UNIVERSITY OF
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PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award	**MSc Biomedical Sciences** **MSc Biomedical Sciences (Cancer Biology)** **MSc Biomedical Sciences (Cellular Pathology)** **MSc Biomedical Sciences (Clinical Biochemistry)** **MSc Biomedical Sciences (Haematology)** **MSc Biomedical Sciences (Immunology)** **MSc Biomedical Sciences (Medical Microbiology)** **MSc Biomedical Sciences (Medical Molecular Biology)** The MSc Biomedical Sciences (and pathways), is a postgraduate degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards	Postgraduate Diploma Biomedical Sciences Postgraduate Certificate Biomedical Sciences
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Cavendish Campus
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month	One year full time, two years part time day. September start.
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	N/A
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)
Date of course validation/Revalidation	April 2019
Date of programme specification approval	June 2019

Valid for cohorts	from 2019/20
Course Leader	Dr. Tony Madgwick
Pathway leaders	Dr. Miriam Dwek - MSc Biomedical Sciences (Cancer Biology) Dr. Tony Madgwick - MSc Biomedical Sciences (Cellular Pathology) Dr. Vinood Patel - MSc Biomedical Sciences (Clinical Biochemistry) Dr. Stipo Jurcevic MSc Biomedical Sciences (Haematology) Dr. Nino Porakishvili MSc Biomedical Sciences (Immunology) Dr. Adele McCormick MSc Biomedical Sciences (Medical Microbiology) Dr. Pinar Uysal Onganer MSc Biomedical Sciences (Medical Molecular Biology)
Course URL	westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate
Westminster course code	PMBMS07F (FT) PMBMS07P (PT)
HECoS code	100265
UKPASS code	

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate 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: westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/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: westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning.

Aims of the course

The MSc Biomedical Sciences, and its named pathways, has been designed to produce graduates who have the understanding, knowledge, skills and practical experience in the Biomedical Sciences to enable them to become professionals capable of making important contributions to the healthcare and wider biosciences sector.

The generic MSc Biomedical Sciences has been designed to allow students to embark on a course tailored to their own particular interests. This pathway has only two core modules, a Postgraduate Research Methods module and a Postgraduate Project module allowing students to select the rest of their modules from a diverse pool of specialist options.
The named pathways are intended to allow those students who have identified their professional specialism to obtain a named award in that specialism. This is often of particular importance to those students taking an MSc programme as part of their professional development within the pathology services and wider industries, or just for students who wish to graduate with a named major subject. Named pathway awards are achieved through the selection, and successful completion, of additional core modules alongside the research methods and project modules and a reduction in the number of optional modules available. Details of the core modules required for each named pathway may be found on pages 6 to 12 of this programme specification.
Alongside the acquisition of subject specific knowledge and skills, this programme aims to ensure that students develop the ability to use and critically evaluate a wide range of literature in the field, to research practically an area of interest in biomedical sciences and develop a range of transferable skills that will enhance their employment and/or further research opportunities in both the UK and overseas.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

This course has been designed to provide professional scientists with a broad range of skills and knowledge applicable to diagnostic, academic and industrial laboratory practice. By successfully completing this course, graduates will enhance their career prospects. Graduate employment opportunities may be available in diagnostic/ pathology laboratories, universities, research institutes, contract research organisations, and commercial companies involved in pharmaceutical and/or diagnostic research and development. Graduates may continue with their studies by entering PhD or professional doctorate programmes or perhaps further masters courses such as MBAs. Part-time students on these pathways are normally already in laboratory-based employment and taking the course as part of their professional development

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding (KU)

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate and discuss the role of biomedical sciences in the investigation of human diseases and their therapy;
- contribute to the practice of biomedical science by applying key skills of critical analysis, evaluation and communication;
- develop competence, confidence and an enquiring, investigative approach;
- integrate information from diverse sources relevant to biomedical sciences;
- articulate contemporary ethical dilemmas associated with the study of human pathology.

