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.

You 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. You can change courses (within biosciences) at the end of the first year to focus on what you 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.

[http://uom.link/bio-courses](http://uom.link/bio-courses)
Bioscience graduates can go into a diverse range of careers in laboratories and clinical and technical roles. The transferable skills you develop will also prepare you 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 (eg biotechnology company).

**Clinical and technical**
- Healthcare (eg biomedical scientist in the NHS, clinical scientist).
- Safety or quality control for organisations (eg 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.

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**MANCHESTER TIP**

**83%**

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

*The Guardian University league table 2021

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

*The Guardian University league table 2021*
PSYCHOLOGY

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.

MANCHESTER TIP

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 you 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

You have the opportunity to enhance your 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
Pharmacy degrees are designed to train and license students to dispense prescription medicines and become a pharmacist.

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

Pharmacy undergraduate degrees are usually a mixture of practical and theoretical elements.

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

- **Integrated Professional Practice:** practical experience that develops skills in interacting with patients, carers and other healthcare professionals.
- **The Patient:** focuses on human biology and physiology.
- **The Public:** units on promoting public health, self-care advice and drug misuse awareness.
- **The Pharmacist:** units on effective communication in healthcare, pharmacy law and using referencing sources.
- **The Medicine:** units focusing on pharmaceutical chemistry.
You can feel confident that you are progressing into a career in which there will always be a need for your services when you complete a pharmacy degree.

To be able to use the title of pharmacist in the UK, you 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

94%

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.

You 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).

You can expect to study units in:
- clinical care
- physiology for health
- epidemiology
- complex care
- critical care
- public health
- planning patient care.

The University of Manchester is ranked 5th in the world and 2nd in the UK for Nursing (QS World University Rankings 2021).
With a shortage of nurses in the UK, and in many other countries, a nursing degree will offer you 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
After you submit your UCAS form, we will send you a Non-Academic Information Form that you will need to complete.

Students learn through problem-based learning, standard lectures, seminars and tutorials, hospital placements, and full-body anatomy.

Application process:

- If you are applying to medicine you will need to submit your UCAS application form by 15 October.
- You 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.

Choosing a fifth choice:

If you are applying to medicine you can only choose up to four medical/dental schools. For your fifth UCAS choice you can:

- Leave it blank.
- Choose an unrelated course (eg history, management, etc).
- Choose a related course (eg biomedical sciences, neuroscience, etc).
At the end of a medicine undergraduate degree, you will receive a primary medical qualification, which will entitle you to provisional registration with the General Medical Council (GMC). Provisionally registered doctors can only practise in approved Foundation Year 1 posts, for which you will need to apply during the final year of your 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 (e.g. GP, neurosurgeon, etc)**

**MANCHESTER TIP**

Six months after graduating, Manchester students earn an average of £31,000*

Students at The University of Manchester have the opportunity to intercalate and increase their employability.

*theuniguide.co.uk
Application process:
• Students wanting to apply to 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 as similar process.

Choosing a fifth choice:
Students applying to dentistry can only choose up to four dental schools. For their fifth choice they can:
• Leave it blank.
• Choose an unrelated course (eg English, physics, etc).
• Choose a related course (eg Oral Health Science).

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 enquiry-based learning, standard lectures, seminars and tutorials, hospital placement.

Our dentistry and oral health science courses are taught by the same academic staff and often share units. Students on both courses will do their placements in the dental hospital.
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 of 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**

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 you prepare for the Foundation Dentistry selection process.

*Discover Uni*
As one of the five senses sight is hugely important. In a modern world filled with digital screens it is increasingly necessary for everyone to have access to specialist eye care and attend regular eye check-ups. As an optometrist you will be trained to examine the eye, to detect and diagnose any abnormalities and diseases, and to prescribe glasses and contact lenses.

Optometry is an ever-evolving field. As with most science-based degrees, optometry can be intense and challenging but it will also be rewarding and interesting throughout. You will learn through lectures, seminars, group work, placements, and you will be assessed through a variety of means, including practical work, presentations and exams.

You could expect to study units in:

- Physical and visual optics
- Mathematics for optometry
- Pharmacology
- Anatomy and physiology
- Anatomy of the eye
- Optometric examination

The University of Manchester is ranked 1st in the world for Optometry (QS world university ranking 2020).

Students will be able to gain experience at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital – one of Europe’s biggest eye teaching hospitals.
Studying optometry can lead you to an exciting and varied career. You will get to put your knowledge into practice with diverse placement opportunities and will learn about the issues that can affect eyesight. This may lead you on to further studies, with options to specialise and gain further qualifications in areas such as glaucoma, independent prescribing, low vision or research.

Optometrists are now also involved in the primary care of patients with diseases such as diabetes and glaucoma. This has given rise to more emphasis on the study and management of these conditions.
Speech and language therapists provide life-changing treatment, support and care for children and adults with speech, language, communication, eating, drinking or swallowing disorders.

As a speech and language therapist, you will help people who have problems due to physical or psychological reasons.

Speech and language therapy could be the right course for you if you enjoy science, education, languages, linguistics and/or medicine.

As a student at The University of Manchester, you will learn through interactive, enquiry-based teaching and will study theoretical and clinical-focused units.

Throughout your degree, you will experience a range of speech, language, communication, and swallowing disorders while on placement.

