

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOINFORMATICS (BSc[BioInf])

(See also General Regulations)

BMS1 Admission to the Degree

To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics, candidates shall

- (a) comply with General Regulations;
 - (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
 - (c) satisfy all the requirements of the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow and the syllabuses of the degree.
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BMS2 Length of Study

The curriculum shall normally require six semesters of full-time study, spreading over three academic years.

BMS3 Completion of Curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG3 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula and a further 3 credits of courses in English language enhancement.
 - (b) complete satisfactorily not less than 180 credits of courses, in the manner specified in the syllabuses, which shall include credits from all core courses in accordance with the syllabuses.
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BMS4 Selection of Courses

- (a) Candidates shall normally take not less than 24 and not more than 36 credits of courses in each semester, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of Studies.
 - (b) Candidates shall have to satisfactorily complete the Prerequisite: courses in order to enrol in succeeding courses, unless with exemption granted by the course coordinators of the courses concerned.
 - (c) Candidates with unsatisfactory academic progress may be required by the Board of Studies to take a reduced study load.
 - (d) Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabuses before the beginning of each academic year.
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BMS5 Assessment and Grades

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses which they have registered for, and assessment may be conducted in any one or any combination of the following manners: written examinations or tests, continuous assessment, laboratory work, field work, project reports, or in any other manner as specified in the syllabuses.

- (b) Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG5 of the Regulations for the First Degree Curricula.
 - (c) Written examinations shall normally be held at the end of each semester unless otherwise specified in the syllabuses.
 - (d) Candidates who fail in any core course may be required by the Board of Studies to repeat the same course in a subsequent semester, and/or to be re-assessed at a time and in a manner specified by the Board. The grades for all attempts made by a candidate will be recorded in his/her transcript.
 - (e) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a grade D or above for upgrading purposes.
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BMS6 Discontinuation

A candidate will normally be recommended for discontinuation of his/her studies if

- (a) his/her semester GPA is unsatisfactory (<1.0) for any academic year; or
 - (b) he/she has failed in a core course three times; or
 - (c) he/she has passed less than 30 credits of courses for any academic year.
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BMS7 Absence from Examination

Candidates who are unable to be present at any examination of a course because of illness or other special circumstances may apply for permission to present themselves for examination at some other time. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from any examination.

BMS8 Advanced Standing

- (a) Advanced standing in a course of study may be granted to candidates who have successfully completed a similar course at other universities or comparable institutions. The amount of advanced credits to be granted shall be determined by the Board of Studies, in accordance with the following principles:
 - (i) a minimum of two years of study at this University shall be required before the candidate is considered for the award of the degree; and
 - (ii) a minimum of 120 credits shall be gained in this University.
 - (b) Advanced credits granted to a candidate shall not be included in the calculation of his/her cumulative GPA.
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BMS9 Degree Classification

The degree of BSc (BioInf) shall be awarded in five divisions:

- (a) First Class Honours
- (b) Second Class Honours Division One
- (c) Second Class Honours Division Two
- (d) Third Class Honours
- (e) Pass

**SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOINFORMATICS**

	Course	Credits	Semester
Year 1			
BIOC1001	Basic Biochemistry	6	1
CSIS1117	Computer Programming	6	1
CSIS1501	Foundations of Biocomputing	6	1
ECEN1503	English for Computer Science	3	1
CBIO0001	Practical Chinese Language Course for BSc (BioInf) Students	3	1
ELEC	Elective subject(s)	6	1

BIOC1003	Introduction to Molecular Genetics	6	2
BIOC1805	Elements of Bioinformatics	3	2
CSIS1119	Introduction to Data Structures and Algorithms	6	2
CSIS1120	Machine Organisation and Assembly Language Programming	6	2
CMED1002	Introduction to Statistics	3	2
ECEN1504	Professional and Technical Communication for Computer Science	3	2
HSSELEC ¹	Humanities and Social Sciences Studies Elective	3	2
Year 2			
BIOC2603	Principles of Molecular Genetics	6	1
CSIS0278	Introduction to Database Management Systems	6	1
BIOC2808	Bioinformatics and Molecular Evolution	6	1
CMED2002	Statistics, Epidemiology and Clinical Trials	6	1

