

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For students starting in Academic Year 2020/21

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Biochemistry BSc (Hons) Biochemistry with International Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Biochemistry with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Studies in Biochemistry BSc (Hons) Studies in Biochemistry with International Year BSc (Hons) Studies in Biochemistry with Work Placement Year
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 an Applied Life Sciences Placement or International 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)	All routes, excluding the 'Studies in' routes, are accredited by the Royal Society of Biology. For further details see the section on Accreditation.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK/EU students:</p> <p>Fee for 2020/21 is £9,250*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2020/21 is £16,250**</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/>

** 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

The Keele Biochemistry programme provides a broad and varied coverage of modern biochemistry, offering the chance to investigate the most exciting areas of 21st Century life science and medical research and it allows students to tailor their degree course to their interests and ambitions. Studying life at the molecular level offers the opportunity to investigate the core topics in the life sciences today, from unlocking the secrets of the human genome to the individually tailored molecular therapies of the future. The Keele Biochemistry programme places particular emphasis on human and mammalian biochemistry, especially as it relates to health and disease. Staff provide a friendly and supportive environment. Training is also provided in the employability skills that will help you to reach your potential in your chosen career, whether or not this is in biochemistry. To maintain the broad educational remit that has been a distinctive feature of Keele's academic philosophy since it was founded in 1953, we have included the option for you to include a free elective module at Levels 4 and 5 (years 1 and 2), should you choose to do so.

Distinctive features of the course include:

- A contemporary curriculum, with a focus on biochemistry and molecular biology in health and disease, which has been designed to meet requirements for Royal Society of Biology Accreditation;
- Inclusion of some innovative and relevant assessments, designed to foster creativity;
- A laboratory programme delivered in well-equipped modern laboratories and a wide range of final year research projects;
- The Student Undergraduate Conference gives students the opportunity to present their own research in the context of a realistic research conference experience;
- Students may apply to take an Applied Life Sciences Placement between level 5 and level 6;
- Students may include study abroad either as a semester abroad at level 5 or an International Year between level 5 and level 6;
- Students have the opportunity to study a language alongside their programme.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- provide you with core knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to biochemistry;
- 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 at the cellular and molecular level, 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
- Intellectual skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

U1 understand and explain the chemistry that underlies biochemical reactions and the techniques used to investigate them

U2 understand the chemical and thermodynamic principles underlying biological catalysis and the role of enzymes and other proteins in determining the function and fate of cells and organisms.

U3 have a critical understanding of essential features of cell metabolism and its control, including topics such as energy and signal transduction, photosynthesis and respiration

U4 understand the principles that determine the three-dimensional structure of biological macromolecules (including nucleic acids and proteins) and be able to explain detailed examples of how structure enables function

U5 acquire a critical understanding of the molecular basis of genetics and be able to explain some detailed examples

U6 have critical knowledge and understanding of gene expression, with a detailed knowledge of specific examples; the structure, arrangement, expression, and regulation of genes; and relevant experimental methods

U7 be familiar with a wide range of cells (both prokaryotic and eukaryotic) and parasitic entities and be able to explain critically how their properties suit them for their biological function, and how they could be investigated experimentally

U8 have a critical understanding of the innate and adaptive immune system

U9 devise and evaluate suitable experimental methods for the investigation of relevant areas of biochemistry and molecular biology

U10 be aware of current developments in biochemistry and molecular biology including areas of ethical or public concern

U11 demonstrate an ability to mine, manipulate and interpret data from small molecule and macromolecular databases.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

S1 read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding, while addressing such questions as content, context, aims, objectives, quality of information, and its interpretation and application

S2 employ a variety of methods of study (including bioinformatics) in investigating, acquiring, recording and analysing information relevant to the subject

S3 prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually

S4 use and attain competence in a range of laboratory techniques

S5 design, conduct, analyse, report and evaluate biochemical experiments, acknowledging an awareness of the validity, accuracy, calibration, precision and reproducibility of results

S6 work safely and responsibly in the laboratory with awareness of standard procedures such as risk assessment, ethical approval of research, relevant health and safety regulations, issues relating to animal welfare and procedures for obtaining informed consent

S7 recognise philosophical and ethical issues relevant to the subject

S8 develop an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of science and of the validity of different points of view

Intellectual skills

Successful students will be able to:

I1 assess the merits of contrasting theories, paradigms, concepts or principles

I2 think independently, set tasks and solve problems by a variety of methods

I3 make reasoned decisions and develop reasoned arguments

I4 obtain and interpret several lines of subject-specific evidence to formulate and test hypotheses

