

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Microbiology and Immunology BSc (Hons) Microbiology and Immunology with International Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Microbiology and Immunology with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	To be confirmed - accreditation from the Royal Society of Biology will be sought before the first cohort graduates
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £17,700**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

3. Overview of the Programme

This programme is designed to provide you with a strong grounding in the key principles of microbiology and immunology, enabling a broad and varied coverage of modern biological sciences. You will investigate some of the most exciting areas of current life sciences research, developing a deeper understanding of core molecular biology, biological processes, and host-pathogen interactions. The Microbiology and Immunology programme will introduce you to the biology, biochemistry and physiology of viruses and microorganisms including bacteria, fungi, and parasites, together with the role of the immune system in defending the body against infection from pathogens. Our overarching aim is to equip you with the multidisciplinary skills and knowledge employed by scientists in these fields.

In microbiology there is a particular emphasis on host-pathogen interactions, the diseases these can cause, the development of novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, as well as their wider application in biotechnology and their critical roles in global ecosystems, including interactions within key plant and animal hosts. Immunology explores the enormous diversity of the human immune system, and how such knowledge is essential in the development of new biotechnological approaches to disease treatment and prevention, such as vaccines. You will also explore how the extraordinary specificity of components of the immune system, such as antibodies, can be exploited in development of targeted molecular therapies in diseases including cancer. Knowledge of the development and function of different components of the immune response is also essential in our understanding of autoimmune disease and other disorders of the immune system, such as immunodeficiency.

During the programme you will receive research training in experimental design, practical techniques, and data analysis. The core laboratory programme delivered in our state-of-the-art David Attenborough and Central Science Laboratories enables development of hands-on practical skills within modern research techniques. This will culminate in the opportunity to undertake a final year research project (laboratory or computer based) under expert guidance of our teaching and research staff. You will also present the outcomes of your final year research project at our Undergraduate Student Research Conference in the context of a realistic research conference experience.

The knowledge and skills you will acquire can be applied to Microbiology, Immunology and Biological Science related careers. These may be in academic research at the cutting edge of new discoveries, in industry roles exploring the commercial application of biological technology, such as pharmaceutical development or within healthcare industries, such as in medicine, nursing or public health policy and regulation. Throughout the course we will equip you with employability skills enabling you to explore the wide variety of options available to you. There will also be the option to engage in deeper experiential learning opportunities through undertaking a Work Placement year between level 5 and level 6, or as shorter placement options alongside your studies, or to include study abroad either as a semester abroad at level 5 or an International Year between level 5 and level 6.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to:

- provide you with core knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the study of Microbiology and Immunology;
- produce skilled and motivated graduates who are suitably prepared for further study or for employment within or outside their field;
- cultivate interest in the biosciences, particularly in context to research and development in Microbiology and Immunology, within a caring and intellectually stimulating environment;
- promote the development of a range of employability skills, for use in all areas where numeracy and an objective, scientific approach to problem-solving are valued;
- promote the development of independent research skills to enable you to undertake relevant postgraduate study.

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- core biological topics that underpin the study of microbiology and immunology including: anatomy, molecular biology; molecular genetics; biochemistry; macromolecular structure and function; enzymes, catalysis and metabolism; cell biology; cell signalling; membranes and transport; human physiology and pathology
- the structure, physiology and biochemistry of bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, their identification and classification, interactions with their host and their environment in global ecosystems
- the molecular basis of genetics and gene expression, including the structure, arrangement, expression, and regulation of genes, in application to the diversity of microorganisms and viruses, and the generation and selection of diversity in the immune system
- the development, function and disorders of the innate and adaptive immune system, the structural basis for pathogen recognition and key effector functions, in context to infectious and inflammatory disease
- the development and application of existing, novel and emerging diagnostics and therapeutics in the prevention and/or treatment of infectious disease, disorders of the immune system and other conditions
- experimental methods for the investigation of relevant areas of microbiology, immunology and molecular biology, including the scientific method, hypothesis-driven investigation and the critical nature of evidence and scientific debate
- current developments in microbiology and immunology, including areas of ethical or public concern

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- evaluate scientific literature with a full and critical understanding, while addressing such questions as content, context, aims, objectives, quality of information, and its interpretation and application
- attain competence in a range of laboratory techniques and employ a variety of methods (including computational studies related to bioinformatics and macromolecular databases) in investigating, acquiring, recording and analysing information relevant to microbiology and immunology
- design, conduct, analyse, report and evaluate biological experiments, acknowledging an awareness of the validity, accuracy, calibration, precision and reproducibility of results
- work safely and responsibly in the laboratory with awareness of standard procedures such as risk assessment, COSHH and good laboratory practice (GLP)
- recognise philosophical and ethical issues relevant to the subject
- apply scientific method, planning, and analytical skills to carry out research project
- apply biological understanding to familiar and unfamiliar problems

