IMPERIAL

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
You must apply to and join the MSc.					

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Infectious Disease
Associateship	Diploma of Imperial College (DIC)	Main Location(s) of Study	South Kensington 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		Prof David Rueda	
Student cohorts covered by specification		2025-26 entry	
Date of introduction of programme		2019-20 entry	
Date of programme specification/revision		August 23	

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 also learn the ability to critically evaluate the scientific literature and develop your written and oral communication and presentational skills. You will 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. Most projects are carried out at the various Imperial campuses (South Kensington, White City, Hammersmith, etc.,), with options to conduct some projects at external research institutions (e.g., CRICK, NIBSC) and companies in the UK.

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 London degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at:

Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	Minimum 2:1 in Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Biophysics, Medicine, Physiology, Veterinary Sciences or a related Biomedical science subject. We will only consider applicants with a 2:2 undergraduate degree record where they can explain/demonstrate that they are able to perform at the required level to succeed at this course (e.g. subsequent work experience, mitigating issues). For further information on entry requirements, please go to www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/
Non-academic Requirements	None
English Language Requirement	Standard requirement Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications
Admissions Test/Interview	N/A

The programme's competency standards documents is available from the department.

Learning & Teaching Approach

Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

In addition to the key route of teaching delivery by in person lecture series, particularly in terms 1 and 2 (encompassing modules 1 and 2), you will be an active participant in a variety of additional 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. It is possible for projects to be carried out partly or wholly at an external organisation.

Overall Workload
Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions, online 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.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

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:
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).

Academic Feedback Policy

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 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/

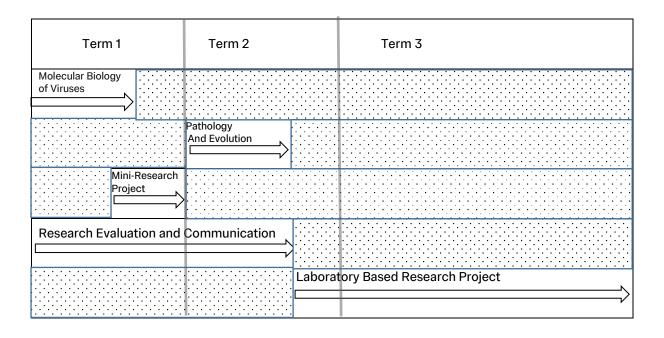| Re-sit Policy |
|---|
| Imperial's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/ |
| Mitigating Circumstances Policy |
| Imperial's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/ |

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 Structure[1]

Year 1 - FHEQ Level 7
You are required to study all modules

Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
INFE70004	Molecular Biology of Viruses	Compulsory		Autumn	15 ECTS
INFE70005	Viral Pathology and Evolution	Compulsory		Autumn	15 ECTS
INFE70006	Mini-Research Project	Compulsory		Autumn	7.5 ECTS
INFE70007	Research Evaluation and Communication	Compulsory		Autumn-Spring	7.5 ECTS
INFE70008	Laboratory Based Research Project	Core		Spring-Summer	45 ECTS
				Credit Total	90 ECTS

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[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.

Progression and Classification
Classification of Postgraduate MSc Awards The university sets the class of Degree that may be awarded is as follows: Distinction: 70.00% or above. Merit: 60.00% or above but less than 70.00%. Pass: 50.00% or above but less than 60.00%. Your degree classification will be determined through the Programme Overall Weighted Average and the designated dissertation or final major project module meeting the threshold for the relevant classification band. Your degree algorithm provides an appropriate and reliable summary of your performance against the programme learning outcomes. It reflects the design, delivery, and structure of your programme without unduly over-emphasising particular aspects.
Programme Specific Regulations
None

Supporting Information
The Programme Handbook is available from the department.
The Module Handbook is available from the department.
Imperial's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/
Imperial's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance
Imperial's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations
Imperial College London 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 Imperial'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/university-governance-structure/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 you may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take 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.