

Title of Programme: Initial Year in Life and Medical Sciences

Programme Code: HICIYBIO, HICIYGG, HICIYPSC, HICIYPSY, HICIYSS, HICIYEM

For Collaborative: External Validation at Hertfordshire International College

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:

22 September 2025

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):

Laura Lowe

Signature



A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

Summary of amendments to the programme:

Section	Amendment
Management of Programme & Support for student learning	Amended correct job titles of available support.

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email AQO@herts.ac.uk

Programme Specification

Initial Year in Life and Medical Sciences

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

Section 1

Awarding Institution/Body	University of Hertfordshire
Teaching Institution	Hertfordshire International College
University/partner campuses	College Lane, Hatfield
Programme accredited by	Not applicable
Final Qualification	Not applicable
All Final Award titles	Not applicable
(Qualification and Subject)	
FHEQ level of award	0

A. Programme Rationale

The partnership between the College and University of Hertfordshire facilitates the acquisition of an undergraduate degree by international students who, because of their previous educational experience, are not normally able to gain direct access to the University's degree courses. The pathway has therefore been developed to satisfy important pedagogical issues:

1. To ensure that international students have a dedicated period of time, in a familial and safe setting, to adjust to and acquire the skills to prepare for further studies within a western learning environment.
2. To satisfy the University's quality protocols, which in turn are directed by the QAA Subject Benchmark requirements, for articulation purposes.
3. Facilitate access to a pathway leading to a University degree award.
4. Widen access and participation in higher education in line with the University's internationalisation agenda.
5. Commit to the provision of best practice customer service and student experience for international students and thus add value to the University's award winning student lifestyle.
6. Support the integrity of the University's QAA commitment by adopting and adapting the University's quality regime to form the basis of a robust, quality driven academic provision and administrative systems and processes.
7. Assist in the diversification of the student body.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

Our programmes are purposefully designed to enable all students to engage meaningfully with the curriculum by being accessible and representative. We will support students to shape their learning experience, removing barriers and enabling them to succeed. The curriculum explicitly includes multiple and representative perspectives, valuing collective identities and individual diversity. Learning, teaching and assessment activities help students to understand how they can enhance outcomes both for themselves and for others. All students belong to a learning community, and during their studies we really want to hear their voices, encourage them to listen to others, and express themselves.

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

Additionally this programme aims to:

1. Prepare students, who would not normally be considered qualified, to an appropriate standard for entry into UH, School of Life and Medical Sciences, at FHEQ Level 4 of the prescribed undergraduate degree schemes.
2. To endow each individual with an educational pathway that augments opportunities for professional employment and development in the life and medical sciences sector at both a national and international level.
3. Develop in students a fundamental knowledge that can demonstrate an understanding of the skills and appropriate techniques in life and medical sciences so as to support their transfer into FHEQ Level 4 of the prescribed degree schemes.
4. Develop in students an appreciation and desire to learn based on competent intellectual and practical skills building to a set of transferable skills that will support them in all aspects of their onward academic studies/careers and assist informed decision making.
5. Ensure that students have attained the prescribed level of inter-disciplinary language competence described as Level B2 'Independent User' by the Council of Europe, see Common European Framework of Reference for languages: Learning, teaching assessment 2001, Council of Europe, CUP, Cambridge, p. 24, Table 1. Common Reference Levels: global scale.
6. Ensure that graduates have attained the prescribed level of inter-disciplinary language competence to a minimum pass mark of 50% in the Navitas externally moderated module Interactive Learning Skills and Communication, and therein a minimum 6.0 IELTS equivalent.

C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA benchmark statements for Biosciences (March 2023); Geography, Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies; Biomedical Sciences (March 2022); Psychology (November 2019), Events, Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism (November 2019) and the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2021) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
A1 - Applies an understanding of the basic concepts of Life Sciences and their relevance to a functional environment .	Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is through a combination of lectures, workshops, coursework and practical assignments at all levels of the programme.	Knowledge and understanding are assessed through coursework assignments and exams.
A2 - Demonstrates comprehension of the core scientific principles of the biological sciences and chemistry.	Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.	Coursework may include time-constrained assessments, in class tests, presentations (individual and group), group work, case studies and written reports or essays.
A3 – Demonstrates an understanding of how to apply and use basic scientific notation.		Assessment, which is both formative and summative, individual and group based spans many forms, e.g. essay assignments, project reports, portfolios, exhibitions and presentations.
A4 – Demonstrates how to construct clear, logical arguments inter alia demonstrating the difference		

between experimental evidence and proof, and between an implication and its converse .

A5 - Demonstrates the application of numerical techniques to the decision making process with an emphasis on statistical and sampling methods and the description of theories and models.

A6 - Understands the purpose and processes of basic recording of data in order to carry out performance monitoring within the context of Life Sciences and adherence to regulatory standards.

A7- Applies the application of ICT as a fundamental tool for extracting, sourcing, describing and presenting data and information in a variety of relevant forms, and distributing data and information via a range of channels and formats.

A8 - Applies an understanding of the techniques and forms of effective and clear communication in a variety of academic and professional settings in accordance with Level B1 'Proficient User' as described by the Council of Europe.

