# Programme Specification: Medical Sciences BSc

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

## Course record information

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| **Name and level of final award** | • Bachelor of Science with Honours - BSc Medical Sciences FT<br>• Bachelor of Science with Honours - Medical Sciences with Professional Experience<br>• Bachelor of Science with Honours - Medical Sciences with International Experience<br>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible |
| **Name and level of intermediate awards** | • Bachelor of Science (BSc) - Medical Sciences<br>• Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) - Medical Sciences<br>• Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - Medical Sciences |
| **Awarding body/institution** | University of Westminster |
| **Teaching institution** | University of Westminster |
| **Status of awarding body/institution** | Recognised Body |
| **Location of delivery** | Primary: Central London |
| **Language of delivery and assessment** | English |
| **QAA subject benchmarking group(s)** | Biomedical Sciences https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-biomedical-sciences.pdf?sfvrsn=2bf2c881_4 |
| **Professional statutory or regulatory body** | Accredited by the Royal Society of Biology https://www.rsb.org.uk/ |
| **Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length** | • BSc Medical Sciences FT, Full-time, September start - 3 years standard length with an optional year abroad or placement |
| **Valid for cohorts** | From 2025/6 |

## Additional Course Information

The BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences is designed as a 'feeder' programme for students intending to progress on to study medicine, either through self-managed applications to graduate entry medicine programmes following the completion of the Medical Sciences programme or as part of a progression arrangement with our partner international medical school(s). Progression may depend on the award of a minimum class of honours degree and the satisfactory completion/ pass of additional ‘summer school’ study components, depending on the partner medical school.

## Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/how-to-apply

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certificated or experiential learning at the same level of the qualification for which they wish to apply are advised to visit the following page for further information:

https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/guides-and-policies/student-matters/recognition-of-prior-learning

## Aims of the programme

The Medical Sciences programme is designed for individuals with an interest in the functions of the Human body in health and disease and who wish to go on to study medicine after their BSc degree. The course is mapped to the pre-clinical content of an international partner medical school(s) with whom we have an established progression route. For those students who do not wish to progress onto medicine, the course can also lead to a number of different careers and further study options in the life sciences including scientific research, clinical trials, scientific and medical writing, teaching and many others.

The BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences course has been designed to

- Provide students with a comprehensive, current and relevant programme of study, delivered in a rich learning environment that is inclusive, supportive and equitable, enabling and encouraging all students to achieve their individual potential without impediment.
- Promote professionalism, inclusivity and respect as a fundamental attribute of academic and professional life.
- Develop the students' knowledge of biological and medical sciences in order that they may analyse and understand the basis and treatment of human disease.
- Enable students to apply their understanding of disease processes and diagnostic procedures in the context of a clinical environment, celebrating diversity and recognising the impact of that diversity on healthcare needs and opportunities.
- Promote students' awareness of the impact of the advances in science and technology on diagnosis and treatment of human disease.
- Enable students to function in, and/or relate to, the work undertaken in a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic settings.
- Produce graduates capable of carrying out scientific research.
- Enable students to contextualise scientific knowledge and opinion within a historical, geographical and cultural framework, referencing current expected standards of equality, diversity and inclusivity.
- Develop transferable skills which will enhance employability prospects, postgraduate education and continuing professional development.
- Meet the requirements for progression to study medicine at our partner institution.
- Include the flexibility to allow students to undertake a work placement or international study experience whilst studying for their degree and gain recognition of that experience through specific award titles.
- Develop students as creative problem solvers in the design of solutions to help overcome global challenges by the application of their subject-specific and transferable skills and knowledge to drive these solutions for sustainable development.

## Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinkers
- Literate and effective communicator

- Entrepreneurial
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

The development of these graduate attributes is oriented towards employability upon completion of the course and these five attributes are aligned to various Course Learning Outcomes as shown in the table later in this document.

