Year of entry: 2021/22



Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University	of London		
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck (Birkbeck College		
3	Programme Title(s)	-	Postgraduate Certificate Macromolecular Electron Microscopy		
4	Programme Code(s)	TPCMACE	TPCMACEM_C		
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	N/A			
6	Home Department	Biological	Biological Sciences		
7	Exit Award(s)	N/A			
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1-year			
9	Mode of Study	FT	PT	DL	٧
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7	<u>.</u>		
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A	N/A		
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A			
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A			

14 | Programme Rationale & Aims

Main Aims:

There has been a revolution in Electron Microscopy in the past few years culminating in the award of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Richard Henderson, Joachim Frank and Jacques Dubochet. Electron microscopy can now determine the structures of proteins with near atomic resolution, revolutionising the study of large macromolecular machines.

Birkbeck, University of London is one of the leading centres in electron microscopy in the world. The department of Biological Sciences and its forerunner have been teaching Structural Biology via the internet since 1996 and now offer a new course dealing with the latest techniques in Macromolecular Electron Microscopy. This can be taken as a standalone 30 credit CPD course, as this Postgraduate Certificate or as part of the MSc in Structural Molecular Biology.

15 Entry Criteria

Degree in science, computing or mathematics, or equivalent qualification, or relevant work experience.

16 Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe image formation in the Electron Microscope
- Describe how to prepare samples for Biological Electron Microscopy
- Explain the steps in processing EM image data through to a final 3D atomic model

Year of entry: 2021/22



17 Learning, teaching and assessment methods

All teaching is internet-based. The course material is released in several sections on a dedicated, password-protected website.

You must successfully complete both coursework and the written exam, which may be taken at an examination centre close to you. All modules are examined by a single 3 hour exam. You are required to answer the questions for the modules you sat and spend 1.5 hours per module.

18 Programme Description

This programme consists of the module in Macromolecular Electron Microscopy and one other module from the MSc in Structural Molecular Biology

¹⁹ P	rogramme Structure							
Part Time 1-year programme								
Year 1								
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*				
7	SCBS061S7	Macromolecular Electron Microscopy	30	Compulsory				
Plus one 30-credit option from the indicative list below:								
7	SCBS056S7	Principles of Protein Structure	30	Optional				
7	SCBS057S7	Protein Structure Determination	30	Optional				
7	SCBS058S7	Protein Expression and Purification	30	Optional				
7	SCBS059S7	Protein Bioinformatics	30	Optional				
7	SCBS060S7	Protein Crystallography 30 Optional						

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	Programme Director	Professor Helen Saibil	
21	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2020	
22	Date approved by TQEC	Autumn 2019	
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Spring 2019	
24	Date(s) updated/amended	August 2019 for October 2020	