

1. What are the compulsory modules/classes will I be taking in first year?

All Medical Science students will take the following modules:

First Term	Second Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Medical Sciences • Chemistry for the Life Sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cell • Chemistry for the Life Sciences

Some of our Medical Science programmes may have 1 or 2 other compulsory modules, others may not. You can check the compulsory modules for your degree programme [here](#).

2. Can I take optional modules/classes? How many? Are there any restrictions to what I can take?

In each term you will take a total of 4 modules, so you can choose optional courses to fill up any spaces not occupied by compulsory modules. Usually, this is 1 or 2 per semester. A list of example available modules (for academic year 2019-20) can be accessed [here](#) to show the breadth of modules available.

There are very few restrictions, provided the modules fit with the timetable of your compulsory modules. This can include languages, music, other sciences, etc. When you are choosing your modules you will have access to a timetable checker tool that lets you check there are no clashes before selecting your modules.

3. What will my timetable in first year look like? How much contact time will I have with lecturers?

Each of your modules will typically have around 3 1-hour lectures per week. There will also be 3-hour long practical classes every 2 to 3 weeks in each of your science courses. Other course may include some tutorials, normally 1 or 2 per week, each lasting 1 to 2-hours.

4. What are the typical first year class sizes like?

In your compulsory classes, there will be around 250 students in your lecture class!

Your practical classes will be in smaller groups of around 80-90 students.

In your optional modules, class sizes will vary depending upon the modules you choose.

5. Are there work placements available and are they built into the degree?

There is an opportunity to do a work placement for a year between Years 3 and 4. This involves doing an extra module in 3rd year to help you apply for the placement. If you secure a placement, you then spend 4th year working on the placement and then return to do your Honours years as a 5th year – you will then graduate with an MSci (i.e. an undergraduate Masters' degree).

There are also opportunities for vacation studentships and other types of experiences that will be advertised to you throughout your studies.

6. Will there be any group work/group projects?

In your different modules there are likely to be opportunities to participate in group work and group projects, as well as exercises that require you to work independently

Group work is an important transferable skill, and so these exercises are designed to help you develop and use these skills effectively

7. How much time will I spend in labs each week?

A standard Medical Science course would have a practical class every two weeks. Most practical classes last for three hours.

Some practical classes are standalone experiments that you write up and submit during the class. Others have lab reports that you write up after the class. Some also form a practical class series that you then write up as a single report, combining all data into one report.

8. Can I study abroad with this degree? Where can I go?

Yes you can! The time spent abroad is usually for one semester or sometimes a full year either in your second or third year of study. Our degree programmes have agreements for placements in Europe, Canada and the USA with some examples shown below:

- Europe – France, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Switzerland
- Canada – British Columbia, Guelph and Ontario
- USA – Oregon, Wisconsin and South Carolina

9. Are there any societies which would be good to join?

Yes, we have the Biomedical Society (or BioMedSoc for short). The society organises events throughout the year and has a yearly society ball. Check out their Facebook [here!](#)

The University also has a student-produced science publication called Au Magazine, which lots of our Medical Science students are involved with and contribute articles to. You can check them out [here](#).

10. Should I be preparing for first year by reading anything specific? Do you have any suggestions?

If you wanted to make a head start on your studies, then we would recommend the two course texts from our first and second term courses, Introduction to Medical Sciences (SM1001) and The Cell (SM1501):

- Medical Firsts: From Hippocrates to the Human Genome
- Life: The Science of Biology

You can see our first year reading list [here](#) at the University Bookshop, Blackwells.

11. How are my modules/classes assessed?

All our courses are assessed through a mixture of continuous assessment and exams. In first and second year, practical reports will make up most of your continuous assessments. There will also be some multiple choice exams in first and second year, then longer answers and essay-style exams will be used in third and fourth year.

Some of our courses have no exams, with all assessments being submitted during term time.