

**Programme Specification**

**Programme title:**    **BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Genetics**  
                               **BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Blood Science**  
                               **BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Cellular Science**  
                               **BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Infection Science**

Academic Year:	2022/23
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Final and interim award(s):	BSc (Honours) [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 6] BSc [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 6] Diploma of Higher Education [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 5] Certificate of Higher Education [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 4]
Programme accredited by:	Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)* National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) on behalf of Health Education England (HEE)* Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)*
Programme approved by:	
Programme duration:	5 Years Part Time (apprenticeship)
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	Biomedical Science (2015)
Date of Senate Approval:	
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	March 2022

\* For the purposes of the external accreditation website, where reference is made to the BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science part-time route, this includes accreditation of the apprenticeship mode of delivery.

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, apprentices will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

**Introduction/Background**

Healthcare Scientists and Biomedical Scientists play an essential role in the National Health Service. Encompassing 51 disciplines, the Healthcare Science (HCS) workforce is at the heart of safe and effective patient care; the workforce is central to high quality care for all and provides expert diagnostic advice and laboratory investigation for the treatment of patients and prevention of disease. The Department of Health (DoH), under the auspices of 'Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC)', has developed a new flexible career structure for all Healthcare Scientists underpinned by new education

and training programmes and a regulatory framework to address the future needs of the NHS. It is envisaged that MSC will enable patients to receive safer care, faster diagnoses closer to home and faster entry to the correct care pathway, and access to up to date innovative scientific services.

The University of Bradford introduced a new full time undergraduate programme in Healthcare Science in line with this initiative in 2010 followed in 2015 by a part-time version of the programme, to allow staff already employed in the NHS to undergo part-time training to up skill by obtaining an equivalent qualification to new graduates. A further government initiative has led to the development of a degree apprenticeship. The degree apprenticeship standard and end-point assessment for Healthcare Science practitioners is now available for delivery. Apprentices will be enrolled on the part-time programme to fulfil the requirements of the Institute for Apprentices

This part-time degree/degree apprenticeship is an 'outward facing' programme which fulfils a need identified by local and national service providers. Apprentices will receive a relevant and contemporary training which will provide them with the appropriate knowledge and skills to enhance their career pathway in the NHS.

This part-time/apprenticeship programme will draw on existing programmes and expertise from the School of Chemistry and Biosciences; it will extend the portfolio of Biomedical, Clinical and Healthcare programmes available at The University of Bradford. The curriculum will be identical to that of the full-time programme but delivered over a period of 5 years.

Students will be expected to attend at University one half day or one full day per week. The day will not change mid-semester but attendance in semester 1 may be on a different day to semester 2. The timetable will be produced well in advance and the sponsoring lab will be informed. Apprentices may also be required to attend on occasional Saturday mornings for lab practicals.

Students should currently be working in an NHS Pathology laboratory and have the full support of their employer to undertake this programme. Apprentices will be expected to carry out work-based learning and competency assessment in the workplace. Some of this work will be carried out during the summer months (semester 3). The programme involves a multidisciplinary approach to the study of human disease. It encompasses studies of the causes of disease and the effects of disease on the normal structure and functions of the human body and it provides an understanding of the scientific basis for the laboratory investigation, diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of disease. It also develops and applies new technologies that help improve the care of patients.

A graduate from this programme will have a broad-based scientific background coupled with the technical skills necessary for laboratory work and more detailed knowledge and skills in a chosen specialism. The four pathways in Genetics, Blood Science, Cellular Science and Infection Science each have a strong specialist work-based training element in each year of study which will be integrated with the academic content.

Specifically, the degree programme is designed for graduates to meet the requirements of the National School of Healthcare Science on behalf of Health Education England (HEE), the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and allow graduates to practise as a Healthcare Science Practitioner/Biomedical Scientist in NHS laboratories and demonstrate that the apprentice meets the outcomes of the Healthcare Science Practitioner Apprenticeship Standard.

It is anticipated that graduates from this programme will take up positions as HCPC registered Biomedical Scientists in their sponsoring laboratory after graduation (subject to workforce planning). Even though apprentices specialise in the final year, the generic nature of the registration portfolio will allow graduates to seek employment in any of the pathology disciplines. Alternatively, employment could be found as a laboratory-based or non-laboratory-based scientist in the Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology or other related industries, academic research and teaching. In addition, whilst the degree provides a qualification necessary to start a professional career it will be necessary to continue to develop skills throughout employment. This programme couples a scientific education with the development of the skills necessary for lifelong learning.