I5 make critical interpretations, evaluations and judgements of data and text

I6 analyse, synthesise and summarise information critically, including published research or reports

I7 apply biochemical understanding to familiar and unfamiliar problems, and emphasise the interdisciplinary nature of science and the validity of different points of view

I8 take responsibility for their own learning and reflect upon that learning

I9 construct grammatically correct documents in an appropriate academic style using and referencing relevant ideas and evidence

I10 understand the importance of academic and research integrity

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

E1 develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and

intellectual integrity

E2 acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical

E3 prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually

E4 use the internet and other electronic sources critically as a means of communication and a source of information

E5 cite and reference work in an appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity and the avoidance of plagiarism whether intentional or not

E6 communicate effectively to a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and scientific language

E7 develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills

E8 work with others to identify and achieve collaborative goals and responsibilities and perform in a respectful manner that is accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members

E9 motivate themselves and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time

E10 identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

6. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- **Traditional lectures** where the lecturer provides students with a framework for reading and independent study. Some lecture classes may feature guest speakers working in biochemistry or biomedical fields
- **Interactive learning** in large classes where students have the opportunity to work together in smaller groups, interact with the lecturer and reflect on their own learning. Interactive lectures may involve the use of voting systems or involve students in answering quick quizzes or writing short summaries
- **Practicals** in laboratories are particularly important and weekly laboratory classes are designed to train you in the skills needed for a career in biochemistry and provide training in a wide range of research techniques
- **Tutorials** and seminars in small groups of students where key issues can be discussed in more depth. Students are expected to play a full part and, occasionally, to lead these discussions. In particular, problem based learning (PBL) is a student-centred style, based on case studies, that is incorporated into two core modules. Some tutorials and seminars consist largely of student presentations and many are based on scientific papers studied in advance
- **Independent study** based on directed reading from text books, research papers and research reviews
- **Web-based learning** using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE). The KLE is used to give students easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools, and as a platform for online discussions and quizzes
- **Life Sciences Double Experimental Project** (with research skills assessment) gives students the opportunity to undertake a piece of independent experimental research supervised and supported by a member of staff

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Personal Tutors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- Lectures and independent study allow students to gain knowledge and understanding of molecular mechanisms and the complexity of cellular processes
- Seminars, tutorials and online discussions provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to biochemical questions, and to present their own ideas to members of staff and other students using an appropriate medium of

communication

- Interactive lectures, seminars, tutorials and web-based activities encourage students to reflect on their own learning and take responsibility for its development by addressing areas of difficulty, perhaps by discussing them with their fellow students or by getting additional help from a member of staff
- Laboratory practicals allow students to generate, analyse and interpret biochemical data and use a range of techniques
- Undertaking an experimental project with the support of an experienced researcher allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise, carry out and analyse experiments to answer them

7. Teaching Staff

Currently our core teaching staff comprises of academic staff and a senior demonstrator who play the most significant roles in the delivery of the programme. However, many of the remaining academic staff from the School of Life Sciences, are also involved to some extent in teaching e.g. in project supervision or delivery of option modules. Teaching staff from the School of Pharmacy, School of Medicine and the University Hospitals of North Midlands also contribute to various aspects the Programme. Most staff are active in bioscience research and qualified to PhD level or equivalent professional level. As part of probationary requirements, new staff must complete a postgraduate certificate in teaching at HE level, which is recognised by SEDA. Several Life Sciences' staff members have been awarded Keele's prestigious Excellence in Teaching and Learning awards and several were awarded a KeeleSU Education Award for personal tutoring.

There is a growing culture of higher education research and several members of staff are active this field, with members of staff having already completed an MA in Teaching and Learning and several others in the process of doing so. In recent years several teaching innovation projects have been run by Life Sciences staff and several new projects have been proposed. Members of the School of Life Sciences hold recognised or accredited teaching qualifications and a number are Fellows or Associates of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and a number are Senior Fellows of the HEA.

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 course to course, 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 three 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;
- Elective modules - a free choice of modules that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows, with a minimum of 90 subject credits (compulsory plus optional) required for each year.