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Develop and sustain effective approaches to lifelong learning, including effective time management, organisation, and reflective practice.
- Acquire, analyse, synthesise, evaluate, and summarise information and ideas from a wide range of sources including textual, numerical, verbal, and graphical.
- Prepare, process, and present data using a range of qualitative and quantitative techniques, including the use of specialist statistical programmes, spreadsheets, and relevant digital resources.
- Communicate effectively with a range of audiences using written, verbal, and graphical approaches with accurate scientific terminology.
- Work effectively in a team in a respectful manner that is inclusive of different points of view, lived experiences, and strengths and weaknesses to achieve collaborative goals.
- Apply the principles of good academic practice to ensure academic and professional integrity, including appropriate use of citations, references, and recognition of other sources such as generative AI.

Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development

goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

Diversity, flexibility, and inclusivity is at the heart of our education strategy which is developed through close The delivery of our programme will include the following types of activities:

Laboratory practicals: Take place in one of our state-of-the-art science labs. These give you first-hand experience in a range of scientific techniques and have been designed to ensure you develop both independent and team-based skills.

Digital material: Traditional 'lectures' are often redesigned for online consumption, giving you more flexibility to decide how, when and where to study. This can include provision of short videos, directed reading, key learning outcomes and forms that allow you to ask questions anonymously.

Live, campus-based interactive lectures: Delivered by experts in the field, including external guest speakers. Interactive lectures focus on active learning and aim to provide opportunities for you to discuss key content and consolidate your learning.

Live, campus-based tutorials and workshops: Often designed to support those areas that we know can be difficult, such as statistics. Tutorials and workshops are often delivered in small groups designed to promote social learning, develop a sense of community, and to give you an opportunity to apply your knowledge and deepen your understanding of core issues through discussion with other students and your tutors.

Live, case-based learning (CBL) tutorials: In CBL, you will work in small groups to discuss patient cases that help you to contextualise much of the taught content across the programme, highlighting how that applies to patient pathways, and helping you to develop key skills such as leadership, communication and evidence-based problem solving.

Live, online tutorials, workshops and drop-in sessions: Often used to host plenary sessions. These plenary sessions are optional, added value and may cover topics common to all students such as: note taking and meet your alumni at Level 4; IT and data analysis at Level 5 and writing retreats and career readiness at Level 6.

Apart from these formal activities, we operate an open-door policy so you can ask for a meeting with any of our tutors across the year to discuss particular areas of difficulty or concern. You will also have access to specialist advice and support through our Academic Mentors, Disability Inclusion Tutors, Student Experience and Support Officers, and a range of central services including Counselling and Mental Health, Careers and Employability, and Student Finance.

7. Teaching Staff

University life is not just about the content of your degree. It is also an opportunity to network, to speak to network, to speak to people working in fields that excite you. Here in Life Sciences, you will meet a diverse range of staff that you can see by using the following link>: (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/lifesci/ourpeople/>).

We also invite speakers from the School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy, School of Medicine and the NHS to enrich your learning.

Our staff include world-leading researchers, clinical practitioners, and experts in learning and teaching. As part of their training, all staff complete post-graduate qualifications on learning and teaching. Some take this to Masters level and beyond, choosing to specialise in pedagogic research to ensure that our programmes are taught to the very highest standards.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from programme to programme, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An

outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules.

At Level 4, we have consolidated all of your modules into four, compulsory 30-credit modules. This will provide a solid foundation to your degree, regardless of your academic background. We assume no prior knowledge and will make sure that Level 4 gives you the skills needed to succeed at Levels 5 and 6.

Levels 5 and 6 include optional module choices allowing you to more flexibility to tailor your degree as you progress through it.

Global Challenge Pathways

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/>

Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Level 4. At Levels 5 and 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice as a faculty funded 'additional' module. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpages.

For new (Level 4) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/>

For current (Level 5 and Level 6) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global-challenge-pathways/>

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	105	15	15
Level 6	90	30	30

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Molecules for Life	LSC-10097	30	Semester 1
Human Physiology and Anatomy	LSC-10101	30	Semester 1-2
Practical and Academic Skills in Bioscience	LSC-10103	0	Semester 1-2
Microbes: the immune system and the environment	LSC-10109	30	Semester 1-2
Molecular Cell Biology	LSC-10066	30	Semester 2

Level 4 Module Rules

LSC-10103 *Practical and Academic Skills in Bioscience* is a compulsory zero-credit module. All laboratory work across this Level of study will be coordinated through this module and assessed within other credit-bearing modules across the year, where appropriate. This module will also develop wider academic skills and includes additional academic support and development material to enhance your overall student experience and develop key employability skills. The module will be passed via attendance to a minimum threshold of 70% of core sessions and successful completion of practical skills assessment (OSPE).

