

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Microbiology	C500	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
BSc	3 Years	Full-time	October	180	360
Dip HE	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	240
Cert HE	N/A	N/A	N/A	60	120
The Cert. HE / Dip. HE are exit awards and are not available for entry. You must apply to and join the BSc					

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Natural Sciences
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Life Sciences
Associateship	Associateship of the Royal College of Science (ARCS)	Main Location(s) of Study	South Kensington
External Reference			
Relevant <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement(s)</a> and/or other external reference points		Biosciences	
<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>		Level 6	
<a href="#">EHEA Level</a>		1 <sup>st</sup> cycle	
External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	N/A		
Accreditation received:	N/A	Accreditation renewal:	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 Huw Williams	

Student cohorts covered by specification	2025-26 entry
Date of introduction of programme	October 2019
Date of specification revision	February 2025

## Programme Overview

Studying the Microbiology BSci programme you will be actively engaged in a curriculum that will be enriched from year 1 onwards by the department's research environment. The curriculum addresses the broad fundamental knowledge required to understanding the living organisms from their basic biochemistry, genetics and information flow in cells to detailed knowledge of the relationships, evolution, and key features of certain groups of organisms, with a particular focus on microbes. You will study fundamental aspects of biochemistry and genetics of microbes as well as exploring their role in the environment, biotechnology and infection.

All students on Microbiology programmes follow the same core modules in the first year of study, where the programme will range from biological chemistry to ecology and biodiversity. This will be complemented by a Life Science Skills programme that will provide training in quantitative skills, programming, statistics and scientific writing and presentation. You will develop a synoptic understanding of Biological Sciences before starting to specialise in year 2 and year 3 by taking elective modules to allow you to start to specialise by selecting modules where you will study the cell biology and biochemistry of bacteria, virology, medical microbiology, microbial interactions with plants and the biotechnological exploitation of microbes. Our final year specialised modules are based around our wide-ranging, world class research expertise and you will be brought to the edge of knowledge in your chosen specialised modules, taught by experts.

Through laboratory, computational and field work you will learn the skills you need to design, carry out and analyse the data from biological experiments

You will have the opportunity to contribute to the department's research by undertaking a 10 week, full time research project.

You will learn from the full range of academic staff in the department, including world leaders, as well as postgraduate students, your peers and visiting scientists to the department.

Graduates in Life Sciences go onto range of employments and further study including PhD study, research and development, science policy, research and technical consultancy, business and finance

Programme transfers: Transfer from C500 Microbiology degree programmes onto the Biological Sciences degrees (C100) degrees can normally occur up to the start of the final year of study.

## Learning Outcomes

Please refer to the Teaching Toolkit for advice on the role and purpose of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO): [www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/educational-development/teaching-toolkit/intended-learning-outcomes](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/educational-development/teaching-toolkit/intended-learning-outcomes)

**On completion of this programme, graduates will be able to:**

**On achieving the Cert HE:**

1. Interpret and apply core terminology and key concepts used in life sciences;
2. Integrate fundamental biological principles to explore biological complexity;
3. Integrate concepts from a range of disciplines, including physics, chemistry and maths, to solve problems in life sciences;

4. Demonstrate effective verbal, written communication and presentation skills;

**On achieving the Dip HE, the ILOs (1-4) above and ....**

5. Explore ethical and social issues in life sciences, and consider the potential impact of novel technologies;
6. Formulate hypotheses, design experiments, and apply lab and/or field skills to collect and critically evaluate relevant data;
7. Conduct statistical analyses using programming skills, adhering to publication standards;
8. Collaborate successfully in diverse, multicultural and international teams;

**On achieving the BSc, all the ILOs (1-8) above and ....**

9. Demonstrate and apply deep and wide-ranging biological knowledge and skills from molecular biology to physiology and ecology to the understanding and study of important contemporary problems in Microbiology.
10. Demonstrate excellent verbal, written communication and presentation skills across a range of academic and disciplinary activities, including research, assessment, dissemination and communication with diverse audiences;
11. Solve complex real-world problems within their degree specialisation, using a range of appropriate laboratory, computational or field skills;
12. Create independent, enquiry-based, extended and novel work that demonstrates critical analysis and evaluation.
13. Demonstrate an awareness of the outstanding research problems of their chosen Microbiology specialities through exploring topics in the final year, research-led modules and be able to evaluate and understand how they are being or can be tackled.
14. Display a strong sense of personal and professional identity as a life scientist, and feel confident to apply the scientific method to real-world life science problems;

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at:  
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-graduates/>

**Entry Requirements**

Academic Requirement	<p><u>A level</u></p> <p>AAA overall, to include:  A in Biology  A in Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics  A in another subject</p> <p>General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.</p> <p><u>International Baccalaureate (IB)</u></p> <p>Minimum <b>38</b> overall  <b>6</b> in Biology at higher level  <b>6</b> in Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics at higher level</p>
Non-academic Requirements	None

English Language Requirement	<a href="#">Higher requirement</a> IELTS score of 7.0 overall (minimum 6.5 in all elements).
Admissions Test/Interview	There is no admissions test associated with entry to this programme and applicants will not normally be interviewed.

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

## Learning & Teaching Approach

### Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

Lectures and large group-teaching incorporating a range of active learning approaches, laboratory practicals working as individuals, in pairs or small groups, field work, computational work, seminars, tutorials and problem classes, interactive online learning material, online concepts and skills videos and interactive group work, student presentations as individuals and small groups, team-based learning, dissertation and individual research projects.

### Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions and independent learning. While your actual contact hours may vary according to the optional modules you choose to study, 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 1500 hours per year.