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

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

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 4	105	0	0	15	15
Level 5	105	0	15	0	15
Level 6	45	75	75	0	0

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Chemistry for Bioscience	LSC-10056	15	Semester 1
Biochemistry	LSC-10064	30	Semester 1
Professional Skills for Biochemists	LSC-10068	30	Semester 1-2
Molecular Cell Biology	LSC-10066	30	Semester 2

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Gene and Protein Engineering	LSC-20003	15	Semester 1
Molecular, Cellular and Structural Immunology	LSC-20015	15	Semester 1
Microbes, Viruses and Parasites	LSC-20073	15	Semester 1
Metabolism in Health and Disease	LSC-20016	15	Semester 2
Research and Analytical Skills	LSC-20056	15	Semester 2
Cell Signalling	LSC-20085	15	Semester 2
Drug design	LSC-20087	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Genetics	LSC-20050	15	Semester 1

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Case Studies in Biotechnology	LSC-30051	15	Semester 1
Bioinformatics and Science Communication	LSC-30057	15	Semester 1-2
Medical Glycobiology (Level 6)	LSC-30065	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Structural Biology & Macromolecular Function	LSC-30016	15	Semester 1
Advances in Medicine	LSC-30028	15	Semester 1
Human Parasitology	LSC-30036	15	Semester 1
Double Applied Life Sciences Placement - ISP	LSC-30038	30	Semester 1
Tropical Biology Field Course	LSC-30066	15	Semester 1
Biology of Disease - ISP	LSC-30015	15	Semester 1-2
Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment)	LSC-30045	30	Semester 1-2
Cancer Biology	LSC-30061	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

Students MUST take 30 credits of ISP (Independent Study Project) either LSC-30038 or LSC-30045.

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 4

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
U1 be able to understand and explain the chemistry that underlies biochemical reactions and the techniques used to investigate them	Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068 Biochemistry - LSC-10064 Chemistry for Bioscience - LSC-10056
U2 understand the chemical and thermodynamic principles underlying biological catalysis and the role of enzymes and other proteins in determining the function and fate of cells and organisms.	Chemistry for Bioscience - LSC-10056 Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068 Biochemistry - LSC-10064
U3 have a critical understanding of essential features of cell metabolism and its control, including topics such as energy and signal transduction, photosynthesis and respiration	Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066 Biochemistry - LSC-10064 Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068
U4 understand the principles that determine the three-dimensional structure of biological macromolecules (including nucleic acids and proteins) and be able to explain detailed examples of how structure enables function	Biochemistry - LSC-10064 Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066
U5 acquire a critical understanding of the molecular basis of genetics and be able to explain some detailed examples	Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066
U6 have critical knowledge and understanding of gene expression, with a detailed knowledge of specific examples; the structure, arrangement, expression, and regulation of genes; and relevant experimental methods	Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066
U7 be familiar with a wide range of cells (both prokaryotic and eukaryotic) and parasitic entities and be able to explain critically how their properties suit them for their biological function, and how they could be investigated experimentally	Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068 Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066
U9 be able to devise and evaluate suitable experimental methods for the investigation of relevant areas of biochemistry and molecular biology	Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068 Biochemistry - LSC-10064
U10 be aware of current developments in biochemistry and molecular biology including areas of ethical or public concern	Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
S1 read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding, while addressing such questions as content, context, aims, objectives, quality of information, and its interpretation and application	Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068
S2 employ a variety of methods of study (including bioinformatics) in investigating, acquiring, recording and analysing information relevant to the subject	All modules with a practical component
S3 prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually	All modules with a practical component
S4 use and attain competence in a range of laboratory techniques	All modules with a practical component, but particularly Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology, Professional Skills for Biochemists
S5 design, conduct, analyse, report and evaluate biochemical experiments, acknowledging an awareness of the validity, accuracy, calibration, precision and reproducibility of results.	All modules with a practical component, but particularly Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology, Professional Skills for Biochemists
S6 work safely and responsibly in the laboratory with awareness of standard procedures such as risk assessment, ethical approval of research, relevant health and safety regulations, issues relating to animal welfare and procedures for obtaining informed consent	All modules with a practical component, but particularly Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology, Professional Skills for Biochemists
S7 recognise philosophical and ethical issues relevant to the subject	Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066
S8 develop an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of science and of the validity of different points of view.	All modules

Intellectual skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
I1 assess the merits of contrasting theories, paradigms, concepts or principles	All modules
I2 think independently, set tasks and solve problems by a variety of methods	All modules
I3 make reasoned decisions and develop reasoned arguments	Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068
I4 obtain and interpret several lines of subject-specific evidence to formulate and test hypotheses	Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066 Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068
I6 analyse, synthesise and summarise information critically, including published research or reports	Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068 Most modules at an introductory level
I7 apply biochemical I understanding to familiar and unfamiliar problems, and emphasise the interdisciplinary nature of science and the validity of different points of view	Most modules, in particular Professional Skills for Biochemists
I8 take responsibility for their own learning and reflect upon that learning	All modules, Personal Development Planning with personal tutor, engaging with feedback
I9 construct grammatically correct documents in an appropriate academic style using and referencing relevant ideas and evidence.	Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068 All modules where there are written assessments, especially those where different writing styles are developed
I10 understand the importance of academic and research integrity	All modules especially those with associated laboratory work

