Programme Title: Biochemistry (MSci) with Year Abroad

Programme Specification (UG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding body / institution:</th>
<th>Queen Mary University of London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching institution:</td>
<td>Queen Mary University of London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of final award and programme title:</td>
<td>Master in Science (MSci) in Biochemistry with Year Abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of interim award(s):</td>
<td>Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE) / Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) / Bachelor of Science (BSc)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of study / period of registration:</td>
<td>5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):</td>
<td>C71Y</td>
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<td>QAA Benchmark Group:</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHEQ Level of Award :</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme accredited by:</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Programme Specification approved:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible School / Institute:</td>
<td>School of Biological &amp; Chemical Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

| Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry |

Institution(s) other than QMUL that will provide some teaching for the programme:

Programme outline

The MSci in Biochemistry is suitable for those students who are seeking a professional career in Biochemistry, Biophysics, Synthetic Biology, or Molecular Medicine in either an academic or an industrial environment. There is a strong emphasis on the final-year research project, which will be supervised by internationally-recognized members of staff whose expertise is in Biochemistry. The School of Biological and Chemical Sciences has distinctive strengths in Biochemistry, Structural Biology, Photosynthesis and Bioenergy, and Molecular Medicine.

Aims of the programme

This degree integrates biology and chemistry, providing a molecular-level description of the living world. The application of molecular concepts to complex biological systems is at the cutting edge of science in the twenty-first century. Students
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Following this programme receive instruction in key biochemical concepts, the chemistry underpinning these concepts and the applications of biochemistry in biotechnology and the treatment of disease. The programme also provides instruction in related subjects such as molecular biology, neuroscience, cell biology, immunology.

Furthermore to:

• Provide a rational, flexibly structured and coherent programme of study which is relevant to the needs of employers, facilitate the professional development of the student and lay the foundations for a successful career to the benefit of the economy and society;

• provide a sound knowledge base in the fields studied and develop key transferable skills in the areas of communication, numeracy, information technology, working with others, problem solving, time and task management;

• foster the development of an enquiring, open-minded and creative attitude, tempered with scientific discipline and social awareness, which encourages lifelong learning.

What will you be expected to achieve?

You will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:
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QMUL Model

The QMUL Model is an innovative teaching and learning initiative that will broaden opportunities for Queen Mary undergraduates within and beyond higher education, supporting them to plan and manage their ongoing professional development. The Model is firmly grounded in the core QMUL values of respect for, and engagement with, the local area and communities, with a distinctive focus on enabling students to make a positive societal impact through leadership in their chosen field. The Model is organised around the key themes of:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

Students are required to study QMUL Model modules to the value of at least 10 credits at each year of undergraduate study. Model modules may be 5, 10 or 15 credits. Model modules are indicated within this programme specification.

In your first year of study, the Model module will be core or compulsory and will be situated within your home School or Institute. In subsequent years, students will be strongly encouraged to study at least one Model module beyond their home discipline(s), which could, for example, be in another School / Institute or area of QMUL or undertaken as a module outside of QMUL.

If Model module information is not provided on this programme specification for all subsequent years of study, this will be identified as your studies continue.

Where a Model module elective can be selected from an approved group of Model modules, no guarantee can be provided that your first choice of Model module will be available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Content:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A1</strong> Essential facts, fundamental concepts, principles and theories fundamental to biochemistry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A2</strong> Facts, concepts, principles and theories across a range of topics in chemistry; including biological and organic chemistry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A3</strong> Facts, concepts, principles and theories across a wide range of topics in biology; including molecular biology, cell biology and genetics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A4</strong> Emphasis on structure and function of proteins, in particular membrane proteins and enzymes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A5</strong> Emphasis on modern biochemical techniques including a range of spectroscopies and X-ray crystallography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A6</strong> Aspects of molecular medicine and disease processes at the molecular level.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disciplinary Skills - able to:
### Programme Title: Biochemistry (MSci) with Year Abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>B1</strong></th>
<th>Reason critically</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B2</strong></td>
<td>Integrate theory and practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B3</strong></td>
<td>Identify and formulate problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B4</strong></td>
<td>Apply biochemical knowledge and problem solving skills in a wide range of theoretical and practical situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B5</strong></td>
<td>Analyse and evaluate/interpret the results of controlled experiments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B6</strong></td>
<td>Devise strategies for the retrieval and selection of relevant information from a wide range of sources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Attributes:

| **C1** | Communicate effectively by written and/or verbal means. |
| **C2** | Manage time, prioritise workloads and work to deadlines. |
| **C3** | Undertake independent learning. |
| **C4** | Work independently. |
| **C5** | Participate constructively as a member of a group/team. |
| **C6** | Assess the relevance, importance and reliability of the ideas of others. |
| **C7** | Appreciate and discuss the role and impact of science in society. |
| **C8** | Use IT/computer based technology to locate information, to analyse, manipulate and present data |

### QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 4:

| **D1** | Identify and discuss their own career aspirations or enterprise skills and knowledge and how they impact on others |
| **D2** | Identify and demonstrate the perspectives or problem solving techniques of different disciplines |
| **D3** | Consider the role of their discipline in diverse cultural and global contexts |

### QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 5:

| **E1** | |

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Queen Mary University of London
How will you learn?

