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## FAQs

### B900 Biomedical Sciences (BSc)

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### **Course Overview**

Biomedical Science explores the science of the human body in particular human health and disease. This three year programme explores the human body from the cellular and molecular level up to the major body systems and is constantly updated to reflect the latest developments in the field. You'll find out how research translates into advances in clinical practice and you'll have the opportunity to undertake a research project with our internationally recognised research groups in state-of-the-art laboratories.

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. From the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

### **FAQs**

#### **Entry Requirements and Applications:**

- **I am predicted lower than AAB. Does this mean I won't get a place in this course?**
  - In order to be guaranteed a place in this course you will need to achieve the standard offer of AAB, to include two science subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.
  - We will consider you if you are predicted at least BBB because you may end up with higher grades and also it is possible that we will have places on the course for those who miss narrowly the terms of our offer. To receive full advantage of any grade flexibility, you should have accepted our offer as your firm choice.
  
- **Will I need to have an interview in order to get an offer?**
  - We do not hold interviews.
  - If made an offer, you will be invited to a Biomedical Science Offer Holder Visit Day, which are held in February and March.
  
- **I'm applying for Medicine and want to put Biomedical Science as my fifth choice, will this affect my offer? Shall I change my personal statement?**
  - We welcome applicants who apply for vocational programmes such as Medicine or Dentistry.
  - Your application will be judged equally to other candidates.
  - There is no need to change your personal statement as we understand that it has to be mainly focussed towards the vocational programme and all your work placements and extracurricular activities are equally relevant to biomedical science.

- Our Biomedical Science course is a very good platform to pursue a career in Medicine either through an undergraduate or post graduate degree in Medicine.
- Up to ten of our final year Biomedical Science students will be considered for a guaranteed interview in our Medicine course at the University of Birmingham.
- **What happens if I don't study Biology at A-level?**
  - As the course is biology based, if you don't have Biology at A-level we would advise you to revise before starting the course (A-level biology or basic human physiology textbooks).
- **I did not do well enough in my GCSEs/ A-Levels – can I retake my exams to raise my grades and if I do will this affect my offer?**
  - We do consider applicants who have retaken GCSE or A-Level exams.
  - Your application will be judged equally to other candidates.
  - We would expect applicants to achieve the conditions of their offer.
- **It took me three years to achieve my A-Levels will you consider an application from me and will this affect my offer?**
  - We do consider applicants who obtained their A-Levels over three years.
  - Your application will be judged equally to other candidates.
  - We would expect applicants to achieve the conditions of their offer.
- **Do you accept Physical Education (PE) or Psychology as a science subject?**
  - **No**, you will need an additional two sciences A-level subject from Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.
- **Will my application be seen more favourably if I do the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)?**
  - **YES**, we offer an alternative entry requirement for those who are predicted an A in their EPQ: ABB + A in EPQ
  - **Typical offer:** AAB or ABB + A in Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- **Will my application be treated more favourably if I offer four A-level subjects?**
  - **No**, there is no advantage. Offers are made on the basis of three A-Level subjects.
- **How much work experience do I need to do?**
  - You do not need to complete any specific work experience in order to be considered for Biomedical Science.
  - Those who have done work experience will not be seen more favourably than those who have not.
- **I want to take a gap year. Can I apply now and defer my place and would this affect my offer?**
  - We welcome applicants who want to take a gap year.
  - If you are applying before your gap year and wish to defer your entry, please indicate it on your UCAS form.

- If you decide to take a gap year after submitting your application through UCAS, contact the Admissions Tutor to let them know so we can change your status on our records as soon as possible.
- Your application will be judged equally to other candidates.
- **Do you accept any transfers from other undergraduate courses?**
  - We do not accept any transfers into year 2 or 3 from any other courses (including Medical Science, Biomedical Science or Medicine) at any university.
  - If you are interested in applying to start in year 1 of the Biomedical Science programme at the University of Birmingham you would need to make an application through UCAS.
  - We will only consider your application if you reached a minimum of 60%, have not failed any elements of your current course and obtained a minimum of ABB at A-level to include 2 science subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.

## Course Details:

- **Is this Biomedical Science course accredited by the IBMS?**
  - This is a three year programme which is not accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) and/ or the Health Professions Council (HPC).
  - This course offers the opportunity to study a collection of medically-related biosciences such as anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, immunology and biochemistry, but with little emphasis on the laboratory diagnosis or monitoring of disease.
- **If you are not an accredited course does that mean that I cannot work as a scientist?**
  - No, the majority of the graduate work available after graduation does not rely on accreditation (e.g. University technician, Pharmaceutical companies, MSc, PhD, clinical trials etc).
  - You will need accreditation only if your career aspiration is to work as a technician in healthcare (NHS), carrying out diagnostic tests (urine, blood, etc).
  - You could get accreditation after obtaining your degree, please visit the IBMS website for further details (<https://www.ibms.org/>).
- **Can I transfer to Medicine after year 1 or year 2 in this course?**
  - It is not possible to transfer to Medicine at the University of Birmingham after the first or second year of this Biomedical Science course.
  - You could apply to postgraduate medicine at Birmingham or other universities during your final year in our Biomedical Science course.
  - Up to ten of our final year Biomedical Science students will be considered for a guaranteed interview in our Medicine course at the University of Birmingham.

## Opportunities for Industry/Research Experience:

- **Can I do a summer research project?**
  - There are lots of opportunities for our Biomedical Science students to do a summer project in order to enhance their research skills after your first or second year.
  - Vacation scholarships are available on a competitive basis.

- **Can I take a year out in Industry?**
  - We strongly encourage and support our students to take a year out in Industry.
  - We have connection with companies such as Glaxo Smith Kline, Astra-Zeneca, Lilly, Pfizer, Abbott and Binding Site.
  - This will be considered as a leave of absence, therefore we will keep you a place in the course and you will not have to pay any tuition fees during your year out.