

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	Foundation Degree Biological Sciences (FdSc)
4	Programme Code(s)	UFSBISCI_C
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	N/A
6	Home Department	Biological Sciences
7	Exit Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE); Certificate of Continuing Education (CCE)
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	FdSc - 2 years and 2 terms; CertHE - 2 years; CCE - 1 year
9	Mode of Study	Part time
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	5

11	Other teaching depts or institutions (if applicable)	Higher Education Introductory Studies Unit
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details (if applicable)	NA
13	QAA Benchmark Group (if applicable)	Foundation Degree

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>Main Aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare students for employment in specific areas with higher technical and associated professional skills. • To provide students currently in science-related work with new technical skills, academic knowledge and transferable skills that will allow for vocational realignment. • To attract people with differing educational backgrounds with an entry point to the lifelong learning ladder, with an opportunity to complete an Honours degree within 2 years, post-FdSc. • To provide a route into HE entry from under-represented groups. <p>Distinctive Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry permitted to students without standard educational qualifications. • Provided to mature students from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds. • Face-to-face, evening study with the support of online and other learning resources. • Flexible provision, with a choice of stop-off points. • On successful completion of the Foundation Degree, you may progress to Year 3 of a four-year Birkbeck BSc honours degree.

15	Entry Criteria
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	<p>Foundation degrees are designed specifically for mature students and students with non-traditional backgrounds. There are no formal entry requirements.</p> <p>Good numeracy and literacy skills and basic computer skills are required; these will be assessed from your application and a short interview.</p>
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16	Prospectus Entry
	<p>Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills you will need to tackle the key scientific issues of the day, while gaining key practical and transferable skills required by employers. Get a thorough grounding in the essential concepts across the biosciences, and choose to specialise in the area that interests you most: biomedicine or molecular biology. You could then go straight into Year 3 of Birkbeck's four-year BSc Biology degrees.</p>

17	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Students will have demonstrated specific skills indicated in the learning outcomes for approved modules and for the programme as a whole, as summarised below.</p> <p>Subject Specific <i>Students will have gained:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A sound knowledge of key chemical and scientific ideas and principles 2. An understanding of key issues in the social contexts of science 3. An awareness of recent advances and current challenges in the biological sciences 4. Experience of laboratory-based research, through taught modules that include lab-based components <p>Intellectual <i>Students will have developed skills in:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Critical reasoning 6. Hypothesis formulation and testing 7. Problem solving 8. Information gathering 9. Summarising biological facts and data <p>Practical <i>Students will have:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Collected and analysed quantitative data using computer-based tools 11. Safely and effectively used practical techniques relevant to research in the biological sciences 12. Learned to present biological data and other information effectively, both orally and in writing <p>Personal and Social <i>Students will have:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Learnt how to manage their time 14. Gained the skills necessary to become independent and autonomous learners 15. Worked independently and/or within a team 16. Developed other key personal and transferable skills (e.g. IT, presentation, communication, teamwork, planning and organisation).

18	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
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	<p>All modules are taught by academic staff engaged with current research relevant to the subject matter. We provide a range of teaching approaches and learning experiences that will enable you to become a confident and autonomous learner. You will develop the skills to work either independently or within a group, as required by the task at hand.</p> <p>All modules combine lectures, practical classes and seminars in proportions appropriate to the topic and designed to facilitate your learning. All modules are assessed in a variety of ways, which may include, in differing combinations: short-answer tests (in-class); computer-based tests (accessed remotely or in-class); practical reports, essays, problem-solving and data analysis assignments; oral communication and poster presentations; internet surveys; and unseen, or open-book, written examinations.</p> <p>The balance between different forms of assessment gives due consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing and appropriately testing key scientific and transferable skills; • accurately reflecting the abilities and academic potential of students with diverse educational backgrounds and life experiences
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19	<p>Programme Structure</p>
	<p>Description</p> <p>In the first year, which starts in January, all students will take the same two modules (worth 30 credits in total) across the Spring and Summer Terms. These courses will provide the background and skills needed to progress to FdSc year 2. In year 2, all students will take the same two modules, to the value of 120 credits, across the entire academic year (starting in October, running through June). In year 3, the programme will consist of 90 credits, with one 60-credit core module and one 30-credit optional module. The optional module taken in year 3 will determine eligibility, on completion of the FdSc, to “top up” to a named BSc. Students who take elect to take <i>Human Physiology</i> become eligible, on completion of the FdSc, to “top up” to the BSc Biomedicine; those who elect to take <i>Biomolecular Chemistry</i> are eligible, on completion of the FdSc, to “top up” to the BSc Chemical and Molecular Biology.</p>

2.5 year programme: Biomedicine and Chemical & Molecular Biology Pathways				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SCBS028H4	Fundamentals of Molecular Bioscience	15	Core
4	SCBS027H4	Introductions: Studying Science	15	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SCBS029D4	Molecules, Cells and Organisms	60	Core
4	SCBS033D4	Practical Skills for the Biosciences	60	Core
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SCBS034D5	Molecular Biology and Human Genetics	60	Core
5	SCBS037S5	Human Physiology	30	Option
5	SCBS038S5	Biomolecular Chemistry	30	Option

20	Regulations
	<p>Admissions</p> <p>This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Admissions%20Policy.pdf/view Insert programme admissions statement here</p> <p>Credit Transfer</p> <p>Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/AccreditedPriorLearning.pdf</p> <p>Programme Regulations</p> <p>This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/casregs.pdf</p> <p>Programme Specific Regulations (if applicable) N/A</p>

21	Student Support and Guidance
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities

22	Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards
	<p>The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.</p> <p>For more information please see the Quality Enhancement and Validation website www.bbk.ac.uk/gev</p>

23	Programme Director	Dr Richard Rayne
24	Start Date (term/year)	Prior to 2008/9
25	Date approved by TQEC	Prior to 2008/9
26	Date approved by Academic Board	Prior to 2008/9
27	Date(s) updated/amended	4 August 2014