MSc Biomedical Sciences

Programme Director
Dr Christoph Engl
Room 3.06 Fogg Building
c.engl@qmul.ac.uk
Today’s Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hosted by</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30 – 10:00</td>
<td>SBBS Registration</td>
<td>School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences (SBBS)</td>
<td>Fogg Foyer Ground floor of Fogg Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10:00 – 10:45 | Welcome Talk
An overview of what to expect from your time on your MSc programme | SBBS PGT Programme Director Prof Andrew Leitch |                                             |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Welcome from Student Union                                                | Student Union Officer                          |                                             |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Introduction to Library Services                                          | Jacques Rogers                                  |                                             |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | Introduction to Independent learning at MSc level and understanding plagiarism | Arcadia Woods                                   |                                             |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Introduction to QM+                                                       | Technology Enhanced Learning Team              | Bancroft 1.15a                              |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Lunch                                                                      | N/A                                           | Various options on campus                  |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | ID card Collection                                                        | ARCS (Registry)                                | Octagon                                     |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | MSc Biomedical Sciences programme welcome talk                           | Dr Christoph Engl                              | Graduate Centre (GC 205)                    |
| 17:00 – 18:30 | Social – pizza and drinks                                                 | SBBS                                          | Marquee Library Square                      |

Enrolment

* If you have completed online enrolment, you will have been contacted by registry (ARCS) with your appointment slot to collect your ID card. If you have not received an appointment slot you will need to collect your card via one of the Drop-in sessions (check here for timeslots). If you are not yet in London you can collect your ID card when you arrive.

If you have only just accepted an offer on to one of our MSc programmes and/or won't be able to attend parts of Welcome Week, don't worry, you can contact either your Programme Director or Postgraduate Administrator, Natalie Holland for more information:

https://www.qmul.ac.uk/newstudents/enrolment/late-or-temporary-enrolment/
Student Handbook

For **Student Handbook** and other information
Please visit

https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=15215
Who to contact

The main SBBS Reception and School Office is located on the 1st floor of the GE Fogg Building.

Opening hours for Reception are from 9 am - 4 pm during term time, and from 10 am – 1 pm; 2 pm – 4 pm during vacations. The exception to this will be during the examination and registration periods when Reception will be open from 9 am – 5 pm.

If you wish to phone the School from outside QMUL, the telephone number is 020 7882 3320 which will put you in contact with Reception.

Main point of contact: Postgraduate office (room 1.03 Fogg building)
Programme Director (is your Academic Advisor)
Dr Christoph Engl
My QMUL is a student section of the QMUL website that may be accessed via http://my.qmul.ac.uk/ and should be used, together with this handbook, for general information about your time at Queen Mary.

My QMUL contains a wide range of information, including information on:

- Academic and student support services
- The academic year
- Campus facilities
- Simplified academic regulations
- How to? Advice
- Queen Mary contact information
- Calendar
- Graduation and Alumni
- Student Administration, and common issues and processes
- QMUL policies
- Campus and QMUL information
As a masters student you will need to use a database called MySIS.

At the start of term you need to access the MySIS system (https://mysis.qmul.ac.uk) to (re-)enrol. You can also change certain personal information, such as your home address (in vacations) and your term-time contact details. At the end of each year, your examination marks and overall module marks will also be published on the MySIS system.

Check that you are registered / enrolled in your modules
The Academic Registry at Queen Mary is responsible for all aspects of student enrolment and registration. Its student-support office is named the “Student Enquiry Centre” (but it is still sometimes referred to as the Registry or Student Administration Office). The main office is on the ground-floor of the Queens’ Building, CB.01. The e-mail address is studentenquiry@qmul.ac.uk.

