

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BSc (Honours) in Human and Medical Science. The BSc (Hons.) is a degree that is Bologna FQ- EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	New Cavendish Street
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time or four years part time September start.
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Biosciences
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	None
Date of course validation/review:	March 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	March 2015
Valid for cohorts:	e.g. 2016/17 level 4 and 5, 2017/18 level 4,5 and 6
Course Leader:	SR / ANO
UCAS code and URL:	<a href="http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>

## What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

[westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

## What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement and the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding (KU)** you will gain from your course. The capacity to explain theoretical foundations of Human & Medical Science and the importance of a multidisciplinary investigative approach to scientific enquiry; critical awareness of current debates and dilemmas in aspects of human biology, recognising moral and ethical issues where appropriate.
- **Graduate attributes (GA)** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course.
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes (PPP)** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. These include the capacity to reflect and improve upon own professional practice; competence in essential fundamental laboratory techniques, research design, and the intellectual analytical skills appropriate for the interpretation of experimental or other investigative findings
- **Key transferable skills (KTS)** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. For example, the experience to operate effectively and responsibly alone and as a member of a team in task completion and the confidence to communicate effectively as a professional with peers and non-specialists

## Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:

- 4.1 Scientific Knowledge (KU): the ability to explain fundamental principles, concepts and terminology of molecular, cellular and human biology
- 4.2 Literature and Information Gathering Skills (KTS): engagement with the scientific literature, recognising limits of reliability and validity of information
- 4.3 Practical Skills (PPP): the skill to undertake, with supervision, practical investigations and to interpret the outcomes
- 4.4 Data Handling & Interpretation Skills (PPP): application of basic data handling and interpretative skills to pre-defined problems

- 4.5 Ethical and Moral Issues (KU): the ability to identify and summarise the main arguments relating to ethical and moral issues
- 4.6 Team Work and Interpersonal Skills (KTS): capacity to work as a member of a small peer-group to produce results for a shared task
- 4.7 Communication Skills (KTS): the skills to communicate effectively *via* oral, written and graphical means using appropriate scientific language competently
- 4.8 Autonomy, Professionalism and Employability (PPP): to record and reflect on own learning
- 4.9 Scientific Methodology & Research Models (KU): knowledge of selected techniques and basic methodology for the analysis of biological material

**Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:**

- 5.1 Scientific Knowledge (KU): the ability to explain the integrated function and regulation of cells, tissues, organs and physiological systems by internal or external factors
- 5.2 Literature and Information Gathering Skills (KTS): the ability to access, analyse, integrate and critique scientific information derived from diverse sources with due regard to validity and reliability
- 5.3 Practical Skills (PPP): completion of and generation of results for complex practical tasks with minimal supervision and the identification of findings which are most/least secure
- 5.4 Data Handling & Interpretation Skills (PPP): the skills to apply mathematical techniques and interpretation to resolve unfamiliar problems
- 5.5 Ethical and Moral Issues (KU): the ability to analyse scientific factors which impact on a global issue
- 5.6 Team Work and Interpersonal Skills (KTS): an effective contribution to team tasks on unfamiliar topics by identifying individual and collective goals and demonstration of the capacity to give and respond to constructive feedback
- 5.7 Communication Skills (KTS): effective communication of complex facts, concepts, ideas *via* oral, written and graphical means
- 5.8 Autonomy, Professionalism and Employability (PPP): critical reflection on development of own professional practice and to devise own action plan
- 5.9 Scientific Methodology & Research Models (KU): detailed knowledge of experimental design used for scientific research and enquiry

### **Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to demonstrate:**

- 6.1 Scientific Knowledge (KU): the capacity to explain in detail how disruption or alteration to normal physiology may arise through pathology, changing environments and changing physiological state linked where appropriate with the multidisciplinary investigation of human pathology
- 6.2 Literature and Information Gathering Skills (KTS): the ability to review possibly conflicting views to arrive at an informed and evidence-based opinion relating to scientific research
- 6.3 Practical Skills (PPP): skills and knowledge to plan, design and execute a piece of hypothesis-driven research or investigative study with unknown *a priori* outcomes
- 6.4 Data Handling & Interpretation Skills (PPP): competence in a broad range of analytical and numerical skills to enable the planning, design and execution of a piece of independent research
- 6.5 Ethical and Moral Issues (KU): evaluation of the impact of health and disease on society at large and the importance of science to meet the challenge
- 6.6 Team Work and Interpersonal Skills (KTS): engagement with peers to produce and defend a scientific stance on a topical issue
- 6.7 Communication Skills (KTS): communication of the outcomes of own research in various ways to suit a scientific and non-specialist audience
- 6.8 Autonomy, Professionalism and Employability (PPP): acceptance of responsibility for learning by setting and reflecting on own learning objectives, hypotheses or research questions
- 6.9 Scientific Methodology & Research Models (KU): critical appraisal of a range of investigative approaches available to gather research data and information

### **How will you learn?**

The learning and the teaching of the course to allow acquisition and assimilation of cognitive material, skills and graduate attributes will consist of face-to-face lectures, supported extensively with IT enhanced or IT supported learning ('blended learning'). In addition to the traditional lecture, some of the teaching will be in small groups, often in enquiry-based learning (EBL) format. Even in a large lecture theatre, tutors will encourage active participation of students. Independent study is promoted through tutor-directed private study. Practical work in the laboratory will facilitate the development of skills of experimentation, problem solving and data analysis. Throughout, the intention is to provide as far as possible a student-centred active learning environment to optimise success and achievement.

