

Figure 4.1: Summary of First-Year Course Unit Settings, Biosciences

Unit theme & code	Biochemistry Foundation Module (B1F)	Biology Foundation Module (B2F)	Biochemistry Foundation Module (B3F)
INSTITUTIONAL SETTING	A post-1992 university strongly committed to vocational relevance and wider participation in HE	A very large and diverse 'ancient' university with a high research profile	A late 1960s university with a leaning towards science and engineering
Status of Unit, Scheduling and contact hours	Second semester core module for students taking degree programmes in the areas of biotechnology and forensic science	Introductory Biology unit for students taking a wide variety of degree programmes linked to the Bio-sciences (e.g. anatomy, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, pharmacology)	Second-semester unit, compulsory for students taking degree programmes in biochemistry and in molecular and cellular biology
INDICATIVE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS All three institutions accept applicants with a range of academic and/or vocational qualifications, varying by degree programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending on the degree programme, the entry requirements vary from BBC to BBBB in Highers or from DDD to CCC in A Level. All programmes require either Biology or Chemistry. - Applications are also encouraged from mature students and all those from disadvantaged backgrounds, for whom requirements are flexible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Levels or Highers in two Sciences or Maths. Typical Grade Requirements BBBB (Higher) BCC (A Level) - Applications are also encouraged from mature students and/or with Access Qualifications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending on the degree programme, the entry requirements vary from BBB to AAB in A Level. All programmes require either Biology or Chemistry. - Applications are also encouraged from students holding International Baccalaureate
STUDENT ENROLMENT	P – 107 C – /	P – 638 C – 630	P - 96 C – 88
Core Teaching Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lectures - Tutorials in degree programme groups. Group size ~12-17 per group. - Practicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lectures - Practical/Tutorial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lectures - Tutorials, with personal tutor. Group size ~4 per group. - Practicals
Assessment (including weightings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two in-course MCQ tests (40%) - Two lab reports (40%) - Final Exam (integrative MCQs) (20%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course work: 5 lab reports and other assignments (50%) - 2-hr end of course examination (50%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exam paper (2 hrs) (80%) - Practical Work (20%)
Guidance/Learning support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course handbook, includes quizzes on lectures - Lecture handouts are put on the web, along with Web CT post-lecture quizzes. Also builds in 'review' sessions to go over points not understood. - Additional drop-in tutorials offered to students without a strong background in chemistry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensive written guidance in course handbook and lab manual as well as on website - Website also includes self-test questions and other support materials - Associate lecturers provide one-to-one guidance to students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecturers have option of putting lecture notes and labs on course website - Learning support is via tutorials (with personal tutor) and a parallel half-unit "Skills and Techniques". First lecture also includes guidance on effective studying (collab year)
STAFFING INPUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Lecturers - 1 Teaching Assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 Lecturers - 3 Associate Lecturers - 14 Postgraduate lab demonstrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 Lecturers - Post-doctoral lab demonstrators