Healthcare Science Programme Guide

BSc. (HONS) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences)

BSc. (HONS) Healthcare Science (Physiological Sciences)

This guide has been compiled to give an overview of the Healthcare Science degree programmes at UWE
The Modernising Scientific Careers project at the Department of Health has identified the need for new, integrated three year full time Healthcare Science courses to act as the principal training route for Biomedical Scientists and Clinical Physiologists within the NHS. These courses have been developed through a unique collaboration between the University of the West of England and local NHS providers within the south-west region to provide integration of theory and practice so that both the BSc (HONS) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) and BSc (HONS) Healthcare Science (Physiological Sciences) courses support the development of reflective, autonomous and evidence-based practitioners.

What is Healthcare Science?

The healthcare science team play a vital role in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a huge number of medical conditions, as well as in rehabilitation. Along with doctors, nurses and other professions, healthcare science staff are essential members of today's healthcare team. Whether it's helping patients with hearing problems, testing how well their heart & lungs function, analysing tissue samples, or researching how results from the human genome project can be translated into new treatments, these jobs are done by people whose expertise helps to save lives and improve care for millions of patients.
There are a broad range of disciplines within healthcare science, as will become apparent as you read on, but for the purposes of training they can broadly be divided into three groups: 1) Life Sciences, 2) Physiological Sciences, and 3) Clinical engineering and physics. Here at UWE, we offer Life Science and Physiological Science training, which are run through the Healthcare Science Practitioner Training Programme (PTP), as a separate degree programmes (BSc (HONS) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) and BSc (HONS) Healthcare Science (Physiological Sciences)) for each of these disciplines. The remainder of this document will outline what students study on these degree programmes, but firstly the role of this training with in the NHS will be described.

What are they training for?

As the main training route into the NHS, the Healthcare Science degrees lead directly to a career as a Healthcare Science Practitioner, typically entering the NHS at band 5 level. Alternatively, students would be well prepared for other diagnostic and laboratory-based work in the public or private sectors. They could choose to continue their studies to MSc or PhD level or undertake further NHS-based training or specialisation. Graduates from the PTP programme are qualified to apply for the highly sought after Scientist Training Programme (STP), which offers specialist MSc level training whilst working as a Healthcare Scientist within the NHS. The rapid advances in technology mean that Healthcare Science is now one of the most exciting, challenging and rewarding areas of the NHS.

Which Professional bodies are these programmes accredited by?

UWE Bristol was the first University in the UK to gain professionally recognised accreditation from the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (IBMS), and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) for its Healthcare Science Life Science degree. Both programmes are accredited by the Health Education England Healthcare Science Programme Board on behalf of the Health Education England. In addition to this, both programmes are recognised by the National School of Healthcare Science, the Academy for Healthcare Science, and the Council of Healthcare Science. The Healthcare Science (Physiological Sciences) degree has recently been accredited the Registration Council for Clinical Physiology (RCCP), the professional body for Clinical Physiologists.
The programme calendars

The course contains taught elements which take place at UWE, and also work-based learning through a series of placements spread over the three years of study. Both programmes operate across an extended academic calendar, with placement activity occurring during University vacation periods across all years of the programme. In the first year of the Physiological Science programme, students attend a series of 8 placement days throughout the academic term, a pre-placement week in May, and 6 weeks of placement during June and July. In addition students attend 3.5 days of NHS trust placement induction activity. In the First year of the Life Science programme, students attend one week of placement in January, a week of pre-placement training in May, one week at NHS Blood Transfusion services in Bristol, and 5 weeks placement in June and July where the students rotate through different disciplines. For both programmes, the second year placement is 15 weeks in duration, starting after the May exam period, until the end of August/beginning of September. The final year placement starts at the end of the assessment period in January, for 25 weeks until the end of July.

Healthcare Science: Life Science placement pattern

Healthcare Science: Physiological Science placement pattern
What are the pathways available?

**BSc (HONS) Healthcare Science (Life Science):** Within this degree programme students study a range of subjects during their first year in order underpin their further studies. They also carry out placement activity, where they rotate between the different biomedical science disciplines, allowing them to make an informed choice of their future specialism. At the outset of year two, students choose a pathway from one of the following: blood sciences; infection sciences; tissue sciences; or genetics. From this point on, their taught content is focussed more closely around these disciplines and their placements at level 2 and level 3 are carried out within the appropriate laboratories for the path that they have chosen. The blood, tissue, and genetics students study the same material at level 2 before specialising further at level 3. The following graphics show how the specialisation occurs and some of the other names by which these disciplines are also known.
Students graduate with a named degree in Healthcare Science (Life Science):

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<tr>
<th>Healthcare Science (Blood Science)</th>
<th>Healthcare Science (Infection Science)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare Science (Tissue Science)</td>
<td>Healthcare Science (Genetic Science)</td>
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**Why do they study - Life Sciences?**

Specifically, the course provides:

- A broad knowledge base in biosciences with specific areas of deeper understanding relevant to healthcare sciences.
- Experiential placements within the first year to introduce Healthcare Science in practice and give you a wide appreciation of the four pathways (Blood, Tissue, Infection and Genetic Sciences) within Life Sciences.
- An understanding of the importance of patient-centred care, evidence-based practice, clinical audit and multidisciplinary team working.
- Practical experience of working in laboratory medicine on extended placements within one of the Life Sciences pathways enabling you to perform a wide range of relevant techniques and to undertake a project in a working context.
- The underpinning knowledge to enable you to gain and evidence the necessary skills and attitudes to work within Healthcare Science.
- An excellent preparation for work after graduation with the opportunity to develop specialist knowledge and skills within pathways specifically designed for the pursuance of a career as a Biomedical Scientist in the NHS.