Acquisition of knowledge is achieved mainly through lectures and directed independent learning. Understanding is reinforced through a combination of tutorial workshops, problem classes and laboratory classes (depending upon the module concerned), including regular feedback on submitted work. Additional learning support is provided through Queen Mary’s virtual learning environment and the facilities of the QMUL Student PC Service.

How will you be assessed?

Practical skills and report-writing skills are assessed through written laboratory reports, which include attention to quantitative accuracy. Other skills are assessed through a combination of coursework and formal written examination.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if applicable). Please also outline the QMUL Model arrangements for each year of study. The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Students are required to register for modules to a value of 120 credits in each academic year. These modules are chosen from those offered in the C700 programme diet, as detailed below.

In the first year, you will study 120 credits, comprising the following:
- 6 x 15 credit compulsory modules (totalling 90 credits, across Semesters A & B)
- 3 x 10 credit compulsory modules (totalling 30 credits, across Semesters A & B)
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In the second year, you will study 120 credits, comprising the following:
- 3 x 15 credit elective modules from the discipline elective group (totalling 45 credits, across Semesters A & B)
- 2 x 15 credit compulsory modules, BIO269 Techniques for biological & chemical sciences, and BIO223 Genes and Bioinformatics (totalling 30 credits, Semester A)
- 2 x 15 credit compulsory modules, BIO263 Membrane & Cellular Biochemistry, and BIO265 Metabolic pathways (totalling 30 credits, Semester B)
- 1 x compulsory module, BIO201 Biochemistry Communication (Study only, Semester B)

In third year you will study 120 credits made up of BIO5560. The Study abroad year is pass/fail and students who don’t pass their year abroad will be transferred onto the standard programme.

In fourth year, you will study 120 credits comprising the following:
- 1 x compulsory elective module from the Research Project group (totalling 30 credits, across Semesters A & B)
- 1 x compulsory module, BIO301 Biochemistry Communication (Tutorials) (15 credits, across Semesters A & B)
- 2 x 15 credit compulsory modules, BIO361 Membrane Proteins, and BIO363 Molecular basis of disease (totalling 30 credits, Semester A)
- 2 x 15 credit compulsory modules, BIO365 Enzyme Catalysis, and BIO367 Protein Structure, Folding & Assemblies (totalling 30 credits, across Semesters A & B)
- 1 x elective module from the discipline elective group (15 credits, across Semesters A & B).

In the fifth year, you will study 120 credits comprising the following:
- BIO790 Biochemical Msci research project (90 credits, across Semesters A & B)
- BIO491 Advanced biochemical research methods (30 credits, across Semesters A & B)

Choice between electives is generally unrestricted, but with the exceptions that:
- you must not register for more than 75 credits in total in any given semester
- you must check that you satisfy the prerequisites before registering for any elective module
- you must register for one elective in the Model electives group in the second year. Model electives offered in other academic disciplines are available subject to a satisfactory timetable.
- you must register for one of BIO600 or BIO603 in the third year.

### Academic Year of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Selection Status</th>
<th>Academic Year of Study</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>QMUL Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical Molecular and Cellular Biology</td>
<td>BIO190</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
<td>BIO111</td>
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<td>Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>BIO163</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>CHE102A</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<td>Semester 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essential Skills for Biochemists</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
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<th>Academic Year of Study</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>QMUL Model</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry</td>
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## Academic Year of Study - FT - Year 2

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<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<th>Academic Year of Study</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>QMUL Model</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Techniques for Biological &amp; Chemical Sciences</td>
<td>BIO269</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genes and bioinformatics</td>
<td>BIO223</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structure &amp; Reactivity in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>CHE202A</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Semester 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmaceutical Chemistry</td>
<td>CHE206A</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Comparative &amp; Integrative Physiology</td>
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<td>Comparative &amp; Integrative Physiology</td>
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<td>Cell biology and developmental genetics</td>
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<td>Cellular &amp; Molecular Neuroscience</td>
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<td>Membrane &amp; cellular biochemistry</td>
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<td>Metabolic pathways</td>
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</table>
### Programme Title: Biochemistry (MSci) with Year Abroad