Whilst graduate attributes are acquired through a number of different modules throughout your course, all courses in the School of Life Sciences also have an integrated framework of employability skills and options running from level 4 up to level 6. This framework is intended to enable students to develop key skills which will prepare them for employment and/or further study following graduation. The specific modules for implementing this framework are Professional Development in Science (Level 4), Research Methods (level 5) and the Life Sciences Final Year Project (level 6). Along with subject-specific knowledge and skills, however, other modules in the course also incorporate Key Transferable Skills, which complement the employability skills in this framework and are applicable to a wide range of future careers, further study and many other activities. The key employability related skills students will develop through the course include subject specific skills applicable to the many branches of the life sciences and skills that are transferrable to a variety of scenarios. These include the ability to critically analyse scientific literature and to discuss and correctly cite those sources; gaining competence in laboratory and other practical/ investigative techniques relevant to your specialism; the ability to process, analyse, interpret and present a variety of data types including the appropriate statistical analysis of that data using a variety of software packages including Microsoft Office and dedicated statistical analysis software such as SPSS; teamworking and leadership skills from group work in practical classes/ workshops and group presentation tasks; presentation skills in a variety of formats (e.g. posters, oral presentations, infographics). All students undertake a final year project which also allows the development of important skills such as experimental design based on available resources (including budget), planning of day-to-day activities and keeping records. Skills such as these are important for a wide variety of jobs and activities within medicine, the life sciences and in the wider context.

Also built into our courses is the flexibility to allow students to undertake a work placement or international study experience between levels 5 and 6 of their studies which will further enhance your employability prospects. Students who undertake a work-based placement benefit from real-world experience in their chosen discipline and gain a clearer understanding of options open to them following the completion of their degree. The completion of a work placement in a relevant area is often looked upon favourably by employers as an indication of practical experience in the ‘real world’, and indeed, many students receive job offers post-graduation from either their placement provider or similar employment within the sector. Whilst not necessarily related to a specific area of employment, completion of an international study period is also often looked upon favourably by employers as an indication of an international/ global mindset and independence, both of which are desirable characteristics in a connected world.

Should you elect to undertake a placement or international study period between levels 5 and 6, we would therefore encourage you to follow a path most appropriate to your personal career goals. Many students also amass a diverse range of professional experience at all levels of their course and are encouraged to integrate all such opportunities into their studies. Again, our location in London is a distinct advantage when looking for additional work experience. Our aim is to foster a culture of gathering expertise, building professional networks, and expanding academic learning with the knowledge and skills gained in working environments.

It is envisaged that the majority of Graduates from the BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences will go on to study medicine, either through direct application to graduate entry medicine programmes or through a progression arrangement at our partner medical schools (providing that they have successfully completed their studies at the University of Westminster and any additional distance learning and/or summer school study required by their chosen medical school). If, however, they should choose not to continue on to study medicine, graduates from Medical Sciences can apply their skills and knowledge to a wide range of employment opportunities including, medical research laboratories in universities, government or charity-funded research laboratories, research development for the pharmaceutical, diagnostics, medical devices and laboratory instrumentation industries, clinical trials, regulatory affairs (drug registration and patents), medical writing, commerce (sales and marketing) related to healthcare and diagnostics products. The subsequent completion of a medical degree will qualify you to practice medicine in a number of countries throughout the world (subject to local requirements and processes for registration). We also have a strong record in preparing graduates for postgraduate study across a range of biomedical and molecular disciplines, as well as postgraduate teacher training.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)
- Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)
- Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)
- Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

**Level 4 course learning outcomes:** upon completion of Level 4 you will be able to:

- CLO4.1 Evidence a broad understanding of concepts and terminology in biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics, including structure and function of biomolecules, cellular metabolism, and the structure, function and regulation of genes. Communicate about how understanding in these areas can contribute to Sustainable Development Goals for people and the planet now and in the future. ( KU GA )
- CLO4.2 Demonstrate a broad understanding of concepts and terminology of structure and function of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cell biology, including their life cycle, cell division, self-replication and death. ( KU GA )
- CLO4.3 Broadly understand the structure, function and control of the human body, its component parts and major systems, terminology of human anatomy and physiology. ( KU GA )
- CLO4.4 Understand the need to establish and maintain a safe practice environment, health & safety legislation, the Human Tissue Act. The use of the standard laboratory techniques, the collection, manipulation and presentation of experimental data and the use of basic numeracy skills. Correct use of SI units. ( KU GA )
- CLO4.5 Understand the central importance of professionalism, inclusivity and sensitivity in healthcare. Treat all individuals and cultures with respect and act as a compassionate member of local and global communities. Develop the ability to evaluate your own strengths and weaknesses in your studies and wider academic and social context. Plan and document your own personal development. ( GA PPP KTS )
- CLO4.6 Understand the development, delivery, pharmacokinetics, effects and side effects of therapeutic drugs. ( KU GA )
- CLO4.7 Acquire a broad knowledge base and the ability to access library resources, online material and undertake simple research tasks with guidance and the ability to communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, acknowledging academic standards, professional protocols and a range of audiences. ( GA KTS )
- CLO4.8 Effectively and creatively work with others on common tasks, be able to recognise the factors affecting team performance and the need for time management and self-reflection. ( GA KTS )

