

## BSc Biological Sciences degree programme

### *Information Sheet*

2023-24

#### **Duration of the Degree**

The BSc Biological Sciences degree takes three years. There are three terms a year with holiday periods in winter, spring and summer. The degree will be taught at the RVC's Camden Campus.

#### **Methods of Teaching**

You will be taught through lectures and seminars with an emphasis on small group teaching and laboratory practical work. We deploy blended modes of delivery which accommodate the needs of all our students. The majority of in-person teaching is at Camden Campus but there may be some teaching at our Hawkshead Campus. The course will involve investigative project work that will comprise a group project in the second year and an individual project in the third year. The amount of time to be spent in different types of learning can be accessed from the study pages of the RVC website:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-biological-science>

#### **Accreditation**

BSc Biological Sciences has been awarded Accreditation by the Royal Society of Biology.

#### **Core and Optional Modules for students beginning in 2023**

##### Module Titles

##### *Core Modules in Year 1*

- Biology of Cells
- Inheritance, Genetics and Evolution
- Developmental Biology
- The Moving Animal
- Integrated Physiology I
- Integrated Physiology II
- Problem Definition and Investigation
- Library Research Project

### *Core Modules in Year 2*

- Basis of Disease
- Aging and Degeneration
- Principles of Infectious Disease
- Control of Infectious Disease
- Principles of Pharmacology
- Research Project

### *Core Module in Year 3*

- Research Project

*The following Optional Modules are normally available in the Second and Third Years as indicated.*

- Applied Pharmacology (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- Imaging of Disease (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- Introduction to One Health (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics (2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- Advanced Concepts in BioBusiness (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Advanced Concepts in Reproduction (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Advanced Skeletal Pathobiology (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Comparative Animal Locomotion (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Comparative Models of Disease (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Development and Disease (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Endocrine and Metabolic Syndromes (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Epidemiology: the Bigger Picture (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Infection and Immunity (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Parasitology of Human and Veterinary Tropical Diseases (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Practical Investigative Biology (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Animal Behaviour and Cognition (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Science of Animal Welfare (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Applied Animal Welfare (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Animals and Human Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Applied Molecular Microbiology (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Ecology: Individuals, Populations and Communities (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)

***Please note that all modules are indicative and subject to sufficient student interest and the availability of academic staff. BSc Biological Sciences students can normally also take several optional modules at King's College London during third year.***

You will also have the option to undertake a placement year. The industry-based placement involves an additional year based at an employer where you can focus on developing workplace skills and industry expertise that will sit alongside the knowledge you gain throughout your course. Please note that you will need to find your own placement but support and guidance will be given, as well as tutorial support throughout your placement year.

Placements/sandwich year: £1,850

### Teaching Staff at RVC

All teaching staff at RVC are fully qualified to teach at Higher Education level. Most staff are involved in research as well as teaching and hold research qualifications. You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the RVC website. Staff will teach by means of lectures, seminars and practicals and also work with students in tutorial groups.

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Course Director   | Dr Charlotte Lawson |
| • Year One Leader   | Dr Donald Palmer    |
| • Year Two Leader   | Dr Abir Mukherjee   |
| • Year Three Leader | Dr Isabel Orriss    |

### Fees and Costs

The fee for the first year for UK students studying undergraduate degrees at RVC in 2023-24 is £9,250 *per annum*.

The fee for the first year for EU and international students on the BSc Biological Sciences degree is £22,670 *per annum*.

The fee for each specific degree programme can be found in the *Key Information* provided on the subject page of each programme on the RVC website:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-biological-science>

Further information about fees can be found here: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>.

### Tuition fees in future years

It is RVC policy to set and review tuition fees on an annual basis. The fees indicated above are for the first year of tuition only and may be subject to increase in future years (see below). Should it be necessary to increase these costs, you will be consulted and notice given as to when such increases may occur and by how much.

We publish a tuition fee policy annually on our website that sets out how fees are set and collected, and describes what students and sponsors need to do. This can be found on our website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/1%20Fees%20and%20Funding/tuition-fee-policy.pdf>

### **Explanation of Fees**

The RVC adheres to the UK Government's legislation regarding fees for UK students which sets the maximum fee for these categories. Subject to the approval of legislation in parliament in future years, institutions including the RVC may be permitted to raise fees for UK students at an inflationary rate linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI). We therefore, advise all UK students considering study at the RVC to plan their finances based on such year-on-year inflationary increases.

The fees for EU and international students are also listed at the above links. These are substantially higher than UK fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for such students and therefore has to charge "full cost fees". In deciding the annual level of increase for EU and international students, the College will take into account a range of factors, including rises in the costs of delivery of its teaching programmes and changes in government funding. The increase will not exceed 5% each year or the Retail Price Index (RPI) if higher. We will publish the fee in September of the preceding academic year.

### **Additional costs**

The fees do not cover accommodation costs, which for 2022/23 ranged from £191.50 to £255.15 per week over a 40, 48 or 50 week contract depending on hall of residence and catering options.

Other course costs are kept to a minimum and may include items such as printing/photocopying and occasional field trips.

The RVC now has an efficient paperless curriculum which keeps paper costs to a minimum. You are provided with an annual allowance of approx. £10 for any printing or copying you decide to do. Current A4 prices are 4.8p per sheet for black and white copies and 10p for colour copies.

You will have to purchase a Howie laboratory coat for use during practical classes. At the time of writing, the price is £17 and they can be purchased from the Students Union. There are no other charges for practical classes.

Any student wishing to study an optional module or undertake a project located on the campus they do not live near must make their own travel arrangements and incur any additional costs.

## **EU students and Brexit**

For EU students accepting a place on a programme for entry in the academic year 2023/24 your fees will now be at the same level as other international students, as listed above.

EU students are permitted to enter the UK, after the UK has left the EU. However, they will need to apply for immigration permission either through the EU Settlement Scheme or the Student Visa route.

The links below provide more information:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Brexit---EU-Settlement-Scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

## **Procedures, Policies and Processes**

The RVC has a range of policies and statutory requirements with which it must comply. These documents are available on the college's website from which the full documents can be accessed. This link is at <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures>. Information on Complaints Procedures is also available.

If you wish to complain about a matter relating to a course of study, you should first contact the RVC Registry who will advise you. Every effort will be made to deal with the issue promptly, fairly and transparently.

You may also take complaints and concerns to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), details of which can be found at [www.oiahe.org.uk](http://www.oiahe.org.uk).

## **Student Protection Plan**

In line with the good practice mandated by the Office for Students (OfS), the RVC has produced a Student Protection Plan. The plan sets out how we ensure continuation of studies for our students and the measures we have put in place to mitigate any risks we think could occur. This can be found on our website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-further-student-policies-and-procedures>

**This document is available on the RVC website.**