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
E1 develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity	All modules
E2 acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical	All modules
E3 prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually	All modules with a practical component
E4 use the internet and other electronic sources critically as a means of communication and a source of information	All modules
E5 cite and reference work in an appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity and the avoidance of plagiarism whether intentional or not	All modules
E6 communicate effectively to a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and scientific language	Molecular Cell Biology - LSC-10066 Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068
E7 develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills	All modules, particularly those with a practical component
E8 work with others to identify and achieve collaborative goals and responsibilities and perform in a respectful manner that is accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members	Professional Skills for Biochemists - LSC-10068
E9 motivate themselves and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time	All modules
E10 identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development	All modules and via personal tutor system

Level 5

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
U1 be able to understand and explain the chemistry that underlies biochemical reactions and the techniques used to investigate them	Drug design - LSC-20087 Metabolism in Health and Disease - LSC-20016
U2 understand the chemical and thermodynamic principles underlying biological catalysis and the role of enzymes and other proteins in determining the function and fate of cells and organisms.	Cell Signalling - LSC-20085 Metabolism in Health and Disease - LSC-20016
U3 have a critical understanding of essential features of cell metabolism and its control, including topics such as energy and signal transduction, photosynthesis and respiration	Cell Signalling - LSC-20085 Metabolism in Health and Disease - LSC-20016
U4 understand the principles that determine the three-dimensional structure of biological macromolecules (including nucleic acids and proteins) and be able to explain detailed examples of how structure enables function	Drug design - LSC-20087 Molecular, Cellular and Structural Immunology - LSC-20015
U5 acquire a critical understanding of the molecular basis of genetics and be able to explain some detailed examples	Human Genetics - LSC-20050
U6 have critical knowledge and understanding of gene expression, with a detailed knowledge of specific examples; the structure, arrangement, expression, and regulation of genes; and relevant experimental methods	Gene and Protein Engineering - LSC-20003 Molecular, Cellular and Structural Immunology - LSC-20015
U7 be familiar with a wide range of cells (both prokaryotic and eukaryotic) and parasitic entities and be able to explain critically how their properties suit them for their biological function, and how they could be investigated experimentally	Microbes, Viruses and Parasites - LSC-20073
U8 have a critical understanding of the innate and adaptive immune system	Microbes, Viruses and Parasites - LSC-20073 Molecular, Cellular and Structural Immunology - LSC-20015
U9 be able to devise and evaluate suitable experimental methods for the investigation of relevant areas of biochemistry and molecular biology	All modules with practical elements, but particularly Research & Analytical Skills, Metabolism in Health and Disease
U10 be aware of current developments in biochemistry and molecular biology including areas of ethical or public concern	Gene and Protein Engineering - LSC-20003 Human Genetics - LSC-20050
U11 be able to demonstrate and ability to mine, manipulate and interpret data from small molecule and macromolecular databases.	Drug design - LSC-20087 Research and Analytical Skills - LSC-20056

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
S1 read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding, while addressing such questions as content, context, aims, objectives, quality of information, and its interpretation and application	All modules
S2 employ a variety of methods of study (including bioinformatics) in investigating, acquiring, recording and analysing information relevant to the subject	All modules with a practical component
S3 prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually	All modules with a practical component, in particular Research & Analytical Skills
S4 use and attain competence in a range of laboratory techniques	Molecular, Cellular and Structural Immunology - LSC-20015 Metabolism in Health and Disease - LSC-20016 Gene and Protein Engineering - LSC-20003 Cell Signalling - LSC-20085
S5 design, conduct, analyse, report and evaluate biochemical experiments, acknowledging an awareness of the validity, accuracy, calibration, precision and reproducibility of results.	All modules with a practical component in particular Metabolism in Health and Disease
S6 work safely and responsibly in the laboratory with awareness of standard procedures such as risk assessment, ethical approval of research, relevant health and safety regulations, issues relating to animal welfare and procedures for obtaining informed consent	All modules with a practical component
S7 recognise philosophical and ethical issues relevant to the subject	Most modules, particularly Human Genetics, Gene and Protein Engineering
S8 develop an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of science and of the validity of different points of view	All modules, particularly Drug Design