**Level 5 course learning outcomes:** upon completion of Level 5 you will be able to:

- CLO5.1 Apply a detailed knowledge of host-pathogen interactions at the population, organismal and molecular levels and body response mechanisms to how they affect human health. ( KU GA )
- CLO5.2 Evidence a detailed understanding of the complex processes and events leading to human diseases and the principles of a system-led approach to the study of disease and its treatment. ( KU GA )
- CLO5.3 Demonstrate a critical awareness of human genetics, pattern of inheritance with methods of genetic testing and associated ethical issues. ( KU GA )
- CLO5.4 Evidence a detailed knowledge of biochemical mechanisms involved in regulation of homeostasis; causes and consequences of metabolic disorders which affect human wellbeing. ( KU GA )
- CLO5.5 Demonstrate awareness of current UK legislations, British, European and International Standards that govern and effect healthcare and biomedical laboratory practice, the importance and ability to maintain confidentiality and to obtain informed consent. ( GA PPP )
- CLO5.6 Demonstrate a creative approach to devising and performing experiments to provide new information, evaluate experimental methods for investigation in biomedical sciences, select appropriate statistical methods, use relevant software packages and evaluate their application to experimental data. ( GA PPP )
- CLO5.7 Effectively manage your own learning strategy in the medical sciences. Effectively and critically use the variety of resources available and access and use the scientific literature and databases, recognising and reflecting upon the ethical and social implications of current and historical scientific research, it's context and application. ( GA KTS )
- CLO5.8 Retrieve scientific or clinical information from the literature, including interrogation of electronic databases, to collect and synthesise this information and produce a literature review of an area, cite the scientific literature according to an accepted format and prepare a design for a new research project. ( GA KTS )

**Additional Year course learning outcomes:** upon completion of Additional Year you will be able to:

- IEO.1 Enable personal development by devising a programme of international study that complements the content of the home degree programme and/or develops other interests. ( GA PPP KTS )
- IEO.2 Appreciate the challenges and opportunities of studying/ working in an international context. ( GA PPP KTS )
- IEO.3 Demonstrate an understanding of, and respect for, the cultural norms and differences of the host country at a societal level as part of an inclusive, global outlook ( GA PPP KTS )
- PEO.1 Reflect upon your greater knowledge of the career opportunities available to life sciences graduates in the job market and your personal aptitude for those opportunities. ( GA PPP KTS )
- PEO.2 Demonstrate the acquisition of a range of professional, practical and key-transferrable skills relevant to the fields of employment where life sciences graduates are valued. ( KU GA PPP KTS )
- PEO.3 Take personal responsibility for directing your own learning and future career making the best use of the opportunities, experiences and people that were available to you during your placement year. Draw upon the diverse approaches, perspectives, knowledge and experience of a diverse workforce, treating all individuals with respect and recognising their contribution to the host organisation. ( KU GA PPP KTS )

**Level 6 course learning outcomes:** upon completion of Level 6 you will be able to:

- CLO6.1 Explain in detail how disruption or alteration to normal physiology may arise through pathology, changing environments and changing physiological state. ( KU GA )
- CLO6.2 Evidence an understanding of the process of disease investigation including the contribution of clinical, laboratory and medical imaging techniques, aetiology, epidemiology and changing patterns of disease worldwide. ( KU GA )
- CLO6.3 Understand the role of the immune system in health and disease including disease states associated with abnormal immune function, blood grouping, tissue typing and transfusion reactions/ transplant rejection. Advances in immunological methods. ( KU GA )
- CLO6.4 Understand the key molecular changes in tumour development and progression, clinical manifestations of those changes and the clinical, laboratory and imaging techniques employed in the diagnosis of cancer and monitoring of treatment efficacy. Mechanisms and processes of metastasis. ( KU GA )
- CLO6.5 Evidence knowledge of genetic & congenital disease; current and the possible future uses of gene-based and cell-based therapies which complement conventional pharmacological treatments for these conditions. An appreciation of the ethical and social implications of such diseases and their treatments. ( KU GA )
- CLO6.6 Design and carry out an independent final year project within an appropriate area, record, analyse and interpret data, and produce a detailed and coherent written project report. ( GA PPP )
- CLO6.7 Develop a clear strategy to identify methods/tools appropriate to the interpretation of scientific results/ data including the effective use of statistical and bioinformatics methods, the ability to justify your choice and to critically evaluate their success. ( GA KTS )
- CLO6.8 Interact with peers in logical, informed clinical/ scientific discussion, appreciating the value of drawing upon diverse perspectives and approaches to achieve goals. Communicate the outcomes clearly to specialist, non-specialist and lay audiences through a variety of methods/ media, understanding the social dynamic of these discussions/ presentations. Treating all individuals and cultures with respect and acknowledge the harm that results and has resulted, from not doing so. ( GA PPP CS )

