

Programme Specification: Foundation Year in Health and Life Sciences

PROGRAMME DETAILS	
Academic Year	2025 - 2026
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Final and Interim Award(s)
FHEQ Level 3	Foundation Certificate
	Certificate of Continuing Education
Variants	Full time one year
Degree Awarding Body	University of Bradford
Faculty	Life Sciences
Partner, Delivery Organisation and/or Support Provider(s) <i>(if applicable)</i>	Not applicable
Accrediting Body <i>(if applicable)</i>	The University of Bradford
External Frameworks/ Reference Points <i>(if applicable)</i>	QAA Characteristics Statement - Foundation Degree QAA Benchmark Statement: Biomedical Science and Biomedical Sciences QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Biosciences Quality assurance framework for nursing, midwifery and nursing associate education
Date of Original Approval	June 25
Date of Publication <i>(see Review/Modification Schedule for any version updates)</i>	June 25

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

PROGRAMME AIMS

- A1. To provide students with experience of university life before committing to a full university degree.
- A2. To provide students with a comprehensive grounding in the fundamental principles of health and life sciences in preparation for subsequent study at Honours degree level.
- A3. To enable students to analyse their own strengths and weaknesses as a learner to build confidence and develop strategies to maximise their learning.
- A4. To develop an understanding of the diverse career paths within the health and life sciences sectors.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

To be eligible for the level 3 foundation certificate award students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a foundational understanding of key concepts in biology, maths, chemistry, anatomy and other disciplines relevant to health and life sciences.
2. Describe the basic principles of scientific inquiry, including experimental design, data collection, and analysis.
3. Identify the role of ethical considerations in scientific research and clinical practice within the health and life sciences.
4. Recognise the diversity of career pathways and professional roles within the health and life sciences sector
5. Appraise scientific and clinical information from a variety of sources
6. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, using appropriate terminology and formats.
7. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of relevant software and computer applications for data analysis, information retrieval, and communication.
8. Use laboratory and clinical equipment safely and effectively.
9. Understand their personal strengths and weaknesses to facilitate growth and development.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The University welcomes applications from all prospective students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this programme.

We take into consideration several factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond.

Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS scheme would be 64 UCAS points with a GCSE Grade 4 (national Grade C) in English, or an equivalent Key Skills Level 2 Literacy qualification.

English proficiency requirements are expressed as IELTS scores and for most program

The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/foundation-health-life-sciences/>

The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when you accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. View our Student Contract for further details:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/student-contract/>.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Foundation Year provides an excellent introduction to university studies and equips students with essential knowledge, understanding, and transferable skills. This programme will support your growth as an independent learner and prepares you for success at university and in your future career

This course is one year long (full time) and provides an opportunity for you to enrol onto a three or four year undergraduate programme within the University of Bradford.

We split this time up into 1200 hours, where each 200 hours represents one 'module' of the programme. In the United Kingdom, one academic 'credit' is attached to 10 hours of study. So, each module on the foundation year programme has 20 credits. The award for successfully completing the foundation year is worth 120 credits according to the United Kingdom's Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Level 3. We split the year up into two main parts. Our 'academic year' is split into two Semesters with about 12 weeks in each. Some modules on the foundation year run across both semesters with others will take place in either semester 1 or semester 2. The details of the modules you will study can be seen below:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
3	Academic Skills	Core	20	Sem 1+2	BIS3002-B
3	Introduction to Biology	Core	20	Sem 1+2	BIS3005-B
3	Anatomy and Physiology	Core	20	Sem 2	BIS3006-B
3	Maths and Statistics	Core	20	Sem 1	BIS3004-B
3	Practical Skills	Core	20	Sem 1+2	BIS3003-B
3	Introduction to Chemistry	Option	20	Sem 1+2	BIS3007-B
3	Introduction to Public Health	Option	20	Sem 1+2	BIS3008-B

Students who wish to progress onto degree programmes in Biomedical Sciences, Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Science, Forensic Science, Forensic Anthropology, Applied Biomedical Science, and Forensic and Medical Sciences, must take the introduction to chemistry module.

Students who wish to progress onto degree programmes in Occupational Therapy or Nursing can choose any of the optional modules.

You will study alongside students from various degree programmes and foundation year courses, with opportunities to support each other's development and success. The foundation year also

offers chances to get involved in the Faculty community and to talk with students in your chosen degree programme to learn more about your future studies and prepare you for university life.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

You will experience several different teaching methods that encourage an active learning process, developing your independence and critical thinking skills. Your learning will be structured to integrate knowledge and skills across different scientific disciplines, promoting a holistic understanding of health and life sciences. The programme will provide you with a supportive and inclusive learning environment that caters a diverse range of needs and learning styles. Resources will be available to support the development of learning skills, such as time management, study techniques, and essay writing. The programme will promote a sense of community through activities that encourage interaction and peer support.

Teaching Methods

Lectures: Provide a foundation of knowledge in core subject areas (biology, chemistry, etc.). Lectures will incorporate interactive elements, such as question-and-answer sessions, and the use of visual aids.

Laboratory Practical Sessions: Offer hands-on experience with scientific and clinical techniques and equipment, developing students' practical skills and ability to apply theoretical knowledge.

Seminars: Facilitate in-depth discussion of key concepts, problem-solving activities, and opportunities for students to clarify their understanding.

Workshops: Promote critical thinking and communication skills through student-led presentations and discussions on relevant scientific topics.

E-Learning: Utilise online platforms to provide access to learning materials, support independent study, and facilitate communication between students and instructors.

Tutorials: A point of contact for students to discuss any challenges or concerns that may affect their studies. Personal tutors will review academic progress and signpost to other university support services, such as counselling, disability services, or financial aid as needed

Programme Assessment

The assessment on the foundation year is designed to provide you experiences of the common types of assessment that you are likely to encounter at higher levels of study. Early exposure to these different assessment methods, including formative assessments in all modules, with opportunities to reflect on these experiences provided through feedback and tutorial discussion will help build your confidence in your ability to succeed and to identify strategies for future success.

Written Examinations: Assess students' understanding of core concepts and their ability to apply knowledge to solve problems.

Practical Reports: Evaluate students' practical skills, data analysis abilities, and scientific writing.

Oral Presentations: Assess students' communication skills and their ability to present scientific information effectively.

Essays: Develop students' research, appraisal and writing skills.

Portfolio: A collection of student work that demonstrates their learning and development throughout the programme.

PLACEMENT/STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

None

REGULATIONS

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website (<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/media-v8/aeo/regulations/Regulation-2-Undergraduate-Assessment-Continuation-and-Award-1.0b.pdf> for undergraduate courses (Regulation 2) with variance from the regulations as outlined below and documented in the Variance Register:

Variance from 4.2 - Students must pass specified individual components within modules at the pass-mark stated in the module descriptor.

Variance from 6.1 & 6.2 - To progress to Stage 1 of certain degree routes, students will need to achieve higher academic marks and/or complete additional progression activities (for example, to participate in an interview). A full list of degree routes and progression requirements for the Foundation Year in Health and Life Sciences is available on the course page: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/foundation-health-life-sciences/>

REVIEW/MODIFICATION SCHEDULE

Date	Review/Modification Activity Since Last Publication
Jan 2026	Minor modifications for accessibility