

Course Information Document: Post Graduate Taught

For students starting in Academic Year 2024/25

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	Master in Microbiology and Immunology (MSci) Master in Microbiology and Immunology (MSci) with International Year (see Annex for details) Master in Microbiology and Immunology (MSci) with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours (Masters)
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	4 years; 5 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £9,250*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £20,700**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. Overview of the Programme

The Keele Microbiology and Immunology programme provides a broad and varied coverage of modern biological sciences, where you will investigate some of the most exciting areas of current life sciences research. Developing a deeper understanding of core molecular biology and biological processes, you will focus on two complementary areas of contemporary bioscience. In microbiology you will study the biology, biochemistry and physiology of viruses and microorganisms including bacteria, fungi and parasites, with a particular emphasis on host-pathogen interactions, the diseases these can cause, the development of novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, as well as their wider application in biotechnology and their critical roles in global ecosystems. Immunology includes the study of the role of the immune system in defending the body against infection, where you will explore the enormous diversity of the human immune system, the importance of this in host-pathogen interactions and how such knowledge is essential in the development of new biotechnological approaches to disease treatment and prevention, such as vaccines. Knowledge of the development and function of the different components of the immune response is also essential in our understanding of autoimmune disease and other disorders of the immune system, such as immunodeficiency. Additionally, you will also explore how the extraordinary specificity of components of the immune system, such as antibodies, can be exploited in development of targeted molecular therapies in diseases including cancer.

As well as developing core knowledge in the subject, supported with a comprehensive laboratory programme, you will also develop a range of key transferable and employability skills related to the critical evaluation of scientific literature, effective communication in a variety of formats and teamwork. Additional opportunities, such as the applied life sciences placement, semester or year abroad, and a range of optional modules give you greater flexibility to tailor the structure and content of your programme to your own interests and career goals.

The MSci fourth year of study is designed to enable you to enhance your employability through the development of advanced problem solving and communication skills. You will further develop independent learning and enhanced research skills in the critical evaluation of scientific literature and in the design and conduct of an authentic research study.

- A contemporary curriculum with a focus on microbiology and immunology, which has been designed to meet requirements for Royal Society of Biology Accreditation;
- Innovative and relevant assessments, designed to foster creativity, including group presentations (research posters, oral presentations, seminars), communicating to different audiences, and mock grant applications;
- A core laboratory programme delivered in well-equipped modern laboratories and a wide range of final year research projects;
- The Undergraduate Student Research Conference, giving you the opportunity to present the outcomes of your final year research project in the context of a realistic research conference experience;
- The option to take an Applied Life Sciences Placement between level 5 and 6;
- The option to include study abroad, either as a semester abroad at level 5, or an International Year between level 5 and 6;
- The opportunity to study optional modules exploring: the application of microbiology and immunology to wider public health; major global and societal challenges; computer science and data processing in the development and application of web platforms of relevance to research and development in the wider biosciences; or a language

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- provide you with core knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the study of Microbiology and Immunology;
- produce skilled and motivated graduates who are suitably prepared for further study or for employment within or outside their field;
- cultivate interest in the biosciences, particularly in context to research and development in Microbiology and Immunology, within a caring and intellectually stimulating environment;
- promote the development of a range of employability skills, for use in all areas where numeracy and an objective, scientific approach to problem-solving are valued;
- promote the development of independent research skills to an advanced level in the acquisition and analysis of scientific data and the critical evaluation of scientific literature, to show originality in the application of knowledge;
- enable you to specialise in Microbiology and Immunology to a masters level through a four year integrated Masters programme, developing key skills and programme outcomes to an advanced level.

4. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Intellectual skills

- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- core biological topics that underpin the study of microbiology and immunology including: anatomy, molecular biology; molecular genetics; biochemistry; macromolecular structure and function; enzymes, catalysis and metabolism; cell biology; cell signalling; membranes and transport; human physiology and pathology
- the structure, physiology and biochemistry of bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, their identification and classification, interactions with their host and their environment in global ecosystems
- the molecular basis of genetics and gene expression, including the structure, arrangement, expression, and regulation of genes, in application to the diversity of microorganisms and viruses, and the generation and selection of diversity in the immune system
- the development, function and disorders of the innate and adaptive immune system, the structural basis for pathogen recognition and key effector functions, in context to infectious and inflammatory disease
- the development and application of existing, novel and emerging diagnostics and therapeutics in the prevention and/or treatment of infectious disease, disorders of the immune system and other conditions
- experimental methods for the investigation of relevant areas of microbiology, immunology and molecular biology, including the scientific method, hypothesis-driven investigation and the critical nature of evidence and scientific debate
- current developments in microbiology and immunology, including areas of ethical or public concern

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed across levels 4-7 as appropriate, MSci Microbiology and Immunology students will also be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of:

- the principles and applications of cutting-edge research methodologies and techniques in the study of Microbiology, Immunology and wider Biosciences to an advanced level
- the context of their extended research project in relation to on-going research activity in their field of study and the wider biosciences

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- evaluate scientific literature with a full and critical understanding, while addressing such questions as content, context, aims, objectives, quality of information, and its interpretation and application
- attain competence in a range of laboratory techniques and employ a variety of methods (including computational studies related to bioinformatics and macromolecular databases) in investigating, acquiring, recording and analysing information relevant to microbiology and immunology
- design, conduct, analyse, report and evaluate biological experiments, acknowledging an awareness of the validity, accuracy, calibration, precision and reproducibility of results work safely and responsibly in the laboratory with awareness of standard procedures such as risk assessment, COSHH and good laboratory practice (GLP)
- recognise philosophical and ethical issues relevant to the subject
- apply scientific method, planning, and analytical skills to carry out a research project
- apply biological understanding to familiar and unfamiliar problems

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed across levels 4-7 as appropriate, MSci Microbiology and Immunology students will also:

- develop an understanding of the processes involved in research dissemination and the acquisition of research funding
- critically evaluate current literature and complex methodologies to an advanced level in relevant areas of contemporary Microbiology and Immunology

Intellectual skills

Successful students will be able to:

- assess the merits of contrasting theories, paradigms, concepts or principles and develop reasoned arguments
- identify, analyse and solve problems by a variety of methods, either individually and/or cooperatively
- make critical interpretations, evaluations and judgements of data
- obtain, analyse and summarise several lines of subject-specific evidence to formulate and test hypotheses, with critical interpretation of quantitative and qualitative research findings

- take responsibility for their own learning and reflect upon that learning
- construct grammatically correct documents in an appropriate academic style using and referencing relevant ideas and evidence
- understand the importance of academic and research integrity

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed across levels 4-7 as appropriate, MSci Microbiology and Immunology students will also:

- develop a greater awareness of research impact and the processes involved in research dissemination and the acquisition of research funding

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- develop and sustain effective approaches to learning and study, including time management, flexibility, creativity and intellectual integrity
- acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information from a range of sources
- prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programs for presenting data visually
- use the internet and other electronic sources effectively and critically as a means of communication and a source of information
- cite and reference work in an appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity
- communicate effectively to a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and scientific language
- develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills
- work with others to identify and achieve collaborative goals and responsibilities and perform in a respectful manner that is accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others
- motivate yourself and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed across levels 4-7 as appropriate, MSci Microbiology and Immunology students will also:

- develop greater autonomy in the planning and implementation of tasks associated with their research project and taking responsibility for their workload

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

5. How is the programme taught?

Diversity, flexibility and inclusivity is at the heart of our Education Strategy. Your Student Voice helps us to shape what we do and we include students, local employers and professional bodies in our decision-making process.

The delivery of our programme will include the following types of activities:

Digital material: Traditional 'lectures' are often redesigned for online consumption, giving you more flexibility to decide how, when and where to study. This can include provision of short videos, directed reading, key learning outcomes and Forms that allow you to ask questions anonymously.

