

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

**POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME REGULATIONS
(for PGT programmes that will run under the new modular scheme)**

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		2011			
Awarding institution		Teaching institution			
University of York		University of York			
Department(s)					
Biology					
Award(s) and programme title(s)			Level of qualification		
MSc in Bioscience Technology			Level 7 (Masters)		
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards					
Diploma in Bioscience Technology					
Certificate in Bioscience Technology					
Certificate of Scientific Investigation					
Admissions criteria					
<p>Applicants will normally be expected to have a first or second class honours degree in any biological science (including biochemistry and applied sciences such as medicine, pharmacology, etc.). There are opportunities for students with backgrounds in other disciplines (e.g. chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science, etc.) providing they have a substantial knowledge of biology. In addition applicants must provide satisfactory references and successfully undertake an interview with members of the programme.</p> <p>Successful completion of the Certificate of Scientific Investigation can also act as entry to the rest of the programme, providing the topic of investigation was appropriate to the Masters in Bioscience Technology, the candidate has not been formally awarded the Certificate, and successfully undertakes an interview for entry to the full Masters programme.</p>					
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MSc	1 year, full time	October	X		
Language of study		English			
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
None					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate in Bioscience Technology:					
The educational aims common to the Masters programme and the 'step-off' Diploma and					

Certificate in Bioscience Technology are:

1. To provide an in-depth understanding of a wide range of bioscience technologies which underpin much current research effort in the biosciences
2. To provide training in the theoretical basis of the currently important bioscience technologies, together with extensive hands-on experience of their use and applications
3. To provide training in personal skills that are transferable to a wide range of subject areas

The educational aims for the 'step-off' Certificate of Scientific Investigation are:

1. To provide training and experience in the planning, execution and reporting of a small research project

Additionally for the Diploma and Masters (if applicable):

The additional educational aims for the Diploma in Bioscience Technology are:

1. To develop this training and experience by a period of work experience in selected laboratories within the Department of Biology
2. To provide training in business and enterprise skills that are transferable to a wide range of subject areas

Additionally for the Masters:

The additional educational aims for the Masters in Bioscience Technology are:

1. To apply selected technologies to an extended placement, either internal or external, the latter in academia or industry worldwide
2. To provide training and experience in the planning, execution and reporting of a small research project

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:

A: Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge and understanding of:
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate in Bioscience Technology:

1. Knowledge of the conceptual framework of the bioscience technologies discussed and the equipment and approaches used in these technologies
2. Understanding of the conceptual framework upon which these technologies depend and how the technologies depend critically on the interplay of theory and practice

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- For outcomes 1 and 2: Through lectures, tutorials, workshops and practicals in 7 different technology modules
- For outcome 3: Through close supervision while working in a laboratory
- For outcome 4: Through a set of bespoke workshops to develop a business plan to set up and operate a core research support facility
- For outcome 5: Through supervision during the planning, execution and reporting of a small research project

<p><i>Additionally for the Diploma and Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Knowledge and understanding of the application of selected technologies in the laboratory 4. Knowledge and understanding of the management and commercialisation of science <p><i>Additionally for the Masters and for the Certificate of Scientific Investigation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Knowledge and understanding of the research process 	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For outcomes 1 and 2</u>: Through open assessments and/or closed exams • <u>For outcome 3</u>: Through a presentation and report • <u>For outcome 4</u>: Through a written business plan and a group presentation of the business plan • <u>For outcome 5</u>: Through a dissertation
B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate in Bioscience Technology:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify appropriate technologies and instrumentation to address specific questions 2. Operate a range of key equipment following standard protocols and interpret the resulting data <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma and Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Work independently, effectively and safely within a laboratory 4. Set-up and trouble shoot the operation of selected equipment <p><i>Additionally for the Masters and for the Certificate of Scientific Investigation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Plan, execute and report a small research project 6. Undertake advanced application and operation of selected technologies 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For outcomes 1 and 2</u>: Through lectures, workshops and practicals in 7 different technology modules • <u>For outcomes 3 and 4</u>: Through close supervision while working in the laboratory • <u>For outcomes 5 and 6</u>: Through supervision during the planning, execution and reporting of a small research project <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For outcomes 1 and 2</u>: Through open assessments and/or closed exams • <u>For outcomes 3 and 4</u>: Through a presentation, report, laboratory book, and an Approach and Aptitude assessment by the supervisor • <u>For outcome 5 and 6</u>: Through a dissertation and an Approach and Aptitude assessment by the supervisor
B: (ii) Skills - transferable	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate in Bioscience Technology:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate effectively in a range of different situations and to different audiences both verbally and in writing 2. Identify their own personal strengths and training needs <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma and Masters:</i></p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For outcomes 1 and 2</u>: Through interactive workshops • <u>For outcomes 3</u>: Through interactive workshops • <u>For outcome 4</u>: Through a set of bespoke workshops to develop a business plan to set up and operate a core research support facility • <u>For outcomes 5 and 6</u>: Through supervision during the planning, execution and reporting of

