

# Biosciences at Bath

Our student stories



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

The best people to tell you what it's like to **study biosciences at Bath** are our students.



This brochure was written by our biosciences students, based on **questions they had before they started their course.**

We hope this brochure helps you to visualise yourself as a student here, but if you do have any specific questions, please contact us – see back page for details.



**Hatty Bohun,**  
BSc Biology with  
placement, year 1



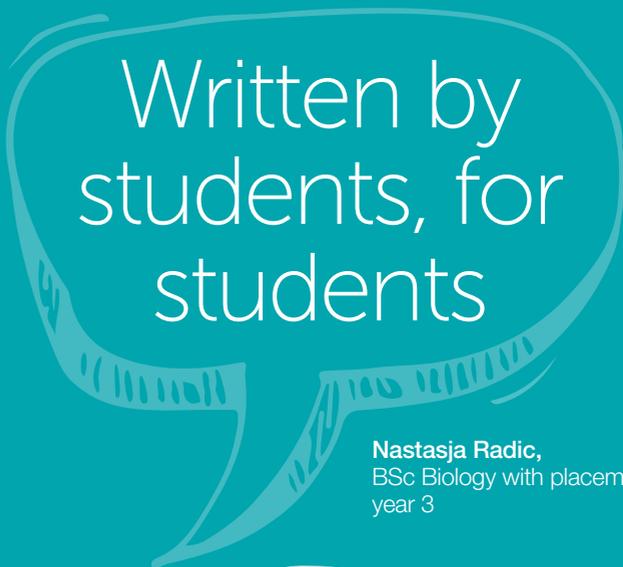
**Charlotte Booth,**  
BSc Biochemistry with  
placement, year 1



**Rhys Turner,**  
BSc Biology with placement,  
year 2



**Sabrina Davis,**  
BSc Biochemistry, year 2



Written by  
students, for  
students



**Phalisha Valji,**  
BSc Biomedical Sciences  
with placement, year 2

**Nastasja Radic,**  
BSc Biology with placement,  
year 3



**Mia Melhuish,**  
BSc Biology, year 1



**Antonia Dunbar,**  
BSc Biochemistry with placement,  
year 2

# Settling in

For most students, the first week at Bath will be **Freshers' Week** which is all about finding your way around, meeting new people and getting used to a new routine.

"I like that Bath is a **campus university** as it has a real community feel which made the transition easier."

*Phalisha*



Our campus is well equipped with everything you'll need, from a mini supermarket, to an onsite bar and club!

In first year, **most students choose to live on campus** but there is also city accommodation if you prefer.  
[bath.ac.uk/accommodation](http://bath.ac.uk/accommodation)



"I love that there is so much open space and beautiful routes to walk and run, which really attracted me to Bath when deciding on my first choice."

*Charlotte*

"It's nice to venture into the city centre especially because Bath is such a **beautiful place**. Getting into town is relatively easy as the **bus route is frequent** and takes me straight from campus to town."

*Annabel F*



2<sup>nd</sup>

Bath has been ranked as the **2nd safest University City** in the UK

(The Student Experience Survey 2018)



Ask our students about the campus ducks!

"Freshers' Week was amazing! My new flatmates and I had a chance to bond, there was a **themed concert** every night, and a **society fair** to see what activities I'd like to get involved in."

*Nastasja*



# The step-up to university

"I was a little apprehensive before coming to university as I was worried about studying a course I hadn't done before and that I wouldn't manage the step up. I realised quickly that there was **nothing to worry about** - first year's content ensures everyone has a good foundation of knowledge before starting specialised units in later years."

*Sabrina*



"The atmosphere at Bath has been a really friendly one and I've quickly felt part of my course. There's **lots of support** available and I've found the Uni's **Wellbeing Team** particularly helpful in the transition to university."

*Mia*



"I think there is a lot of hype about there being a huge gap between A Levels and a degree. Although there is a gap, it's not unmanageable and you are **eased into it gently**. I had time to enjoy myself and say "yes!" to social activities."

*Hatty*

"There are **optional lectures** in first year if you haven't done maths A Level which I've found really useful when doing statistical tests in lab reports."