The Academic Registry is part of Academic Registry and Council Secretariat (ARCS) and their website is the definitive source of information about Queen Mary’s regulations, procedures and policies – the website address is www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk.
## Term Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Welcome Week:</th>
<th>Week commencing 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester A Teaching:</td>
<td>26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September 2022 - 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Week</td>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December – 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; December 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Period</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; – 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester A Exam Period</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester B Teaching:</td>
<td>23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; January 2023 – 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Period</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; – 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; May 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam period:</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May – 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; June 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Summer Exam period:</td>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August 2023 (for resit and deferred first sit exams)</td>
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12 weeks of Teaching per Semester

These and other key QMUL dates available at

https://www.qmul.ac.uk/about/calendar/ and Student Handbook
Term Dates

**Semester A**
- CANM937 Research Methods (Barts Cancer Institute; 15 credits)
- BIO491P Advanced Biochemical Research Methods (SBBS Biochemistry Department; 30 credits)
- BMD701P MSc Biomedical Sciences Literature Review (SBBS Biochemistry Department; 15 credits)

**Semester B**
- CANM938 Research Lab Skills (Barts Cancer Institute; 15 credits)
- BIO491P Advanced Biochemical Research Methods (SBBS Biochemistry Department; 30 credits)
- BMD700P MSc Biomedical Sciences Research Project (you will be based in a research lab; 105 credits)

**Semester C**
- BMD700P MSc Biomedical Sciences Research Project (you will be based in a research lab; 105 credits)

It is expected that discussing, planning for and reading around the research project will commence in semester A. This includes preparing a literature review (BMD701P) of the research project.

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**Accessing your Timetable**

Follow this link for more information on how to access your timetable:

[https://elearning.qmul.ac.uk/guide/where-can-i-find-my-timetable/](https://elearning.qmul.ac.uk/guide/where-can-i-find-my-timetable/)
Timetable

• Look at the QM+ Welcome Week page: https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=15215

And here:
https://elearning.qmul.ac.uk/guide/where-can-i-find-my-timetable/

• Via ‘My Timetable’ option on QM+ where all modules that you are enrolled on to are displayed:
https://elearning.qmul.ac.uk/guide/where-can-i-find-my-timetable/#my%20timetable

• If you are not yet fully enrolled and you know the module code you can search via the Timetable link on the website:
https://timetables.qmul.ac.uk/default.aspx
Term Dates

Vacations

Only Christmas: end of study week in Semester A to the beginning of Semester A Examination Period

and Easter: end of Semester B and beginning of Semester C Study Period

Summer 2023

Masters students are expected to work on their dissertation or project throughout the summer.

The period between the end of the university's Semester 3 and their course end date is not a vacation.
Programme Structure
Joint Delivery by SBCS and SMD

Biochemistry Department

Structural Biology

Chromosome Biology and Cytoskeletal Networks

Photosynthesis, Bioenergetics and Microbial Physiology

Center for Cell Dynamics (CCD)
Joint Delivery by SBCS and SMD

Barts Cancer Institute

The Barts Cancer Institute (BCI) was created in 2003, and brought together some of the most eminent cancer research teams in London. As part of the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, the BCI has one overriding objective, which is to ensure that the research conducted here is relevant to and will impact on cancer patients.

The BCI is split into six Research Centres, which focus on how to reduce the burden of disease through increasing the chances of survival through early detection and diagnosis, and improve patient survival through the discovery and development of more effective and innovative therapies.

With the Centre for Cancer Prevention at Queen Mary’s Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, the BCI is accredited as a Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Centre - the CRUK Barts Centre.

Under the leadership of the Director, Professor Nick Lemoine, and supported by an Executive Board of senior investigators, the BCI provides an academic environment fitting for an internationally recognised, comprehensive cancer centre.
5 Modules – 180 credits

Barts Cancer Institute

CANM937 - Research Methods

- Reading & interpreting published research
- Data analysis & interpretation
- Statistics
- Writing lab reports
- Legislative framework of Biomedical research

Semester A

Lectures
Independent study

15 credits
5 Modules – 180 credits

Barts Cancer Institute

**CANM938 - Research Lab Skills**

- Immunochemistry
- Tissue Culture
- RNA extraction and analysis
- RT-PCR
- DNA purification, analysis and cloning
- Flow cytometry

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Semester B</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Practicals</th>
<th>Independent study</th>
<th>15 credits</th>
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Queen Mary University of London
5 Modules – 180 credits

Biochemistry Department

BIO491P - Advanced Methods in Biochemical

- Molecular biology
- Structural biology
- Light microscopy
- Biophysics
- Cellular biochemistry
- Science communication skills