Learning at level 4 is intended to result in a solid platform of knowledge and skills which are further developed at levels 5 and then again at level 6. The learning outcomes at each level have been designed to create a cohesive programme with clearly articulated goals which will allow you progress from 'basic' to 'advanced' in key areas and skills. Assessment is an important part of the learning process and feedback on summative assessments will be provided by tutors to help guide subsequent study. Extensive use of formative assessment will allow students to monitor their own academic progress and to adapt their learning accordingly.

## How will you be assessed?

The course offers students a balanced variety of modes of assessment intended to enable students of differing learning styles satisfactorily to meet the assessment criteria. For example, individual written work will include reports and essays (including open-book and closed unseen examination format), group and individual seminar presentations, poster presentations and portfolio compilation. Some assignments at level 6 which include the option for negotiated assessment, peer- and self-assessment will be available. Assessment criteria outlining what is expected of you when completing an assessment are given in each module handbook and more detailed guidance is usually provided by the tutor who sets the assignment. Such assessment criteria are designed to 'guide, not prescribe' how you approach the assignment, as there is always an expectation that there will be evidence of independent intellectual input from the student. Unless you are told explicitly to the contrary, you must assume that all assessment is to be completed independently from and without collaboration with other students.

## Employment and further study opportunities.

**University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:**

- Critical and creative thinker
- Literate and effective communicator
- Entrepreneurial
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

## Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Course Level Learning Outcomes.

Graduate Attribute	Course Learning Outcome
Critical and creativethinker	4.1, 4.2; 5.1, 5.2; 6.1,6.2.
Literate and effectivecommunicator	4.7; 5.7; 6.7
Entrepreneurial	4.6; 5.6; 6.6; 4.8; 5.8;6.8;
Global in outlook and engagedin communities	4.5; 5.5; 6.5
Social, ethically and environmentally aware	4.5; 5.5; 6.5

The University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London, as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub, has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

The BSc (Hons.) in Human and Medical Science (H&MS) aims to create graduates who can demonstrate the following attributes: knowledgeable about current and contentious issues in human biology; open-minded and flexible thinkers able to adapt to a changing world; literate, competent and confident practitioners with strong analytical skills.

It is anticipated that the intended wide range of modules on offer will allow graduates of the HMS degree to progress to higher and research degrees in many aspects of human biology, medicine and dentistry, as well as employment in relevant settings such as, government laboratories, and forensic science. Science teaching, scientific journalism and the sport & fitness industry may also present employment opportunities depending upon the module selections.

## Course Structure.

The Table on the next page shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year.

Students should select option modules and/or a university-wide elective module to make up the full complement of 120 credits at each level.

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

**Table: Course Structure**

<b>Credit Level 4</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
4BICH001W	Biochemistry	core		
4BIOL002W	Cell Biology	core	20	10
4PHYM001W	Physiology	core	20	10
4BIOL001W	Applications of Biological Sciences	core	20	10
4BIOM003W	Critical Skills for Biomedical Sciences	core	20	10
4HMNT001W	Principles of Nutrition	option	20	10
4PHYM002W	Fundamentals of Pharmacology	option	20	10
4BICH002W	Biological Chemistry	option	20	10
4BIOM004W	Functional Anatomy	option	20	10
	Any other Level 4 elective (may be non FST)	elective	20	10
<b>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</b>				
<b>Credit Level 5</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
5BICH001W	Metabolic Biochemistry	core	20	10
5PHYM001W	Medical Physiology	core	20	10
5BIOM001W	Medical Genetics and Genomics	core	20	10
5REBI001W	Research Methods	core	20	10
5PHYM002W	Physiological Networks	core	20	10
5PHYM003W	Systems Pharmacology	option	20	10
5BICH002W	Bioinformatics	option	20	10
5HMNT001W	Diet in Health and Disease	option	20	10
5BIOL001W	Exploring the Microbial World	option	20	10
	Any other Level 5 elective (may be non FST)	elective	20	10
<b>Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available</b>				
<b>Credit Level 6</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
6REBI001W	Research project	core	40	20
6PHYM001W	Human Physiological Adaptations	core	20	10
6BIOM006W	Applied Medical Science	core	20	10
6BIOM007W	Cancer Biology	core	20	10
6PHYM002W	Topics in Neuroscience	option	20	10
6BICH001W	Advanced Molecular Biology	option	20	10
6HMNT001W	Global Challenges in Food and Health	option	20	10
6EVBI001W	Global Ethics	option	20	10
6BIOL001W	Designing a Sustainable World	option	20	10
6PHYM003W	Advanced Pharmacology and Toxicology	option	20	10
	Non FST Level 6 elective	elective	20	10

**Award BSc or  
Award BSc Honours**

**Professional Body Accreditation or other external references.** Not applicable

### **Academic regulations.**

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations)

### **How will you be supported in your studies?**

#### **Course Management**

The Human & Medical Science degree programme is hosted within the Department of Biomedical Science, the Head of which has line management responsibilities for course delivery. The course leader is responsible for day-to-day matters relating to learning, teaching and student satisfaction of the course. Each module has a designated Leader some of whom may be based within the Department of Life Sciences which is also part of the Faculty of Science and Technology.

#### **Academic Support**

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All full-time students and part-time students studying more than 60 credits a year, have a named personal tutor who will meet with tutees to review and discuss your academic progress, give guidance on academic regulations and offer support or referral to specialist teams if personal or welfare issues begin to hinder your success on the course. Student participation in the regular Academic Tutorial System (ATS) meetings is considered paramount for academic success. Advice can also be obtained, usually by appointment, from the Course Leader at any time during the academic year. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

#### **Learning Support**

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students<sup>1</sup> can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

#### **Support Services**

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

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<sup>1</sup> Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.



## **How do we ensure the quality of our courses and their continuous improvement?**

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2015. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years (e.g. from Course Committees) is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

## **How do we act on student feedback?**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and University committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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