These disorders could include:

- Development language disorder
- Dysfluency (stammering)
- Dysphonia (voice disorders)
- Reading and writing disorders
- Aphasia (language disorder following a stroke or other trauma)
- Speech Sound Disorder (SSD)

**MANCHESTER TIP**

- You will have the opportunity to extend your studies by a year to undertake the integrated master’s option and graduate with a master’s-level qualification.
- The university is partner with over 66 organisations in the north-west of England, allowing you to gain extensive placement experience.
Speech and language therapists experience varied careers and can choose to work in many areas supporting and caring for people of all ages.

Your role may focus on speech, language, communication, eating, drinking, or swallowing disorders to improve people’s quality of life. Specialist areas also exist, such as supporting trans and non-binary people as they retrain their speech.

Once qualified, you could progress into roles in hospitals, schools or pre-schools, rehabilitation units, in the community and in clients’ homes, prisons or young offenders institutions.

There are also various opportunities for work in educational settings, postgraduate research, and even overseas.

Speech and language therapists are allied health professionals. They will typically work as part of a multidisciplinary team, alongside other healthcare professionals to meet the needs of a patient.

You may choose to work in:

- stroke rehabilitation centres;
- community settings such as clinics;
- schools, nurseries and colleges;
- paediatric assessment centres.

MANCHESTER TIP

You will be able to register with the Health and Care Professions Council and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists after graduation.
Use your passion for science to help people hear and start your career in a rapidly developing area of the NHS.

Audiology is a patient-centred profession involving hearing, balance and function, and providing individualised rehabilitative care.

The Healthcare Science (Audiology) course at The University of Manchester starts with a broad introduction to the subject and other closely related healthcare science areas, such as neurophysiology and vision sciences. As you progress through the course, the focus will shift towards specific areas of audiology.

You could expect to study units in:

- Neurosensory systems
- Communication skills
- Adult aural rehabilitation
- Balance assessments

Manchester Tip

- This course is led by members of the Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness (ManCAD), an internationally recognised multi-million pound hearing research programme.
- The audiology and deaf education departments at Manchester work together to provide you with a better understanding of hearing loss.
Audiology is a patient-centred profession providing individualised rehabilitative care involving hearing and balance.

Careers opportunities are excellent in the UK and abroad. Audiologists can work in a variety of roles and settings, including:

- newborn hearing screener
- hearing aid audiologist
- healthcare science practitioner
- clinical scientist.

You may also choose to undertake further training to specialise in areas such as balance assessment and rehabilitation, tinnitus or cochlear implants.

Some graduates undertake further study such as the MSc in Advanced Audiology Studies at Manchester, the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP) or a PhD.

There are range of career opportunities you can take up beyond being an audiologist, including:

- entry into a fast-track medicine programme, dentistry and other health-related professions;
- equipment developer;
- researcher at a university;
- consultant;
- other health-related professions.

Graduates are eligible to register with professional bodies including the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) and Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) after completing our course.

You can undertake further study such as the Master’s in Advanced Audiology Studies or a PhD.
Public health is all about understanding how people’s surroundings impact their health, lifestyle choices, wellbeing, and mental wellbeing. An undergraduate degree in public health will show you how to protect, promote, and improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities in the UK and abroad.

At The University of Manchester, there are five main units:

- **Evidence Based Practice**
  How to use and review evidence from published literature to inform your work.

- **Global Health**
  Look at the differences between global and public health and learn about how policies and practices are developed.

- **Health Promotion**
  Explore the importance of health promotion in public health practice and learn how it improves population health and wellbeing.

- **Health Protection**
  Discover the causes of infection and how to protect against these using vaccinations.

- **Healthcare Public Health**
  Learn more about inequalities in health and the history behind it while developing your knowledge of how to reduce inequalities.

**Manchester Tip**

- You can decide to do the course on campus or online, full-time or part-time. The flexibility of our course will enable you to study around other commitments.

- You can access additional learning opportunities through the WHO Geneva Winter school and an annual international conference.

- You will be able to tailor your learning through personalised plans and optional units.
A career in public health offers diverse opportunities in a variety of settings within health protection, health promotion and public health.

Becoming a public health practitioner will make you an adaptable and flexible person, with a broad experience in a range of subject areas.

This course is a great step towards a career in the following roles:
- Public health practitioner or manager
- Consultant in public health
- Epidemiologist
- Biostatistician
- Health educator
- Public health researcher or statistician
- Health visitor
- Community development worker
- Environmental health worker
- Transport development worker
- Housing officer
- Lecturer in public health
- Communicable disease consultant
- Health protection specialist

Manchester Tip

- Bursaries are available to BSc Public Health graduates who may wish to take our Master of Public Health postgraduate course.
- Our BSc Public Health students will have access to all of our paid PPD (personal professional development) courses for free.
Manchester’s healthcare courses are all accredited by the relevant governing body and offer you a mixture of practical and theoretical studies.

All of our healthcare programmes offer clinical and practical experience from Year 1 and prepare you to enter the profession after graduation.

There are many more options if you 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)
• midwifery
• occupational therapy
• osteopathy
• paramedic science
• physiotherapy
• podiatry
• prosthetics and orthotics

However, the healthcare sector employs many non-clinical staff who have different academic backgrounds.
A lot of undergraduate courses offer additional opportunities to enhance your 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.

You should consider all the options offered by universities when you are choosing where to study.

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**MANCHESTER TIP**

The Stellify award recognises students who have completed all Stellify action points. Students will take part in ethical challenges, leadership activities and social, educational, health, environmental and cultural volunteering programmes.

Do more, be more