# How will you learn?

## Learning methods

The BSc Honours Medical Sciences course responds to the evolving healthcare setting to produce graduates who can demonstrate competency in a wide range of diagnostic and clinical techniques and work effectively in a modern healthcare service (with suitable post-graduate qualifications). Our teaching and learning strategy is designed to reflect this, as the philosophy of the course is inherently interdisciplinary. We aim to provide you with a broad range of practical and conceptual knowledge and skills specific to the medical sciences, but also applicable to the wider skills required in the workplace. We also engage you with the broader ethical and social contexts that affect us all, and ask you to become an effective communicator through diverse media for local and global audiences. We thereby build your Graduate Attributes as well as your technical skills as Medical Scientists and, following successful completion of your medical degree, as clinicians.

The teaching and learning methods on the course are directly related to the aims and learning outcomes identified above.

We have designed the course to lead you from a broad understanding and skills across all core subjects and key theoretical concepts, to focused knowledge and skills in depth by the end of the course. At the point of graduation we also intend that you will be prepared for your continued studies towards an MD degree and the professional opportunities open to you for your future careers.

The School of Life Sciences is committed to the University of Westminster Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy with a local implementation based on three central elements:

- ***Our commitment*** *is to ensure an inclusive, safe and supportive learning, working and social environment which enables scientific research and teaching to flourish and encourages our future scientists to grow and realise their true potential.*
- ***Our goal*** *is to empower all students and staff to critically reflect on their understanding and positionality, with respect to the wide-ranging global scientific perspectives (past and present); encouraging the open debate of differing points of view.*
- ***Our pledge*** *is to respect and value our diverse Life Sciences community (within and beyond the University of Westminster) and foster an equitable culture as we move forward in the field.*

These three elements inform and direct all of our learning, teaching and research activities and have been central to our course design process as can be seen in the learning outcomes at module and course level. All staff and students in the school of Life Sciences are expected to embrace and respect these values.

## Teaching methods

A variety of different teaching methods/ activities are employed on the Medical Sciences programme, according to the nature of the subject matter covered in the different modules. Some teaching sessions will be delivered online through the University's Virtual Learning Environment, Blackboard, whilst others will be delivered face-to-face on the university campus. Teaching at all levels will include combinations of larger group and smaller group activities including lectures, problem/ enquiry based learning, tutorials, flipped sessions, laboratory-based practical sessions and workshops, computer-based exercises with student-centred learning and supervised use of the facilities (e.g. in final year projects) . You will receive continuous formative feedback through online activities, group and one-to-one tutorials and periodic reviews, designed to give you multiple points of guidance throughout your studies and before assessments.

At Level 4, the modules provide core knowledge and skills across the medical sciences with much of the Level 4 programme common across the School's undergraduate module scheme. Level 4 gives you an opportunity to acquire the necessary background scientific knowledge for the Medical Sciences whilst also developing the relevant analytical, communication and professional skills appropriate to this level. The module Professional Development in Science (level 4) enables all Medical Sciences undergraduates to develop selected key skills that form a basis for continuing career, professional and personal development which continues through into higher levels of the programme in the Research Methods module at Level 5 and the Life Sciences Final Year Project at level 6.

At level 5 you will acquire expertise in a comprehensive range of medical sciences subject specific knowledge, specialist investigative techniques, data analysis and research methods. In addition, you will be able to develop relevant professional and key transferable skills for your continuing in Higher education or employability.

The final year of your course, Level 6, focuses on integrating your learning to support a multidisciplinary approach to research, diagnosis and management of disorder and disease. You will also undertake a final year project where you will plan, devise and complete a piece of independent work under the guidance of a supervisor. This will provide insight into and experience of performing independent research.

Laboratory skills training is embedded within core modules at all levels and in addition the Research methods module at Level 5 will help to prepare you for the final year project. A parallel process in theoretical study accompanies the practical aspects, with you being encouraged to integrate theory and practice throughout.