Intellectual skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
B1 - Make full use of library and College/University e-learning search (catalogue and bibliographic) resources.	Intellectual skills are developed through methods and strategies outlined in section A, above.	Intellectual skills are assessed through formative activities in tutorials, and summative coursework throughout. In-class tests and exams are also used to assess intellectual skills. These are clearly identified within the appropriate DMDs.
B2 - Apply basic research techniques to sourcing and selecting appropriate academic data and literature.	Problem solving skills are further developed through in-course exercises and studio / laboratory work where applicable.	
B3 - Integrate oral, written, listening, reading, non-verbal	Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop	

and diagrammatic skills to effect clear communication. B4 - Ability to analyse data and various modes of information using appropriate techniques. B5- Ability to begin to evaluate and start to apply, reasoned thinking and supportive evidence collation to conflicting sets of information and academic opinion.	intellectual skills further by independent study	Reports provide an opportunity to apply skills in secondary research, analysing data, synthesis of key theoretical literature, examinations of trade information etc. Exams test very specific areas of knowledge within the breadth of the curriculum, and require concentration on specific problems and issues.
Practical skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
C1 - Employ key communication skills appropriate to undergraduate study, inclusive of written, oral, reading, speaking, numerical, graphical and diagrammatic manipulation and presentation of information. C2 - Employ analytical skills and methodologies as a basis to further study. C3 - Ability to begin to engage critically with regard to the sciences.	Practical skills are developed through students undertaking individual and group coursework. Throughout, the learner is expected to consolidate their development of practical computing skills by use of computers available in the learning resources centre.	Practical skills are assessed through group-work, individual project, essay and report assignments and through oral presentations.
Transferable skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
D1- Select, read, digest, summarise and synthesise information material in a variety of forms, both qualitative and quantitative (text, numerical data and diagrammatic) and in an appropriate manner to identify and determine key facts/themes and relevancy. D2 - Use and clearly communicate discursive, numerical, statistical and diagrammatic ideas, concepts, results and conclusions using appropriate technical and non-technical language and	Transferable skills are developed through the programme by workshops, group-work and individual coursework.	Transferable skills are assessed through individual and group oral presentations to assess both preparation and delivery, and assessed written assignments.

language style, structure and form.

D3 - Apply basic research and referencing techniques to all aspects of study, information collation, information presentation and formulation of academic opinion.

D4 - Embed the importance of self-study and reliance. This involves cultivating and developing a responsibility within each student to take cognizance for their own learning, initiative, effective time-management and self-discipline within the academic and professional environments.

D5- Begin to develop a very good conceptual understanding and evaluation of the main aspects of the cognate area and the wider context.

D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

Entry is normally at Level 0 for EU and international students who hold the equivalent of a High School certificate. Intake is normally in Semester A (September) and Semester B (January)

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

N/A

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

N/A

Student Exchange programme

Incoming Exchange

N/A

Study Abroad

N/A

Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the Honours award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

Mode of study Full Time

Entry point Semester A or Semester B

Level 0

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Compulsory Modules							
Module Title							
Interactive Learning Skills and Communication	0FBS0001	15	English	30	70	0	A, B, C
Principles of ICT	0FTC1029	15	English	60	40	0	A, B, C
Mathematics 1 (Life Sciences)	0FHH0034	15	English	70	30	0	A, B
Chemistry A	0FHH0036	15	English	60	40	0	A, B
Chemistry B	0FHH0037	15	English	60	40	0	B, C
Mathematics 2 (Life Sciences)	0FHH0035	15	English	70	30	0	B, C
Biology A	0FHH0083	15	English	60	40	0	B, C
Biology B	0FHH0084	15	English	60	40	0	B,C

Progression to level 4 Integrated requires a minimum of 120 credits for two-semester students.

Final and interim awards available:

No final award, grade transcript issued by HIC on request.

Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme complies with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS13](#) and [UPR AS14](#)).

Progression routes:

- All progression routes outlined below are currently valid; however available progression will be updated on an annual basis in accordance with changes in UH provision.
- Entry is to integrated Level 4 delivery.

Awards included in the Articulation Agreement:

Life and Medical Sciences Integrated Level 4 Pathways:

Pathways
BSc (Hons) Biochemistry
BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences
BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science
BSc (Hons) Environmental Management and Ecology
BSc (Hons) Geography
BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Science
BSc (Hons) Pharmacology
BSc (Hons) Psychology
BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science
BSc (Hons) Sports Studies

For some of the modules listed above that include student presentations, video recordings of these presentations will be made for moderation purposes.

These recordings will be managed in accordance with Navitas' Data Protection and Privacy Policies.

We will share the videos with internal moderators at HIC and external moderators at the University of Hertfordshire securely and destroy these in accordance with our Records Management, Retention and Disposal Policy.

Should you have any questions around this process and privacy please contact privacy@navitas.com.

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning.

Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- A Director of Academic and Student Services and Head of College Services to help students understand the course / programme structure
- The Programme Leader, who is responsible for advising students on the programme as a whole and chairing the programme committee
- Student Representatives on the College Learning and Teaching Board
- A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the programme.

