CHOOSING A COURSE
UK universities typically offer a large range of biosciences courses.

Although many of these courses are related, the exact content will be different, and course content will vary across the universities even if they share the same course name and UCAS code.

Students can choose to study more general courses or specialist courses. To illustrate this, here are the course options at The University of Manchester.

### Biological sciences

**General:**
- biology
- life sciences

**Specialism:**
- biochemistry
- biotechnology
- cell biology
- developmental biology
- genetics
- microbiology
- plant science
- zoology

**Joint honours:**
- biology with science and society

### Biomedical sciences

**General:**
- biomedical sciences
- life sciences

**Specialism:**
- anatomical sciences
- immunology
- medical biochemistry
- medical physiology
- molecular biology
- neuroscience
- pharmacology
- pharmacology and physiology

**Joint honours:**
- cognitive neuroscience and psychology

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**MANCHESTER TIP**

The first year is common across most biosciences. Students can change courses (within biosciences) at the end of the first year to focus on what they find most interesting.

Many of our courses can also be studied with a foundation year, integrated master’s, a modern language, industrial/professional experience or entrepreneurship.

[uom.link/bioscience-courses]
Bioscience graduates can go into a diverse range of careers in laboratories and clinical and technical roles. The transferable skills they develop will also prepare students to work in careers outside the lab.

**Scientific research**
- Researcher in a non-profit organisation or research institution.
- Roles within a university combining research and teaching.
- Progress within a commercial organisation (e.g., biotechnology company).

**Clinical and technical**
- Healthcare (e.g., biomedical scientist in the NHS, clinical scientist).
- Safety or quality control for organisations (e.g., food companies, medical supplies, cosmetics, utilities).
- Roles within forensic science labs.

**Science education, communication and policy**
- Creative roles, science communication and publishing.
- Website management and content.
- Various roles in museums.
- Scientific adviser for the government or civil service.

**Science administration and sales**
- Science or healthcare administration.
- Clinical trials representatives.
- Patent and intellectual property attorneys.

**Science in the field and conservation**
- Environment related roles.
- Ecologist.
- Conservation officer.

**Manchester Tip**

83%

15 months after graduation, 83%* of graduates find a graduate-level job or are in further education.

Our students have gone to work for:
- NHS
- AstraZeneca
- Cabinet Office
- Unilever
- BBC
- National Trust
- Costa Rica
- Sloth Sanctuary

*Sloths in Costa Rica

*The Guardian University league table 2021
Psychology undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges can focus on scientific research or applied psychology.

Research-focused degrees will study perception, developmental psychology, cognition and behavioural neuroscience.

Applied courses will study neurorehabilitation, education and health.

The University of Manchester’s psychology course is split into four themes:

- **Mind and Brain**: units on cognition to understand brain mechanisms and processes underlying learning and memory.
- **Adaptability and Wellbeing**: units exploring mental health, criminal behaviour and how we can influence choices important to wellbeing.
- **Evolution and Development**: units focusing on how people change throughout their lifespan and how human development differs from that of other animals.
- **Psychology in Society**: units examining society through a psychological lens, covering a range of topics in social psychology, politics, the workplace and forensic settings.

Our psychology degree is accredited by the British Psychological Society.
Gaining a BPS-accredited psychology degree is the first step toward a professional psychology career (e.g., clinical, counselling, health, forensic, organisational, educational or sports psychology).

The skills that students develop during a psychology degree are highly valued by many employers (e.g., data handling, critical thinking, analysis and communication).

As a result, psychology graduates have a wide range of options, including:

- Marketing
- Academic research
- Social work
- Consulting
- Journalism
- Counselling
- Mental health nursing
- Roles in the police and prison service

**Manchester Tip**

Students have the opportunity to enhance their employability with access to career consultants, work placements and the ability to swap psychology units for those offered by the University’s College for Interdisciplinary Learning.

[www.college.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.college.manchester.ac.uk)
PHARMACY

The University of Manchester’s pharmacy course is split into five areas:

- **The Patient**: focuses on human biology and physiology.
- **The Public**: units on promoting public health, self-care advice and drug misuse awareness.
- **The Medicine**: units focusing on pharmaceutical chemistry.
- **Integrated Professional Practice**: practical experience that develops skills in interacting with patients, carers and other healthcare professionals.
- **The Pharmacist**: units on effective communication in healthcare, pharmacy law and using referencing sources.

**Manchester Tip**

We have a foundation year that prepares students who do not have the right qualifications for our pharmacy degree.

Pharmacy degrees are designed to train and license students to dispense prescription medicines and become a pharmacist.

A pharmacy undergraduate degree will equip students with a wide range of technical skills and scientific knowledge.

Pharmacy undergraduate degrees are usually a mixture of practical and theoretical elements.
PHARMACY: CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Students can feel confident that they are progressing into a career in which there will always be a need for their services when they complete a pharmacy degree.

To be able to use the title of pharmacist in the UK, students will need to register with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). Membership is granted to graduates with a degree in pharmacy from a UK university who have completed a year’s training at an approved establishment and passed a registration exam set by GPhC.

Pharmacy offers a variety of interesting careers with the possibility of flexible working across several sectors, including:

- community pharmacy (high street)
- hospital pharmacy
- industrial pharmacy
- clinical pharmacy
- regulatory pharmacy
- academic research.

Pharmacy graduates can also go on to work in:

- primary care
- NHS
- journalism and medical communication
- agricultural and veterinary pharmacy
- prison and army services
- forensic science.