The scheduled / supervised time represents only a proportion of study for each module (approximately one quarter overall). The remaining time is self-managed by you, so offering scope for creative experimentation, exploration and the emergence of the autonomy required of you in professional life.

As well as being our main platform for delivering online teaching sessions, Blackboard also serves as a central repository for learning resources associated with the various modules and teaching sessions. This material may include lecture materials and recorded lectures, videos, practical examples and virtual practicals, computer-based exercises, technical support, key references, discussion groups, blogs, amongst others. Blackboard also functions as a route of communication between staff and students with announcements, email, virtual meeting rooms and discussion board features. Many in-class tests are also administered through Blackboard.

## Assessment methods

Our assessment strategy reflects the philosophy of the course, aiming to develop the creative, flexible, thoughtful and socially and ethically aware scientists and clinicians of the future. Assessment is integral to the overall learning process, and we offer a range of assessment methods. This will allow you to demonstrate your skills and understanding in a variety of ways. The benefit is that this provides a range of activities in which to excel, so supporting and encouraging a variety of preferred learning styles.

Assessment methods vary between modules with most 20 credit modules having two pieces of assessment. The assessment methods employed for this course are designed with an emphasis on authenticity i.e. they are based around assessing both the knowledge required for your progression into the clinical field and your ability to apply that knowledge in the appropriate manner. Assessments employed on the medical sciences course include clinical case studies, data interpretation, practical work, group work, presentations and reports. Some modules will have time limited in-class tests. The 40 credit Level 6 Research Project is assessed by written thesis.

Clear Assessment Criteria are stated in module documents, and these are linked to the module Learning Outcomes. You will receive written feedback from all assessments, and this directly relates to the assessment criteria for each module. You will also have an opportunity to discuss the outcome with module staff. Formative feedback is also given throughout modules in tutorials, group discussions, and in the laboratory practical sessions. It is designed to inform you of areas for improvement, and of current strengths which are to be nurtured and developed.

Some modules may contain elements of peer assessment (groups of students assessing each other, but under staff supervision) to support you in developing skills in critical judgement and self-evaluation.

Some modules assess learning outcomes from another module (called 'synoptic assessment'). This allows you to combine elements of learning from different modules and show your accumulated knowledge and understanding of biomedical sciences theory and practice (especially the linkage of theory and practice). It also helps to reduce formal assessment and so ensure that you have as much time and opportunity as possible to develop your skills, knowledge and experience.

| Graduate Attribute | Evident in Course Outcomes |
|---|---|
| Critical and creative thinker | CLO4.1, CLO4.3, CLO5.2, CLO5.3, CLO5.4, CLO6.1, CLO6.5, CLO6.8, IEO.1, PEO.2 |
| Literate and effective communicator | CLO4.7, CLO4.8, CLO5.5, CLO5.8, CLO6.5, CLO6.8, IEO.3, PEO.2, PEO.3 |
| Entrepreneurial | CLO4.5, CLO4.7, CLO5.6, CLO5.7, CLO6.6, CLO6.8 |
| Global in outlook and engaged in communities | CLO4.4, CLO4.5, CLO4.8, CLO5.1, CLO5.4, CLO5.5, CLO6.2, CLO6.3, CLO6.5, CLO6.7, CLO6.8, IEO.2, IEO.3, PEO.1, PEO.2, PEO.3 |
| Socially, ethically and environmentally aware | CLO4.1, CLO4.2, CLO4.5, CLO4.6, CLO5.3, CLO5.4, CLO5.7, CLO6.2, CLO6.4, CLO6.5, CLO6.6, CLO6.7, CLO6.8, IEO.2, IEO.3, PEO.2, PEO.3 |

## Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules are described as:

- **Core** modules are compulsory and must be undertaken by all students on the course.
- **Option** modules give you a choice of modules and are normally related to your subject area.
- **Electives**: are modules from across the either the whole University or your College. Such modules allow you to broaden your academic experience. For example, where electives are indicated you may choose to commence the study of a foreign language alongside your course modules (and take this through to the final year), thereby adding further value to your degree.
- Additional information may also be included above each level for example where you must choose one of two specific modules.