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<tr>
<td>Structure &amp; Reactivity in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>CHE202B</td>
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<td>Pharmaceutical Chemistry</td>
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<td>Microbial physiology &amp; growth</td>
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<td>Transmission Genetics</td>
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<td>Introduction to Scientific Programming (15 credits)</td>
<td>SBC5291</td>
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<td>Health &amp; Wellbeing (15 credits)</td>
<td>SBC5215</td>
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<td>Semesters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy of Business &amp; Science (15 credits)</td>
<td>SBC5221</td>
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<td>Grand Challenges in the Natural Sciences (15 credits)</td>
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<td>Engaging the Public in Science (15 credits)</td>
<td>SMD5251</td>
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<td>External (pool) Model module electives TBC</td>
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<td>5</td>
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**Academic Year of Study**  
FT - Year 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<th>Academic Year of Study</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>QMUL Model</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry Communication (Tutorials)</td>
<td>BIO301</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Semesters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological sciences research project (30 credits)$$$</td>
<td>BIO600</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Semesters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Project skills in the life sciences (30 credits)$$$</td>
<td>BIO603</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membrane Proteins</td>
<td>BIO361</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molecular basis of disease</td>
<td>BIO363</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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### Programme Title: Biochemistry (MSci) with Year Abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<th>Module Selection Status</th>
<th>Academic Year of Study</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>QMUL Model</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine physiology &amp; biochemistry</td>
<td>BMD311</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Synthesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enzyme catalysis</td>
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<td>Semester 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protein Structure, Folding &amp; assemblies</td>
<td>BIO367</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neuroscience: from molecules to behaviour</td>
<td>BIO333</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Functional genomics and epigenetics</td>
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#### Academic Year of Study  
FT - Year 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<th>Academic Year of Study</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>QMUL Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biochemical MSci Research Project</td>
<td>BIO790</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Biochemical Research Methods</td>
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<td>Semesters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What are the entry requirements?**

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of the University and meet the requirements for this specific programme of study. This is usually achieved in one of the following ways (note - the entry-points tariff is subject to annual review):

For direct entry to the degree programme, candidates must usually possess a minimum total of ABB at A2 level, including a minimum of a grade B in 'A2' Biology and grade C in 'A2' Chemistry, or equivalent qualifications.

or via

Admission to the QMUL Science and Engineering Foundation Programme (SEFP), and successful completion of the foundation year (defined by achievement of the minimum requirements for progression defined in the SEFP programme regulations, and the criteria specified in the SEFP Student Handbook for progression to this particular degree programme).

International students should be offering IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in writing), or equivalent.

**How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced?**

Quality of the programme will be managed and enhanced through institutional and School level reviews. These will take the form of the Annual Programme Review, Programme Teaching Groups, and Teaching and Learning Committee. Additionally,
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student feedback (via SSLC and Module Evaluations) will be considered when developing modules and programmes.

### How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School, together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Student-Staff Liaison Committees meets regularly throughout the year.

The Teaching & Learning Committee advises the School's Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level, including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through consideration of student surveys and input from the SSLC.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students’ views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

### What academic support is available?

Each student is provided with a personal academic guidance tutor (or "advisor") who is their main point of contact for advice regarding academic matters and for assistance with pastoral concerns, throughout their whole programme. Students can see their advisors in their office hours or arrange an appointment via email. Moreover, if and when advisors are unavailable or cannot help with a specific problem, the School has several Senior Advisors to assist with student concerns.

The School also operates a PASS programme for peer guidance.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progression Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1 to Year 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>105 credits passed, with a minimum overall average (across all year 1 modules) of 50%.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2 to Year 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>210 credits passed, with a minimum overall average (based on a 1:2 weighting of all modules from years 1 and 2) of 55%.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year 3 to Year 4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315 credits passed, with a minimum overall average (based on a 1:2:3 weighting of all modules from years 1, 2 and 3) of 60%.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Candidates failing to meet the progression criteria will be subject to an enforced change of programme to the C700 Biochemistry BSc programme.

Candidates failing to progress to the fourth year of the MSci degree will be classified for a BSc(Hons) degree in Biochemistry using the College S3 mean (as per the C700 programme specification).
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Regulations relating to MSci Award / Classification

The classification of honours for this MSci degree programme is based on the College Mark calculated using a 1:2:3:4 weighting of the Years 1-4 of the programme.

Candidates entering into the fourth year but failing to meet the requirements for the award of the MSci degree, will be considered for the award of the BSc degree in Biochemistry, and classified using the College S3 mean (as per the C700 programme specification).

Specific support for disabled students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:
- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one “study skills” tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The MSci Biochemistry programme is aimed at producing world-class graduates who will get PhD positions at the world’s best universities. Graduates with MSci Biochemistry are also expected to get jobs in global-companies as well as Biotech and Pharma startups. Some may be positioned to begin their own start-up companies.

Programme Specification Approval

| Person completing Programme Specification: | Dr John Viles |
| Person responsible for management of programme: | Dr John Viles |
| Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee: | 24 Jan 2018 |
| Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: | |
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