Get ready for MSc Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science

Welcome to MSc Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science course, at UWE Bristol, in collaboration with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). This course has been developed and is taught in partnership between UWE and NHSBT, giving you an exciting blend of teaching from academics and practising scientists. It is an intensive, but rewarding course, which will help you to further develop your career in Transfusion and Transplantation Sciences, whether in a clinical laboratory, research, or management and leadership.

The course will be delivered in a blended format, with both face-to-face teaching, and online learning. The following information will give you an idea of expectations of the programme, and how you can prepare in advance of starting the course. We very much look forward to meeting you during the first block of face-to-face teaching in September.

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

Dr Tim Satchwell (Programme Leader) **& Ruth Evans** (NHSBT)

Before you start

Your course will start with two weeks of induction, which will start the week of the **16th September** with a range of activities available during this period to support your learning. **There is an essential three days of face-to-face induction (16th - 18th September 2026) at NHSBT Filton (16th-17th September) and UWE Frenchay campus (18th September) in Bristol.** Please make sure you are available for as many of the additional optional induction activities as possible, but we understand that depending on your mode of study, location and work commitments this will vary as some things will be more relevant.

Between 14th September and 28th September, for full-time students based in Bristol there will be a mixture of optional in-person sessions (both at UWE and NHSBT), as well as online scheduled activities and self-directed study activities to help you settle in to Bristol and the University more effectively. In particular, this will include the option to take part in a 'Practical Introduction to Transfusion Science' course online on the 22nd-23rd September. For part-time students, in addition to the essential face-to-face days (16th-18th Sept), there will be online scheduled activities and self-directed study activities available (we will give you more info about these nearer the time). Obviously if you are a part-time student but local to Bristol, or able to travel, you are very welcome to join the additional optional in-person sessions if you wish to.

The induction weeks have been designed as an introduction to UWE Bristol and NHSBT, and an opportunity to learn the skills you need to collaborate online and get the best out

of the course. You will also be able to meet your teaching team and course mates.

During induction you will be involved in a wide range of scheduled online and optional activities including:

16th – 17th September 2026 (Face to Face at NHSBT Filton, Bristol) - Mandatory:

- A series of sessions to help you make the transition to master's level study at UWE. Understanding the requirements of the programme and the difference between UG and PG studies; supported by a range of workshops to help you plan your studies
- Meeting the other students on the programme, who will be a mix of both home and international 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
- Sessions such as developing IT skills and avoiding plagiarism
- You will be sent a document called "Useful Information Before Induction" which contains information such as how to attend induction face to face, amongst other things. **Please read this before you attend induction**.

18th September 2025 (Face to Face at UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol) – Mandatory:

- A tour of the facilities on offer & resources available at UWE, Frenchay Campus
- A session run by the UWE library team to see the resources available, alongside a workshop on study skills and referencing
- For international students there will also be a chance to find out more about whatliving and studying in the UK is like and network with the UWE International Tutor and potentially other UK-based and international students from similar MSc programmes

22nd to 23rd September (Online) - Optional

- An introductory **online** basic transfusion science course to introduce transfusion to those with minimal prior knowledge
- Details on how to access this course online will be made available to you during induction
- Although these sessions are listed as optional, **if you have no or very limited transfusion knowledge, you should consider this to be mandatory.** You will be expected to be familiar with the content of this introductory course before you begin lectures formally, and **if you do not have a background in transfusion and choose not to attend this course, you will likely find you are at a disadvantage when formal lecturing begins**

We will give you more detailed information about the teaching on the programme during induction. Much of the content in the course will be delivered online, however there are several face-to-face blocks, the dates of which we have detailed below. Please be aware, formal lecturing on this course commences from the 30th of September.

Finalised timetables will be made available to you at a later date, however, please make note of the following dates for now:

- Formal lectures begin the week of the 28th September 2026

- Transfusion & Transplantation Science lectures run on THURSDAYS (all day long during both semesters)
- Research Methodologies & Statistics run on TUESDAYS (morning until 1pm) for the first semester
- Enterprise and Innovation run on TUESDAYS (morning) for the second semester
- Management of Clinical Services run on FRIDAYS (morning until 1pm during both semesters) - this module is only applicable to FULL TIME students for 2026-2027. Part time students will undertake this module in their second year of study (2027-2028)

Face to Face blocks (at NHSBT in Bristol) on this course are:

- Induction – 16th to 18th September 2026
- Transfusion 1 – 7th October to 9th October 2026
- Transfusion 2 – 11th November to 13th November 2026
- Management of Clinical Services (for Full Time students ONLY) – 2nd February 2027
- Transplantation 1 – 3rd February to 5th February 2027
- Transplantation 2 – 17th March to 19th March 2027

Additional information regarding face-to-face day requirements & content will be sent out closer to the date. Please make every effort to attend the face-to-face blocks as much as possible, as you will have assignments based on the content covered during these sessions. Although we try our best to make all material covered during the face-to-face blocks available online, students who have been unable to attend face to face blocks in previous years have found it much more difficult to complete the associated assignments.

