

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
MSc Molecular Biology and Pathology of Viruses	A3SN	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MSc	1 Calendar Year (12 months)	Full Time	Annually in October	90	180
All students must apply to and join the MSc.					

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Infectious Diseases
Associateship	Medical School Building	Main Location(s) of Study	St Mary's Campus

External Reference	
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points	N/A
FHEQ Level	Level 7 - Master's
EHEA Level	2nd Cycle

External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)	
External Accreditor 1:	N/A

Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Specification Details	
Programme Lead	Michael McGarvey
Student cohorts covered by specification	2020-21 entry
Date of introduction of programme	1996
Date of programme specification/revision	January 21

Programme Overview

The MSc in the Molecular Biology and Pathology of Viruses will provide you with in-depth coverage of the fundamental nature of viruses as cellular parasites and their importance in human, animal and plant diseases. You will engage with experts from many areas of virology and molecular biology in a wide range of topics where recent major advances have been made in the understanding of: the structure of viruses, molecular mechanisms of virus replication, virus disease pathogenesis and the emergence of novel viruses and the diseases threats that they pose together.

You will develop the ability to critically evaluate the scientific literature and written and oral communication and presentational skills. You will also acquire proficiency in a range of important research techniques during the Mini-Research project and will build up on these in the 6-month research project. You will work under the supervision and guidance of senior academics to investigate an important research problem from the wide choice of subjects that will be available in one of the various laboratories in Imperial College or external institutions associated with the course.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme graduates will be able to:

- Critically appraise scientific literature and other sources of information.
(Modules 1, 4 and 5)
- Analyse complex scientific issues using systematic research methodologies.
(Modules 3 and 5)
- Identify important health and disease problems in virology and propose creative solutions.
(Modules 1, 2 and 4)
- Design and test scientific hypotheses.
(Modules 1 and 5)
- Execute original experimental research and generate novel data.
(Modules 3 and 5)
- Retrieve, manage and integrate scientific data to build a coherent scientific argument.
(Modules 2 and 4)
- Critically evaluate scientific evidence and research results.
(Modules 3, 4 and 5)
- Communicate scientific ideas and information effectively in various forms to audiences with different backgrounds.
(Modules 2, 4 and 5)
- Carry out self-directed study to become independent learners.
(Modules 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- Work as part of a team to achieve successful results.
(Modules 3 and 5)
- Develop your professional and scientific identity by engaging with the scientific community.
(Module 5)

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial College degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes

Entry Requirements	
Academic Requirement	<p>Normally a minimum of a UK 2:2 Bachelor's degree with Honours in an appropriate biological science subject (e.g. Biology, Biochemistry, Immunology, Microbiology, Biomedical Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science) or a comparable qualification recognised by the College.</p> <p>For further information on entry requirements, please go to https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements/pgacademic/</p>
Non-academic Requirements	None
English Language Requirement	<p>Standard requirement</p> <p>Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications</p>
Admissions Test/Interview	There is no entrance test.
The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: N/A	
Learning & Teaching Approach	
<p>Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods</p> <p>You will be an active participant in a variety of learning and teaching approaches that focus on the knowledge, skills and abilities required by working scientists. These will be in the form of small group tutorials, lectures, journal clubs, group work sessions, seminars, data interpretation sessions, workshops, hands on laboratory skills sessions, research in progress presentations and online material. During your 6-month laboratory based project, you will work closely with and observe other researchers, attend laboratory group meetings and seminars and receive feedback on your project.</p> <p>Overall Workload</p> <p>Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions and independent learning. The following gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the programme. At Imperial, each ECTS credit taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours. Therefore, the expected total study time is 2250 hours per year for the 90 ECTS MSc.</p>	
Assessment Strategy	
<p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>You will be assessed by written examinations, coursework assessments comprising a topic review, a research grant writing exercise and a mini-research project report, and by a research project thesis and viva. The assessments are designed to show you have achieved proficiency in the critical abilities, skills and understanding described in the course learning outcomes. These will take place as follows:</p> <p>Modules 1 and 2 at the end of February/beginning of March (written exams). Module 3 will be in January (MRP lab report). Module 4 will be at the end of November (topic review) and mid-January (research grant writing exercise). Module 5 will be at the beginning of September (project report) and end of September (viva).</p>	
<p>Academic Feedback Policy</p> <p>You can expect feedback on assessed coursework within 10 working days that will help you to understand how you are progressing. You will be given the dates when you will receive feedback at the start of the MSc programme. The course will aim to return provisional marks and individual feedback as indicated in the Imperial College guidelines (below). Guidance and feedback on the 6 month research project is provided by project supervisors during the research work and when students are approaching the submission of their project. www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/</p>	

Re-sit Policy
The College's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/
Mitigating Circumstances Policy
The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/

Additional Programme Costs		
This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.		
Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
N/A	N/A	N/A

Programme Structure¹					
Year 1 - FHEQ Level 7 7					
Students study all core modules. Students are required to study all modules					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
	Molecular Biology of Viruses	Core		1	15 ECTS
	Viral Pathology and Evolution	Core		2	15 ECTS
	Mini-Research Project	Core		1	7.5 ECTS
	Research Evaluation and Communication	Core		1&2	7.5 ECTS
	Laboratory Based Research Project	Core		2&3	45 ECTS
Credit Total					90 ECTS

¹ **Core** modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. **Compulsory** modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated. **Elective** modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Molecular Biology of Viruses →		
	Viral Pathology and Evolution →	
Mini-Research Project →		
Research Evaluation and Communication →		
		Laboratory Based Research Project →

Progression and Classification

Classification of Postgraduate MSc Awards

The class of Degree that may be awarded is as follows:

Distinction: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above across the programme (Modules 1-5) and normally achieved 70.00% or more in the project report (Module 5).

Merit: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above but less than 70.00% across the programme (Modules 1-5) and normally achieved above 60.00% or more in the project report (Module 5).

Pass: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 50.00% or above but less than 60.00% across the programme (Modules 1-5) and normally achieved above 50.00% or more in the project report (Module 5).

Please find the full Academic Regulations at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/>

Please follow the prompts to find the set of regulations relevant to your programme of study.

Programme Specific Regulations

None

Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at: The Programme Handbook is available at:
https://bb.imperial.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/pid-1445350-dt-content-rid-4624365_1/courses/DSS-AS3SN-18_19/Course%20Handbook%20.pdf

The Module Handbook is available at: N/A

The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements

The College's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance

The College's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations

Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of the College's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established the College as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine".
www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/

Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS)
www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for prospective and current students, academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.

Modifications

Description	Approved	Date	Paper Reference
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A