*Sabrina*



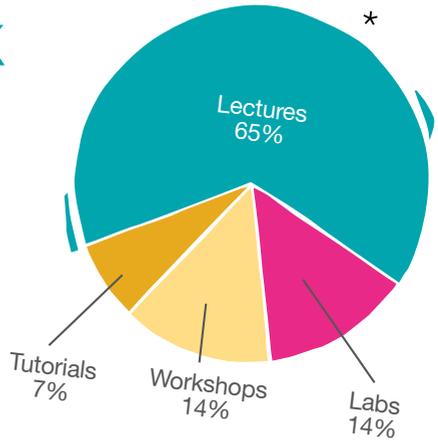
You'll have access to a University **Mathematics Resources Centre (MASH)** if you need help with any maths problems.

[go.bath.ac.uk/mash](http://go.bath.ac.uk/mash)

# A typical week

"We have quite a lot of contact hours - between **3 and 6 hours of labs** a week, **2 or 3 lectures** a day and usually a **one-hour tutorial**. We have lectures which go alongside our labs and are taken through them step by step."

*Hatty*



"Most **lectures are recorded** and this is really useful for going back over concepts and slides that are hard to take in during the lecture."

*Mia*

"Not all lectures were in massive lecture theatres with over a hundred people. The majority were a lot smaller."

*Antonia*



There's **no teaching on Wednesday afternoons**, so it's a good time to take part in activities outside the course such as sports, arts or join a society.

*"This pie chart is intended to give you an idea of a potential first year timetable breakdown and does not include time spent on independent study. Your actual timetable may vary."*

# Join a supportive community

"In the first week, I was assigned a **Peer Mentor** who helped me through both the social and academic parts of university. We even met for coffee a few times just so that we could chat about how I was doing, what work was going on and if I was coping."

*Phalisha*



Your **Peer Mentor** will be a biosciences student from second year or above.

You'll have regular **small-group tutorials with around 5-7 people** to discuss the lecture content and go over any problems. You'll also be assigned a **Personal Tutor** for general support.



"The **tutor groups** give you the opportunity to discuss your studies with your Tutor, and they will also set you assignments to complete. My Tutor has been really helpful and on hand to answer any questions via email."

*Mia*

"Being a female in the Department is very much supported, especially by the **Women in Science Society**, which puts on a range of events to promote women in this field. This includes talks from leading women in science presenting their experiences."

*Antonia*

"I can't express how impressed I have been with the Uni's services for those who need **mental health advice** or have **disabilities**, be it physical or learning."

*Hatty*

"Many of my lecturers operate an **open-door policy** or are easily accessible by email if I have any questions regarding the content of their lectures, or just general questions about the subject."

*Rhys*

If you ever need a bit of **extra support** whether it's money worries or mental health, we've got a range of services to help you out:  
[go.bath.ac.uk/student-services](http://go.bath.ac.uk/student-services)



# Learning in our labs

"While labs were initially difficult because they were a huge step from school, I enjoyed the transition to university because I was able to use much more **technical equipment**. I also enjoyed the **independence** we were given."

*Phalisha*



"In lab sessions, we have **demonstrators** who are often PhD students. There's a really **friendly atmosphere**, mainly due to the PhD students' readiness to help the younger years. I feel comfortable enough to ask any question like 'why are we doing this?' and ask for help."

*Mia*

"The lab feels like a rather large classroom. It is **well-equipped**, with all the resources, and our lab equipment is always laid out for us by the demonstrators, which takes a lot of stress out of the process!"

*Mia*



# Go on a placement year

Going on placement gives you the chance to try out different areas of work and could **improve your employability**. The majority of placements are paid and you may even have the opportunity to go abroad!

If you haven't applied for a course with a placement, you can **switch** after you've started the course.



Laurie Fabian, on placement at the Frozen Ark

"I have chosen to do a **lab placement**, but this is not a requirement as many people also apply for teaching or more **commercial placements**."

*Phalisha*



A degree in biosciences equips you for a wide range of careers both in and out of the lab.



Pippa Harding, (right) studying birds on placement in Cape Verde

"In first year, the Placements Team run **workshops on CV writing** which was really helpful, not only for placements but also for applying for jobs in the Summer. In the second year, we had more **placement advice sessions** on cover letters, application processes and interviews. We were also given the opportunity to schedule **mock interviews** with the Placements Team."

*Phalisha*

"I would recommend attending the **networking events** hosted by various companies (law firms/ pharmaceutical companies) to help you find out what career path you'd like to follow."