## Modules

## Level 4

| Module Code | Module Title | Status | UK credit | ECTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4BICH001W | Biochemistry | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 4BIOL002W | Cell Biology | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 4BIOM004W | Functional Anatomy | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 4PHYM002W | Fundamentals of Pharmacology | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 4PHYM001W | Human Physiology | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 4BIOM006W | Professional Development in Science (PRoDS) | Core | 20 | 10 |

## Level 5

**Summer school attendance or other study activity may be required between L5 and L6 depending on the partner medical school selected.**

| Module Code | Module Title | Status | UK credit | ECTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5BIOM008W | Infection and Immunity | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 5BIOM001W | Medical Genetics and Genomics | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 5PHYM001W | Medical Physiology | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 5BICH001W | Metabolic Biochemistry | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 5PHYM002W | Physiological Networks | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 5BIOM010W | Research Methods | Core | 20 | 10 |

## Additional Year

| Module Code | Module Title | Status | UK credit | ECTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6BIOL005W | Life Sciences International Study Module (year-long) | Option | 120 | 60 |
| 6BIOM009W | Life Sciences Work Experience Placement Module (year-long) | Option | 120 | 60 |

## Level 6

**Summer school attendance or other study activity may be required after graduation, depending on the partner medical school selected. Successful award of BSc Honours Medical Sciences is required to progress to a partner medical school. The specific honours classification and satisfactory completion of any additional studies required may depend on the partner.**

| Module Code | Module Title | Status | UK credit | ECTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6BIOM006W | Applied Medical Sciences | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 6BIOM007W | Cancer Biology | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 6BIOM003W | Clinical Immunology and Immunohaematology | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 6BICH003W | Final Year Project in Life Sciences | Core | 40 | 20 |
| 6PHYM001W | Human Physiological Adaptations | Core | 20 | 10 |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

## Professional body accreditation or other external references

The BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences programme is mapped to the medical degree programes of our partner universities to allow entry into that programme upon graduation. The combination of the BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences and subsequent medical degree is designed to ensure your eligibility to sit the required Medical Licensing Assessment for your intended country of practice. The BSc Honours Medical Sciences programme also conforms to the QAA subject benchmark statement for biomedical science (October 2019).

The BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB). RSB accreditation recognises degree programmes that fully prepare bioscience graduates to address the needs of employers and is an indication that the programme delivers up-to-date knowledge in the right learning, support and teaching environments. At the time of publication, students on an RSB accredited course are eligible for a free Student Affiliate membership for the duration of their studies and, once graduated from an accredited degree, are entitled to a 50% discount on Associate membership of the RSB for two years.

## Course management

Your course is one of a number of programmes in the School of Life Sciences, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences within the University of Westminster, and is managed by a designated course leader. In addition to the course specific role of the course leader, the Head of School, other senior school staff and the Associate Heads of College, also provide support and management at their respective levels. We also have a school employability director and global engagement coordinators who oversee work placement and international study arrangements respectively. The course leader is also collectively supported in the management and running of the course by the course teaching team through their responsibilities for individual modules and contributions to planning. There are also liaison tutors for each of the progression partners who will be able to provide specific advice about that partner and act as a point of contact with the University of Westminster during your time at the partner institution. You will meet your course leader, teaching team and members of the school senior management during arrivals week, a programme of events designed to help you with enrolment, registration, and orientation to the university, its processes and the culture of higher education.

The course is monitored each year by the course leader and senior members of the School and College to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Each course will have Course Representative meetings throughout the year and staff will consider the outcomes from these meetings, evidence of student progression and achievement and the external examiner's reports to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. All courses are reviewed annually as part of the School, College and University Annual Monitoring processes, reporting finally to the Academic Council of the University which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

### Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

### Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students1 can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed

books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

## Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union

## How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university. a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

## How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. 

## Additional Details

### Additional studies required for progression to partner medical schools

Our partner medical schools may have specific additional study requirements in order to gain entry to their medicine programme following the successful completion of your BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences at the University of Westminster. These additional studies may take the form of distance learning material, on-line courses or summer schools at the partner institution and will vary depending on which medical school you have selected as your intended destination upon completion of the BSc programme. These additional studies (where required) will be organised and assessed (where appropriate) by the partner institution and successful completion of these studies (including passing any assessments) will be required in order to progress onto their medicine programme. Further details of the additional studies required for each partner medical school and other relevant information about the institutions and their location etc. will be available to students at the point at which they are required to choose their intended progression route. Further advice is also available from the course team.

Whilst the content and assessment of the additional studies will be organised and administered by the appropriate partner institution, students are also encouraged to independently document and record what they have learnt in these studies/ visits. This can be best achieved by the generation of an electronic Personal Development Portfolio (ePDP) which can be created, populated and stored through our Virtual Learning Environment, Blackboard. This ePDP can then be used to evidence skills and knowledge acquired alongside your academic programme at the University of Westminster.