Specific skills (SS)

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- reflect critically on the relationship between theory and practice;
- summarise and critically evaluate both their own scientific work and skills and also of others;
- use a range of skills and technologies appropriate to biomedical sciences;
- collect and analyse information through the application of relevant enquiry methods;
- be competent in retrieval of information from the literature, including the use of electronic databases;
- review the literature published in an area of biomedical science and to undertake research and produce a Design Study as a component of an independent research project;
- understand statistical methods, use relevant software packages and evaluate their application to experimental data;
- devise, perform and evaluate experimental methods for investigation in biomedical sciences;
- devise, organise and conduct an independent research project

Key transferable skills (KTS)

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- work effectively with a group as a leader or member, to produce team seminars
- use a full range of learning resources in making literature searches via the library, PubMed, World Wide Web, University intranet, and in using on-line teaching material, word processors, spreadsheets, and databases;
- show self-evaluation skills, reflecting on their own and others' functioning via coursework feedback, project reports, critical reviews of scientific articles and peer evaluation;
- manage information effectively by competently undertaking research tasks and compiling reviews and discussion essays;
- show autonomy by acting as an independent and self-critical learner, managing requirements and undertaking research tasks with minimum guidance;
- communicate effectively by means of oral, written and poster presentations, using print and electronic resources, reporting information, ideas and actions clearly, autonomously and competently;
- demonstrate problem solving skills by interpreting data, designing and carrying out projects and experimental work, and making professional use of others where appropriate.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning: The university views the student as being at the centre of the learning process and students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning, to further develop skills acquired at undergraduate or professional level and to construct knowledge through active engagement with learning resources provided, university staff and their peers.

Teaching: A variety of teaching methods and approaches are utilized throughout the course, including formal lectures, practical sessions, tutorials (student-centred learning activities), poster presentations and oral presentations. These combined teaching approaches aim to improve both students' knowledge of the Biomedical Sciences as well as helping to develop their critical faculties through an experiential approach. In addition, the key communication skills required by any professional scientist are developed throughout the course. Teaching methods are flexible and make use of a variety of media. Data projectors are present in all lecture and tutorial rooms attached to a fixed pc but with the option for lecturers to attach their own laptop if preferred. All rooms are also equipped with visualisers and whiteboards to allow a variety of interactive teaching styles. The University is also equipped with the Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which functions both at a course and modular level with every course and module having a dedicated Blackboard site, all accessible from the user's homepage. Module Blackboard sites acts as a focal point for interaction between staff and students away from the classroom environment. They contain administrative and teaching content for the module, allow students to participate in learning activities and interact with staff and their peers in open discussion fora. Blackboard is also used to manage the online submission of coursework, plagiarism checking and return of student marks via the grade centre, improving the flexibility of student access and learning.

Assessment: Each module in the programme has its own aims and teaching, learning and assessment methods that have been set up to facilitate its learning outcomes. Module assessment is typically either on the basis of 50% examination and 50% coursework, or else 100% coursework. Assessment methods are varied and include essays, practical reports, oral presentations, short articles (e.g. newspaper articles) and portfolios of work.