Intellectual skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
I1 assess the merits of contrasting theories, paradigms, concepts or principles	All modules
I2 think independently, set tasks and solve problems by a variety of methods	All modules
I4 obtain and interpret several lines of subject-specific evidence to formulate and test hypotheses	Metabolism in Health and Disease - LSC-20016
I5 make critical interpretations, evaluations and judgements of data and text	All modules and in particular, Metabolism in Health and Disease
I6 analyse, synthesise and summarise information critically, including published research or reports	Most modules, in particular Microbes, Viruses and Parasites
I7 apply biochemical understanding to familiar and unfamiliar problems, and emphasise the interdisciplinary nature of science and the validity of different points of view	Human Genetics - LSC-20050 Drug design - LSC-20087
I8 take responsibility for their own learning and reflect upon that learning	All modules, Personal Development Planning with personal tutor, engaging with feedback
I9 construct grammatically correct documents in an appropriate academic style using and referencing relevant ideas and evidence	All modules where there are written assessments, especially those where different writing styles are developed Microbes, Viruses and Parasites
I10 understand the importance of academic and research integrity	All modules especially those with associated laboratory work

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
E1 develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity	All modules
E2 acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical	All modules
E3 prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually	All modules, especially Metabolism in Health and Disease, Research and Analytical Skills
E4 use the internet and other electronic sources critically as a means of communication and a source of information	All modules
E5 cite and reference work in an appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity and the avoidance of plagiarism whether intentional or not	All modules
E6 communicate effectively to a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and scientific language	Microbes, Viruses and Parasites - LSC-20073
E7 develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills	All modules, particularly those with a practical component
E8 work with others to identify and achieve collaborative goals and responsibilities and perform in a respectful manner that is accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members	Microbes, Viruses and Parasites - LSC-20073 Drug design - LSC-20087
E9 motivate themselves and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time	Metabolism in Health and Disease - LSC-20016
E10 identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development	All modules and via personal tutor system

Level 6

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
U1 be able to understand and explain the chemistry that underlies biochemical reactions and the techniques used to investigate them	Medical Glycobiology (Level 6) - LSC-30065 Case Studies in Biotechnology - LSC-30051
U3 have a critical understanding of essential features of cell metabolism and its control, including topics such as energy and signal transduction, photosynthesis and respiration	Cancer Biology - LSC-30061 Biology of Disease (some topics)
U4 understand the principles that determine the three-dimensional structure of biological macromolecules (including nucleic acids and proteins) and be able to explain detailed examples of how structure enables function	Structural Biology & Macromolecular Function - LSC-30016 Medical Glycobiology (Level 6) - LSC-30065
U5 acquire a critical understanding of the molecular basis of genetics and be able to explain some detailed examples	Case Studies in Biotechnology - LSC-30051 Cancer Biology - LSC-30061 Advances in Medicine - LSC-30028 Biology of Disease (some topics)
U6 have critical knowledge and understanding of gene expression, with a detailed knowledge of specific examples; the structure, arrangement, expression, and regulation of genes; and relevant experimental methods	Cancer Biology - LSC-30061 Advances in Medicine - LSC-30028 Biology of Disease (some topics)
U7 be familiar with a wide range of cells (both prokaryotic and eukaryotic) and parasitic entities and be able to explain critically how their properties suit them for their biological function, and how they could be investigated experimentally	Human Parasitology - LSC-30036 Biology of Disease (some topics)
U8 have a critical understanding of the innate and adaptive immune system	Medical Glycobiology (Level 6) - LSC-30065 Structural Biology & Macromolecular Function - LSC-30016
U9 be able to devise and evaluate suitable experimental methods for the investigation of relevant areas of biochemistry and molecular biology	Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment) - LSC-30045
U10 be aware of current developments in biochemistry and molecular biology including areas of ethical or public concern	Advances in Medicine - LSC-30028 Case Studies in Biotechnology - LSC-30051 Human Parasitology - LSC-30036
U11 be able to demonstrate and ability to mine, manipulate and interpret data from small molecule and macromolecular databases.	Bioinformatics and Science Communication - LSC-30057

