

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.

*Some quotes in this booklet are based on students' experiences of studying prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.
For information on Covid-19 please visit: bath.ac.uk/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/*



Eleanor Wycherley,
BSc Biomedical Sciences
with professional placement,
year 4



Isobel Davis,
BSc Biochemistry with
professional placement,
year 4



Jaiveer Arora,
BSc Biochemistry with
professional placement,
year 2



Dulcie Canham,
BSc Biomedical Sciences
with professional placement,
year 4



Denis Yang,
BSc Biochemistry with
professional placement,
year 2



Keona Dadhwal,
MBiol Biology with professional
placement, year 2



Gediminas Vielius,
MBiochem Biochemistry
with professional placement,
year 2

Written by
students, for
students

Thomas Plant,
BSc Biomedical
Sciences with
professional placement,
year 3

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 would describe campus as a **compact, cosy mini city**. Everything I'd ever need is within a five-minute walk, including a world-class Sports Training Village, lecture halls, labs, shops, cafes and even a nightclub!"

Ged



In first year, most students choose to live in university accommodation, either on-campus or in the City. See all accommodation options: go.bath.ac.uk/student-accommodation



2nd

Bath has been ranked as the **2nd safest University City** in the UK in the most recent THE Student Experience Survey (2018)



Ask our students about the campus ducks!

"I got my first **choice of accommodation** but in hindsight, I think even if I hadn't, it would have been absolutely fine and everyone seemed to be able to make the best out of the accommodation they did end up with!"

Isobel

"One the things that attracted me to Bath was being able to walk alongside rivers, through forests and down historic little backstreets, as a break from studying."

Thomas

"I love that it's a small enough city to quickly find your way around and find new favourite spots for food and drinks, but big enough that there's a huge variety of things to see and do, and it's only 15 minutes on the train to Bristol if I ever do fancy a big night out!"

Dulcie



The step-up to university

"Before coming to university, I thought the gap between first-year and A Levels would be a lot bigger than it actually was. We were **eased into the course** and **lots of support** was given to us by the friendly staff, such as additional maths help which helped me with lab reports and statistics, as I didn't take Maths for A-level."

Jaiveer



"In the first few weeks we went over lots of A Level content again to get back on track. It does quickly pick up in complexity, but if you're attending lectures and making clear notes it's not too bad, and I found there was lots of free time between lectures to do extra reading if any of the topics weren't very clear to me."

Dulcie



"I found the step-up to university quite daunting, but sessions with my **peer mentors**, where I could talk about how to manage the workload as well as ask for advice on how to make friends outside my flat, helped me out a lot."

Keona

"One significant difference I've noticed between college and university is **how passionate the lecturers are** about their chosen topic. It's inspiring to see how many lecturers have contributed to all the textbooks and research papers that we use."

Ged



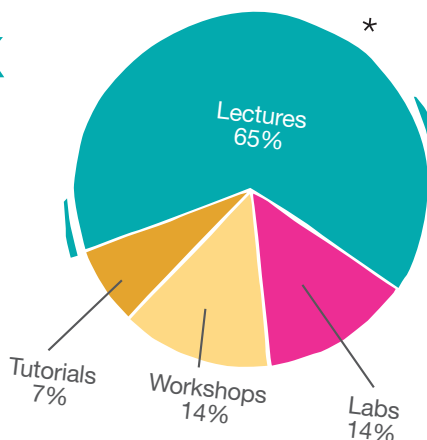
You'll have access to a University **Mathematics Resources Centre (MASH)** if you need help with any maths problems.
go.bath.ac.uk/mash

A typical week

"In first year, there are a blend of **lectures** (typically 2-3 per day) and **lab sessions** (typically a minimum of 3 hours per week) which complement each other."

Thomas

Lectures can take place anytime between 9.15am and 7.15pm and usually last around 50 minutes.



"Lectures are quite well-paced allowing concepts to be grasped with ease. As almost all **lectures are recorded**, it's easy to revisit content if I need to."

Jaiveer

"I break my day up by **working in different places**, such as cafes and the SU (which are great places to get a coffee and some lunch as well!) and when it's good weather, lots of students sit by the lake to have lunch, do work, and talk with friends."

Isobel

"The workload definitely comes in waves for deadlines but if you keep up a steady work schedule, there is **plenty of free time for sports and socials.**"

Eleanor



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 your potential first year timetable breakdown and does not include time spent on independent study. Your actual timetable may vary.


Join a supportive community

In Freshers' Week, I was assigned a **Peer Mentor** which I found really useful, as it meant I had someone I could go to when I had a question that I didn't feel like asking my Personal Tutor. They were also very helpful in deciding what units to take in second year, as they were studying some of them at the time."

Dulcie



 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 both academic and personal support.

"I find **tutor groups** a nice way to meet people and make friends. As there are only five of us, it's an opportunity to have a chat in a small group with other people on my course."

Dulcie

"After exams, there's an opportunity to collect your exam paper and go through it with the lecturers from the unit, so that you can understand what went well and where you could improve.

Isobel




"During periods where I don't feel like myself, I can contact the **student welfare services** and they will give me the best course of action. If they're unavailable, the University has a **Nightline** to help out of hours, from walking a student home at night to talking to them about any sort of overload."

Keona

"I have **never felt worried about asking questions** during lectures or via email. The lecturers also often dedicate a part of their lecture for questions from students."

Ged

 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

Learning in our labs

"The labs are really great, the **equipment is top-notch** and way more advanced than what you'd normally see at school or college. It really gives a professional feeling and gets you used to all the essential experimental apparatus."