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Molecular, Cellular and Structural Immunology	LSC-20015	15	Semester 1
Microbes, Viruses and Parasites	LSC-20073	15	Semester 1
Applications of Molecular Biology	LSC-20131	15	Semester 1
Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience	LSC-20127	0	Semester 1-2
Research and Analytical Skills	LSC-20056	15	Semester 2
Cell Signalling	LSC-20085	15	Semester 2
Defence and Disease	LSC-20111	30	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Genetics	LSC-20050	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 5)	NAT-20011	15	Semester 1-2

Level 5 Module Rules

LSC-20127 *Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience* is a compulsory zero-credit module. All laboratory work across this Level of study will be coordinated through this module and assessed within other credit-bearing modules across the year, where appropriate. This module will also develop advanced academic skills in literature searching and analysis and includes additional career development workshops, enhancing your overall student experience and developing key employability skills. The module will be passed via attendance to a minimum threshold of 70% of core sessions and successful completion of practical skills assessment (OSPE).

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Parasitology	LSC-30036	15	Semester 1
Professional Development	LSC-30090	0	Semester 1-2
Research Project	LSC-30102	30	Semester 1-2
Employability and Communication Skills in Bioscience	LSC-30106	15	Semester 1-2
Case Studies in Microbiology and Immunology	LSC-30078	15	Semester 2
Virology	LSC-30108	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Tropical Biology Field Course	LSC-30066	15	Semester 1
Omics Technologies	LSC-30092	15	Semester 1
Structural Immunology	LSC-30110	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)	NAT-30008	15	Semester 1-2
Professional Experience in Education	NAT-30012	15	Semester 1-2
Cancer Biology	LSC-30061	15	Semester 2
Epidemiology	LSC-30084	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6). You also cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) and Professional Experience in Education.

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Honours Degree BSc (Hons) Microbiology and Immunology	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the three-

year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance.

Our assessment strategy will help you to develop and evidence your ability to:

Provide evidence-based solutions to current scientific problems. Most often this is assessed through a range of case report, portfolios and literature reviews.

Present scientific findings. Often these are lab reports or experimental projects that test your ability to pose scientific hypotheses, design experiments, understand methodologies, present findings, analyse data and situate your work in the current literature. Other assessments will also develop your skills in accessing, manipulating and presenting the outcomes of computational investigations, including in bioinformatics and the use of small molecule and macromolecular databases.

Communicate effectively with a range of audiences. These can include scientific posters, patient information leaflets, wikis, blogs or oral presentations, as well as more standard laboratory reports, proformas and literature reviews.

Work professionally. Your final year, independent research project will give you an opportunity to demonstrate a range of professional skills such as leadership, innovation, time keeping, communication and the ability to work safely and ethically.

Work effectively in a team. Most often this is assessed through group presentations but can also include competencies such as working together in the lab or other group assignments, such as an assessment where you will work in a group on the optimisation and production of commercial laboratory assay kit for metabolite quantification.

Solve problems in a time-limited fashion. Often in the work environment we are asked to solve problems in a relatively short amount of time. Online tests and end-of-semester, online, open-book examinations will help you to evidence these skills.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	32.8%	67.2%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	34.8%	65.2%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	9%	91%	0%

12. Accreditation

Accreditation will be sought through the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) before graduation of the first Programme cohort.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

14. Other Learning Opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele. Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the International Year.

Work Placement Year

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Work Placement Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year degree programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking their year-long placement. Eligibility rules are included in the

Annex.

Students wishing to take the work placement year should meet with the Programme Director to obtain their signature to confirm agreement before they will be allowed to commence their placement.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa must check with the Immigration Compliance Team prior to commencing any form of placement.

A summary of the Work Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the Work Placement Year.

Secondments: These are shorter industrial placements that usually take place over the summer in between Level 5 and 6 and usually last between 2-8 weeks. They can be based locally in one of our research labs here at Keele, nationally or internationally. For example, often some of our students will travel to Malaysia to work with our partner *Universiti Sains Malaysia*.

Tropical field trip: You could apply for our School tropical field course that takes place in Malaysia. These are often more ecology and conservation in nature, and again provide fantastic international experience.

Operation Wallacea: This is a private company that supports a wide range of student projects with a particular focus on biodiversity and climate research. More information can be found at: <https://www.opwall.com>

Other opportunities. There are a number of schemes available from e.g. the Wellcome Trust that provide bursaries for students to gain laboratory experience in the summer vacation between level 5 and 6. Staff in Life Sciences have hosted these bursaries in the past and students who are interested can approach staff, who will have to submit an application on the students' behalf to the funding bodies (usually in January or February). Staff may also be willing to host students in their laboratories during the summer vacation on a voluntary basis. Other learning opportunities for Microbiology and Immunology students vary from year to year but include the opportunity to hear from, and talk to, a range of guest speakers and presenters including researchers from around the world. Some of these activities are timetabled as part of taught modules, others are organised separately as part of a school-wide seminar programme but are widely advertised and undergraduate students are always welcome to attend.

