

Variation to the Course Information Document

For Academic Year 2020/21

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| <p>Name of programme(s) and award type(s): <i>(such as Single Honours History with International Year)</i></p> | <p>Single Hons and Combined Hons versions of the following programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc (Hons) Biology BSc (Hons) Biology with International Year BSc (Hons) Biology with Work Placement Year BSc (Hons) Human Biology BSc (Hons) Human Biology with International Year BSc (Hons) Human Biology with Work Placement Year BSc (Hons) Biochemistry BSc (Hons) Biochemistry with International Year BSc (Hons) Biochemistry with Work Placement Year BSc (Hons) Neuroscience BSc (Hons) Neuroscience with International Year BSc (Hons) Neuroscience with Work Placement Year BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science with International Year BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science with Work Placement Year BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science |
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Dear students,

As part of our commitment to continually work to improve our programmes, and in light of our plans to start next academic year with a hybrid delivery model due to the impact of Covid-19, we are confirming in this document the changes to your programme in the Academic Year 2020/21. More general information about what studying at the University will be like in 2020/21 can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/coronavirus/operations/>

Specific planned changes

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| <p>How the programme will be taught <i>(include any significant changes to the balance between on campus and digital delivery and what students can expect)</i></p> | <p>We expect that approximately 70-80% of the course will be delivered online. Lectures will all be adapted for asynchronous delivery and supported by engaging activities designed to help students consolidate and reflect on their learning. For example, 2-hour lectures may be replaced with short, 20-minute videos supported with directed reading or weekly problem sheets that students will be encouraged to complete either on their own, or working with friends online. Asynchronous material will be released on a weekly basis and students will be encouraged to engage with it in a similar way.</p> <p>In addition, approximately 10% of online material will be delivered live. This will require students to be available online at a specific</p> |
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| | <p>time to meet your tutors and fellow students. These synchronous activities can include virtual group work, live debates and drop-in question and answer sessions.</p> <p>Finally, we expect that there will typically be between 1-3 hours in-situ (campus-based) teaching each week, although this may vary from week-to-week.</p> |
| <p>Changes to placements, field courses or other practical activities (<i>where applicable</i>)</p> | <p>The School of Life Sciences will continue to support placements. However, we will ensure that any third party has Covid-compliant working conditions.</p> <p>Students at Level 5 ordinarily have an option to undertake a topical field-course in Malaysia over the summer. This could not take place this year due to Covid. As such, we will be temporarily suspending LSC 30066 <i>Tropical Field Course</i>. We hope to resume this field course next year.</p> <p>Practical activities such as labs have been removed from taught modules and placed into new, zero-credit core modules at Level 4 and Level 5. This is to ensure that any disruption to the delivery of labs due to Covid will not negatively impact students' ability to engage with taught modules. This approach maximises flexibility of delivery and minimises risk to students while ensuring that we can continue to deliver high quality lab experience that meets Professional, Statutory and Royal Body accreditation standards.</p> <p>In order to pass these two new modules, students will need to engage with at least 70% of the practical sessions. Students that fail to meet this threshold cannot progress to the next Level of study on our accredited programmes. The School will offer such students a second opportunity to complete these activities and pass the module. Students that ultimately fail to meet the 70% engagement threshold for these modules will be asked to repeat year or transfer to one of our non-accredited programmes such as: <i>Studies in Biology, Studies in Human Biology, Studies in Biochemistry, Studies in Neuroscience or Studies in Biomedical Science</i>.</p> |
| <p>Learning resources and any potential additional costs (<i>such as equipment requirements</i>)</p> | <p>Students will require IT equipment to access online resources such as KLE and Microsoft Teams.</p> |
| <p>How the programme will be assessed (<i>a general summary of changes to assessment methods</i>)</p> | <p>All assessment will be designed for online delivery with no expectation for face-to-face assessments such exams delivered on campus.</p> <p>We expect that the move to online assessment will also help students to develop key digital literacy skills that are becoming increasingly important in the world around us. We also expect that, for some types of assessment such as open book, online exams or online tests, students will now have better access to feedback than ever before. Our experience of these assessments from Semester 2 is that they allow students to demonstrate a higher level of understanding and insight, allowing each student to achieve their best marks.</p> |

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| | We will begin to review the format of certain types of assessment depending on local and national guidelines relating to Covid-19. For example, at level 4-5 of University operations, student presentations will be submitted online in an appropriate format such as pre-recorded PowerPoint slides. However, at levels 1-3 we may begin to reintroduce live, physical student presentations, but continue to allow online submission for those who may be shielding or international students who cannot return due to travel restrictions will still have access. |
| How students are supported (<i>any alternative arrangements such as communication methods, support networks etc.</i>) | We recognise how important developing effective student communities will be to the overall student experience. As such, we are working hard to ensure that all of our teaching practices – both online and in-situ – are designed to be as interactive as possible, helping students meet, chat and socialise with their fellow students. The School of Life Sciences is also working closely with the Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (KIITE) to deliver online induction courses for all students returning to Keele in September. These courses will introduce the core digital platforms that we will be using and help you to engage fully with our new hybrid delivery style of teaching. |

Biology field work:

The module *Life at the Extremes*, (LSC-20055), is based primarily on the summer field course in Bangor, however the module has 9 hours of taught content in semester one and a seen exam. Students who opt for study abroad in semester one sit this module in semester two as LSC-20054 (*Life at the Extremes (semester 2)*). This has been replaced with *Environmental Biology* (LSC-20097).

Year 2 / Level 5 (2019/20 Biology entry cohort) - all other modules remain unchanged

| Compulsory modules | Module Code | Credits | Semester | Added/removed/unchanged? |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|
| Life at the Extremes | LSC-20055 | 15 | 1 | Removed |
| Life at the Extremes (semester 2) | LSC-20054 | 15 | 2 | Removed |
| Environmental Biology | LSC-20097 | 15 | 1 | Added |

Updated module lists for 2020/21 for Biology, Human Biology, Biochemistry, Neuroscience, Biomedical Science, Applied Biomedical Science

Year 1 / Level 4 - all other modules remain unchanged

| Compulsory modules | Module Code | Credits | Semester | Added/removed/unchanged? |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|
| <i>Core Practical Skills</i> | LSC-10087 | 0 | 1-2 | Added |

Year 2 / Level 5 (2019/20 entry cohort) - all other modules remain unchanged

| Compulsory modules | Module Code | Credits | Semester | Added/removed/unchanged? |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|
| <i>Practical Skills in Bioscience</i> | LSC-20107 | 0 | 1-2 | Added |

Year 3 / Level 6 (2018/19 entry cohort) - all other modules remain unchanged

| Optional modules | Module Code | Credits | Semester | Added/removed/unchanged? |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Tropical Field Course</i> | LSC-30066 | 15 | 1 | Suspended for one 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/>

The module selection website can be accessed here: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/modules/>