Denis



"I was most excited about labs, and I'm pleased to say they did not disappoint. We were **given a lot of independence**, which was quite enjoyable especially when getting to use new equipment and specialist software."

Jaiveer



"In first and second-year labs I got to try out using different sorts of **microscopes and other specialist equipment** that we didn't have available in our labs at college, which really helped me work out if I wanted to go into a lab-based career."

Dulcie

"During teaching labs, there is a **good staff to student ratio** with PhD students helping out so there's always someone around to ask."

Eleanor



Go on a placement

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.

"I loved my placement! It was really great to be able to **use the concepts I'd learnt at university** in a working environment. I was able to see the comparison of academia to industry and it confirmed to me that I want to stay in research and work in labs."

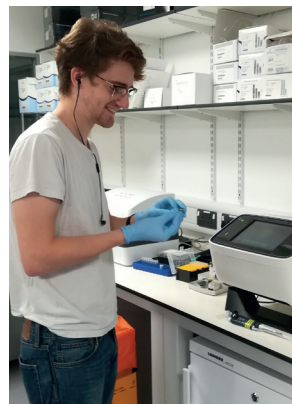
Isobel



You don't just have to work in a lab while on placement; a biosciences degree prepares you for a **wide range of careers** inside and outside the lab



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



Laurie Fabian, on placement at the Frozen Ark

"If you get a **paid placement**, you'll also be able to gather some funds for your final year (if you successfully manage your finances... which is another thing a placement will help you to improve!)"

Thomas

"In first year, there were plenty of **workshops** which helped me to improve my CV to the point where I'm comfortable applying for both placements and other work opportunities with it.

Jaiveer

"When you are on placement, someone from the University will visit you and if you have any problems there is always someone to talk to."

Eleanor

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



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.

"Most of the friends I've made have been through societies. I am part of the **Bath Indian Society** so I can meet people who share similar, if not the same, culture as me so I am always reminded of home."

Keona

Some of my favourite societies include **Curry Society**, **Music Society** and the **Biosciences Society**. You don't have to be good at sport to join a sports society either and you can even just go to the socials!"

Eleanor



There are over **160** student groups, from societies to volunteering: thesubath.com/groups

"I love being part of the **Fine Arts Society** as it lets me be creative in my own way, where I don't need to be 'good' at art at all.

Keona



"The sports facilities in the **Sports Training Village** are the best I have ever used. Whilst the quality of each facility is great, it's the variety that mainly caught my attention.

Ged

We have around **50** sports clubs for all abilities: thesubath.com/sport



There's a **Bath University Biosciences Society (BUBS)** that hosts lots of different events throughout the year, such as pub crawls, fundraising events, academic speakers and a Christmas meal. thesubath.com/bubs



"The social aspect of joining a society is my favourite part, especially socials like the Christmas meal, ice-skating and board games nights. I do wish I'd joined a society in my first year but was initially worried about going on my own, which is something I didn't need to feel as everyone was so welcoming."

Dulcie



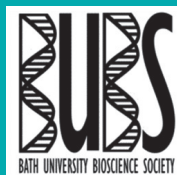
The SU put on lots of events throughout the year from day trips to movie nights.



The Students' Union has **club nights** on campus: Score on a Wednesday and Klass on a Saturday.

"The city of Bath is really beautiful, with plenty of green space and scenic routes, perfect for an evening walk. If you're not in the mood to walk, getting around the city is simple as there are plenty of buses, and some even take you directly from campus to the City."

Jaiveer



"There are student nights every night of the week at clubs in Bath. There are also a range of good pubs and other fun things to do such as Bingo Lingo. Bristol is also super close by and can easily be visited for day trips or big nights out."

Eleanor

"I like walking down to the city almost every weekend, to discover new cafes, shops and fill my bags at the local fruit & veg markets."

Thomas



Buses run between campus and town 24/7



Ways you can find out more



Read our student blogs: blogs.bath.ac.uk/students

Chat to a current student:

From early 2022, 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 in early 2022.

Join us on social media:



www.facebook.com/uniofbath



www.twitter.com/uniofbath

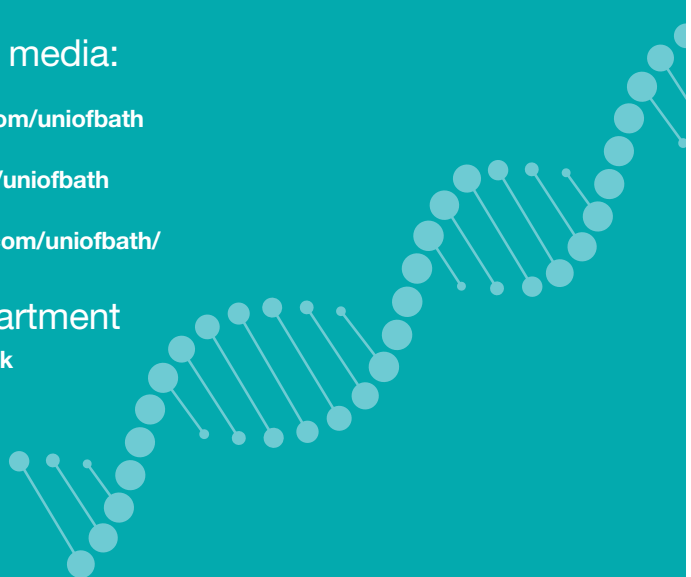


www.instagram.com/uniofbath/

Contact the Department

bioapplicants@bath.ac.uk
01225 386438

go.bath.ac.uk/bio



The information in this brochure is correct at time of going to print (December 2021).

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



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