Note: the opportunities described above are limited and dependent on external providers. We may not be able to offer them every year and there will be additional costs if you do successfully secure a place. We discuss all of these options in more detail across Level 4 and Level 5 so you can make an informed decision.

15. Additional Costs

Activity	Estimated Cost
Optional field course hosted at USM, Malaysia	£1,200
Other additional costs: Replacement lab coat (if you lose the free one we provide)	£10

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

16. Annex - International Year

BSc Microbiology and Immunology with International Year

International Year Programme

At Level 5 you can apply to transfer onto our International Year pathway. If successful, you will have an additional year of study at one of our international partner Universities once you have completed Level 5 here at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional information below only applies to those students taking *Microbiology and Immunology with International Year*.

International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document for *Microbiology and Immunology*, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of the subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's academic mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

We have a dedicated Study Abroad tutor within Life Sciences that will stay in touch with you throughout your International Year, effectively acting as an additional Academic Mentor. There is also support available for Keele's Global Opportunities Team (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/studyabroad/>)

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes for *Microbiology and Immunology*, students who graduate with *Microbiology and Immunology with International Year* will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. Use independent research skills to identify relevant information resources on a range of subjects related, or complementary, to Microbiology and Immunology.
5. Demonstrate the use of critical thinking skills, augmented by creativity and curiosity, in discussing the application of their International Year studies to Microbiology and Immunology.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

17. Annex - Work Placement Year

BSc Microbiology and Immunology with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

At level 4 or 5 you can apply to transfer onto our Work Placement Year pathway.

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional information below only applies to those students taking *Microbiology and Immunology with Work Placement Year*.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims for *Microbiology and Immunology*, we also aim to:

1. Provide experience of working in a subject-related laboratory or work place within an industrial, academic or public institution either in the UK or abroad.

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Faculty of Natural Sciences Work / Professional Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside their placement.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application(s) to relevant placement providers with prior agreement from the Programme Lead, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and Programme Lead)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- (*International students only*) Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

We have a dedicated Industrial Placement tutor within Life Sciences that can act as a point of contact for you before, during or after your placement year. You will also be assigned a Placement Supervisor. This will be an academic member of the School who will maintain regular contact with you throughout your placement and will become your project supervisor at Level 6. The School Director of Education will also act as a whistleblower. This means that you can contact them in strict confidence at any point during your placement if you have any concerns about your placement provider or overall experience.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes for *Microbiology and Immunology*, students who graduate with *Microbiology and Immunology with Placement Year* will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an ability to successfully work within their placement institution and to learn practical skills and develop their science base within the scope of their work project.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (NAT-30010).

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit module NAT-30010 Work Placement Year
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

18. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: BSc Microbiology and Immunology

Final Award and Award Titles	BSc (Hons) Microbiology and Immunology BSc (Hons) Microbiology and Immunology with International Year BSc (Hons) Microbiology and Immunology with Work Placement Year
Intermediate Award(s)	Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	June 2022
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1: No variations apply

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Laboratory, lecture and tutorial classes

1.1 Wearing a laboratory coat is compulsory in all classes held in laboratories. Students will not be allowed to attend the laboratory class without a laboratory coat.

1.2 Students must wear appropriate clothing in the laboratories, including sensible footwear. Closed shoes and low heels should be worn. This is to avoid tripping and to protect the feet in the case of spillages. Long hair must be tied back. Students who are inappropriately dressed may, at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, be excluded from the class and recorded as being absent without good cause.

1.3 Students who arrive late to laboratory classes will be unable to take part in the class and recorded as being absent without good cause.

1.4 Students who display serious misconduct in any class may, at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, be excluded from the class and recorded as being absent without good cause. Serious misconduct

involves wilful damage to property, injury or threat to persons, or persistent disruption of teaching.

1.5 The unauthorised use of mobile phones or headphones is not permitted in any class.

1.6 Students are not permitted to record, video or photograph taught sessions or meetings with staff, except with the permission in advance of the staff concerned. Permission will be given where this is part of an approved disability adjustment. Any permission to record, video or photograph is for personal use only and all recordings, videos or photographs remain the property of the presenter and Keele University.

1.7 Students are required to read and follow the procedures in the School of Life Sciences Safety Handbook, which is available from the Life Science Noticeboard on the KLE.

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 08 July 2025

What's Changed

Compulsory module changes: LSC-20107 replaced with LSC-20127.

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	JENNIFER MORAN	28 March 2025	
1	2024/25	JENNIFER MORAN	14 June 2024	
1	2023/24	DAVID WATSON	12 May 2023	