BIOC2811	Structural Bioinformatics and Proteomics	6	2
CSIS0396	Programming Methodology and Object-Oriented Programming	6	2

ELEC ²	Elective subjects	18	1+2
GE&B	General Education and Broadening	6	1+2
Year 3			
BIOC3808	Genomic Bioinformatics	6	1
CSIS0326	Computational Molecular Biology	6	1

BIOC3613	Molecular Biology of the Gene	6	2

BIOC3814	Bioinformatics Project	12	1+2
ELEC ²	Elective subject(s)	24	1+2
GE&B	General Education and Broadening	6	1+2

¹ HSSELEC may be taken at a different time.

² Electives taken during 2nd and 3rd year must include, in total, at least 12 credits of 2nd or 3rd year level Biochemistry courses.

Core Course Descriptions

BIOC1001 Basic Biochemistry (6 credits)

The course is designed to present an overview of biochemistry and to provide an understanding of the basic mechanisms underlying life processes. This is an independent course which can be taken by students from various disciplines. It also prepares students for further studies in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Prerequisite: Nil

BIOC1003 Introduction to Molecular Genetics (6 credits)

The objectives of this course are to provide students with basic and up-to-date knowledge on the structure and functions of nucleic acids, to give students a general picture of the molecular control of gene expressions, and to introduce students to the implications of molecular genetics in the development of recombinant DNA technology.

Prerequisite: Nil

CSIS1117 Computer Programming (6 credits)

The goal of this course is for students to learn the general principles of programming, including how to design, implement, document, test, and debug programs.

Prerequisite: Nil

CSIS1501 Foundations of biocomputing (6 credits)

Basic elements of discrete mathematics: combinatorics and discrete probability, sequences and strings, graphs and trees, languages and grammars; applications of these elements in bioinformatics.

Prerequisite: Nil

CSIS1119 Introduction to Data Structures and Algorithms (6 credits)

Arrays, linked lists, trees and graphs; stacks and queues; symbol tables; priority queues, balanced trees; sorting algorithms; complexity analysis.

Prerequisite: CSIS1117 or CSIS0396 or CSIS0911 or ELEC1501

CSIS1120 Machine Organisation and Assembly Language Programming (6 credits)

Fundamentals of computer organisation and machine architecture; number, character and instruction representations; addressing modes; assembly language programming including stack manipulation and subroutine linkage; basic logic design and integrated devices; the central processing unit and its control; concepts of microprogramming, data flow and control flow; I/O devices and their controllers, interrupts and memory organisation; computer arithmetic.

Co-requisite: CSIS1117 or ELEC1501

CMED1002 Introduction to Statistics (3 credits)

To provide the basic statistical background for students.

Prerequisite: Nil

BIOC1805 Elements of Bioinformatics (3 credits)

To introduce the main concepts, software and databases used in Bioinformatics.

Prerequisite: CSIS1117 or CSIS0911 advisable

Co-requisite: BIOC1003 or equivalent

ECEN1503 English for Computer Science (3 credits)

To develop confidence in the use of English in written and oral form. Topics include: questioning skills negotiating meaning, making effective grammatical and lexical choices, producing coherent writing and making confident oral presentations.

Prerequisite: Nil

ECEN1504 Professional and Technical communication for Computer Science (3 credits)

Spoken and written English for professional and technical communication. Topics include: collecting, organising and understanding information; presenting information in written and oral forms; and technical report writing.

Prerequisite: ECEN1503

CBIO0001 Practical Chinese Language Course for BSc (BioInf) Students (3 credits)

Chinese language enhancement; topics include: practical Chinese writing skills, Chinese characters, letter-writing and office documents, Chinese for special purposes, presentation and communication techniques.

