

PG Cert and MSc Reproductive & Developmental Biology

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 intended as a reference point for prospective students, current students, external examiners and academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement.

Programme Information

Programme Title		Reproductive & Developmental Biology				
Award(s)		PG Cert	MSc			
Programme Code		A3TJC	A3TJ			
Associateship		None				
Awarding Institution		Imperial College London				
Teaching Institution		Imperial College London				
Faculty		Faculty of Medicine				
Department		Department of Surgery and Cancer				
Mode and Period of Study		PG Cert	6 months, full-time			
		MSc	1 calendar year, full-time (12 months)			
Cohort Entry Points		Annually in October				
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points		Master's Awards in Science				
Total Credits		PG Cert	ECTS:	33.75	CATS:	67.50
		MSc	ECTS:	90	CATS:	180
FHEQ Level		Level 7 - Master's				
EHEA Level		2 nd cycle				
External Accreditor(s)		None				
Specification Details						
Student cohorts covered by specification		2016-17 entry				
Person responsible for the specification		Dr. Mark Sullivan				
Date of introduction of programme		October 1993				

Date of programme specification/revision	June 2016
Description of Programme Contents	
<p>The programme in Reproductive & Developmental Biology is based in the Institute of Reproductive & Developmental Biology (Hammersmith Campus, Imperial College London). It is designed for those who have a degree in a “bioscience” BSc, medicine or veterinary medicine who wish to expand their knowledge and experience of Reproductive & Developmental Biology. The academic content of the MSc and PG Certificate is identical, and includes Introductory material, Development of reproductive systems, Regulation of gonadal functions, Fertilisation and early embryo development, Pregnancy, Development and Stem cell biology.</p> <p>The MSc includes a project based within a research group, within which students learn practical and transferable skills. Teachers and research group leaders are established workers in their areas of expertise, and bring this expertise to the content of the MSc and PG Certificate courses. It does not provide practical experience of the techniques of Assisted Reproduction (IVF).</p>	
Learning Outcomes	
<p>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</p>	
<p>Certificate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise the current understanding of Reproductive & Developmental Biology that is relevant to humans. • Identify and describe the use of appropriate model systems that can increase our understanding of reproduction & development in humans. • Identify those aspects of reproduction and development that are not well understood, and explain why this is the case. • Perform searches of the literature to identify pertinent information, and critique the information obtained as to its quality. • Use information from the literature to write scientific documents of high quality (essays, project dissertation), or produce oral or poster presentations as needed. • Take responsibility for producing work for assessment that is the quality required for the course. • Show skills in the handling of data and appropriate statistical analyses <p>MSc – as for the certificate, and the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop laboratory skills needed for the project part of the course, working with supervisors towards becoming a more independent researcher. • Learn to work as part of a team within the research group during the project, interacting professionally with colleagues. • Take responsibility for the quality of laboratory work, and also seek assistance as appropriate. 	

Entry Requirements	
Academic Requirement	Normally a 2:1 UK Bachelor's Degree in a Bioscience, Medicine or in Veterinary Medicine (or the equivalent)
Non-academic Requirements	None
English Language Requirement	IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each element or equivalent.
The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes/	
Learning & Teaching Strategy	
Scheduled Learning & Teaching Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • 1-1 supervision meetings (research project) • Seminars • Group discussions • Practical workshops • Site visits
E-learning & Blended Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard • iTunes-U video content
Project and Placement Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent research project (MSc students only)
Assessment Strategy	
Assessment Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Essays • Research project report
Academic Feedback Policy	
Students will be given comments and indicative grades on each piece of coursework. These will identify strengths and weaknesses of each piece of work, and also give pointers for how to improve. Feedback may be discussed with markers or with the Course Director.	
Re-sit Policy	
Students may re-sit an examination under the following circumstance: if they fail one of the course modules due to failing one or more of the examinations.	
Examinations may be re-taken at the next opportunity, which will normally be 12 months after the initial attempt.	
A student who misses an examination due to ill-health or other major issue may take that examination at the next opportunity as their first attempt.	

Mitigating Circumstances Policy

The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams

Assessment Structure

Marking Scheme

Postgraduate Certificate

A student must:

- Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment
- Achieve a pass mark of 50% overall

The PG Certificate is not classified. The MSc can be awarded as a pass, merit or distinction classification.

MSc

Pass

A student must:

- Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment
- Achieve a pass mark of 50% overall
- Achieve a mark of at least 50% in the Research Project

Merit

A student must:

- Achieve at least 60% in each module
- Where appropriate, a Board of Examiners may award a result of merit where a candidate has achieved an aggregate mark of 60 per cent or greater across the programme as a whole AND has obtained a mark of 60 per cent or greater in each element with the exception of one element (but not the project element) AND has obtained a mark of 50 per cent or greater in this latter element.

Distinction

A student must:

- Achieve at least 70% in each module
- Where appropriate, a Board of Examiners may award a result of distinction where a candidate has achieved an aggregate mark of 70 per cent or greater across the programme as a whole AND has obtained a mark of 70 per cent or greater in each element with the exception of one element (but not the project element) AND has obtained a mark of 60 per cent or greater in this latter element.

Module Weightings		
Module	% Module Weighting (PG Cert)	% Module Weighting (MSc)
Genesis and Developments	100%	N/A
Genesis	N/A	25%
Developments		25%
Research Project		50%

Indicative Module List

Code	Title	Core/ Elective	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place- ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course- work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
A3TJC1	Genesis & Developments	CORE	145	698.75	0	843.75	33.3%	66.7%	0%	7	33.75
A3TJ1	Genesis	CORE	85	477.5	0	562.5	25%	75%	0%	7	22.5
A3TJ2	Developments	CORE	60	502.5	0	562.5	50%	50%	0%	7	22.5
A3TJ3	Independent Research Project	CORE	0	1125	0	1125	0%	100%	0%	7	45

Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/postgraduate/masters-programmes/msc-reproductive-and-developmental-biology/>

The Module Handbook is available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/postgraduate/masters-programmes/msc-reproductive-and-developmental-biology/>

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:

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/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".

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters-statutes-ordinances-and-regulations/>

Imperial College London is regulated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/reg/of/>