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
S1 read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding, while addressing such questions as content, context, aims, objectives, quality of information, and its interpretation and application	All modules, especially Bioinformatics and Science Communication, Case Studies in Biotechnology
S2 employ a variety of methods of study (including bioinformatics) in investigating, acquiring, recording and analysing information relevant to the subject	Bioinformatics and Science Communication - LSC-30057 Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment) - LSC-30045 Double Applied Life Sciences Placement - ISP - LSC-30038
S3 prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually	Bioinformatics and Science Communication - LSC-30057 Double Applied Life Sciences Placement - ISP - LSC-30038 Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment) - LSC-30045
S4 use and attain competence in a range of laboratory techniques	Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment) - LSC-30045 Double Applied Life Sciences Placement - ISP - LSC-30038
S5 design, conduct, analyse, report and evaluate biochemical experiments, acknowledging an awareness of the validity, accuracy, calibration, precision and reproducibility of results.	Double Applied Life Sciences Placement - ISP - LSC-30038 Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment) - LSC-30045
S6 work safely and responsibly in the laboratory with awareness of standard procedures such as risk assessment, ethical approval of research, relevant health and safety regulations, issues relating to animal welfare and procedures for obtaining informed consent	Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment) - LSC-30045 Double Applied Life Sciences Placement - ISP - LSC-30038
S7 recognise philosophical and ethical issues relevant to the subject	Most modules Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement, Case studies in Biotechnology
S8 develop an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of science and of the validity of different points of view	Case Studies in Biotechnology - LSC-30051 All modules

Intellectual skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
I1 assess the merits of contrasting theories, paradigms, concepts or principles	All modules
I2 think independently, set tasks and solve problems by a variety of methods	All modules especially Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement
I3 make reasoned decisions and develop reasoned arguments	All modules but particularly Biology of Disease Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement
I4 obtain and interpret several lines of subject-specific evidence to formulate and test hypotheses	Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment) - LSC-30045 Double Applied Life Sciences Placement - ISP - LSC-30038
I5 make critical interpretations, evaluations and judgements of data and text	All modules and in particular, Case Studies in Biotechnology Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement Biology of Disease
I6 analyse, synthesise and summarise information critically, including published research or reports	Most modules, in particular, Structural Biology & Macromolecular Function, Case Studies in Biotechnology, Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement, Biology of Disease
I7 apply biochemical I understanding to familiar and unfamiliar problems, and emphasise the interdisciplinary nature of science and the validity of different points of view	Most modules, in particular Case Studies in Biotechnology
I8 take responsibility for their own learning and reflect upon that learning	All modules, Personal Development Planning with personal tutor, engaging with feedback
I9 construct grammatically correct documents in an appropriate academic style using and referencing relevant ideas and evidence.	All modules where there are written assessments, especially those where different writing styles are developed (Case Studies in Biochemistry, Microbes, Viruses and Parasites, Case Studies in Biotechnology)
I10 understand the importance of academic and research integrity	All modules especially Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
E1 develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity	All modules
E2 acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical	All modules
E3 prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually	All modules, in particular Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement, Bioinformatics and Science Communication
E4 use the internet and other electronic sources critically as a means of communication and a source of information	All modules
E5 cite and reference work in an appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity and the avoidance of plagiarism whether intentional or not	All modules
E6 communicate effectively to a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and scientific language	Most modules, in particular Bioinformatics and Science Communication, Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement
E7 develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills	All modules, particularly Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement
E8 work with others to identify and achieve collaborative goals and responsibilities and perform in a respectful manner that is accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members	Most modules will have some element of group work in particular Case Studies in Biotechnology
E9 motivate themselves and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time	All modules, but Life Sciences Double Experimental Project / Applied Life Sciences Placement
E10 identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development	All modules and via personal tutor system