Typically, in the first two years you will spend in the order of 30% of your time on lectures, laboratory work and small group teaching and seminars and similar (around 400 hours) and in the order of 70% of your time on independent study.

## Assessment Strategy

### Assessment Methods

#### Formative assessment.

Performance in problem classes, quizzes in lectures, digital resources for self-assessment including online quizzes and problems, by discussions in tutorials as well as written and or verbal feedback on a range of non-examined tasks, including the types of summatively assessed tasks listed below.

#### Summative Assessment

Written Examinations  
Laboratory write-ups  
Essays  
Reports  
Dissertations  
Presentations  
Individual research project report  
Viva voce examination  
Peer assessment  
Poster presentations

Assessment Mode	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Examination	60	48	56
Coursework	40	52	44

## Academic Feedback Policy

Coursework submission is managed by our education office and in most cases coursework is submitted electronically via BlackBoard and feedback is provided electronically or by a feedback form attached to items of coursework. Feedback is also provided via Blackboard on formative quizzes. You will receive feedback normally within 10 working days, but this might be longer for some very substantial pieces of work, such as a dissertation. Personal tutors hold timetabled tutorials to give feedback on examination performance and can be approached by their tutees at any point in the year for further guidance. The education office manages the timely return of coursework feedback and the Director of Undergraduate Studies routinely monitors the quality and quantity of feedback provided. In some instances, generic class feedback is returned to all students via email or a Blackboard announcement once coursework is marked

#### 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/](http://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/](http://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					
<b>Year 1 – FHEQ Level 4</b> <b>You will study all core modules.</b>					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective	Group*	Term	Credits
LIFE40005	Biological Chemistry and Microbiology	Core		Autumn	10
LIFE40008	Evolution and Diversity	Core		Autumn- Spring	15
LIFE40006	Cell Biology and Genetics	Core		Spring- Summer	15
LIFE40007	Ecology and Evolution	Core		Spring- Summer	10
LIFE40009	Core skills for Life Scientists	Core		Autumn- Summer	10
Credit Total					60
<b>Year 2 - FHEQ Level 5</b> <b>You will study all core modules. You must select three electives for study, one from each of Groups A, B and C.</b>					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
LIFE50016	Applied Molecular Biology	Core		Autumn	7.5
LIFE50011	Genetics	Core		Autumn	7.5
LIFE50025	Bioinformatics, Programming and Statistics (Biological Sciences)	Core		Autumn- Spring	5
LIFE50003	Tutored Dissertation	Core		Spring- Summer	7.5
LIFE50017	Molecular Microbiology	Elective	A	Spring	10
LIFE50012	Immunology	Elective	B	Spring	10
LIFE50014	Molecular and Cell Biology Skills	Elective	C	Summer	7.5
LIFE50018	Computational 'Omics	Elective	C	Summer	7.5
	iExplore	Compulsory		Autumn- Spring	5/7.5
Credit Total					60
<b>Year 3 - FHEQ Level 6</b> <b>All year 3 modules are electives and you will select three electives for study, one from each of Groups A, B and C and a research project option from Group D. Elective modules in Groups A, B and C are capped</b>					

**normally at 40-45 students/module and students choose their top three choices from each group with final allocations being made by an algorithm that maximises the allocation of highest number of top choices across the cohort.**

Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
LIFE60056	Biotechnology and Entrepreneurship	Elective	A	Autumn	12.5
LIFE60055	Medical Microbiology	Elective	A	Autumn	12.5
LIFE60063	Symbiosis, Plant Immunity and Disease	Elective	B	Autumn	15
LIFE60042	Advanced Topics in Immunity and Infection	Elective	A	Autumn	15
LIFE60065	The Microbiome	Elective	C	Autumn	15
LIFE60058	Molecular Basis of Bacterial Infection	Elective	C	Spring	15
LIFE60060	Synthetic Biology	Elective	C	Spring	15
LIFE60041	Advanced Immunology	Elective	B	Autumn	15
LIFE60049	Disease Ecology and Epidemiology	Elective	B	Spring	15
LIFE60040	Science Communications plus Research Proposal Project	Elective	D	Spring-Summer	15
LIFE60066	Research Project (Lab, Data, Field)	Elective	D	Spring-Summer	15
LIFE60069	Vaccinology	Elective	C	Spring	15
LIFE60067	Bacterial Molecular Machines	Elective	A	Autumn	15
Credit Total					60

\* 'Group' refers to module grouping (e.g. a group of electives from which one/two module(s) must be chosen).

## Progression and Classification

### Progression

In order to progress to the next level of study, you must have passed all modules (equivalent to 60 ECTS) in the current level of study at first attempt, at resit or by a compensated pass.

The overall weighted average for each year must be 40%, including where a module(s) has been compensated, in order for you to progress to the next year of the programme.

### Classification

The marks from modules in each year contribute towards the final degree classification.

In order to be considered for an award, you must have achieved the minimum number of credits at the required levels prescribed for that award and met any programme specific requirements as set out in the Programme Specification.

Your classification will be determined through:

- i) Aggregate Module marks for all modules
- ii) Year Weightings

For this award, Year One is weighted at 7.5%, Year Two at 35% and Year Three at 57.5%.

The university sets the class of undergraduate degree that may be awarded as follows:

- i) First 70% or above for the average weighted module results
- ii) Upper Second 60% or above for the average weighted module results
- iii) Lower Second 50% or above for the average weighted module results
- iv) Third 40% or above for the average weighted module results

## Programme Specific Regulations

N/A



## 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/pg/apply/requirements](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements)

Imperial's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance](http://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](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations)

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[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/university-governance-structure/charters/](http://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/](http://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.**