

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	MRes Global Infectious Diseases
4	Programme Code(s)	TMRGLIDS_C
5	UCAS code	N/A
6	Home Department	Department of Biological Sciences
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert Microbiology (60 credits, taught)
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 or 2 years (MRes, PG Cert)
9	Mode of Study	FT X PT X DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	Level: 7
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Group</u>	N/A

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>This is a research-intensive postgraduate degree which will provide you with the skills and knowledge to carry out a substantial laboratory based research project in your chosen area of microbiology. You will join an existing research group under the guidance of a research supervisor, and you will spend the majority of your time on your research project. This can be in any of the Department's current research areas within microbiology. The remaining part of the degree is spent following advanced lecture modules from the MSc Microbiology courses that will provide you with the theoretical and technical background to your chosen research area.</p> <p>This programme is intended for students who want to gain the qualifications necessary for pursuing a research career, or who want to update their existing training. We welcome applications from international students.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>Honours degree at minimum 2.2 level in a cognate discipline. Less- or alternatively-qualified applicants may be accepted after following a one-year qualifying course, or if they have appropriate work experience, or through registration on the Postgraduate Diploma Microbiology with the possibility of upgrading to the MRes after achieving adequate results (at least 2.2 level) in the first set of examinations</p>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:

Subject specific:

- 1) Demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of the science underlying the key areas of microbiology methodology and its practical applications.
- 2) Show a critical understanding of recent advances in their field of study.
- 3) Critically assess current literature in the discipline.
- 4) Formulate a research or method development plan and carry out the appropriate literature and data searches.
- 5) Demonstrate a critical and professional approach to quality of analysis.
- 6) Demonstrate competent performance of standard microbiological techniques
- 7) Demonstrate proficiency in the use of key analytical techniques including, but not restricted to: molecular biology, biochemistry, analytical sciences , NMR.
- 8) Design effective experiments and effectively make use of experimental controls
- 9) Demonstrate knowledge of good laboratory practice, risk assessment and current UK safety legislation

Intellectual:

- 10) Follow complex scientific protocols.
- 11) Show critical reasoning.
- 12) Analyse, interpret and evaluate results.
- 13) Synthesise information from diverse sources.
- 14) Formulate and test basic hypotheses.
- 15) Relate subject-specific knowledge to a broader scientific context.

Practical:

- 16) Carry out experimental procedures and operate advanced molecular microbiology equipment.
- 17) Work safely and efficiently in a laboratory.
- 18) Access a variety of subject-specific and more generic databases and information sources.
- 19) Apply skills to practical problems and, where appropriate develop new skills.
- 20) Use different forms of IT confidently.

Personal and social

- 21) Work as part of a team both in person and via virtual interaction.
- 22) Manage time efficiently to balance the taught and independent research areas of the programme.
- 23) Present and communicate material and ideas in both written (including electronic communication) and oral formats.
- 24) Learn independently.
- 25) Show a professionalism in their approach to microbiological work.

17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>This will involve face-to-face teaching of the underlying principles of the core topics, in taught modules and through immersion with active researchers in the laboratories. Considerable emphasis will be placed on developing practical laboratory and computer skills and on systematically applying these skills to complex research problems in original and flexible ways.</p> <p>Taught modules will include tutorials, formal lectures, problem-solving sessions (computer-based, classroom-based and lab-based), laboratory practical sessions, and computer-aided learning (e.g. through Moodle). The project module will require students to prepare and deliver oral presentations and to generate written reports.</p> <p>Much teaching will be delivered via students' direct experience of hands-on scientific research, under the supervision of world-class research staff, in our own research laboratories, or in industrial settings if appropriate (e.g. through placement or if the student is already employed in a relevant job). This immersion in the research environment will provide in-depth training in specialist methods and in critical analysis of data.</p>

18	Programme Description
	<p>The programme may be taken full-time in one academic year, or part-time, over two academic years. Year 1 in either case consists of the compulsory 30-credit module, Research in Microbiology, and a selection of two optional modules from three available in the year of entry. (Note that the optional modules are taught on an alternating year basis, so the 3 modules available from which to choose 2, will differ depending on your year of entry.)</p> <p>Full-time students will also undertake a 120-credit research project module in Year 1. Part-time students will take the research project module on its own in Year 2.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme (1 year)				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	BCBC002S7	Research in Microbiology	30	Compulsory
7	From List	Optional module	15	Option
7	From List	Optional module	15	Option
7	SCBS017Q7	Research Project and Dissertation MRes Global Infectious Diseases	120	Compulsory
	Optional modules to be selected from the list at the end of this section. Not all modules run in the same academic year, so the available modules depend on your year of entry into the programme.			

Part-Time programme (2 years)				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	BCBC002S7	Research in Microbiology	30	Compulsory
7		Optional module	15	Option
7		Optional module	15	Option
Year 2				
7	SCBS017Q7	Research Project and Dissertation MRes Global Infectious Diseases	120	Compulsory
	Optional modules to be selected from the list at the end of this section. Not all modules run in the same academic year, so the available modules depend on your year of entry into the programme.			
INDICATIVE OPTIONAL MODULES (full-time and part-time programmes)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	BCBC017H7	Medicinal Chemistry of Natural Products	15	Option
7	BCBC007H7	Molecular Microbiology	15	Option
The above-listed modules run in Autumn Term: BCBC017H7 in even years, BCBC007H7 in odd years.				
7	BCBC009H7	Antimicrobials	15	Option
7	BCBC005H7	Medical Bacteriology	15	Option
The above-listed modules run in Spring Term: BCBC009H7 in even years, BCBC005H7 in odd years.				
7	BCBC006H7	Bacterial Pathogenicity	15	Option
7	BCBC008H7	Parasitology	15	Option
The above-listed modules run in Summer Term: BCBC006H7 in even years, BCBC008H7 in odd years.				

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf • Credit Transfer Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Regulations This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations • Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable) N/A
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21	Student Attendance Framework – in brief
	<p>The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .</p> <p>Principle</p> <p>Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.</p> <p>Attendance expectation</p> <p>Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.</p> <p>E-Registers</p> <p>All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.</p>

22	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

23	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 Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality</p>

24	Programme Director	Dr Sanjib Bhakta
25	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2011
26	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2011
27	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2011
28	Date(s) updated/amended	June 2017. Title changed. 2-year part-time route added. Struck defunct modules from options list.