The aims and outcome statements and the supporting curriculum have been referenced to the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy, the QAA [Subject Benchmark for Biomedical Sciences](#), the Modernising Scientific Careers Curriculum Strategy Group guidelines, the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, the IBMS portfolio of competence and HCPC standards.

## Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- Deliver a programme of study in Healthcare Science for apprentices from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds.
- Allow apprentices to support themselves more effectively by taking a part-time route to an honours degree in Healthcare Science while continuing to work in an NHS laboratory.
- Enhance learning by providing specialist work-based training in all years of the programme;
- Develop subject knowledge and understanding in the core areas of Healthcare Science and the specialised areas of Genetics, Blood Sciences, Cellular Sciences or Infection Sciences to reflect the requirements of the Health Education England and the Subject Benchmark Statement(s);
- Develop an understanding of the organisation and role of the NHS;
- Develop an understanding of pathology and laboratory medicine in patient care including an awareness of the implications of ethnicity, gender as well as social and cultural diversity in health and disease;
- Develop an understanding of how the Healthcare Science workforce contributes to patient pathways relevant to Life Sciences and ensure the needs and wishes of the patient are central to their care;
- Demonstrate attitudes and behaviours essential to providing high quality care;
- Develop core discipline specific skills as outlined in the curriculum to reflect the requirements of the National School of Healthcare Science and the Subject Benchmark Statement(s);
- Develop research skills to reflect the requirements of the National School of Healthcare Science and the Subject Benchmark Statement(s);
- Develop personal transferable skills that enable apprentices to progress successfully in employment, career development and/or further education;
- Provide a National School of Healthcare Science, IBMS accredited and HCPC approved degree which will allow apprentices to progress to employment as a Healthcare Science Practitioner/Biomedical Scientist in NHS laboratories.
- Enable the apprentice to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) as Biomedical Scientists or any other future protected title that is appropriate to the degree. Registration can be applied for after successful completion of the degree and following completion of the IBMS portfolio. The portfolio provides evidence of achievement of the HCPC Standards of Proficiency for a Biomedical Scientist and leads to the award of a Certificate of Competence from the IBMS.
- Provide a supportive and structured environment in which apprentices are encouraged to develop the independent study skills required for lifelong learning.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the non-accredited award of Certificate of Higher Education in Healthcare Science at FHEQ level 4, apprentices will be able to:

- LO1 Discuss and evaluate specialist and core aspects of Healthcare Science (HCS) including Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Immunology, Microbiology, Epidemiology, Medical Physics and Public Health Medicine/Health Protection.
- LO2 Write scientific reports.
- LO3 Use the range of personal transferable skills including communication, information technology (including the use of the internet and other electronic devices as sources of information and means of communication), team working, negotiating and decision-making skills that are required in a working environment and prepare apprentices for lifelong learning.
- LO4 Employ skills associated with professional and ethical laboratory practice with particular reference to HCS including the ability to undertake risk and CoSHH assessments, evaluate and apply health and safety policies, good laboratory practice and solve problems as well as respond appropriately to The Human Tissue Act 2004, governance, audit and quality control and assurance.

Additionally, to be eligible for a non-accredited award of Diploma of Higher Education in Healthcare Science at FHEQ level 5, apprentices will be able to:

- LO5 Discuss and evaluate the organisation and role of the NHS and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the laboratory specialities of genetics, cellular pathology, clinical biochemistry, clinical immunology, haematology and transfusion science, and medical microbiology; demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the chosen specialist area.
- LO6 Select and evaluate experimental and clinical laboratory techniques and be able to apply them to experimental and laboratory investigations.
- LO7 Prepare, process, analyse (including the statistical analysis) and interpret experimental/clinical laboratory data and present data in an appropriate format.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor at FHEQ level 6, apprentices will be able to:

- LO8 Collect, interpret and critically review scientific literature.
- LO9 Manage their own learning and undertake autonomous learning.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor at FHEQ level 6, apprentices will be able to:

- LO10 Apply skills in critical and analytical thinking, use and apply numerical and statistical techniques and use problem solving skills.
- LO11 Discuss and evaluate current research to develop new diagnostic procedures as well as new therapeutic intervention strategies.
- LO12 Demonstrate the standards of proficiency required by NSHCS, IBMS and HCPC by successfully completing specialist work-based training.