<p>3. Effectively apply reflective learning to their personal development</p> <p>4. Develop a business case</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters and for the Certificate of Scientific Investigation:</i></p> <p>5. Interact and communicate effectively within a research team</p> <p>6. Report their work in a written dissertation</p>	<p>a small research project</p> <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For outcome 1</u>: Through a number of open assessments • <u>For outcome 2</u>: Not directly assessed for the Certificate but assessed for the Masters and Diploma through outcome 3 assessment • <u>For outcome 3</u>: Through the Skills Portfolio and Personnel Interview • <u>For outcome 4</u>: Through a written business case and group presentation • <u>For outcome 5</u>: Through an Approach and Aptitude assessment by the supervisor • <u>For outcome 6</u>: Through a dissertation
C: Experience and other attributes	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate in Bioscience Technology:</i></p> <p>1. An exceptional degree of direct experience of a wide range of technologies, only possible because of the existence of the state-of-the-art Technology Facility at the University</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma and Masters:</i></p> <p>2. Experience of working independently in a research laboratory</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters and for the Certificate of Scientific Investigation:</i></p> <p>3. Experience of planning, executing and reporting a small research project</p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For outcome 1</u>: Through lectures, tutorials, workshops and practicals in 7 different technology modules • <u>For outcome 2</u>: Through close supervision while working in the laboratory • <u>For outcome 3</u>: Through supervision during the planning, execution and reporting of a small research project <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For outcomes 1</u>: Through open assessments and/or closed exams • <u>For outcomes 2</u>: Through a presentation, report, laboratory book, and an Approach and Aptitude assessment by the supervisor • <u>For outcome 3</u>: Through a dissertation and an Approach and Aptitude assessment by the supervisor
<p>Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)</p>	
<p>None</p>	

University award regulations

To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/biol/gsp/current/masters/welcome.htm>

Progression, reassessment and exit awards

An informal Progress Review will be conducted in Week 3 of the Spring Term to identify any potentially failing students based on the marks from the first four assessments (2.8% marks each, total of 11.2% of total marks). This will also act as a guide to the student's suitability for allocation of an external Placement. Generally, students with a running average under 49.5% would be required to take an internal placement.

The first formal Progression / Re-sit decision point is Week 9 of the Spring Term when marks for the seven Technology Training modules (70 credits, 39.2% of the total marks) are available. Students who are required to take re-sits due to any Outright Fails will be formally notified of the requirement to take a re-sit. Decisions regarding re-sitting of Marginal Fails would generally be delayed until all the non-ISM marks are available (Week 15 of the Summer Term) unless more than 40 credits were involved and/or the average mark was below 49.5. Students required to re-sit 20 or more credits (i.e. with marks below 40 in 20 or more credits or marginal fails in 40 or more credits) or who have an average mark below 49.4 will normally be expected to take either the Certificate or Diploma exit route and not undertake the Placement. However, In exceptional circumstances, such students may still be allowed to take the Placement on the understanding that this is likely to lead only to the stand-alone Certificate in Scientific Investigation.

The second formal Progression / Re-sit decision point is Week 15 of the Summer Term when the marks for all modules apart from the Placement are available. Students will be notified of any re-sits that they are required to take due to either Outright Fails or marginal fails that cannot be fully compensated for. The re-sits will take place immediately after the end of the Placement (Week 21 of the Summer Term) with the results being available for the External Examiner's meeting (Week 23 of the Summer Term).