Campus-based tutorials and workshops. Often designed to support online lectures. Tutorials and workshops help promote social learning, develop a sense of community and give you an opportunity to deepen your understanding of core issues, ask questions, reflect on your own learning, and discuss content with other students and your tutors. Other workshops will also support data analysis and report writing, including IT literacy, as well as supporting you in develop skills in computational and bioinformatic analysis.

Laboratory practical's. A comprehensive laboratory programme covering a diverse range of modern biochemical and molecular techniques designed to train you in the skills needed for a career in microbiology and

immunology. The programme will also develop skills in experimental design through enquiry-based learning and will ensure you develop both independent and team-based skills.

Case-based learning (CBL) tutorials. Students are expected to play a full part and, often, to lead these discussions. In particular, case-based learning (CBL) is a student-centred style, based on case studies that help you contextualise content taught across others modules, and is incorporated into two core modules. These sessions will also develop skills such as leadership, communication and evidence based problem solving.

Live, online tutorials, workshops and drop-in sessions. Often used to host plenary sessions. These plenary sessions are optional, added value and may cover topics common to all students such as: note taking and meet your alumni at Level 4; IT and data analysis at Level 5 and writing retreats and careers at Level 6.

Independent study. Based on directed reading from text books, research papers and research reviews to support your learning of the core material and deepen your understanding of the subject.

Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment) gives you the opportunity to undertake a piece of independent experimental research supervised and supported by a member of staff.

MSci study at level 7. This will further develop your research skills in the critical evaluation of scientific literature and an extended research project will give you the opportunity to design and conduct an in-depth research project in an area of Microbiology and/or Immunology, including formulating a complete research strategy and producing a grant proposal. Research skills in these areas will also be developed in a series of research seminars and journal club-style presentations/discussion in an Advanced Research Techniques module.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentor or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

6. Teaching Staff

University life is not just about the content of your degree. It is also an opportunity to network, to speak to people working in fields that excite you. Here in Life Sciences, you will meet a diverse range of staff that you can see by using the following link: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/lifesci/ourpeople/>.

We also invite speakers from the School of Pharmacy and Bioengineering, School of Medicine and the NHS to enrich your learning.

Our staff include world-leading researchers, clinical practitioners and experts in learning and teaching. As part of their training, all staff complete post-graduate courses on learning and teaching. Some take this to Masters level and beyond, choosing to specialise in pedagogic research to ensure that our programmes are taught to the very highest standards. Members of the School of Life Sciences hold recognised or accredited teaching qualifications and the majority are Fellows or Associates of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), whilst a number are Senior Fellows of the HEA. Several Life Sciences' staff members have been awarded Keele's prestigious Excellence in Teaching and Learning awards and several were awarded a KeeleSU Education Award for academic mentoring.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid- December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self- contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are three types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;
- Global Challenge Pathways (students studying at Level 6 in 2023/24 may take electives instead) - a choice of modules from different subject areas within the University that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

Students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Alternatively, a language module or an additional optional module can be taken instead. Information about Global Challenge Pathways can be found after the module lists for Level 5.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	105	0	15
Level 5	105	0	15
Level 6	60	45	60
Level 7	120	0	0

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Biochemistry	LSC-10064	30	Semester 1
Physiology and Anatomy	LSC-10074	30	Semester 1-2
Core Practical Skills	LSC-10087	0	Semester 1-2
Molecular Cell Biology	LSC-10066	30	Semester 2
Microbes: the immune system and the environment	LSC-10091	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Fundamentals of Computing	CSC-10029	15	Semester 1
Introduction to Data Science I	CSC-10058	15	Semester 1
Science & Society	NAT-10001	15	Semester 1-2

Level 4 Module Rules

LSC-10087 is a compulsory, zero-credit module. All lab work across this Level of study will be coordinated through this module and assessed within other credit-bearing modules across the year where appropriate. This module also provides helpful academic support and development material that provide added value to enhance your overall student experience.

Note that CSC-10029 (Fundamentals of Computing) is a pre-requisite module for the optional module CSC20043 (Computational and Artificial Intelligence I) at Level 5

NB: Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs) - students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Information on GCPs is shown under the Level 5 modules below.

