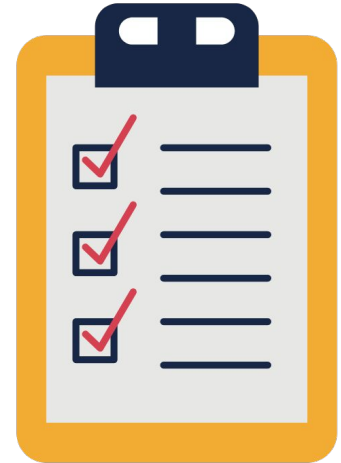


Supporting students to choose a university and course



Today, we will cover:

- Different types of HE
- Comparing courses/institutions
- Entry requirements
- Widening Access
- Managing expectations



Different types of HE

- Universities
- Online providers
- FE colleges
- Degree apprenticeships
- Conservatoires, drama schools



What's "The Russell Group"?

24 world-leading research-intensive universities

Common thoughts we hear...

- 'hard to get into it'
- 'high in the league tables'
- 'traditional subjects'



Course Content and assessment methods

- Compulsory courses
- Optional / Personal Selection courses
- How are students supported in choosing?
- Personal interests?
- Written exams? Practical Exams?
- Coursework?
- Can a student “play to their strengths”?



An example: Biochemistry at the UoE

Year 1 Academic year: 2022/23, Starting in: September

NOTES:
Information giving details, as well as restrictions and recommendations on choices and courses, will be available for students entering the degree programme.

Compulsory courses

You must take these courses

Biology 1A: Variation Must be passed BILG08020 20 credits	Biology 1B: Life Must be passed BILG08021 20 credits	Biology 1C: Discovery Must be passed BILG08022 20 credits	Biology 1D: Environment Must be passed BILG08023 20 credits
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Course options

Group A

Select exactly 40 credits in this group.

Biological Chemistry Courses - Level 8

Select between 0 and 40 credits of the following courses

NOTES:
Exceptionally, the courses; Biological Chemistry 1A and Biological Chemistry 1B may be replaced with any other courses at level 7 or 8 chosen in schedules A to Q, S, T, W and Y.

Biological Chemistry 1A CHEM08022 20 credits	Biological Chemistry 1B CHEM08023 20 credits
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AND

Level 7 and 8 courses in Schedules A to Q, S, T, W and Y

Select between 0 and 40 credits from Level 7 and 8 courses in Schedules A to Q, S, T, W and Y

An example: Biochemistry at the UoE

Course Delivery Information		
Academic year 2022/23, Available to all students (SV1)	Quota: 360	
Course Start	Semester 1	
Timetable	Timetable	
Learning and Teaching activities (Further Info)	Total Hours: 200 (Programme Level Learning and Teaching Hours 4, Directed Learning and Independent Learning Hours 196)	
Assessment (Further Info)	Written Exam 25 %, Coursework 55 %, Practical Exam 20 %	
Additional Information (Assessment)	- Portfolio: 25% (pass/fail) - Online quizzes: 30% - Lab report: 20% - Open book exam: 25% To pass the course, the ICA must be passed (40%), the portfolio must be passed (pass/fail) and the exam must be passed (40%).	
Feedback	Feedback will be given through the portfolio and script review meetings, as well as various formative assessment.	
Exam Information		
Exam Diet	Paper Name	Hours & Minutes
Main Exam Diet S1 (December)		2:00
Learning Outcomes		
On completion of this course, the student will be able to:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe and explain the origin and maintenance of diversity of life from molecules to whole organisms 2. Acquire and assess information by research or by practice 3. Use evidence-based thinking and creative enquiry to formulate, synthesise, evaluate and communicate ideas 4. Understand, analyse, interpret and present data, and gain a conceptual grasp of common quantitative principles 5. Demonstrate individual and cooperative skills when undertaking and evaluating tasks. 		

An example: Biochemistry at the UoY

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 1

Stage 1 (the first year) consists of core modules which are designed to give you an excellent basis on which to build your future studies and develop your interests.

Core modules

- **Becoming a Bioscientist: Core Skills**
- [Molecular Biology and Biochemistry](#)
- **Fundamentals of Chemistry for Biochemists 1**
- **Becoming a Bioscientist: Grand Challenges**
- **Fundamentals of Chemistry for Biochemists 2**
- **Cells to Organisms**

Academic integrity module

In addition to the above you will also need to complete our online [Academic Integrity module](#).