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Honours Degree	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>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.</p> <p>*An exemption applies for students transferring from a Combined Honours programme - see point 3.4 here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/regulationc3/</p> <p>N.B. The award will be 'Studies in Biochemistry' if a pass standard is not achieved in the Level 6 Double Experimental Project module or Double Applied Life Sciences Placement module (see the section on Regulations). A 'Studies in Biochemistry' degree is not accredited by the Royal Society of Biology.</p>
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. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Unseen examinations** in different formats test students' knowledge and understanding of the subject. Examinations may consist of essay, short answer and/or multiple choice questions, and paper comprehension.
- **Essays** allow you to demonstrate your ability to articulate ideas clearly using argument and reasoning skills and with close reference to the contexts and critical concepts covered in the modules. Essays also develop and demonstrate research and presentation skills. Essays including those based on case study material and literature reviews also test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition they allow students to demonstrate their ability to carry out basic bibliographic research and to communicate their ideas effectively in writing in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of referencing.
- **Laboratory reports** - structured proformas and full lab reports are formal summaries of work carried out in the laboratory and test students' understanding of the practical aspects of the programme and develop the skills necessary to enable students to present and analyse their results.
- **Class tests** taken either conventionally or online via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) assess students' subject knowledge and their ability to apply it in a more structured and focused way.
- **Computer exercises** might include contributing to wikis or blogs or using bioinformatics tools.
- **Group activities** might include working on a collaborative project such as compiling a book chapter.
- **Dissertations** enable students to explore in depth an area of particular interest through a substantial piece of focused research and writing, and test their ability to formulate and answer research questions.
- **Experimental projects** test students' knowledge of research methodologies and their ability to carry them out (experimental project only). They also enable students to demonstrate their ability to formulate research questions, design experiments, carry them out, accurately record their data and analyse the results. The project report will demonstrate that the students can place their research in context with the literature and present their results in a concise format.
- **Oral and poster presentations** and reports assess individual students' subject knowledge and understanding. They also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development.
- **Portfolios** may consist of a range of different pieces of work but routinely include a requirement that students provide some evidence of critical reflection on the development of their own learning.
- **Peer assessment:** In some cases students will be involved in marking other students' work, usually with a prescriptive marking guide. This helps students to appreciate where marks are gained and lost and gives them the opportunity to see the common

mistakes made by other students.

- **Reviews** of other scholars' work test students' ability to identify and summarise the key points of a text and to evaluate the quality of arguments and the evidence used to support them. In the case of work based on empirical research, reviews also assess students' knowledge of research methodologies and their ability to make critical judgements about the appropriateness of different strategies for collecting and analysing data.

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)	23%	77%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	24%	76%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	11%	89%	0%

12. Accreditation

The programme is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology.

Students should note that to be awarded Royal Society of Biology accreditation they must achieve a minimum standard of 40% in the Life Sciences Double Experimental Project with research skills assessment (or equivalent placement module). Students that condone this module may still be eligible for the award Studies in Biochemistry.

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. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:

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

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

Please note: All non-native English speaking students are required to undertake a diagnostic English language assessment on arrival at Keele, to determine whether English language support may help them succeed with their studies. An English language module may be compulsory for some students during their first year at Keele.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director.

15. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Module tutors are responsible for providing support for learning on the modules. They also give whole class or individual feedback on formative assessments, where appropriate, and provide individual feedback on in-course assessments and more general feedback on examinations. Every module is supported by a page on KLE, providing supplementary materials, which may include lecture notes, reading lists, module information, assessment guidance and revision materials.
- Tutors and demonstrators provide help and advice to students in laboratory sessions and project supervisors and research staff provide support during project work.
- Every student is allocated to a personal tutor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress in Biochemistry and on any electives they might be taking. Personal tutors also provide advice on module choices.
- Personal tutors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues that may affect their learning and can refer students on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services co-ordinated by the University's Student Services.
- If students are on placement, they will have a Keele-based supervisor in addition to their workplace supervisor who will visit them during their placement and support them during the write-up phase of their project.
- All members of teaching staff on the Biochemistry Programme are available to see students during office hours, if available (open door policy), and by appointment.

16. Learning Resources

Biochemistry lectures are delivered in modern teaching rooms across the University, almost all of which are equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups.

Practical sessions are held in dedicated teaching laboratories within the School of Life Sciences. These were completely refitted in 2006 and the £11 million new extension to the Huxley Building providing additional teaching laboratory space was opened in 2017/18 Academic Year. For final year projects, students will be working in research laboratories primarily in the Huxley Building, Guy Hilton Research Centre or Lennard Jones Building.

The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

- The extensive collection of books and journals relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.
- A smaller collection of biochemical publications and materials are held in the Undergraduate Resource Room in the School of Life Sciences. The Resource Room is open at regular times during teaching periods and the resources are specifically related to the needs of students on Principal Programmes in the School of Life Sciences. There are also networked computers and a printer in this room which can be used in addition to the University computing facilities (in the Lennard Jones Building and Library).
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources - video, audio and text-based - accessible from external providers via the internet.

17. 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 registered for Biochemistry programmes may apply to undertake a work placement between levels 5 and 6. This forms part of the Applied Life Sciences Placement module at Level 6.

Students wishing to carry out a work placement in the UK will be responsible for organising their own placement, with the support of the placement tutor. This allows students to choose when and where to carry out their work placement, taking into consideration the potential living and travel expenses incurred and the effect on other opportunities available to earn money. Students are encouraged to consider the potential costs incurred in carrying out the work placements at the time of setting these up. Some placements attract a stipend or salary, which should be discussed with the potential employer before accepting the placement. They are also liable for University fees (at a reduced rate) whilst on placement. Further guidance and support on these considerations is available from the module tutors.