Semester A + B
- Practicals
- Workshops
- Tutorials
- Independent study

30 credits
5 Modules – 180 credits

Barts Cancer Institute and Biochemistry Department

**BMD701P - Literature Review**
- Background of research project of your choice
- Journal Club

**BMD700P - Research Project**
- Embedded in research lab of your choice
- January - August

Semester A
- Independent study
- 15 credits

Semester B + C
- Dissertation
- 105 credits
Expectations
What you can expect from us

- teaching that reflects the best scholarship in the subject and which introduces you to work that is both stimulating and challenging.
- staff to deliver teaching in a professional manner, with effective use of learning technology and with provision of appropriate supporting resources.
- to have access to detailed information regarding your programme, individual modules and methods of assessment via QMplus.
- to receive information regarding the scheduled classes for your modules.
- to receive reliable advice and guidance regarding academic issues and assistance with contacting the appropriate QMUL advice centre (if necessary).
- to receive feedback on coursework assessments within a reasonable period of time
- to have the opportunity to provide us with feedback about your modules and your programme, including via representatives on the SBBS student/staff liaison committee.
What we expect from you

- to enrol and register on your programme by the published deadlines.
- to familiarise yourself with your programme structure and modules.
- to attend all scheduled classes and agreed supervisor meetings, unless there are exceptional reasons.
- to arrive for classes on time, and to submit coursework and project assessments by the specified deadline.
- to behave in a mature and reasonable manner in all classes, and to avoid disrupting lectures.
- to abide by QMUL Code of Student Discipline (http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/policy/)
- to adhere to health and safety rules and regulations at all times (especially in laboratories).
- to take responsibility for your own learning and personal/professional development.
- to fully participate in modules, by engaging in discussion and all module-related activities.
- to keep yourself informed by reading your QMUL email and SBBS-pages.
- to update QMUL records on MySIS with any change in your contact details.
Learning Technology
QMPlus (QM+) Teaching & Learning software

Queen Mary’s main online learning environment is known as QMplus or QM+. This is where you will find additional learning materials for most SBBS modules. You will also have the opportunity to attend an ‘Introduction to QM+’ session, as part of Welcome Week.

QM+ may be accessed directly via qmplus.qmul.ac.uk. When you login to QM+, as a student of an SBBS degree programme, you should be directed to a "landing page" that is specific to SBBS students. This provides links to a wide range of useful resources, as well as to the pages containing the course materials for the modules that you are taking.

In addition to there being a QM+ page for each module you are registered for, you should also register for the following QM+ page which is specific to all MSc students:- ‘SBBS Masters Page’.

Other important information gets published on the “Masters degrees” section of the School’s website.
Assessment
Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70.0% or above</td>
<td>A Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.0-69.9%</td>
<td>B Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.0-59.9%</td>
<td>C Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.0-49.9%</td>
<td>D Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.0-44.9%</td>
<td>E Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.9% or below</td>
<td>F Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MSc Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification Mark</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70.0 – 100.0</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.0 or 69.9</td>
<td>Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.0 or 59.9</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exit Award

**PgCert award** = pass 60 credits (or pass 45 credits and condoned fail in 15 credits)

**PgDip award** = pass 120 credits (or pass 90 credits and condoned fail in 30 credits)

Condoned failure:
failed module mark is 40 or higher &
average module mark is 50 &
failed module is not core (Research Project)
Submission of Coursework

Coursework must be submitted by the deadline via the module page on QMPlus or as hard-copy (if requested by the module organiser)

Penalties for late submission (i.e. no Extenuating Circumstances claimed)
deduction of 5% of total mark for every 24h after deadline; 0 marks after 7 days

Special Arrangements for Exams  http://www.dds.qmul.ac.uk/
You must visit the Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) who can arrange an assessment
Concessions may be extra time or special supervision (in separate rooms) during exams

Telephone: 020 7882 2756  Web: www.dds.qmul.ac.uk/  Email: dds@qmul.ac.uk
Extenuating Circumstances

Extenuating circumstances (ECs) are defined by Queen Mary as circumstances that are outside a student’s control and which may have a negative impact on a student’s ability to undertake or complete any assessment so as to cast doubt on the likely validity of the assessment as a measure of the student’s achievement. This includes sudden/acute illness, death of a close relative and other circumstances beyond your control that have had a negative impact on your ability to study.

