Module Specification

Module Title	Biochemistry MSci Research Project	Module Code	BIO790

Credit Value	90	Level	7	Mode of Delivery	On Campus	Semester A +B

Pre-requisite modules	Co-requisite modules	Overlapping modules

1) Content Description

Provide a description of the module, as it will appear in the Module Directory and on the Student Information System (approx. 70-80 words).

Students work independently on a topic in biochemistry in which their supervisor is a recognized expert. Original experimental or theoretical work is the principal component of this advanced research project. A thesis (dissertation) is written by the student describing the work undertaken, and placing it in context of other research in the field. The dissertation is defended in an oral examination, which includes a short oral presentation.

2) Module Aims

Specify the aims of the module, i.e. the broad educational purposes for offering this module.

To equip students for a research career in biochemistry or a related discipline. The students will plan and execute experiments whilst working under the supervision in a research environment. To enhance students' experimental, theoretical and analytical skills, and develop their ability to adapt and apply methodology to the solution of unfamiliar problems. To develop the students' organizational and time-management skills, and their skills in the oral and written communication of research results and scientific concepts.

3) Learning Outcomes

Identify the learning outcomes for this module, i.e. knowledge, skills and attributes to be developed through completion of this module. Outcomes should be referenced to the relevant QAA benchmark statements and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008). The SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education 2003 and Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes should also be used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Academic Content:

A1	Critical thinking.
A2	Selection of optimal methods and molecule/cell/system.
A3	Interpretation of experimental and/or computational results.

Disciplinary skills - able to:	
B1	Plan, design and execute experiments.
B2	Use specialised research equipment (subject to training and health & safety procedures).
B3	Research independently in their chosen field of biochemistry.

Attributes:	
C1	Evaluate and critically engage with existing knowledge.
C2	Acquire new knowledge and extend understanding through investigation of unfamiliar problems.
C3	Communicate results of research clearly by both written report and oral presentation.

4) Reading List

Provide an indicative reading list for the module. This should include key texts and/or journals but should not be an exhaustive list of materials.

The reading list will depend on the research topic chosen and will be provided initially by the supervisor.

5) Teaching and Learning Profile

Provide details of the method of delivery (lectures, seminars, fieldwork, practical classes, etc.) used to enable the achievement of learning outcomes and an indicative number of hours for each activity to give an overall picture of the workload a student taking the module would be expected to undertake. This information will form the Key Information Set for each undergraduate programme and will be used to populate the KIS widget found on the QMUL programme information pages. More information can be found online about KIS. You may also wish to refer to the QAA guidance on contact hours when completing this section.

Activity Type	KIS Category	Time Spent (in hours)
Project Supervision	Scheduled	60
Practical Classes and workshops	Scheduled	82
	Total	142

Specify the total module notional study hours. This should be a total of the hours given for each activity. The notional study hours for each academic credit point is 10. A 15 credit point module therefore represents 150 notional study hours.

Activity Type	Total Time Spent (in hours)	Percentage of Time Spent
Scheduled learning and teaching	780	86.67
Placement	0	0
Independent Study	120	13.33
Total	900	100

Use the information provided in the box above to specify the total time spent and the percentage time spent in each category of teaching and learning activity.

6) Assessment Profile

Provide details of the assessment methods used to assess the achievement of learning outcomes.

Description of Assessment	Assessment Type	KIS Category	Duration/Length	Percentage Weighting	Final element of assessment	Qualifying Mark
Dissertation	Dissertation	Dissertation		70	Yes	N/A
Coursework	Coursework	Report		30	No	N/A

Final element of assessment: The assessment that takes place last. There should normally be only one element of assessment marked as final unless two assessment or submission dates occur on the same day.

Qualifying mark: A specified minimum mark that must be obtained in one or more elements of assessment in order to pass a module. This is in addition to, and distinct from, the requirement to achieve a pass in the module mark to pass the module.

Reassessment

Provide details of the reassessment methods used, specifying whether reassessment is either standard reassessment or synoptic reassessment.

Standard Reassessment ☐ Synoptic Reassessment ☐

Synoptic reassessment details (if you have indicated synoptic reassessment above, please give details)		
Brief Description of Assessment	Assessment Type	Duration/Length of Examination/ Coursework