

Study biomedical sciences in the UK

What is biomedical sciences?

Biomedical sciences is the study of the biology of human health and disease, exploring how the body works and what goes wrong in illness, including topics such as genetics, microbiology, and biochemistry.

In the UK, many universities offer undergraduate degrees in biomedical sciences or related subjects. These include three-year BSc (Hons) degrees and four-year integrated master's courses (such as MBiomed and MSci). Specific courses and universities are listed on the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).¹

What is the application process?

Undergraduate biomedical sciences programmes are applied for through UCAS.² Entry requirements typically include science subjects at A-level (for example Biology and Chemistry) or equivalent qualifications, with a strong background in Mathematics preferred. International students should check individual course pages for English language requirements and additional guidance.

Postgraduate applications are made directly to individual universities. Applicants must hold a relevant undergraduate degree and typically complete an interview process before enrolment.³

How long does it take to graduate?

Most full-time biomedical sciences undergraduate degrees in the UK take three years. Some universities also offer four-year degrees that include an integrated master's or a professional placement year. Postgraduate degrees take one year full-time to complete.

What is the course structure?

Biomedical sciences degrees combine academic study with practical laboratory work. Core scientific subjects often include biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, infection and disease, and microbiology. Many programmes offer research projects or optional modules that allow further specialisation.

¹ ucas.com

² ucas.com

³ ucas.com

Assessment methods vary between universities but commonly include written examinations, laboratory reports, practical assessments, and research projects.

What kind of equipment will I be using?

Students use state-of-the-art laboratory equipment such as microscopes, cell culture systems, analytical instruments, and molecular biology tools to learn experimental and analytical techniques. Practical laboratory work is a standard and essential part of most biomedical sciences degrees.

Why is the UK a good choice to study biomedical sciences?

The UK is home to a cutting-edge biomedical and life sciences research environment, with universities contributing to the advancement of healthcare knowledge and technology. Biomedical sciences degrees help equip students with analytical, laboratory, and research skills valued in scientific and clinical settings.

You'll be studying in a diverse and international cohort, with the chance to focus on some of the big global health issues of today – from pandemics to antibiotic resistance.

Are there any scholarships for biomedical sciences?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study biomedical sciences in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities

What are my work options after I graduate?

Graduates with a biomedical sciences degree can pursue careers in biomedical research, clinical laboratories, public health, and related scientific fields. Some students also go on to postgraduate study or professional training. Skills developed in a biomedical sciences degree can be applied to a range of scientific and research-related careers.⁴

International students who complete an undergraduate degree in the UK may be eligible to stay and work in the UK for a limited period after graduation under the Graduate Route, subject to government regulations.

To find out more about studying biomedical sciences in the UK and to explore individual courses, visit Study UK at study-uk.britishcouncil.org

⁴ prospect.ac.uk