Non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
BIO4013M	4	1&2	Personal & Professional Development 1	20	C	X
BIO4014M	4	1&2	Human Anatomy and Physiology	20	C	X
BIO4015M	4	1	Biological Molecules and Reactions	20	C	X
BIO4016M	4	1	Molecular & Cellular Biology 1	20	C	X
BIO4017M	4	2	Biochemistry and Metabolism	20	C	X
BIO4018M	4	2	Introductory Microbiology and Immunology	20	C	X
BIO5020M	5	1&2	Personal & Professional Development 2	20	C	X
BIO5021M	5	1&2	Haematology, Immunology and Transfusion Science	20	C	X
BIO5022M	5	1	Clinical Biochemistry	20	C	X
BIO5023M	5	1	Molecular & Cellular Biology 2	20	C	X
BIO5024M	5	2	Medical Microbiology	20	C	X
BIO5025M	5	2	Cellular Pathology	20	C	X
BIO6014M	6	1&2	Research Project	40	C	NC
BIO6015M	6	1	Cancer Biology	20	C	X
BIO6016M	6	1	Clinical Genetics	20	C	X
BIO6017M	6	2	Biology of Disease	20	C	X
BIO6018M	6	2	Pharmacology and Toxicology	20	C	X