BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (FD)

This programme aims to provide students with knowledge and understanding of scientific methods of inquiry and theoretical principles of biological sciences, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context.

Students studying the FdSc in Biological Sciences will develop understanding of:

1. The relevance of biological sciences in the current economic environment
2. The hierarchical nature of biological sciences ranging from molecular level to whole organism and species interactions
3. The need for competence and dexterity in contemporary biological practical techniques and cognate disciplines
4. A professional approach to work, study and lifelong learning.

This course is taught at Belfast Metropolitan College, Belfast.

COURSE CONTENT

Biological Sciences graduates tackle worldwide problems such as climate change, food supply and security, biodiversity loss and global health issues. Students on this programme complete a degree-related work placement, to develop the core skills and employment-related experiences valued by employers.

The modules are:

Stage 1

- Fundamentals of Science
- Mathematical and Study Skills in Science
- General Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Biology

Work Placement

Between Year 1 and Year 2 there is a compulsory work-based placement for a duration of ten weeks. This will provide students with opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills acquired from Year 1 content; to develop important employability skills required for the employment market; and to benefit from being exposed to biological science practices.

Stage 2

- Biological Diversity and Evolution
- Bioscience Practical and Analytical Skills
- Food Biochemistry
- Ecology and Environmental Biology
- Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Microbiology

In addition to subject knowledge, modules aim to develop skills in critical, independent thought and management and decision making. Year 2 modules include applied topics which will allow students the opportunity to consider progression into a range of Honours degree courses.

The modules introduce a wide range of up-to-date biological techniques including genetic manipulation, electron microscopy, physiological studies of living organisms and modern approaches to ecology and evolution.

WHY QUEEN'S?

Professional Accreditation

Graduates of the FdSci are eligible for Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) status, conferred by the Science Council and with appropriate CPD would be eligible for Registered Scientist status (RSci). The Society of Biology also confers varying levels of membership depending on qualifications and experience.

FdSc (Foundation Degree)
Biological Sciences *2 yrs (C101)*

Based at Belfast Metropolitan College

Entrance Requirements

A-level:

CC including Biology or Double Award Applied Science or Double Award Life and Health Sciences + GCSE Biology grade C/4 and Chemistry grade C/4 or GCSE Double Award Science grades CC/44 + GCSE Mathematics grade C/4.

Note: it would be an advantage to have studied Chemistry beyond GCSE level.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma:

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in a relevant science subject with 9 Merits and 9 Passes. A minimum grade may be stipulated in relevant units. In addition, applicants must have GCSE passes at grade C/4 or better in English Language, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry. GCSE Double Award Science grades CC/44 would be acceptable in lieu of GCSE Biology and Chemistry.

Access Course:

65% average. Must be a relevant Access Course normally including two Biology modules (Level 3) and one Chemistry module (Level 3). Students should have GCSE Mathematics and Chemistry at grade C/4 or equivalent in the Access Course. GCSE Double Award Science grades CC/44 would be acceptable in lieu of GCSE Chemistry.

Other Qualifications:

Students offering other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis by the Admissions and Access Service in consultation with the Selector for the Foundation Degree.

RPL:

Applicants must provide evidence of their ability in appropriate skills and knowledge to undertake the programme. Guidance is available for such candidates from the College and any evidence submitted will be assessed by subject specialists who will determine the applicant's suitability for the course. Applicants may be required to attend for interview.

Note: CCEA Level 2 Essential Skills in Communication is acceptable in lieu of a grade C/4 in GCSE English language.

For students whose first language is not English

An IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in each test component or an equivalent acceptable qualification, details of which are available at: **go.qub.ac.uk/EnglishLanguageReqs**

Biological Scientists tackle worldwide problems such as climate change, food supply and security, biodiversity loss and global health issues. Students who successfully complete the Foundation Degree will be eligible to progress to degree programmes in the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's.

Entrance requirements
e: admissions@qub.ac.uk
t: +44 (0)28 9097 3838

Course information
Dr Dawn Corbett / Dr Angela Mousley,
Course Co-ordinators
Belfast Metropolitan College /
School of Biological Sciences

e: biosciences-ug@qub.ac.uk
t: +44 (0)28 9097 5786
w: **qub.ac.uk/bb**

Progression

Students who successfully complete the Foundation Degree with an overall weighted mark of 55 per cent and, in addition, at least 55 per cent in each module assessed in final year will be eligible to progress to degree programmes in the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's.

Work Placement

Embedded work placements on this degree programme provide students with the opportunity to utilise the practical skills gained during the teaching of their degree and apply these in a work environment.

CAREERS/FURTHER STUDY

Our graduates are employed in organisations working within environmental monitoring and management, water quality management, animal welfare, academic research, the agri-food industries, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, teaching and education, and science communication.

These employment areas have always been important, but have now become increasingly so due to worldwide problems such as climate change, food supply and security, biodiversity loss and global health issues.

Further Study

Students who successfully complete the Foundation Degree with an overall weighted mark of 55 per cent and, in addition, at least 55 per cent in each module assessed in final year will be eligible to progress to degree programmes in the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's.