Language modules

Students on this programme will also be able to study language modules offered by the Language Centre, as

part of a Global Challenge Pathway. You can enrol on either a Modern Language module [more information available at this [link](#)] (Semester 1 only) or Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (Semesters 1 and 2) module (ENL-10053).

If you choose a Modern Language, you can add a Semester 2 module as a continuation of your language of choice as a faculty funded 'additional' module. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the language GCP the following academic year.

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Gene and Protein Engineering	LSC-20003	15	Semester 1
Molecular, Cellular and Structural Immunology	LSC-20015	15	Semester 1
Microbes, Viruses and Parasites	LSC-20073	15	Semester 1
Practical Skills in Bioscience	LSC-20107	0	Semester 1-2
Research and Analytical Skills	LSC-20056	15	Semester 2
Cell Signalling	LSC-20085	15	Semester 2
Defence and Disease	LSC-20111	30	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Web Technologies	CSC-20021	15	Semester 1
Computational and Artificial Intelligence I	CSC-20043	15	Semester 1
Human Genetics	LSC-20050	15	Semester 1

Level 5 Module Rules

LSC-20107 is a compulsory, zero-credit module. All lab-work across this Level of study will be coordinated through this module and assessed within other credit-bearing modules across the year where appropriate. This module also provides helpful academic support and development material that provide added value to enhance your overall student experience.

Note that CSC-20043: Computational and Artificial Intelligence I requires students to have taken CSC-10029: Fundamentals of Computing at level 4 is a pre-requisite for CSC-30027: Computational and Artificial Intelligence II at level 6.

Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs)

Students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Students at Level 5 will continue the Global Challenge Pathway they started at Level 4.

Global Challenge Pathways offer students the chance to fulfil an exciting, engaging route of interdisciplinary study. Choosing a pathway, students will be presented with a global issue or 'challenge' which directly relates to societal issues, needs and debates. They will be invited to take part in academic and external facing projects which address these issues, within an interdisciplinary community of students and staff. Students completing a Global Challenge Pathway will receive recognition on their degree certificate.

<p>Digital Futures</p>	<p>The Digital Futures pathway offers you the opportunity to become an active contributor to current debates, cutting-edge research, and projects with external partners, addressing both the exciting potential and the challenges of disruptive digital transformation across all spheres of life.</p> <p>Part of a diverse and interdisciplinary pathway community, you will engage in exciting, impactful collaborative project work in innovative formats. Engaged in real-world scenarios, you will use digital technology and creativity to promote inclusive, empowering, and sustainable change at local and global levels.</p> <p>Level 4 Module: A digital life: challenges and opportunities (GCP-10005)</p> <p>Level 5 Module: Digital World - People, Spaces, and Data (GCP-20005)</p>
<p>Climate Change & Sustainability</p>	<p>Through the Climate Change & Sustainability pathway you will develop the skills, understanding and drive to become agents of change to tackle climate change and wider sustainability challenges.</p> <p>You will work with international partners to explore climate change and sustainability in different international contexts; lead your own projects to drive real change in your communities; and be part of educating others to help achieve a more sustainable future.</p> <p>Level 4 Module: Climate Change and Sustainable Futures: Global Perspectives (GCP-10009)</p> <p>Level 5 Module: Climate Change and Sustainability: Action and Activism (GCP-20009)</p>
<p>Social Justice</p>	<p>Students on this pathway will embark on a reflective journey drawing upon decolonising, feminist, and ethical perspectives on social justice, forging transformative outputs as agents of change.</p> <p>You will enter a dialogue with local, national, and international partners from Universities, NGOs, International Human Rights Committees. You will engage with key societal challenges, for example Covid 19 as a social crisis with impact on gender and racial identities. The pathway will allow you to monitor and critically evaluate policies and human rights treaties, and produce and disseminate digitally fluent, international and sustainable project findings.</p> <p>Level 4 Module: Reflections on Social Injustices, Past and Present (GCP-10003)</p> <p>Level 5 Module: Strategic Interventions for Social Justice (GCP-20003)</p>
<p>Enterprise & the Future of Work</p>	<p>If we are to achieve the promise of Sustainable Development Goals, solve the climate crisis and take advantage of the changes that the digital revolution provide, we need to understand the power of enterprise and prepare for future contexts of work, creativity and disruption.</p> <p>Supporting you to be part of future-facing solutions, this pathway will give you the ability to make judgements on the utilisation of resources, labour and capital. It will support you in developing creative, original thinking, allowing you to collaborate on projects that persuade and effect change, setting you up to thrive in future environments of work and innovation.</p> <p>Level 4 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work (GCP-10007)</p> <p>Level 5 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work: Collaborate to Innovate (GCP-20007)</p>