## Curriculum

The curriculum is designed to provide a flexible study route permitting the maximum apprentice choice consistent with the requirements of accreditation. The curriculum is designed to enable apprentices to develop the necessary level of knowledge of Biomedical Science suitable for a career as a Biomedical Scientist. At levels 4 and 5 all modules are core to ensure that apprentices have the foundation in Biomedical Science required for further study. At level 4, normal human biology and

some microbiology at the level of the molecule, gene, cell, organ and organism will be studied. Laboratory sessions run in conjunction with the theoretical components to allow the opportunity to enhance understanding of particular study topics. Basic laboratory skills and skills in data handling and interpretation will be introduced. In level 4 (year 2) apprentices will be introduced to the Simulation Lecture Theatre which is used in the Human Physiology module to enhance teaching of basic anatomy and physiology processes. The integration of simulation technology, namely Anatomage, and to a lesser extent iStan, is used to enhance the learning experience.

At level 5, the curriculum continues to concentrate on core areas of Biomedical Science, in particular, the laboratory disciplines. Apprentices will start to examine the processes that disrupt normal human biological function and so cause disease and will also explore the methods used to diagnose and treat disease. Again, laboratory sessions will give apprentices the opportunity to enhance their understanding of some topics and will develop further, laboratory skills as well as skills in data handling and interpretation. Apprentices will also be encouraged to develop further, personal transferable skills and reflect on how these prepare for the working environment. Apprentices will be encouraged to self-evaluate their skills and identify and address areas for improvement. Specialist options are chosen towards the end of level 5 to ensure that the choice is informed by experience of all four disciplines and the work placement knowledge and understanding from semester 3, level 4.

At level 6 apprentices will continue to develop knowledge and understanding of human disease with additional focus on diagnostic advances within healthcare and will study one of a range of current research topics in Biomedical Science within their specialism (Blood Science, Cellular Science, Infection Science or Genetics) in depth. Apprentices will continue to reflect upon ways to improve their own learning and performance and develop autonomous learning skills through Work Based Learning 3. Laboratory sessions, along with the research project (carried out within the workplace and with supervision from both the clinical and University staff teams), allow apprentices to further enhance data handling and critical interpretation skills and increase the autonomy with which they can be applied. In addition, development of further numerical, written and oral communication, IT and group working skills are encouraged. At level 6, new resources have been integrated into the programme to reflect advances in digital learning. As part of the Diagnostic Histopathology module at level 6, anatomical study is enhanced using the Anatomage to present virtual dissection of tissues/organs, as an adjunct to learning in Autopsy and Digital Pathology. The most advanced subject material (state of the art) is taught as part of the module and content is research-led (e.g., imaging and cardiovascular diseases). In addition, apprentices gain experience of the importance of knowledge that is research-led during the production of individual work-based research projects, which are focused on improving current practices in Biomedical Sciences/ Healthcare Science.

#### Stage 1 – All Specialisms

Year	FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester	Module Code
1	4	Work based learning and Professional Practice 1	Core	20	1-3	BIS4011-B
1	4	Introductory Biochemistry	Core	20	1	BIS4007-B
1	4	Introductory Microbiology	Core	20	2	BIS4013-B
2	4	Human physiology	Core	20	1&2	BIS4009-B
2	4	Cell and Tissue Biology	Core	20	1	BIS4008-B
2	4	Human Genetics and Developmental Biology	Core	20	2	BIS4010-B

At the end of stage 1, apprentices will be eligible to exit with the award of Certificate of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes. Alternatively, apprentices may be able to transfer to the Biomedical Science degree.

## Stage 2- All Specialisms

Year	FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester	Module Code
3	5	Work-based learning and Professional practice 2 for Healthcare Scientists	Core	20	1-3	BIS5016-B
3	5	Clinical and Analytical Biochemistry	Core	20	1	BIS5013-B
3	5	Pathology	Core	20	2	BIS5015-B
4	5	Medical Microbiology	Core	20	1	BIS5008-B
4	5	Immunology, Haematology and Transfusion Science	Core	20	1&2	BIS5012-B
4	5	Molecular Genetics	Core	20	2	BIS5014-B

At the end of stage 2, apprentices will be eligible to exit with the award of Diploma of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes. Alternatively, apprentices may be able to transfer to the Biomedical Science degree.

## Stage 3 – Genetics

Year	FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester	Module Code
4	6	Work-based learning and Professional Practice 3 for Healthcare Scientists	Core	30	1,2&3	BIS6024-C
5	6	Research Project for Healthcare Science	Core	40	1&2	BIS6016-D
5	6	Medical Genetics	Core	20	1	BIS6011-B
5	6	Independent Study	Core	10	1	BIS6014-A
5	6	Biology of Disease	Core	20	2	BIS6012-B

## Stage 3 – Blood Science

Year	FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester	Module Code
4	6	Work-based learning and Professional Practice 3 for Healthcare Scientists	Core	30	1,2&3	BIS6024-C
5	6	Research Project for Healthcare Science	Core	40	1&2	BIS6016-D
5	6	Research Topics 1 in Haematology and Transfusion Science	Core	20	1	BIS6013-B
5	6	Diagnostics in Biochemistry and Immunology	Core	20	2	BIS6017-B
5	6	Pregnancy and Paediatric Blood Science	Core	10	1	BIS6015-A

### Stage 3 – Cellular Science

Year	FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester	Module Code
4	6	Work-based learning and Professional Practice 3 for Healthcare Scientists	Core	30	1,2&3	BIS6024-C
5	6	Research Project for Healthcare Science	Core	40	1&2	BIS6016-D
5	6	Clinical Diagnostics in Reproductive Science	Core	20	1	BIS6018-B
5	6	Diagnostic Histopathology	Core	20	2	BIS6019-B
5	6	Applications of Cytopathology	Core	10	1	BIS6020-A

### Stage 3 – Infection Science

Year	FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester	Module Code
4	6	Work-based learning and Professional Practice 3 for Healthcare Scientists	Core	30	1,2&3	BIS6024-C
5	6	Research Project for Healthcare Science	Core	40	1&2	BIS6016-D
5	6	Infectious Disease: Establishment, Treatment and Control	Core	20	1	BIS6021-B
5	6	Diagnostic Microbiology	Core	20	2	BIS6022-B
5	6	Parasitology and Fungal Infections	Core	10	1	BIS6023-A

Apprentices will be eligible to exit with the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed 120 credits in both Level 4 and 5 and 60 credits at level 6 and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Apprentices will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

#### Workplace Training

During the five years of the degree apprentices will access the National School of Healthcare Science Learning guide. This broadly uses the generic Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Proficiency and HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics, but contextualises these for Healthcare Science. The apprentice will also complete the IBMS registration portfolio during the five years of the degree.

During the workplace training apprentices will also complete work-based learning modules (20 credits in level 4 and 5 and 30 credits in level 6). These will be submitted to the University for marking at the end of year 1, 3 and 4.

This training will equip apprentices with a wide range of skills that will allow them to contribute to high-quality patient care. Upon successful completion of the programme, the apprentice will be able to fulfil the role of a Healthcare Science Practitioner in the NHS.

In the workplace apprentices will develop a professional relationship between service users and patients where appropriate.

### **Learning and Teaching Strategy**

The learning and teaching strategy takes into consideration the learning outcomes for the programme, progression through stages of study, the nature of topics studied and the need for apprentices to demonstrate greater autonomy in learning as apprentices' progress through the programme.

Formal lectures will facilitate apprentices' acquisition of knowledge and understanding (LO 1, 5, 10) and discipline specific skills (LO 4, 6, 7, and 8). Laboratory sessions run in conjunction with the theoretical components will give apprentices the opportunity to enhance their understanding of particular topics (LO 1, 5, 10). These will also help to develop discipline specific skills (LO 4-9) and personal transferable skills (LO 3, 9 12). Tutorials, workshops and case studies will develop knowledge and understanding (LO 1, 5, 10), discipline specific skills (LO 4, 6, 7, 8) and personal transferable skills (LO 3-9). The discipline specific skills will be further enhanced in the bespoke 10 credit modules in stage 3 (LO 4, 6 and 8). Directed study, involving directed reading of appropriate texts and the preparation of assessed work, is used to develop the majority of learning outcomes (LO 1-12). The significant work-based training allows for the further development of all the learning outcomes (LO 1-12).

Some modules involve small group tasks where apprentices are provided with meaningful activities to enhance learning using collaborative techniques. There is also opportunity for collaborative learning with a range of healthcare professionals through the work-based learning modules and the work-placement (LO5, LO10)

### **Assessment Strategy**

The assessment strategy is designed to allow apprentices to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes of an individual module appropriate to the level of study and the learning outcomes of the programme. These learning outcomes are consistent with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. At level 4, apprentices will be examined, primarily, on the breadth of knowledge via MCQ and short answer examinations (LO 1, 4). Coursework assignments will give apprentices the opportunity to gain experience in report writing and data handling and interpretation (LO 2,7,8). As apprentice's progress through levels 5 and 6, they will have the opportunity to demonstrate increasing skills of analysis, synthesis and criticism through a wide variety of assessment strategies, including written and oral examinations (LO ,5,6,7,8, 10), report writing (LO 1-12) group work (LO 5,6,7,8, 4, 8, 10, 12), essays, including a dissertation/ piece of independent study writing (LO 1-6, 8, 10-12), oral presentations (LO 1-5, 10, 8 , 9, 12), case studies (LO 1-5, 7, 8, 8, 10, 12) and the project report (LO 1-12). The project report provides a major opportunity to demonstrate autonomy in data handling and critical interpretation in a research context. Apprentice's professional competencies will be assessed primarily in the workplace through the work-based learning modules (LO 11) A memorandum of agreement will outline the responsibilities and accountability for achieving the outcomes and what support and guidance will be provided by the tutors. Successful completion of work-based training and the IBMS portfolio will be a requirement for registration to practice.

Assessment for apprentices on the apprenticeship route includes an integrated employer-led synoptic end point assessment (EPA) which specifically ensures that the Apprenticeship Standard for the HCSP higher degree apprenticeship has been met. The assessment requires apprentices to apply all of the learning and skills developed during the apprenticeship.

It consists of three elements which are assessed by an Independent Assessor:

1. Readiness for Practice Test (RPT) which is a type of situational judgment test.
2. Professional Discussion (PD) based on the apprentice's portfolio or record of evidence,
3. Presentation and Review of the apprentice's research project completed as partial fulfilment of the BSc.



Successful verification of the IBMS registration portfolio will also take place in the final weeks of the degree.

The academic level of knowledge, as well as the skills, knowledge and behavioural outcomes supports registration as a Healthcare Science Practitioner (with the Academy for Healthcare Science) and/or for the Life Sciences PTP, as a Biomedical Scientist (with the Health and Care Professions Council [HCPC]).

## Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Assessment Regulations which are available at the link below:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/>

However, there are a number of exceptions to these regulations as listed below:

The exceptions are:

1. There is no compensation. This means that all modules must be passed at 40% or higher in order to progress between stages and be eligible for a final award of BSc (Hons).
2. Apprentices will be permitted to undertake a second attempt at the next available opportunity based on the credit attempted at each Board of Examiners. Thus, a decision can be made when apprentices do not have a full profile of marks

## Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential apprentices and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

Applicants should currently be working in an NHS Pathology laboratory and have the full support of their employer to undertake this programme.

The **minimum** entry requirements for the programme will be 120 UCAS points (old tariff: 300 points) from a combination of "A" levels one of which should include Biology or Chemistry at A2 at least grade B. Other equivalent vocational qualifications will also be considered as suitable entry requirements (BTEC, NVQ3/4). Applicants should also hold Mathematics and English grade C (level 4) or above at GCSE. All applicants will be interviewed prior to an offer.

There will be some flexibility and applications are also welcome from apprentices who have significant relevant work experience, but who do not meet the standard entry requirements. These applicants may be required to sit an entry assessment prior to any offer being made.

An apprentice who has recently studied a syllabus as part of a previous qualification prior to enrolling on the Part-time HCS degree will be able to have their qualification assessed to identify whether credit can be given for any modules studied. This may mean that an apprentice is not required to take a particular unit of the HCS degree.

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled apprentices, and these will be considered on the same academic grounds as are applied to all applicants. Applicants who have some form of disability may wish to contact the programme leader before they apply.

If applicants meet the entry requirements, they will be invited to the Faculty for an interview and will also have an opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss "the Bradford experience" with current apprentices. Offers will be made subject to a successful interview.

Applications are welcome from apprentices with non-standard qualifications or mature apprentices (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

Successful applicants will be expected to undertake Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) and appropriate health checks.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

### **Minor Modification Schedule**

<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Brief description of Modification</b>	<b>Date of Approval (Faculty Board)</b>
2	Change to delivery period for BIS4008-B and BIS4010-B in response to Periodic Review outcomes for BSc Biomedical Science	07/03/2018
3	Change to delivery period for BIS4007-B and BIS4013-B to align with BSc Biomedical Science	March 2019
4	Annual changes for 2021 academic year	August 2021
5	Annual changes for 2022 academic year	March 2022