

Biosciences

Lancaster
University



4th

The Guardian
University Guide
2022

*Biomedicine
and
Biomedical
Science*

Welcome

Congratulations on being made an offer to study at Lancaster University. Lancaster is a highly-ranked university and as such, a degree from Lancaster is prestigious and studying here is an exceptionally rewarding experience. Our flexible Biomedicine and our IBMS-accredited Biomedical Science degree courses are aimed at those with a broad interest in human life processes and disease and give you the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the techniques and issues associated with modern biomedical research.

We have a collaborative approach to both teaching and research and this provides you with a better student experience. We collaborate and have strong links with the NHS and other social care partners, with health-related industries and the voluntary sector, and through our Enterprise and Business Partnerships team, we have close links to industry.

I am always impressed with the close-knit community that students from across our degree programmes form, and I have no doubt that if you choose to come to Lancaster, you will quickly find your home here.

We understand that choosing a university course is not just about where you will study or live for the next three or four years. From the skills you learn, the aspirations you develop and the memories you make, your time at university has the potential to define the rest of your life.

I would like you to be assured that we are here to support you every step of the way

to help you make informed decisions about your Higher Education options, succeed in your degree and to ensure that you are well prepared to enter a fulfilling and prosperous future career.

Please contact us if you have any queries about studying at Lancaster – our team are more than happy to help.

Dr Paul McKean
Head of Department
Biomedical and Life Sciences



Paul is responsible for coordinating our world-leading research, outstanding teaching and creating a centre of excellence that our staff and students are proud to be a part of. Paul is also an active researcher, dedicating much of his working life to the study of parasites of medical and veterinary importance. His research focuses on infectious diseases and the host response and specifically the African trypanosome, *Trypanosoma brucei*.

Meet the team

Dr John Worthington
First Year Director of Studies

My research focuses on the role of interactions between our gut's endocrine and immune systems and how these can play a role in harmful inflammation. In particular, I am interested to understand the mechanistic crosstalk between enteroendocrine and immune cells in order to identify key features of intestinal health which could be therapeutically targeted during disease.



Dr Ed Parkin
Study Abroad Academic Advisor

My research investigates the contribution of proteolysis and the enzymes that catalyse these processes in relation to diseases of aging such as neurodegeneration and cancer. In particular, I am interested in the role of the amyloid precursor protein (APP) in both Alzheimer's disease and cancer, and the role played by Notch signalling in prostate and colorectal cancers.

Life as *a first year*

Finding your feet

Your first week at Lancaster will probably be hectic, but you'll look back at it with very fond memories. You'll become best friends with people from all around the country, and even the world, as you get to know people in your accommodation and College at the numerous social activities throughout Welcome Week.

Discover your degree

Throughout the year you'll be introduced to a wealth of new information and a new style of learning. This might sound daunting, but our degrees are carefully designed to develop your academic knowledge and practical skills. Besides, our excellent support system means you'll be supported every step of the way.

Get involved

At Lancaster you'll have a choice of over 200 clubs and societies covering a range of activities, hobbies and causes. So whether you want to meet people who share your interests, to try something new, to explore a different culture or to increase your academic network, there is truly something for everyone!

Put theory into practice

You'll be encouraged to take your learning outside of the lecture theatre. You'll have the opportunity to put theory into practice during lab practical sessions and even begin to conduct your own research.

Think about the future

It's never too soon to start thinking about life after Lancaster. Whatever your career aspirations may be, or even if you don't know yet, we'll strive to support you and enhance your employability. You'll receive lifelong support from our careers team, which will put you in direct contact with graduate employers and recent alumni.



Contact hours

Your first year at university is not only an opportunity to adapt to a new way of learning but also to explore a wide range of topics, helping you to choose the areas you want to specialise in from year two and beyond.

You'll be taught by internationally renowned experts in lectures and be able to put your knowledge into practice in numerous lab practical and workshop sessions. You will also benefit from a highly personal experience, learning and sharing your experiences with other students in small tutorial groups.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am	Genetics (lecture)				
10am		Biotechnology (lecture)	Genetics (lecture)		Impacts of Microbes (lecture)
11am	Skills in the Life Sciences (lecture)	Genetics (lecture)	Biotechnology (lecture)		
12pm	Impacts of Microbes (lecture)				
1pm		Impacts of Microbes (lecture)			
2pm	Impacts of Microbes (practical)			Biotechnology (practical)	Genetics (workshop)
3pm					
4pm		Skills in the Life Sciences (practical)			
5pm					

Contact hours can change week to week, and your first year timetable may differ. This timetable is for illustrative purposes only and does not guarantee the availability of any module.

