



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

## *Biochemistry*

**Quality Assurance, Academic Standards and Quality and Partnerships**

**Department of Student and Academic Administration**

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>BSc (Hons) Biochemistry</i></b>
Final Award	BSc (Hons) Biochemistry
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE.
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C0570F, U0570FTC/C0570S, U0570PTC (C700)
Mode of study	Full time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	From September 2021 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Science & Health
School/Department/Subject Group	<a href="#">School of Biological Sciences</a>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-biological-sciences">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-biological-sciences</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/biological-sciences/bsc-hons-biochemistry/">http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/biological-sciences/bsc-hons-biochemistry/</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	Royal Society of Biology
	Level 4, 5 and 6

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

The [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) include advice on what to include in this section.

- To develop a broad understanding of biochemistry and molecular biology
- To enable students to select a focus for their studies in the light of insights gained during their broadly based first year of study
- To develop and refine students' intellectual, critical and practical skills in the acquisition, analysis, interpretation, understanding, evaluation and presentation of subject specific information
- To enable students to form scientific judgements, make decisions and demonstrate competence in key transferable skills
- To foster an active and self-reflective learning approach to enable students to engage in life-long learning
- To provide a firm foundation for further training or employment in a range of contexts in which the combination of biological, biochemical and molecular knowledge and/or analytical and critical enquiry skills are required
- To produce graduates with skills and a knowledge base suitable for the employment market and with an appreciation of the value to society of an education in science, particularly in biochemistry

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	The essential facts, fundamental concepts and theories of the biochemical basis of life in the wider context of the multidisciplinary study of biology	Lectures, workshops, laboratory work, tutorials, guided independent study	Essays, MCQs, examinations
A2	The current state of research in particular areas of biochemistry including those of cell and molecular biology, molecular genetics and biophysics	Lectures, workshops, laboratory work, field work, tutorials, guided independent study	Essays, MCQs, examinations
A3	The principles of analytical techniques employed in biochemistry	Laboratory work	Lab reports, data handling questions, project report
A4	The application of a broad range of techniques relevant to biochemistry and evaluation of acquired data	Workshops, tutorials, guided independent study	Essays, lab reports, data handling questions, project report

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A5	The skills to access and evaluate paper and electronic resources for relevant information from a variety of sources including research and review literature and bioinformatic databases	Lectures, workshops, tutorials, guided independent study	Essays, examinations, project report

#### B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Communicate effectively both orally and in writing	Tutorials, workshops, project supervision	Essays, lab reports, project report, posters, presentations
B2	Apply conceptual and practical skills to define and analyse and solve problems and use these to formulate realistic hypotheses and design experiments to test these.	Lectures, workshops, tutorials, project supervision	Essays, lab reports, project report, data handling questions
B3	Manage experimental data and apply numerical skills necessary to process, analyse and interpret experimental findings	Laboratory work, workshops, project supervision	Lab reports, project report, data handling questions
B4	To integrate and evaluate information from a variety of experimental approaches and assess the merits of competing theories, explanations or methodologies	Lectures, workshops, laboratory work, field work, project supervision	Essays, examinations, project report
B5	Summarise and synthesise information by effectively searching, reviewing and evaluating research literature.	Workshops, tutorials, project supervision	Essays, examinations, lab reports, project report

#### C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Demonstrate basic competencies in a range of practical biochemical techniques in the laboratory	Laboratory work, project supervision	Lab reports, project performance, practical tests
C2	Plan and execute experiments using materials and equipment safely in the laboratory	Laboratory work, project supervision	Lab reports, practical tests, project performance, data handling questions

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C3	Make and record accurate and relevant observations in the field and the laboratory and analyse these experimental results with the use, if necessary, of appropriate statistical tests	Lectures, tutorials, workshops, project supervision	Lab reports, project report
C4	Make effective use of software for data presentation, data analysis, and presentation of written reports and posters. Demonstrate basic competencies in the handling and analysis of large data sets.	Laboratory work, tutorials, workshops	Posters, presentations, lab reports, project report
C5	Prepare accurately written scientific reports	Laboratory work, tutorials, project supervision	Lab reports, project report

#### D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Communicate effectively orally, through the written word or by visual presentation, in a form appropriate for the target audience	Tutorials	Essays, posters, presentations, project report
D2	Learn and work both independently and as part of a team effectively, including demonstrating problem solving and critical enquiry skills.	Tutorials, guided independent study, project	Essays, project report, data handling questions, examinations, project performance
D3	Apply basic statistical tests and numerical skills to the analysis of biochemical data	Lectures, workshops, project supervision	Lab reports, data handling questions, project report, examinations
D4	Use information and communication technology effectively and manage time including prioritising workloads.	Lectures, workshops, tutorials, project	Data handling questions, project report, PDP, project performance.

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course. In order to meet the Royal Society of Biology accreditation the project unit cannot be compensated.

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides an extensive induction programme that introduces the students to the University and the course. The Course is managed as part of the Biological Sciences BSc programme by a team comprising the Head of School, Associate Head (Learning and Teaching) and the Course leader. All modules are supported by their own Moodle sites.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

### Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

*Insert additional reference points or delete as required*

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for **Bioscience**
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **Royal Society of Biology**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

### Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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### Document details

Template Date	March 2018
Author	Dr Colin Sharpe
Date of production and version number	21 July 2020 v1.0
Date of update and version number	July 2022, v1.1
Minimum student registration numbers	20