Prerequisite: Nil

BIOC2603 Principles of Molecular Genetics (6 credits)

To provide basic knowledge on molecular genetics, illustrating modern concepts with current experimental approaches and computer-assisted programmes. Together with subjects taken in the third year, a comprehensive background is provided for advanced study and/or research in molecular biology.

Prerequisite: BIOC1001 and BIOC1003

BIOC2808 Bioinformatics and Molecular Evolution (6 credits)

This course will focus on the methods and algorithms for DNA and protein sequence analysis, database searching and phylogenetic analysis. Some knowledge of programming and algorithms is assumed.

Prerequisites: BIOC1003, BIOC1805, CSIS1117 and CSIS1119 or equivalent.

BIOC2811 Structural Bioinformatics and Proteomics (6 credits)

To introduce the study of protein structure and the proteome. This will cover the principles of protein structure, protein classification, identification, structure determination and modelling of proteins and protein-protein interactions. Experimental methods will be discussed as well as the related computational approaches.

Prerequisites: BIOC1001; BIOC1003; BIOC2808

CSIS0278 Introduction to Database Management Systems (6 credits)

This course studies the principles, design, administration, and implementation of database management systems. Topics include: entity-relationship model, relational model, relational algebra and calculus, database design and normalisation, database query languages, indexing schemes, integrity, concurrency control, and query processing.

Prerequisite: CSIS1119 or CSIS0912 or ELEC1501

CSIS0396 Programming Methodology and Object-Oriented Programming (6 credits)

Introduction to programming paradigms; abstract data types and classes; object-oriented program design; object-oriented programming; program development, generation and analysis tools; scripting and command languages; user interfaces and GUIs; program documentation.

Co-requisite: CSIS1117 or CSIS0911 or ELEC1501

CMED2002 Statistics, Epidemiology and Clinical Trials (6 credits)

More advanced statistical techniques and the principles and methodology underlying epidemiology and clinical trials will be discussed.

Prerequisite: CMED1002 or equivalent.

BIOC3613 Molecular Biology of the Gene (6 credits)

To provide an up-to-date knowledge of molecular biology, especially with respect to eukaryotic gene expression and molecular embryology.

Prerequisite: BIOC2603

CSIS0326 Computational Molecular Biology (6 credits)

The novel and specialised algorithms needed to solve computational problems related to the vast amounts of data generated by modern molecular biology techniques will be examined in detail.

Prerequisites: Either CSIS0250 OR BIOC2808

BIOC3808 Genomic Bioinformatics (6 credits)

To present bioinformatics topics applicable to genomic biology and the “post-genome” phase of molecular biology.

Prerequisite: BIOC2808

BIOC3814 Bioinformatics Project (12 credits)

Students will be required to take a bioinformatics project which demands substantial work under the supervision of a teacher. Alternatively, if qualified, students may take either BIOC3614 or CSIS0801. Only one of BIOC3614, BIOC3814 or CSIS0801 may be taken.

General Education and Broadening

General Education and Broadening electives taken may not include subjects offered by the Departments of Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science and Information Systems, and Zoology.

Other Elective Courses

Elective courses may be taken from any of the suggested electives given below or from other courses for which the student is qualified. For descriptions of Biochemistry courses please see the listings under the BSc syllabuses of the Faculty of Science. For Computer Science courses please see listings under the BSc(CSIS) syllabuses of the Faculty of Engineering.

<i>Suggested Electives</i>		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Semester</i>
CSIS1127	Introduction to Information Systems	6	1
BIOC2601	Metabolism	6	1
BIOC2602	Understanding Metabolic Diseases	6	2
BIOC2604	Essential Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	6	2
CSIS0250	Design and Analysis of Algorithms	6	1
CSIS0259	Principles of Programming Languages	6	1
CSIS0270	Artificial Intelligence	6	2
CSIS0271	Computer Graphics	6	2
BIOC3609	Molecular Medicine	6	2
BIOC3610	Advanced Biochemistry I	6	1
BIOC3611	Advanced Biochemistry II	6	2
BIOC3615	Advanced Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	6	1
CSIS0322	Internet and World Wide Web	6	2
CSIS0323	Advanced Database Systems	6	2