*Sabrina*

Our **Placements Team** are subject experts which means they know our biosciences courses well and will be able to help match your interests to the right employer. [go.bath.ac.uk/science-placements](http://go.bath.ac.uk/science-placements)



Securing a placement involves a competitive application process and therefore cannot be guaranteed.

# Life outside the lab

Volunteer • Join a society • Try a sport

There's more to being a student than studying – whether you're interested in baking, sports or computer games you'll definitely be able to find something you enjoy.



“The societies at the University offer a variety of different activities and there is **something for everyone**. In my free time I play in a band, and take part in events organised by the Music Society.”

*Rhys*

“I've joined the trampolining club. It is great fun because I can **learn new skills** and do competitions but in a chilled environment. It is very social and I have made a great group of friends. We do a mixture of **different socials** such as nights out, fun group activities and meals out.”

*Charlotte*

There are **100** societies you can choose from:  
[thesubath.com/socs](http://thesubath.com/socs)



“I love to play the piano at The Edge, which is the **arts centre on campus**. I paid a small fee which allows me to book up to an hour a day to use the pianos which is great as it allows me to **continue a hobby** that I had before coming to uni.”

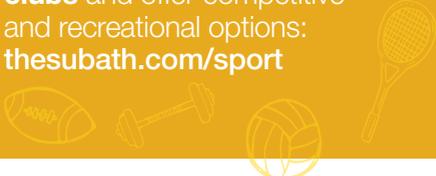
*Charlotte*



Find out more about arts at Bath:  
[go.bath.ac.uk/arts](http://go.bath.ac.uk/arts)



We have around **50** sports clubs and offer competitive and recreational options:  
[thesubath.com/sport](http://thesubath.com/sport)



There are lots of volunteering opportunities as well. You can even **volunteer to walk the dogs** at the cats and dogs home next to campus.





"I'm a member of **BUBS, the Bath University Biosciences Society.**

It hosts lots of different of events such as pub crawls, fundraising events, academic speakers and a Christmas meal."

*Rhys*



The SU put on lots of events throughout the year from day trips to movie nights.

"The **Plug and Tub** is the Uni bar that doubles as a club for two nights a week. It's great to have a place to go out on campus, whether for happy hour or a night out."

*Nastasja*



"I've really enjoyed being part of BUBS. Last year I was Chair and helped organise the Summer ball, which was a lot of fun!"

*Nastasja*



"There are a **wide variety of different club nights in town** (the rock/alternative music night at Moles is a personal favourite of mine!) And don't worry if like me you don't drink, as a lot of these club nights can be enjoyed sober."

*Rhys*

"There are **loads of amazing shops and restaurants in the city**, so I never run out of things to do. I try to go to the city at least once a week to have a change of scene. The bus route into the city is easy and direct but I tend to walk there and back which is great if you can bear to tackle the huge hill on your way back!"

*Charlotte*

"Alongside the bars and clubs, there's a range of other entertainment in town such as the cinema, theatre, concerts, and seasonal events such as the Christmas market."

*Rhys*



Buses run between campus and town 24/7 to make sure you get back safely.



# Ways you can find out more



Read our student blogs: [blogs.bath.ac.uk/students](https://blogs.bath.ac.uk/students)

## Chat to a current student:

From January, all offer holders will have the opportunity to **ask a student** any questions about living and studying at Bath. You don't need to do anything, simply lookout for a call or email from a current student sometime between January and May.

## Join us on social media:



[www.facebook.com/uniofbath/](https://www.facebook.com/uniofbath/)



[www.twitter.com/UniofBath](https://www.twitter.com/UniofBath)



[www.instagram.com/uniofbath/](https://www.instagram.com/uniofbath/)

## Contact the Department

[bioapplicants@bath.ac.uk](mailto:bioapplicants@bath.ac.uk)  
01225 386438

[go.bath.ac.uk/bio](https://go.bath.ac.uk/bio)



The information in this brochure is correct at time of going to print (January 2020).

Although we do not anticipate that there will be changes to the information provided, we may make changes to our courses in response to, for example, feedback from students, developments in the field of studies, and the requirements of accrediting bodies.

Please check our online course pages for the most up-to-date information.  
[go.bath.ac.uk/bio](https://go.bath.ac.uk/bio)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**