<p>Global Health Challenges</p>	<p>By taking the global health challenge pathway you will develop solutions to improve the health and quality of life for particular people and communities, engaging with these groups to co-design interventions.</p> <p>This pathway will provide you with skills that go beyond a focus on health and will allow you to develop your ability to work in a team and lead change in society. The knowledge, skills and work experience will complement your core degree and enhance your career opportunities and graduate aspirations.</p> <p>Level 4 Module: Key concepts and challenges in global health (GCP-10001)</p> <p>Level 5 Module: Using Evidence to Improve Global Health (GCP-20001)</p>
<p>Languages & Intercultural Awareness</p>	<p>An understanding of language and culture opens the doorway to understanding what happens, why it happens and how you can make a difference. Why learn Russian now? How will an understanding of intercultural values impact on global development? How can you use English to work your way around the world? Importantly - how do language and culture impact on the UN Sustainability Goals?</p> <p>The Languages and Intercultural Awareness pathway offers you four distinct strands.</p> <p>The Language Specialist: Become a specialist in one of our languages and graduate with a degree title that includes '... with competency in (Language)'.</p> <p>The Language Taster: Explore a new language every year</p> <p>The Certificate in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages): Train to teach English as a Foreign Language, gain a globally recognised teaching qualification and work with asylum seekers and refugees.</p> <p>The Intercultural Explorer: Explore cultural practices around the world and discover how the power of language and culture can be forces for breaking down barriers and achieving intercultural understanding, but how they can also be used to create political and social barricades.</p> <p>Modules available:</p> <p>The Language Specialist:</p> <p>Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences).</p> <p>The Language Taster:</p> <p>Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences)</p> <p>The Certificate in TESOL:</p> <p>ENL-10053 TESOL 1</p> <p>ENL-20007 TESOL 2</p> <p>The Intercultural Explorer:</p> <p>ENL-10057 The stories we live by</p> <p>ENL-20009 Who do you think you are?</p>

Information on Global Challenge Pathways can be found here:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/>

Language modules

You can enrol on the continuing Modern Language module [more information available at this [link](#)] (Semester 1 only) or the continuing TESOL (Semesters 1 and 2) module (ENL-20007).

If you choose a Modern Language, you can add a Semester 2 module as a continuation of your language of choice as a faculty funded 'additional' module. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the language GCP the following academic year.

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Parasitology	LSC-30036	15	Semester 1
Biology of Disease - ISP	LSC-30015	15	Semester 1-2
Bioinformatics and Science Communication	LSC-30057	15	Semester 1-2
Case Studies in Microbiology and Immunology	LSC-30078	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Structural Biology & Macromolecular Function	LSC-30016	15	Semester 1
Advances in Medicine	LSC-30028	15	Semester 1
Tropical Biology Field Course	LSC-30066	15	Semester 1
Double Applied Life Sciences Placement - ISP	LSC-30038	30	Semester 1-2
Life Sciences Double Experimental Project (with research skills assessment)	LSC-30045	30	Semester 1-2
Professional Development	LSC-30090	0	Semester 1-2
Computational and Artificial Intelligence II	CSC-30027	15	Semester 2
Clinical Pathology	LSC-30009	15	Semester 2
Cancer Biology	LSC-30061	15	Semester 2
Epidemiology	LSC-30084	15	Semester 2
Medical Statistics	MAT-30014	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

Students MUST take 30 credits of ISP (Independent Study Project) either LSC-30038 or LSC-30045.

Note that students wanting to take CSC-30027: Computational and Artificial Intelligence II must have taken CSC-20043: Computational and Artificial Intelligence I at Level 5.

Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs) - The Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree, offers students the chance to fulfil an exciting, engaging route of interdisciplinary study. Continuing a pathway from Level 4 and 5, students will be presented with a global issue or 'challenge' which directly relates to societal issues, needs and debates. They will be invited to take part in academic and external facing projects which address these issues, within an interdisciplinary community of students and staff. Students completing a Global Challenge Pathway across all three years will receive recognition on their degree certificate.

Language modules: You can enrol on a Modern Language module (Semester 1 or Semester 2).

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Literature Review and Grant Proposal	LSC-40065	30	Semester 1
Advanced Research Topics in Microbiology and Immunology	LSC-40073	30	Semester 1
MSci Extended Research Project	LSC-40063	60	Semester 1-2

8. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Master's Degree	480 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7 You must accumulate at least 360 credits in your main subject (out of 480 credits overall) to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.
Honours Degree	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the four-year version of the MSci programme.

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the four-year version of the MSci programme.

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Provide evidence-based solutions to current scientific problems.** Most often this is assessed through a range of essays, portfolios and literature reviews.
- **Present scientific findings.** Often these are lab reports or experimental projects that test your ability to pose scientific hypotheses, design experiments, understand methodologies, present findings, analyse data and situate your work in the current literature. Other assessments will also develop your skills in accessing, manipulating and presenting the outcomes of computational investigations, including in bioinformatics/phylogeny.
- **Communicate effectively with a range of audiences.** These can include scientific posters, patient information leaflets, wikis, blogs or oral presentations, as well as more standard laboratory reports,

proformas and literature reviews.

- **Work professionally. Your final year,** independent research project and MSci extended research project will give you an opportunity to demonstrate a range of professional skills such as leadership, innovation, time keeping, communication and the ability to work safely and ethically.
- **Work effectively in a team.** Most often this is assessed through group presentations but can also include competencies such as working together in the lab or other group assignments.
- **Solve problems in a time-limited fashion.** Often in the work environment we are asked to solve problems in a relatively short amount of time. Our online tests and end-of-semester, online, open-book examinations will help you to evidence these skills.

Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision,

demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	This data is added by QA	This data is added by QA	This data is added by QA
Year 2 (Level 5)	This data is added by QA	This data is added by QA	This data is added by QA
Year 3 (Level 6)	This data is added by QA	This data is added by QA	This data is added by QA
Year 4 (Level 7)	This data is added by QA	This data is added by QA	This data is added by QA

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

10. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	38%	62%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	17%	83%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	9%	91%	0%
Year 4 (Level 7)	5%	95%	0%

11. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

12. Learning Resources

Workshops and tutorials are delivered in modern teaching rooms across the University, including up-to-date PC suites for data analysis and bioinformatics workshops.

Practical sessions are held in dedicated teaching laboratories within the School of Life Sciences, over recent years these have been completely refitted, providing modern and well-equipped facilities supporting delivery of a diverse practical programmes (including the David Attenborough laboratories, opened in person by Sir David in 2019). Some sessions are also delivered in our new state-of-the-art Central Science Laboratories, which also provides extensive PC suite capacity for supporting workshops and student self-study.

The learning resources available to you on the Programme include:

- An extensive collection of books and journals held in the University Library on campus, or the health library situated at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.
- Access to a comprehensive range of ebooks, journals and published papers all available online
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture materials and other guidance/supporting resources, and Microsoft Teams for further content development and to facilitate live and interactive discussions.
- Additional academic skills resources, workshops and drop-in sessions available through the Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence.

13. Other Learning Opportunities

We are committed to offering a rich and diverse student experience that goes far beyond your degree.