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

Please take note of the UWE term dates.

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. If all goes to schedule you will complete in September 2027 (for full-time students) or September 2028 (part-time students),and will be able to attend the next available UWE Graduation Ceremony.

For part-time students, the programme is two years long with the first year including mainly taught modules, and the second year having fewer taught sessions, but including an extended laboratory project.

Engage with your programme

We would recommend you do the following before you arrive at UWE:

Start your learning
Have a go at these activities to start preparing for your course and induction:

- Visit the virtual centre tour from NHS Blood and Transplant, for which filming was undertaken at Filton, Bristol. Take the lift and explore different departments. It will help you to gain a better understanding of the organisation.
- Access "Blood Bank Guy" website: https://www.bbguy.org/ and watch two videos on Basic Immunohaematology: Blood Groups Overview.

Read around your subject
A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive.

- ISBT Science Series - Vol 15 S1, Special Issue: Introduction to blood transfusion: From donor to patient - This is a good ISBT published overview of many of the topics that are covered, and gives an introduction to the subject matter. It should be used as a foundation for further study.
- Goldman M, White J, Wood E. Introduction to Blood Transfusion: From Donor to Recipient; 2020. ISBT. Available for free: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17512824/2020/15/S1
- The 7 habits of highly effective people: Powerful lessons in personal change. Stephen R Covey (2004) - or research his work online.

Find out about NHSBT

Visit the NHSBT website to learn more about the work that goes on in NHSBT Filton, Bristol. Hepatitis B vaccination is not mandatory, but as students will potentially be working in clinical labs NHSBT would recommend it.

The address for NHSBT Filton, where the first face-to-face days take place, is: 500, North Bristol Park, Filton, Bristol BS34 7QH.

Connect with others (social media/societies/APT)

- *International Society for Blood Transfusion:* https://www.isbtweb.org/isbt-academy/isbt-education
- British Blood Transfusion Society https://www.bbts.org.uk/
- Twitter Search for: @NHSBT @UWE_DAS_
- Facebook: search for Blood Bank Interest Group or Blood Bank Professionals

Be prepared

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. 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.

All students are provided with an Office365 account, which gives access to Outlook, Word, Excel, OneNote and PowerPoint, and 1TB of secure online storage, as well as specialist software packages once you begin your studies. Guidance on where to obtain software will be given at the start of the course. Lots of useful information on IT services can be found at http://www.uwe.ac.uk/its/

For this Programme it is especially important that you check your IT equipment is ready for induction and the first teaching semester, as much of the delivery will be online. Access to the latest version of Google Chrome is particularly important for your studies,as this will enable you to use online tools with maximum compatibility. Other browsers can be used, but are not recommended. NHS/NHSBT staff may need to request an upgrade to the latest version of Chrome.

Please take some time to set yourself up a workstation that is comfortable, quiet and conducive with study. We would recommend using the best connection to the internet that you can so that you have a stable connection for lectures etc.

The core software and online services used in your course includes:

- **Microsoft Office (recent versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint)**
- **Blackboard Ultra**
- **Minitab**
- **Mentimeter**
- **Resimion**
- **Panopto**

These packages will run on Windows and Mac devices but are unlikely to run on tablets or Chromebooks. It is important that you have a device that supports at least full HD (1920 ×1080) screen resolution.

NHSBT Filton

During your first visit to NHSBT Filton (500, North Bristol Park, Filton, Bristol BS34 7QH) you will be given an ID card which you will need to access the building whenever you visit the centre. While working there you will have access to the computers in the library area and will be able to connect to the guest wi-fi. You will also be able to borrow books from the NHSBT library. Catering facilities are available on-site including a restaurant with seating and a coffee bar. There is also a kitchen area with hot water for drinks, and a microwave / fridge. Parking on-site is extremely limited and spaces need to be booked in advance. To book a parking space, please email facilities at NHSBT on bristol.facilities@nhsbt.nhs.uk.

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.

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

The academic team is very happy to answer your questions. In addition, all students have a personal tutor and can go to that staff member with academic questions and concerns.

For any questions about the programme, please contact the Programme Leader:
Dr Tim Satchwell via email at Tim.Satchwell@uwe.ac.uk or **NHSBT Programme Team** via their shared inbox: mscappliedtxtp@nhsbt.nhs.uk

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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