Why I loved Lancaster

We caught up with recent graduate Jess Burrows to find out what she enjoyed most about studying at Lancaster and what tips she would give to those currently applying.



What did you enjoy most about your degree at Lancaster?

“ When looking at courses I wasn't really sure what area of biology I was most interested in, therefore I really wanted a flexible course that allowed a lot of choice. After looking intensively at lots of universities I found that Lancaster was one of very few to offer such flexibility. I really liked how there was hardly any set modules and I could tailor the course to

my interests. I also liked that if you started modules and you realised that wasn't your interest, that staff were so willing to help you find modules that suited you much better. There was also such a wide range of modules available, which really made the decision easy.

I really enjoy the practical components of the course such as trips and lab sessions. I also really love how you can specialise in the area you are most interested in, for example I love ecology and conservation and have thoroughly enjoyed learning more about all of the different aspects. I have found that developing my practical skills has helped me to gain experience and I wouldn't have got that anywhere else. I also think the staff at Lancaster make the degree so much more enjoyable, they are honestly some of the friendliest people I have ever met and I have always been able to approach any member of staff with any problems I have had.”

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of studying at Lancaster?

“I would say to not be worried about asking questions about the course and anything else you want to know, the staff are fantastic and always friendly. Looking back I wish I had asked more questions as I think it would have made the decision to come to Lancaster even easier. I would also say look carefully at courses and know that at Lancaster there are always options if you started your course and weren't sure. Look over modules for second and third years too so you know what routes you could take based on your interests.”



Student support

Our departments are vibrant and friendly, fostering a highly supportive learning environment, ensuring that you receive the support you need in order to achieve your full academic potential.

You will benefit from being able to study in small groups at various points in your degree. This is not only a great way to work closely with others on your course, but also to receive personal academic support from the teaching staff. We also give timely feedback on the coursework you submit throughout the year, enabling you to note areas for improvement and act upon this.

We recognise that adapting to a different style of learning may sound daunting, but you will receive excellent support and guidance from a number of sources. Our academic staff also operate an 'open door' policy and are more than happy to informally discuss your work with you.

Academic Tutor

You will be assigned an Academic Tutor for the duration of your studies. You will both meet at least once per term, which provides an excellent opportunity for one-to-one discussion about your progress.

Learning Developers

You will have access to our Student Learning Developers, who offer free consultations to help you improve your scientific writing, plan assignments and revise for exams – all of which ensures you are able to achieve your full potential.

“ Don't worry about any questions you may have about starting university. If you choose to study at Lancaster, we'll match you up with a Student Mentor, who will guide you through your initial first few weeks of university, helping to answer any queries or concerns that you think are trivial. They know what you are experiencing, know the best people to ask, and help give you a great start to life at university.”

Julia Bland, first year
Teaching Coordinator

A Day in the Life

Lauryn graduated in 2020 but chose to stay at Lancaster University where she is now pursuing a PhD. Casting her mind back for us, this was a typical 'day in the life' when she started in first year of undergraduate Biomedicine.



“University is a whole different way of learning compared to studying at school because obviously you have lectures. The lecturer might speak to you for forty or fifty minutes and then you have the chance to ask questions. Some people like to type notes as they go but I liked to print off the lecture slides and then annotate them as the lecturer went through them. It depends what style of learning works for you. I lived on Campus in first-year and so it was never that hard to get up and make it to lectures on time.

In first-year Biomedicine I'd typically have two or three lectures a day and these were usually in the morning but it can vary. As I progressed through my degree, I had fewer lectures and more time spent on independent study.



After the morning lectures, it was lunch time (one of the most important parts of the day as you need to be fuelled and ready for the afternoon practicals). In first-year I'd either go back to my flat for lunch which was really close to the lecture theatres, or else get something from my college bar.



In the afternoon, the practicals would be either two or four hours depending on what we were doing. These laboratory practicals are when you get to put into practice the things you've covered in the lectures. Or we might have a workshop or seminar instead. These are smaller group sessions where again, it's all about putting into practice the things we've been taught in the lectures.

After that I'd usually spend some time finishing off writing up notes or data from the lectures. I might do this back at home or in the Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC) atrium.