Course structure MSc Biomedical Sciences

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
Note: There is no single recommended programme of study for this course with the emphasis placed on student choice. In consultation with the Course Leader, the student is expected to plan an integrated programme of study from the modules listed below taking into consideration any co-requisite requirements that may exist.				
7BIOM001W	Advanced Cancer Biology	Option	20	10
7BIOM002W	Advances in Cellular Pathology	Option	20	10
7BIOM005W	Automation in Biomedical Sciences	Option	20	10
7BIOM041W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
7BIOM006W	Cell Signalling and Genetics	Option	20	10
7BIOM007W	Cellular Haematology	Option	20	10
7BIOM010W	Clinical Aspects of Microbial Physiology and Chemotherapy	Option	20	10
7BIOM012W	Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism	Option	20	10
7HMDS002W	Communicating Science	Option	20	10
7HMNT002W	Concepts and Principles of Human Nutrition	Option	20	10
7BIOM014W	Diagnostic Cellular Pathology	Option	20	10
7BIOM015W	Diagnostic Clinical Biochemistry	Option	20	10
7BIOM018W	Immunohaematology and Haemostasis	Option	20	10
7BIOM020W or 7BIOM040W	Immunopathology (Haematology and Cancer) or Immunopathology (Infectious diseases)	Option	20	10
7BIOM022W	Immunotherapy	Option	20	10
7BIOM023W	Infectious Diseases and Public Health	Option	20	10
7PHYM011W	Introduction to Pharmacology and Drug Development	Option	20	10
7BIOM025W	Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics	Option	20	10
7BIOM028W	Molecular Science and Diagnostics	Option	20	10
7BIOM034W	Principles of Molecular Medicine	Option	20	10
7BIOM036W	Regenerative Medicine	Option	20	10
7BIOT004W	Science, Technology and Commercialisation	Option	20	10
7BIOM037W	Systems Biology	Option	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Certificate available. Award of Postgraduate Diploma available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM033W	Postgraduate Research Methods	Core	20	10
7BIOM032W	Postgraduate Project	Core	40	20
*Note: 7BIOM032W may be exchanged for a 60 credit extended project (7BIOM016W), (with prior agreement of course leader and proposed project supervisor) in which case only five 20 credit option modules will be taken				
Award of MSc available				

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

Course structure MSc Biomedical Sciences (Cancer Biology)

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of this named pathway with the MSc Biomedical Sciences course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM001W	Advanced Cancer Biology	Core	20	10
7BIOM006W	Cell Signalling and Genetics	Core	20	10
7BIOM028W	Molecular Science and Diagnostics	Core	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Certificate available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
Any three of the option modules shown below				
7BIOM041W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
7HMDS002W	Communicating Science	Option	20	10
7BIOM020W	Immunopathology (Haematology and Cancer)	Option	20	10
7BIOM022W	Immunotherapy	Option	20	10
7PHYM011W	Introduction to Pharmacology and Drug Development	Option	20	10
7BIOM025W	Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics	Option	20	10
7BIOM034W	Principles of Molecular Medicine	Option	20	10
7BIOM037W	Systems Biology	Option	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Diploma available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM033W	Postgraduate Research Methods	Core	20	10
7BIOM032W	Postgraduate Project	Core	40	20
*Note: 7BIOM032W may be exchanged for a 60 credit extended project (7BIOM016W), (with prior agreement of course leader and proposed project supervisor) in which case only two 20 credit option modules will be taken				
Award of MSc available				

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

Course structure MSc Biomedical Sciences (Cellular Pathology)

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of this named pathway with the MSc Biomedical Sciences course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM002W	Advances in Cellular Pathology	Core	20	10
7BIOM014W	Diagnostic Cellular Pathology	Core	20	10
7BIOM028W	Molecular Science and Diagnostics	Core	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Certificate available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
Any three of the option modules shown below:				
7BIOM005W	Automation in Biomedical Sciences	Option	20	10
7BIOM041W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
7BIOM006W	Cell Signalling and Genetics	Option	20	10
7HMDS002W	Communicating Science	Option	20	10
7BIOM020W	Immunopathology (Haematology and Cancer)	Option	20	10
7BIOM022W	Immunotherapy	Option	20	10
7BIOM025W	Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics	Option	20	10
7BIOM034W	Principles of Molecular Medicine	Option	20	10
7BIOM037W	Systems Biology	Option	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Diploma available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM033W	Postgraduate Research Methods	Core	20	10
7BIOM032W	Postgraduate Project	Core	40	20
*Note: 7BIOM032W may be exchanged for a 60 credit extended project (7BIOM016W), (with prior agreement of course leader and proposed project supervisor) in which case only two 20 credit option modules will be taken				
Award of MSc available				

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

Course structure MSc Biomedical Sciences (Clinical Biochemistry)

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of this named pathway with the MSc Biomedical Sciences course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM012W	Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism	Core	20	10
7BIOM015W	Diagnostic Clinical Biochemistry	Core	20	10
7BIOM028W	Molecular Science and Diagnostics	Core	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Certificate available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
Any three of the option modules shown below				
7BIOM005W	Automation in Biomedical Sciences	Option	20	10
7BIOM041W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
7BIOM006W	Cell Signalling and Genetics	Option	20	10
7BIOM007W	Cellular Haematology	Option	20	10
7HMDS002W	Communicating Science	Option	20	10
7BIOM018W	Immunohaematology and Haemostasis	Option	20	10
7BIOM020W	Immunopathology (Haematology and Cancer)	Option	20	10
7BIOM034W	Principles of Molecular Medicine	Option	20	10
7BIOM037W	Systems Biology	Option	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Diploma available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM033W	Postgraduate Research Methods	Core	20	10
7BIOM032W	Postgraduate Project	Core	40	20
*Note: 7BIOM032W may be exchanged for a 60 credit extended project (7BIOM016W), (with prior agreement of course leader and proposed project supervisor) in which case only two 20 credit option modules will be taken				
Award of MSc available				

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

Course structure MSc Biomedical Sciences (Haematology)

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of this named pathway with the MSc Biomedical Sciences course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM007W	Cellular Haematology	Core	20	10
7BIOM018W	Immunohaematology and Haemostasis	Core	20	10
7BIOM028W	Molecular Science and Diagnostics	Core	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Certificate available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
Any three of the option modules shown below				
7BIOM001W	Advanced Cancer Biology	Option	20	10
7BIOM005W	Automation in Biomedical Sciences	Option	20	10
7BIOM041W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
7BIOM006W	Cell Signalling and Genetics	Option	20	10
7BIOM012W	Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism	Option	20	10
7HMDS002W	Communicating Science	Option	20	10
7BIOM015W	Diagnostic Clinical Biochemistry	Option	20	10
7BIOM020W	Immunopathology (Haematology and Cancer)	Option	20	10
7BIOM025W	Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics	Option	20	10
7BIOM034W	Principles of Molecular Medicine	Option	20	10
7BIOM037W	Systems Biology	Option	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Diploma available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM033W	Postgraduate Research Methods	Core	20	10
7BIOM032W	Postgraduate Project	Core	40	20
*Note: 7BIOM032W may be exchanged for a 60 credit extended project (7BIOM016W), (with prior agreement of course leader and proposed project supervisor) in which case only two 20 credit option modules will be taken				
Award of MSc available				

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

Course structure MSc Biomedical Sciences (Immunology)

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of this named pathway with the MSc Biomedical Sciences course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM006W	Cell Signalling and Genetics	Core	20	10
7BIOM020W or 7BIOM040W	Immunopathology (Haematology and Cancer) or Immunopathology (Infectious diseases)	Core	20	10
7BIOM022W	Immunotherapy	Core	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Certificate available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
Any three of the option modules shown below				
7BIOM001W	Advanced Cancer Biology	Option	20	10
7BIOM041W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
7HMDS002W	Communicating Science	Option	20	10
7BIOM018W	Immunohaematology and Haemostasis	Option	20	10
7BIOM023W	Infectious Diseases and Public health	Option	20	10
7BIOM025W	Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics	Option	20	10
7BIOM028W	Molecular Science and Diagnostics	Option	20	10
7BIOM034W	Principles of Molecular Medicine	Option	20	10
7BIOM037W	Systems Biology	Option	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Diploma available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM033W	Postgraduate Research Methods	Core	20	10
7BIOM032W	Postgraduate Project	Core	40	20
*Note: 7BIOM032W may be exchanged for a 60 credit extended project (7BIOM016W), (with prior agreement of course leader and proposed project supervisor) in which case only two 20 credit option modules will be taken				
Award of MSc available				

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

Course structure MSc Biomedical Sciences (Medical Microbiology)