These are not Extenuating Circumstances

i. failure to submit or complete an assessment.
ii. arriving late for an examination or assessment.
iii. misreading or not checking for updates to a timetable.
iv. having multiple examinations or deadlines in close succession.
v. computer failure and/or loss of work.
vi. employment commitments. vii. academic workload issues.
viii. planned holidays or events, including activities with Queen Mary Students’ Union.

For more information, please visit: https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/students/exams/extenuating-circumstances/
Interruption of Study

If it is necessary for you to interrupt your studies until the next academic year due to serious ill health or other personal problems, you should first discuss this with your Programme Director.

For more information, please visit:

https://www.qmul.ac.uk/welfare/money-and-practical-advice/making-a-change-to-your-studies/interrupting-study/
Deregistration

very poor attendance or a failure to submit sufficient coursework (i.e. a failure to engage adequately with your programme of study). Also failure to pay tuition fees by the deadline.

In such cases you will be issued with at least one warning (sent by email to your Queen Mary account), and given an opportunity to improve your attendance and submissions, or to discuss any extenuating circumstances, before a deregistration decision is taken.

If you are deregistered from:

- one module, then you may no longer attend scheduled classes or attend the final examination for that module.
- your programme of study, then your enrolment at Queen Mary will be terminated, and you may no longer make use of any of the facilities of the Queen Mary campuses.

Deregistration from a module, can lead to deregistration from your programme of study. International students should appreciate that poor attendance and deregistration is also likely to result in your visa to study in the UK being revoked.
Student Support
Support of Student Wellbeing

QMUL is also a member of the Mental Health First Aid network. The purpose of the network is to promote health & wellbeing and provide a supportive and open culture towards mental health. There are a number of Mental Health First Aiders in schools and departments across campus trained to understand the factors that affect wellbeing and who are able to provide immediate support to those in crisis. They will listen without judgement and be able to signpost to additional resources of further support. If you or someone you know needs to contact a Mental Health First Aider, a list of trained mental health first aiders is available [here](#). Alternatively, you can call Security on 3333. You might also like to refer their [website](#) for further resources of support.

A range of services and structures are in place to support your wellbeing while you complete your studies at QMUL, such as the Advice and Counselling Services, Disability and Dyslexia Service, Childcare, Multi-faith Centre, Occupational Health, Gym, QMSU and residences.
Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC)

The Student-Staff Liaison Committee provides the opportunity for students and staff to communicate and discuss matters arising in the School and QM that are of more general interest, rather than individual interest. This could include content and assessment of modules, the pastoral care system and academic and social facilities. Feedback from the SSLC is shared with the Teaching & Learning Committee (TLC) and the SBBS Academic Committee to inform best practice. The SSLC is chaired by the Deputy Director of Taught Programmes (PGT) and at the start of the academic year you will have the opportunity to volunteer as a Course Rep. Course Reps are invited to attend the meeting to represent the views of the student body. The committee meets twice per year and the meetings provide an opportunity for you to reflect on your experience of the MSc programme and to provide feedback.

Who wants to be Course Rep?
Comments and Complaints

First contact: Programme Director (Dr Christoph Engl)
If you fail to resolve the issue: speak to Director of Graduate Studies
Ultimately: Head of School

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of an informal complaint at the School level you may bring a complaint using the College's formal procedures. You will find more information on the QMUL policies on student complaints at [www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/students/student-appeals/complaints/](http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/students/student-appeals/complaints/)

Formal Appeals

- **procedural error**: Where the process leading to the decision being appealed against was not conducted in accordance with Queen Mary’s procedure, such that there is reasonable doubt as to whether the outcome might have been different had the error not occurred. Procedural error shall include alleged administrative or clerical error, and bias in the operation of the procedure.

- that **exceptional circumstances, illness, or other relevant factors were not made known** at the time for good reason, or were not properly taken into account.