

Undergraduate study

Biochemistry



Key highlights



Student satisfaction

90 per cent of BSc Biochemistry students were satisfied with the quality of their course (NSS, 2020).



Flexible courses

Choose from varied unit options, three- and four-year degrees, and industrial and research placements.



Career opportunities

Kick-start your career with summer studentships, regular seminars, and subject-specific employability and enterprise sessions.



Contribute to science

Work on an original research project and develop in-depth expertise in your area of specialism – ideal preparation for a research career.

Why study biochemistry at Bristol?

A biochemistry degree from Bristol will give you a unique insight into life at a molecular level and will prepare you for a career in any of the major biosciences.

We focus on biomolecular structure and mechanism; dynamic cell biology; and synthetic biology. These themes include studies related to biotechnology, neuroscience, cardiovascular disease, immunology and cancer.

Our courses allow you to explore a wide range of subjects and tailor your degree to your own interests. Our three-year BSc courses include the option of transferring to a research-intensive, four-year MSci degree.

You will learn through lectures and practicals, as well as small-group tutorials where you can discuss essays, practise numerical questions, share problems, give presentations and develop transferable skills. Practical in our well-equipped teaching laboratories are supported by our online dynamic laboratory manual, allowing you to engage fully with practical teaching and develop your experimental skills.

What you will study

During your first year, you will receive a comprehensive introduction to the subject through biochemistry and biological chemistry units. You also have a choice of other units, dependent on your degree pathway.

In your second year you will study biochemistry and molecular genetics units, as well as gaining research, employability and enterprise skills, and taking optional units. In many cases you can choose units outside the department.

The final year of our BSc degrees comprises core lectures in advanced biochemistry and the opportunity to study specialist areas. You will carry out a research project for about eight weeks, conducting original research with individual guidance from a research laboratory staff member, and undertake a library-based literary project.

MSci students follow a similar third year to the BSc final year, but will undertake a research training module in place of the research project. In the fourth year you will study core and optional units and carry out an extended, 16-week individual research project in the laboratory of one of our research groups.

Sample units may include:

- Gene Expression and Rearrangement
- Recombinant DNA Technology
- Science and Society
- Protein Assemblies and Molecular Machines
- Infection and Immunity
- Disease and Defence
- Molecular Basis of Disease
- Molecular Cell Biology
- Cellular Information
- Synthetic Biology
- Neurobiochemistry
- Cancer.

Find out more

Entry requirements, course structure and units
bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-biochem

'Bristol has a very inclusive community – in the faculty, pretty much everyone knows everyone, and all the lecturers are very easy to talk to. If you don't understand something, your lecturer can answer in depth because they're working on that specific research.'

Laura (MSci Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry)



Choose our Study in Industry course to spend your third year in a full-time research placement, often paid, in the pharmaceutical or biotechnology industries, or at a research institute in the UK or overseas. Recent placement destinations have included GSK, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Procter and Gamble, Kyushu University and the Max Planck Institute.



Helix, our student-run biochemistry society, offers a mentoring and peer advice scheme, plenty of exciting social events throughout the year.



You'll learn alongside leading researchers with specialisms including cell imaging, structural biology, and biodesign.



You'll have access to state-of-the-art teaching facilities, thanks to the faculty's status as a UK Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Courses

BSc / MSci Biochemistry

BSc Biochemistry with Study in Industry

BSc / MSci Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry

BSc / MSci Biochemistry with Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Connect with the School of Biochemistry

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study for the latest updates. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.