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of this named pathway with the MSc Biomedical Sciences course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM010W	Clinical Aspects of Microbial Physiology and Chemotherapy	Core	20	10
7BIOM023W	Infectious Diseases and Public Health	Core	20	10
7BIOM028W	Molecular Science and Diagnostics	Core	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Certificate available (60 credits)				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
Any three of the option modules shown below				
7BIOM005W	Automation in Biomedical Sciences	Option	20	10
7BIOM041W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
7HMDS002W	Communicating Science	Option	20	10
7BIOM040W	Immunopathology (Infectious diseases)	Option	20	10
7BIOM034W	Principles of Molecular Medicine	Option	20	10
7BIOM037W	Systems Biology	Option	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Diploma available (120 credits)				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM033W	Postgraduate Research Methods	Core	20	10
7BIOM032W	Postgraduate Project	Core	40	20
*Note: 7BIOM032W may be exchanged for a 60 credit extended project (7BIOM016W), (with prior agreement of course leader and proposed project supervisor) in which case only two 20 credit option modules will be taken				
Award of MSc available				

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

Course structure MSc Biomedical Sciences (Medical Molecular Biology)

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of this named pathway with the MSc Biomedical Sciences course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7BIOM025W	Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics	Core	20	10
7BIOM028W	Molecular Science and Diagnostics	Core	20	10
7BIOM034W	Principles of Molecular Medicine	Core	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Certificate available				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
Any three of the option modules shown below				
7BIOM001W	Advanced Cancer Biology	Option	20	10
7BIOM041W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
7BIOM006W	Cell Signalling and Genetics	Option	20	10
7HMDS002W	Communicating Science	Option	20	10
7BIOM020W	Immunopathology (Haematology and Cancer)	Option	20	10
7BIOM022W	Immunotherapy	Option	20	10
7PHYM011W	Introduction to Pharmacology and Drug Development	Option	20	10
7BIOM037W	Systems Biology	Option	20	10
Award of Postgraduate Diploma available				
7BIOM033W	Postgraduate Research Methods	Core	20	10
7BIOM032W	Postgraduate Project	Core	40	20
*Note: 7BIOM032W may be exchanged for a 60 credit extended project (7BIOM016W), (with prior agreement of course leader and proposed project supervisor) in which case only two 20 credit option modules will be taken				
Award of MSc available				

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

Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

This course, and the named pathways within it, are accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS). IBMS accreditation ensures that degrees cover the specified subjects at the required level to meet the Health and Care Profession Council (HCPC) standards of proficiency for biomedical scientists and that students receive a wide-ranging, research informed scientific education and develop practical skills and experience that employers value. The IBMS is the leading professional body for practicing Biomedical Scientists and Biomedical Science students with a student membership scheme open to students registered on IBMS accredited courses (who are not already IBMS members) with benefits designed to help you make the most of your studies. IBMS eStudent members have access to a range of resources and offers, supporting their learning and enabling them to keep up to date with biomedical science.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations. In some cases course specific regulations may be applicable.

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

The management structure supporting the course is as follows:

- The Course leader is responsible for day to day running and overall management of the course and development of the curriculum. The Course Leader is assisted by individual Pathway Leaders for each of the named pathways who have specialist expertise in that subject area.
- The Course and Pathway Leaders are supported by the Director of Learning, Teaching and Quality for the School of Life Sciences who is responsible for the development of the courses and learning environment within the School and maintaining academic standards.
- The Head of the School of Life Sciences, holds overall responsibility for all the courses run by the School of Life Sciences and management of staff and facilities within the School.
- The School of Life Sciences is part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences within the University of Westminster.

The management structure is further supported by the Course Team. Its membership is as follows:

- A Course Leader and Deputy Course Leader
- The full-time staff teaching on the course, including Module Leaders and representatives of all major subject areas
- Visiting lecturers and outside advisors, where appropriate.

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 westminster.ac.uk/blackboard.

Learning Support

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. Students[1] 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 at 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 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 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 in 2014. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

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 evidence of student achievement, reports from external examiners in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

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. Student 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 student representatives.
- There are also School Staff Student Exchange meetings that enable wider discussions 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.
- The University also has an annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey or PTES which helps us compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that you value.