Get ready for MSc Biomedical Science

I hope I find you well and excited to be starting your studies. As the Programme Leader for your MSc Biomedical Sciencecourse at UWE Bristol, I warmly welcome you into the 2026-2027 cohort. I look forward to meeting those I have not already met, and reacquainting with those I have met when you start.

The MSc you have chosen will enable you to develop as a scientist in your chosen biomedical science sub-discipline, and you will be assessed on both your knowledge and your skills development as you progress through the course. This is an intensive but rewarding course that can help prepare you for future work in research, academia, industry or clinical biomedical sciences. The information that follows will give you an idea of the expectations of the programme and what you should do ahead of the course starting.

Whether you are a home or an international student it is important to note that the course is delivered as fully on campus – so you will need to ensure you arrive in Bristol in time for the start of the induction block. International students therefore need to ensure that they have their visa in place and to be settled in Bristol. Everyone needs to be ready to start on campus promptly at 10am on Monday 14th September.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Dr Lynne Lawrance
Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block (also called Induction) and the beginning of your programme.

The Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start as you make the transition from undergraduate to masters level. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details (NB – the online information is mainly aimed at undergraduate students but it does include a lot of useful information for you as a masters student).

We will also be introducing some of the material for your Practical Skills in Biomedical Science module during "Starting Block" to enable a prompt start in the lab during the first week of full teaching. So, please make sure you are available for the entirety of the block – you should expect to be on campus 10am until 4pm each day between the 14 Sept and the

25 Sept (though there may be days you are not there the full 6 hours it is better to presume that you will be). If you are formally enrolling as a part-time student, please contact me for a personalised plan for Starting Block attendance.

During induction you will be involved in a wide range of activities including:

- Understanding the requirements of the programme and the difference between UG and PG studies; supported by a workshop on project management to help you plan the year ahead.
- Meeting the other students on the programme, who will be a mix of both home and overseas students with a diverse background. You will also meet many of the staff who teach on the programme and get a chance to talk about possible research projects.
- For international students there will also be a chance to find out more about what living and studying in the UK is like. For example, there will be sessions to support use of computer packages considered "standard" for UK students that may be very new to international students – so those sessions will be crucial to upskill you ready for your first assessment.
- You will undertake some practice assessments that will enable you to assess your current academic skills against UK academic standards for M level and we will work out how to best develop the skills that show need for improvement

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival
You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Enrolment
Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Enrolment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Enrolment website.

ID card - upload your photo now
We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Key dates and time commitment required for success

The intensive nature of the full-time course means you need to be able to commit around 40 hours per week to your studies for the full year of your studies or *pro rata* for part-time students. Much of this time will be spent in individual study undertaken under the guidance of the programme team, so you need to be motivated and organised. You need to ensure

you engage with the university for all teaching and assessment weeks across the year as your programme is **three** semesters long.

The term dates and academic calendar is available online.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning
I would recommend you do the following before you arrive:

If your offer suggested contacting the programme leader for some pre-course reading and you have not yet contacted me, then please do e-mail me. This offer is designed to help those whose background is slightly atypical to most students on the course backfill any topics that they did not study at undergraduate level and to make the multi-disciplinary modules less daunting.

Read around your subject
Here are some of our recommended ideas for you to enable you to read around your topic:

- At masters level you will spend most of your time looking at journal article material – so it would be worth re-reading your undergraduate notes or textbooks in your planned specialist discipline, particularly if you are returning to study after a break.
- You could also read some review articles in biomedical science journals and keep an eye on news websites for any topical stories that are published.

Be prepared
This is some central university information that is worth exploring before you arrive.

Access support
Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped
The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications (please read the section of 'Hardware').

For this programme, we recommend the **Core Specification**.

Specifics for your course
You will need plenty of stationery, including a hard cover laboratory notebook. I would recommend a diary or an online diary that covers the entire duration of your study to enable planning (you will need this for one of the "Starting Block" sessions).

International students
The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact the Programme Leader:
Dr LynneLawrance via email at lynne.lawrance@uwe.ac.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026