An example: Biochemistry at the UoY

Module learning outcomes

- To be able to describe the main chemical components of cells, their structural properties, how these relate to their functions, and how they are altered during cellular processes
- To be able to describe and explain how covalent and non-covalent interactions bring about the assembly of cellular components and macromolecules
- To be able to explain theoretical frameworks (such as Michaelis-Menten kinetics, the laws of thermodynamics and the chemiosmotic theory) that allow us to understand the function of biological molecules and cells
- To be able to integrate knowledge about heterotrophic metabolism (of carbohydrates & lipids) and phototrophic metabolism and how they relate to energy metabolism via ATP
- To be able to relate knowledge of biological molecules to health and disease and to their application in biotechnology
- To be able to apply quantitative approaches to perform basic calculations related to acid-base chemistry, redox reactions, and to analyse and evaluate enzyme kinetics data gathered in practical classes

Assessment

Task	Length	% of module mark
Essay/coursework Online Exam	6 hours	100

Special assessment rules

None

Reassessment

Task	Length	% of module mark
Essay/coursework Online Exam	6 hours	100

Course content and assessment – Best Advice

- Do your research!
- Don't make assumptions about course content
- Consider the amount of personal choice – does it match with personal interests?
- Outside courses in other subjects?
- What assessments methods suit you? Can you maximise your attainment / enjoyment by considering this?

Entry Requirements

- Grades: wide variety!
- Required subjects (Degree specific)
- Required subjects (General Entry)
- “Facilitating” subjects
- Accepted subjects



An example: Biochemistry at the UoE and the UoY

A levels

AAB including grade A in Chemistry, plus a second science.

We accept the following subjects as a second science: Biology, Further Mathematics, Geology, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics or Statistics.

GCSE/IGCSE/O level English Language (as a first or second language)

Grade C / Grade 4

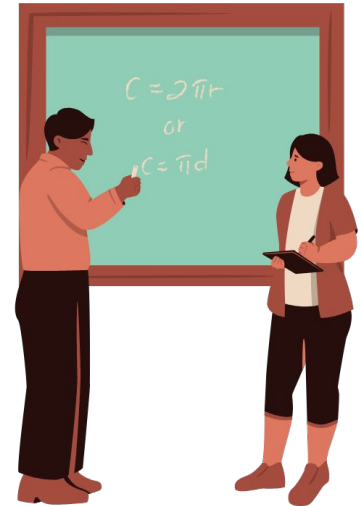
- A Levels: AAA - ABB.
- A Levels: Biology and Chemistry, both at B or above. If you don't have a grade A in one of Biology or Chemistry, you must have an A in either Mathematics or Physics.
GCSEs: Mathematics or Physics at B or 6 and English at C or 4.

Entry Requirements – Best Advice

- Check, check and check again – contact uni(s) if in doubt
- Don't make assumptions: just because one uni asks for a subject / grades doesn't mean that they all will!
- Be realistic – but optimistic
- “Aspirational” (but still realistic...) choice
- “Safe” choice – if possible

Widening Access Criteria

- **Not always the same at every uni!**
- Care experienced or estranged
- Caring responsibilities
- Refugee / Asylum seeker status
- “Target” postcode (eg POLAR / Acorn)
- “Target” school (progression / attainment)
- Participation in a widening access project
- Ethnic minority students
- Disability or long term health condition



Widening Access – Possible Concessions

- **Not always the same at every uni!**
- Guaranteed offer
- Interview guarantee
- Reduced offer
- Summer school as an alternative to grades
- Unconditional offer
- Flexibility at confirmation
- Extra financial support

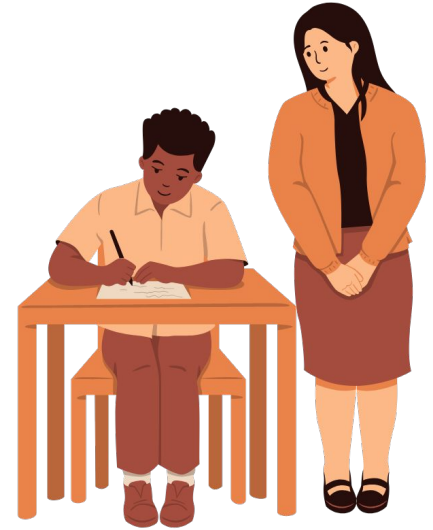


Widening Access – Best Advice

- Again... don't make assumptions!
- Find out how to flag up any widening access factors: what is automatic and what isn't? This may vary.
- Will the uni of interest consider the particular widening access factor?
- Is it a “mitigating circumstance” rather than a widening access factor?
- What support can the uni offer? Both at the time of application and as a student: eg financial help; mentoring; extra named contact support etc.

Managing Expectations

- Don't limit students potential by 'putting them in a box'
- Be realistic with them and give them options
- Think about back-ups with students in case things don't go as planned



Thank you for listening!

Find out more information:

- University of York: york.ac.uk
- University of Edinburgh: ed.ac.uk

ADVANCING
ACCESS