Most years, we are able to offer range of different opportunities to enrich your student experience. These can include:

Study abroad. You could apply to spend one semester at Level 5 studying in one of our international partner universities. This not only gives you valuable international experience, but can also allow you to study a complimentary subject - such as epidemiology or molecular biology - in greater detail, whilst remaining complementary to the your programme of study at Keele. The marks that you achieve whilst studying abroad will count to your overall attainment across Level 5. *NB: Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the Study abroad option.*

International year. Is similar to study abroad, but here you choose to take an additional year in between Levels 5 and 6 studying in one of our international partner universities. More information can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>

Industrial placements. You could apply to a range of national and international employers for an industrial placement. These take place in between Level 5 and 6 and usually last 6-9 months. They provide excellent work experience and an opportunity to collect data for your Level 6 independent research student project.

Secondments. These are shorter industrial placements that usually take place over the summer in between Level 5 and 6 and usually last between 2-8 weeks. They can be based locally in one of our research labs here at Keele, nationally or internationally. For example, often some our students will travel to Malaysia to work with our partner Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Tropical field trip. You could apply for our School tropical field that takes place in Malaysia. These are often more conservational in nature, but again provide fantastic international experience and of course, will complement and broaden your programme of study in Microbiology and Immunology.

Operation Wallacea. This is a private company that supports a wide range of student projects with a particular focus on biodiversity and climate research. More information can be found at: <https://www.opwall.com>

Note: the opportunities described above are limited and dependent on external providers. We may not be able to offer them every year and there will be additional costs if you do successfully secure a place. We discuss all of these options in more detail across Level 4 and Level 5 so you can make an informed decision

Other opportunities

There are a number of schemes available from e.g. the Wellcome Trust that provide bursaries for students to gain laboratory experience in the summer vacation between level 5 and 6. Staff in Life Sciences have hosted these bursaries in the past and students who are interested can approach staff, who will have to submit an application on the students' behalf to the funding bodies (usually in January or February). Staff may also be willing to host students in their laboratories during the summer vacation on a voluntary basis.

Other learning opportunities for Microbiology and Immunology students vary from year to year but include the opportunity to hear from, and talk to, a range of guest speakers and presenters including researchers from around the world. Some of these activities are timetabled as part of taught modules, others are organised separately as part of a school-wide seminar programme, but are widely advertised and undergraduate students are always welcome to attend.

The University also offer a range of wider opportunities to develop your academic skills, in addition to content delivered in your core programme, including careers support, peer mentoring and a variety of active citizenship opportunities to enhance your CV. For more detail see:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/additionalopportunities/>

14. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: MSci Microbiology and Immunology

Final Award and Award Titles	MSci Microbiology and Immunology MSci Microbiology and Immunology with International Year MSci Microbiology and Immunology with Work Placement Year
Intermediate Award(s)	BSc (Hons) Microbiology and Immunology Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	June 2022
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1: No variations apply

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Laboratory, lecture and tutorial classes

1.1 Wearing a laboratory coat is compulsory in all classes held in laboratories. Students will not be allowed to attend the laboratory class without a laboratory coat.

1.2 Students must wear appropriate clothing in the laboratories, including sensible footwear. Closed shoes and low heels should be worn. This is to avoid tripping and to protect the feet in the case of spillages. Long hair must be tied back. Students who are inappropriately dressed may, at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, be excluded from the class and recorded as being absent without good cause.

1.3 Students who arrive late to laboratory classes will be unable to take part in the class and recorded as being absent without good cause.

1.4 Students who display serious misconduct in any class may, at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, be excluded from the class and recorded as being absent without good cause. Serious misconduct involves wilful damage to property, injury or threat to persons, or persistent disruption of teaching.

1.5 The unauthorised use of mobile phones or headphones is not permitted in any class.

1.6 Students are not permitted to record, video or photograph taught sessions or meetings with staff, except with the permission in advance of the staff concerned. Permission will be given where this is part of an approved disability adjustment. Any permission to record, video or photograph is for personal use only and all recordings, videos or photographs remain the property of the presenter and Keele University.

1.7 Students are required to read and follow the procedures in the School of Life Sciences Safety Handbook, which is available from the Life Science Noticeboard on the KLE.

Additional requirement 2: Work Placements, Exchange Periods and Study Abroad

2.1 A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 14 June 2024

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2023/24	DAVID WATSON	08 February 2023	