MANCHESTER TIP

Six months after graduation, 94%* of Manchester graduates find a graduate-level job or are in further education.

During their degree, Manchester students get to experience placements in different areas, including in local hospitals and in the community.

*Discover Uni
The nursing degrees at The University of Manchester are 50% practical and 50% theoretical. Nursing students can also choose to do the bachelors, or the integrated master's degrees.

Taking on the primary care of patients and their families, nurses are an important part of the health services. Nurses combine their medical expertise with an attentive and supporting nature to look after the physical, psychological and social needs of every patient.

**Students can choose one of four main specialisms to study at undergraduate level:**

- adult nursing
- children nursing
- mental health nursing
- learning disability nursing (not offered at The University of Manchester).

**Students can expect to study units in:**

- introduction to clinical care
- physiology for health
- epidemiology
- complex care
- critical care
- public health
- planning patient care.

**Manchester Tip**

50%

The nursing degrees at The University of Manchester are 50% practical and 50% theoretical. Nursing students can also choose to do the bachelors, or the integrated master's degrees.

8th & 3rd

The University of Manchester is ranked 8th in the world and 3rd in the UK for Nursing (QS World University Rankings 2020).
NURSING: CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

With a shortage of nurses in the UK, and in many other countries, a nursing degree will offer students fantastic employment options, both in public and private healthcare.

Whether in the NHS or private sector, a nursing degree will see most graduates start their careers as a nurse.

Nursing graduates can choose to progress into different careers and specialisms:

- A&E nurse
- Surgical nurse
- District nurse
- Paramedic
- Health visitor
- Management
- Research
- Education.

A UK-registered nursing qualification is recognised in many countries around the world and provides potential opportunities for travel and work abroad.

MANCHESTER TIP

98%

15 months after graduation, 98%* of Manchester graduates find a graduate-level job or are in further education.

During the course, students will have access to dedicated academic employability staff with professional contacts who bring students and NHS staff together.

*The Guardian league table 2021
**MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY**

**Application process:**
- Students wanting to apply to medicine and dentistry will need to submit their UCAS application form by 15 October.
- They will need to do the UCAT exam and have work experience before applying.
- Below is a timeline of the application process from a University of Manchester perspective – other universities have a similar process.

15 October deadline  
Academic sift  
UCAT sift  
Multiple mini interviews  
Offer

**Choosing a fifth choice:**
Students applying to medicine and dentistry can only choose up to four medical/dental schools. For their fifth UCAS choice they can:
- Leave it blank.
- Choose an unrelated course (e.g., history, management, etc.).
- Choose a related course (e.g., biomedical sciences, neuroscience, etc.).

**MANCHESTER TIP**

After students submit their UCAS form, we will send them a Non-Academic Information Form that they will need to complete.

Students learn through problem-based learning, standard lectures, seminars and tutorials, hospital placements, and full-body anatomy.
At the end of a medicine undergraduate degree, students will receive a primary medical qualification, which will entitle the student to provisional registration with the General Medical Council (GMC). Provisionally registered doctors can only practise in approved Foundation Year 1 posts, for which the student will need to apply during the final year of their undergraduate degree.

The GMC is currently considering the introduction of a formal assessment that UK medical graduates would need to pass to be granted registration with a licence to practise. No final decision has been taken as to whether exams will be introduced, but applicants should be aware of the potential change.

In summary, a medical graduate will go through the following stages:

- Graduation
- Foundation Year 1 and Year 2
- Core medical training, 2 years
- Specialist training, 2-8 years (eg GP, neurosurgeon, etc)
Almost invariably, dental graduates apply for one year Dental Foundation Year 1 (DFY1) training posts when they graduate. These are salaried posts in NHS general dental practices, comprising four or five days per week of clinical work and 30 days of professional study over the year.

Each DFY1 is mentored by a dental trainer in the same practice. All training practices are inspected to ensure they are of a required standard.

After graduating a student would expect to follow:

- **Graduation**
- **Foundation Year (NHS or private)**
- **Employment (NHS or private)**
- **Specialist training (optional)**

**Manchester Tip**

Six months after graduation, 99%* of Manchester graduates find a graduate-level job or are in further education.

We offer careers advice throughout the dental course, with much of this concentrated in Year 5, helping students prepare for the Foundation Dentistry selection process.

*Discover Uni
There are many more options for students who are interested in a career in healthcare. For most clinical careers entry is through a degree approved by a regulatory body. Most of these degrees will be vocational and, as a result, will be a mixture of theory and practice.

**UK universities offer a wide range of options for students, including:**
- dietetics (nutrition)
- healthcare sciences (audiology)
- midwifery
- occupational therapy
- optometry
- osteopathy
- paramedic science
- physiotherapy
- podiatry
- prosthetics and orthotics
- speech and language therapy

However, the healthcare sector employs many non-clinical staff who have different academic backgrounds.

**MANCHESTER TIP**

Manchester’s healthcare courses are all accredited by the relevant governing body and offer students a mixture of practical and theoretical studies. They include:
- audiology
- midwifery
- optometry
- speech and language therapy.
A lot of undergraduate courses offer additional opportunities to enhance students’ learning including:

• a year in industry
• studying a language
• studying abroad
• studying units outside the main course discipline.

Other opportunities may exist outside of the course, including:
• studying a language
• summer internships.

Students should consider all the options offered by universities when they are choosing where to study.