Students who record a Marginal Fail in the Placement (the ISM) will be identified at the External Examiner's meeting and asked to submit a re-write if appropriate. They will be informed of their results in due course but this will not delay the announcement of the results for the other students

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant

module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/biol/gsp/current/masters/welcome.htm>

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Masters

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Basic Science (10)	Microscopy & Cytometry (10)	Placement (60)	
Protein Production (10)	Laboratory Experience (30)		
Biophysical Techniques (10)			
Genomics (10)			
Proteomics (10)			
Bioinformatics (10)			
Business & Transferable Skills (20)			
Assessed Total = 60	Assessed Total = 60	Assessed Total = 60	

Postgraduate Diploma (if applicable)

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Basic Science (10)	Microscopy & Cytometry (10)	None
Protein Production (10)	Laboratory Experience (30)	
Biophysical Techniques (10)		
Genomics (10)		
Proteomics (10)		
Bioinformatics (10)		
Business & Transferable Skills (20)		
Assessed Total = 60	Assessed Total = 60	

Postgraduate Certificate in Bioscience Technology

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Basic Science (10)	Microscopy & Cytometry (10)	None
Protein Production (10)		
Biophysical Techniques (10)		
Genomics (10)		
Proteomics (10)		
Bioinformatics (10)		
Assessed Total = 60 (Basic Science plus 5 of the other 6 modules)		

Postgraduate Certificate of Scientific Investigation

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer Vacation
None	None	Placement (60)	

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
Protein Production open assessment (Wk5)	Proteomics open assessment (Wk1)	Laboratory Experience – Report and Lab Book (Wk1)	Week 15: Second Progression meeting – confirmation of students required to take re-sits	Week 23 (3rd week September): Board of Examiners Meeting
Basic Science Lab Calculations (Wk6)	Bioinformatics open assessment (Wk2)	Business & Transferable Skills – Skills Portfolio (Wk11)	Placement Dissertation (Wk21)	
Biophysical Techniques open assessment (Wk7)	Week 3: Informal Progression meeting – identification of possible candidates to take an internal placement		Reassessment period (after end of placement, first 2 weeks in September, weeks 21/22). Feeds into the main Board of Examiners meeting	
Genomics open assessment (Wk10)	Microscopy & Cytometry open assessment (Wk4)		Additional reassessment period for resubmissions of marginal fails of the Placement ISM only (mid to late October). Followed by email/telephone discussion with BoE as required	

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
	Closed Exam (Basic Science, Protein Production, Biophysical Techniques, Genomics, Proteomics, Microscopy & Cytometry) (Wk5)			
	Week 9: First Progress Review Meeting – Identification of candidates who will be required to take re-sits due to either Outright Fails or excessive Marginal Fails			
	Business & Transferable Skills - Business Plan, Presentations and HR Interview (Wk11)			
	Laboratory Experience – Presentation (Wk 12)			

NB: Week is the hand-in week

A schematic diagram of the modules and assessment timings is given on the following page.

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level ⁱ	Credit value ⁱⁱ	Prerequisites	Assessment rules ⁱⁱⁱ	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment ^{iv}	Independent Study Module? ^v
Basic Science	BIO00020M	Level 7 Masters	10	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	Open – Aut6 Closed Exam – Spr5	N
Protein Production	BIO00038M	Level 7 Masters	10	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	Open – Aut5 Closed Exam – Spr5	N
Biophysical Techniques	BIO00015M	Level 7 Masters	10	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	Open – Aut7 Closed Exam – Spr5	N
Genomics	BIO00019M	Level 7 Masters	10	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	Open – Aut10 Closed Exam – Spr5	N
Proteomics	BIO00018M	Level 7 Masters	10	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	Open – Spr1 Closed Exam – Spr5	N
Bioinformatics	BIO00017M	Level 7 Masters	10	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	Open – Spr2	N
Microscopy & Cytometry	BIO00030M	Level 7 Masters	10	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	Open – Spr4 Closed Exam – Spr5	N
Business & Transferable Skills	BIO00016M	Level 7 Masters	20	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	1. Business Plan, Group Presentation, HR Interview – Spr1 2. Skills Portfolio – SuT10	N
Laboratory Experience	BIO00014M	Level 7 Masters	30	Entry requirements	Standard compensatable	1. Presentation – Spr11 2. Report and Lab Book – SuT2	N
Placement	BIO00013M	Level 7 Masters	60	“Strong academic standing” at Progress Review Meeting	NC	Dissertation – SuVAC21	Y

Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
None							

Transfers out of or into the programme	
None allowed	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
1. Exemption to the requirement that where possible 'students undertake reassessments of 'taught' modules before they embark on significant work on their ISM'	Agreed in principle by the CDT, December 2009
2. Proposal for two alternative Postgraduate Certificate 'routes'	Approved, February 2011
Quality and Standards	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/</p> <p>Departmental Statements on Audit and Review Procedures are available at: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach/deptstatements/index.htm</p>	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	8 th July 2011
Departmental web page:	http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/biol/gsp/current/masters/welcome.htm

Please note

The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.

The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.

ⁱ The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

ⁱⁱ The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

ⁱⁱⁱ **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

^{iv} AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

^v **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.