Some Work placements are available at our partner research institutes throughout continental Europe. These placements have in the past attract a stipend from the European Union under the ERASMUS, but the situation re Brexit is not clear, and you should consider whether any amount offered will cover the costs of accommodation, travel and subsistence before accepting the placement. The ERASMUS tutor in the School of Life Sciences will give any guidance and support required.

Other opportunities

There may also be opportunities to undertake a final year project abroad via a partner institute in Malaysia (see: noticeboards in the School of Life Sciences for details) or via an external agency such as Operation Wallacea (<http://opwall.com/>). Both these options will have cost implications.

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 their 2nd and 3rd years. 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 Biochemistry 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 but are widely advertised and undergraduate students are always welcome to attend.

18. Additional Costs

Activity	Estimated Cost
Field courses - compulsory	£N/A
Field courses - optional	£N/A
Equipment	
Text books (mainly require in levels 4 and 5)	£250
Calculator and writing materials	
Travel	£N/A
Other additional costs	
Replacement lab coat if allocated one is lost	£12
Total estimated additional costs	£262

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 undergraduate programme.

19. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Internal Quality Audit (IQA) process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

20. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

- a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>
- b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Biosciences (2015) <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements?indexCatalogue=document-search&searchQuery=biosciences&wordsMode=AllWords>
- c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>
- d. Royal Society of Biology Degree Accreditation Handbook: https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/Degree_Accreditation_Handbook_July16.pdf

21. Annex - International Year

Biochemistry with International Year

International Year Programme
<p>Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.</p>
International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, 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 their 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 60% 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 54% across all Level 5 modules with no module fails. 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 personal tutor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

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

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme 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 Biochemistry.
5. Demonstrate the use of critical thinking skills, augmented by creativity and curiosity, in discussing the application of their International Year studies to Biochemistry.

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 studying in Erasmus+ destinations 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.

22. Annex - Work Placement Year

Biochemistry with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

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 detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

1. 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 (minimum 30 weeks full time (1,050 hours), or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Passed all Year-1 and Year-2 Semester 1 modules with an overall module average of > 60%
- 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 personal tutor, 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

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around the 5 weeks after placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option 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 30-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (LSC-30038).

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 30-credit rated 'Double Applied Life Sciences Placement module (LSC-30038)
- 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.

23. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: Biochemistry

Final Award and Award Titles	BSc (Hons) Biochemistry BSc (Hons) Biochemistry with International Year BSc (Hons) Biochemistry with Work Placement Year BSc (Hons) Studies in Biochemistry BSc (Hons) Studies in Biochemistry with International Year BSc (Hons) Studies in Biochemistry with Work Placement Year
Intermediate Award(s)	Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	June 2019
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 may, at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, be excluded from the class and recorded as being absent without good cause.

1.4 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.

Additional requirement 2: Health and Safety

2.1 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.

Additional requirement 3: Attendance requirements

3.1 Attendance at tutorials, seminars, workshops and laboratory sessions on this programme is compulsory. Failure to attend a class without good cause will result in an informal warning. Failure to attend any subsequent classes without good cause will lead to the issuing of a formal University warning in accordance with Regulation C3.9 and could result in the requirement to withdraw from the university. Attendance at lectures is expected, but is not compulsory.

3.2 Self-certification of illness as a reason for absence from compulsory classes will be accepted for no more than two periods of absence, each covering no more than 7 days, per semester. Any subsequent absence for reasons of illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note.

Additional requirement 4: Royal Society of Biology Accreditation

4.1 Students must achieve a pass standard in the Life Sciences Double Experimental Project with research skills assessment (or, subject to agreement, Double Applied Life Sciences Placement) to attain an accredited degree. For students who do not fulfil the conditions of this regulation, the degree award will be '*Studies in Biochemistry*' and the degree will not be accredited by the Royal Society of Biology.

Additional requirement 5: Work Placements, Exchange Periods and Study Abroad

5.1 A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

[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: 12 November 2020

What's Changed

Minor change - LSC-30015 delivered across SEM1-2

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2020/21	DAVID WATSON	13 January 2020	
1.2	2019/20	DAVID WATSON	12 November 2020	Minor change - LSC-30015 now a SEM 1-2 module
1.1	2019/20	DAVID WATSON	20 January 2020	Additional optional module added to Level 6 (Major route only) - LSC-30066: Tropical Biology Field Course
1	2019/20	EDWARD MCCAULEY	14 June 2019	