If I can offer some advice, make sure you write up your lecture notes, it really helps

with affirmation of what you've studied, and helps you remember and learn. Exams come around faster than you think, and there are often end of module tests that you need to prepare for.

We had essays to write which were assessed and as a science student, I wasn't really used to essay writing, but there was loads of help and special tutorials to help with essay writing. Same with scientific reports that we had to write, or group projects and team presentations. It's really varied.

In the evening make sure you have some social time with your friends. This can be as simple as watching Netflix in your flat, or going to the cinema on campus, or doing society stuff, like Ultimate Frisbee or one of the music societies. The days are all different but with the timetable they're also quite structured.”



Scholarships and bursaries

Our priority is to support you to make the most of your life and education. We have a package of bursaries, based on household income, and scholarships, based upon academic performance at A level (or equivalent academic qualifications), to help support you during your time at Lancaster. For up to date details of tuition fees, financial support and further guidance please visit our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/scholarships

Preparing for the future

Working closely with major graduate employers and global businesses, our Careers Service is here to help you develop key skills, gain relevant work experience, network with employers and alumni, and take your first vital steps into the world of work. We're good at it too, we are joint 8th for careers in Biosciences (The Guardian League Tables 2022).

The opportunities we offer include:

- **Careers Fairs** attracting 100+ employers
- **Sector-specific events, workshops and employer networking**
- **Career-mentoring programme, allowing you to learn from an employer or alumni mentor**
- **Communications about graduate schemes, internships and work experience opportunities**
- **On-campus recruitment agency, offering part-time roles for students**
- **Lancaster Award programme to recognise work experience, extra-curricular activities and transferable skills**

Work experience

Relevant work experience is crucial to achieving a good graduate job and our in-house Enterprise and Business Partnerships team and our close collaborations and strong links with NHS and social care partners, health-related industries and the voluntary sector, providing many opportunities for work experience or internships.

Lasting support

We provide you with lifetime access to our Careers Service. Most of our graduates go straight into work or stay in academia for postgraduate study, but careers aren't always straight lines along one simple track. We know that individual aims and circumstances can change over time, so we'll always be here to help.

“In order to achieve a good graduate job and kick-start your career, it is important you have relevant experience that you can draw upon in an application and interview. We engage with hundreds of different businesses and organisations, giving you the opportunity to undertake an internship or work experience placement alongside your degree.”

Dr Ruth Alcock, Head of Enterprise and Business Partnerships

Work placements: *where could one take you?*

Undertaking an internship is a great way to gain work experience and a valuable addition to your CV. Recent graduate Shannon Galgani, completed a 10-week internship with MAC Clinical Research in the Manchester Early Phase Unit and explains how she had the opportunity to put her knowledge into practice.



“Through Lancaster University I secured a 10 week internship with MAC Clinical Research in the Manchester Early Phase Unit. As a clinical trial intern I was lucky enough to work with research nurses, doctors and study co-ordinators who taught me how to perform screens, telemetry, ECGs, vital signs, spirometry, venepuncture and even Intermediate Life Support training! All these skills were then used to monitor participants as they went through a clinical trial for a drug that would hopefully bring a better treatment or quality of life for people with certain conditions!

It was a really exciting place to work as at any given time there were multiple studies being conducted, meaning that there was always a new condition, drug or screening technique to learn. Taking skill-based laboratory modules such as the second year module 'Biochemical Techniques' at Lancaster meant that I was comfortable preparing blood and urine samples in the MAC laboratory, and my 'Practical Physiology' knowledge helped me understand the physiological basis of performing ECG measurements.

I enjoyed every second of my internship and was lucky enough to be given a locum contract with MAC Clinical Research after the internship finished - Lancaster University's connection with this company meant that I was able to gain experience in my dream field before I had even graduated!"

Contact us

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us
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Connect with us

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Offer holder events

The University is planning a full calendar of in-person, and remote, Offer holder events. These are scheduled from the end of this calendar year, through the end of April 2022. However, it may be the case that circumstances require us to move all these events online, and while we sincerely hope that does not happen, we must plan for that eventuality. We will be in touch directly with dates and times, and will keep you updated should we need to change their timing or mode of delivery. You can keep up to date with all Covid-related news here: www.lancaster.ac.uk/coronavirus

Disclaimer: The information in this leaflet relates primarily to 2022/23 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in November 2021. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information.

Further legal information may be found at www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice