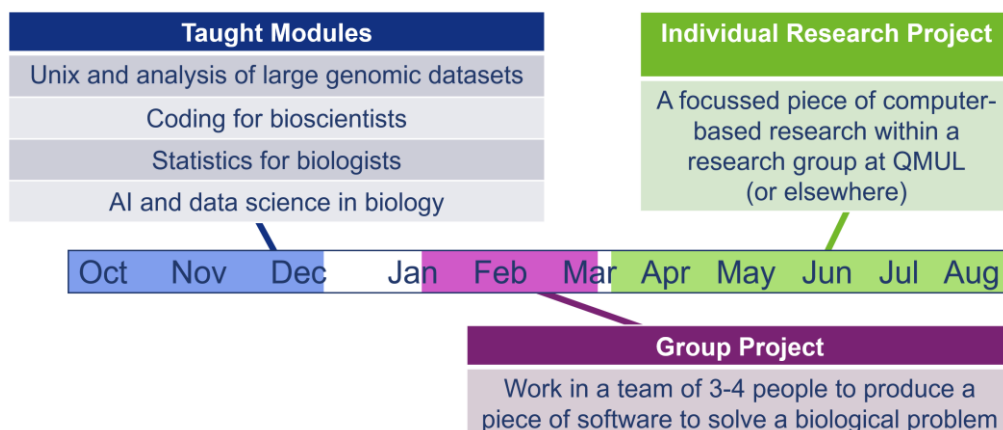


## QMUL MSc Bioinformatics FAQ 2024

### Q. What is the programme structure?

The MSc runs from late September to the end of August. The overall schedule is shown below. The four taught modules are taught sequentially in two-week full-time blocks, with a third week dedicated to the coursework assignment. Full time students should complete the programme in one year. Part time students are expected to complete it in two years (see later question for details).



### Q. When exactly do the modules run?

For 2024/2025 the taught modules are expected to run as follows:

Module	Contact time	Assessment deadline
Unix and analysis of large genomics datasets	23 Sep – 4 Oct	11 Oct
Coding for bioscientists	14 Oct – 25 Oct	1 Nov
Statistics for bioinformatics	4 Nov – 15 Nov	22 Nov
AI and data science in biology	25 Nov – 6 Dec	13 Dec

Teaching on the above modules is Monday – Friday. Typically, half of each day is dedicated to private study – asynchronous materials such as videos and reading will be provided. In the other half of the day, you are expected to participate in hands-on computer-based practical sessions which will run at Mile End, either in the morning or afternoon.

The group project module is expected to run from 20 Jan – 28 Feb 2025, with all assessments for that module being completed by 7 March. While there is no formal teaching during this module, each group is expected to attend a weekly tutorial lasting ~40 minutes and present their work to the cohort on 28 February.

Individual research projects typically start a week after the end of the group project module, with dissertations due on the last Friday of August.

### Q. How does the part time option work?

Part time students are expected to complete the MSc in two years. Several accommodations are made to facilitate this:

- Part time students must do taught modules alongside the full time students, following the calendar in the table above. However, these modules can be spread over the two years, e.g. the genomics and statistics modules could be done in the first year, leaving the coding and

AI modules for the second year. There are some constraints on the available options – see the final page of this document for a table of permitted options.

- For the group project, we aim to create at least one part time group, whose project runs for 12 weeks instead of six. This project module may be taken in the first or second year.
- Individual projects can be started from as early as March of the first year, instead of waiting until the following March. Preparation for the project (reading, etc.) can start even earlier.

Note that part time students must decide their module choices prior to joining the programme, because module enrolment must be completed before Week 1 of the first year.

#### **Q. How much effort is required for this MSc?**

The MSc is designed to be one full time year of work. It is a substantial commitment with a significantly higher intensity than an undergraduate degree. All students, especially part time students, are asked to carefully consider how this will fit around any other commitments they have. For example, if you are a part time student in full time employment, your research project is likely to go much more smoothly if you can do a research project that is closely aligned with your day job.

#### **Q. Where is teaching based?**

Computer-based practicals are held at Mile End Campus.

The group tutorials are likely to be held in Whitechapel. The actual group project work does not have to be done in any specific place.

Individual research projects are offered across three QMUL campuses: Mile End, Whitechapel and Charterhouse Square. Attendance requirements will depend on the project and supervisor.

#### **Q. When are the exams?**

There are no exams as such. Some modules include short tests, which are completed within the time allocated to that module (see table on previous page).

#### **Q. Where can I find more about the module content and teaching team?**

Prospective students: The course web site provides a concise explanation of these things: [www.qmul.ac.uk/msc-bioinfo](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/msc-bioinfo) We also hold open days (virtual and online) throughout the year.

Current students: All course information is accessible on QMplus via the MSc Bioinformatics Hub.

#### **Q. Are there any scholarships available to cover my fees and/or living expenses?**

We try our best to collate a list of relevant funding opportunities, which you can find via the Fees and Funding tab of our course web site ([www.qmul.ac.uk/msc-bioinfo](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/msc-bioinfo)). You will need to look through these to see which you may be eligible for, and how to apply.

#### **Q. As a part time student, can I do QMUL's Bioinformatics MSc as a degree apprenticeship?**

Our MSc has been designed to meet the UK government's Level 7 Apprenticeship Bioinformatics Scientist Standard. However, we are not currently accepting students through this route.

**Q. What if I have a question that's not answered here?**

If you are in the process of applying for a place on the MSc, email your question to [sbbs-pgadmissions@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:sbbs-pgadmissions@qmul.ac.uk). If you are an offer holder or current student, send any logistical and administrative questions to the SBBS Education Services Team ([sbbs-office@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:sbbs-office@qmul.ac.uk)). For more technical questions related to course content, contact MSc Bioinformatics programme director Professor Conrad Bessant ([c.bessant@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.bessant@qmul.ac.uk)).

**Q. What if I have a personal issue that is affecting my studies?**

Please do not hesitate to reach out for help if you are having difficulties. There is a lot of support available through QMUL, including the excellent [Advice and Counselling Service](#), and a comprehensive [Extenuating Circumstances](#) process if unexpected personal issues such as illness or bereavement mean you are unable to complete assessed work on time. You can also email the SBBS Student Support Officer ([sbbs-student-support@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:sbbs-student-support@qmul.ac.uk)).

## MSc Bioinformatics Programme Diets for Part Time Students

Part time students must decide their module choices prior to joining the programme, because module enrolment must be completed before Week 1 of the first year.

The table below shows permitted module selections. If you have any doubts about which option to selection, you are welcome to discuss with MSc Bioinformatics programme director Professor Conrad Bessant ([c.bessant@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.bessant@qmul.ac.uk)).

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
BIO726P: Unix and analysis of large genomics datasets	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1
BIO722P: Coding for bioscientists	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1	Year 1
BIO724P: Statistics for bioinformatics	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1
BIO720P: AI and data science in biology	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1
BIO727P: Group project	Year 2	Year 1 or 2	Year 2	Year 1 or 2	Year 1 or 2
BIO702P: Individual research project	Year 1-2*	Years 1-2*	Years 1-2*	Years 1-2*	Years 1-2*

*\* Depending on the project, individual projects may be started from as early as March of the first year, with a submission deadline in August of the second year.*