Support

Students are supported by:

- Attractive modern study environments in two Learning Resource Centres, incorporating libraries and computer centres
- StudyNet, a versatile on-line inter-active intranet and learning environment
- Moodle, a versatile on-line inter-active intranet and learning environment
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- Office of the Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- Medical Centre
- Careers Enterprise and Employment Services
- The Students' Union

At HIC, students are supported by:

- An induction week at the beginning of each academic semester
- Module tutors to provide academic support
- A Manager of Academic and Student Services Manager to provide pastoral support and confidential academic and welfare advice
- A College Services Team that provides advice on issues such as finance, accommodation, well-being, welfare, international student support, etc.
- Lunchtime Drop-in sessions for Mathematics, Accounting and Physics
- A Collaborative Partnership Leader (CPL) who is the link between the Business School and HIC and helps to ensure that students have a seamless transition to the Business School.
- to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the programme

F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the

University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>.

G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the HIC website (<https://hic.herts.ac.uk/>) or on the online prospectus.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:
AskHIC (ask@hic.herts.ac.uk).

Initial Year in Life and Medical Sciences

Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

			Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)																				
			Knowledge & Understanding								Intellectual Skills					Practical Skills			Transferable Skills				
	Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Level 0	Interactive Learning Skills and Communication	0FBS0001			x					x	x		x			x			x	x	x	x	
	Principles of ICT	0FTC1029							x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
	Mathematics 1	0FHH0034			x		x				x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
	Chemistry A	0FHH0036	x	x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Chemistry B	0FHH0037		x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Biology A	0FHH0083	x	x		x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Biology B	0FHH0084	x	x		x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Mathematics 2	0FHH0035			x		x				x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	

KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. The basic concepts of Life Sciences and their relevance to a functional environment.
- A2. Comprehension of the core scientific principles of the biological sciences and chemistry.
- A3. How to apply and use basic scientific notation.
- A4. How to construct clear, logical arguments inter alia demonstrating the difference between experimental evidence and proof, and between an implication and its converse .
- A5. The application of numerical techniques to the decision making process with an emphasis on statistical and sampling methods and the description of theories and models.
- A6. The purpose and processes of basic recording of data in order to carry out performance monitoring within the context of Life Sciences and adherence to regulatory standards .
- A7. The application of ICT as a fundamental tool for extracting, sourcing, describing and presenting data and information in a variety of relevant forms, and distributing data and information via a range of channels and formats.
- A8. The techniques and forms of effective and clear communication in a variety of academic and professional settings in accordance with Level B1 'Proficient User' as described by the Council of Europe.

Intellectual Skills

- B1. Make full use of library and College/University e-learning search (catalogue and bibliographic) resources.
- B2. Apply basic research techniques to sourcing and selecting appropriate academic data and literature.
- B3. Integrate oral, written, listening, reading, non-verbal and diagrammatic skills to effect clear communication.
- B4. Ability to analyse data and various modes of information using appropriate techniques.

Practical Skills

- C1. Employ key communication skills appropriate to undergraduate study, inclusive of written, oral, reading, speaking, numerical, graphical and diagrammatic manipulation and presentation of information.
- C2. Employ analytical skills and methodologies as a basis to further study.
- C3. Ability to begin to engage critically with regard to the sciences.

Transferable Skills

- D1. Select, read, digest, summarise and synthesise information material in a variety of forms, both qualitative and quantitative (text, numerical data and diagrammatic) and in an appropriate manner to identify and determine key facts/themes and relevancy.
- D2. Use and clearly communicate discursive, numerical, statistical and diagrammatic ideas, concepts, results and conclusions using appropriate technical and non-technical language and language style, structure and form.
- D3. Apply basic research and referencing techniques to all aspects of study, information collation, information presentation and formulation of academic opinion.
- D4. Embed the importance of self-study and reliance. This involves cultivating and developing a responsibility within each student to take cognizance for their own learning, initiative, effective time-management and self-discipline within the academic and professional environments.

B5. Ability to begin to evaluate and start to apply, reasoned thinking and supportive evidence collation to conflicting sets of information and academic opinion.

D5. Begin to develop a very good conceptual understanding and evaluation of the main aspects of the cognate area and the wider context.

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements	Biosciences (March 2023), Geography, Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies; Biomedical Sciences (March 2022); Psychology (November 2019), Events, Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism (November 2019)
Type of programme	Foundation
Date of validation/last periodic review	November 23
Date of production/ last revision of PS	April 2025
Relevant to level/cohort	All students entering September 2025
Administrative School	School of Life and Medical Sciences
Language of Delivery	English

Table 3 Course structure

Course details		
Course code	Course description	HECOS
HICIYBIO	Initial Year for Extended Degree in Biosciences	100346, (100)
HICIYGG	Initial Year for Extended Degree in Geography	100410, (100)
HICIYPSC	Initial Year for Extended Degree in Pharmaceutical Science	100251, (100)
HICIYPSY	Initial Year for Extended Degree in Psychology	100359, (100)
HICIYSS	Initial Year for Extended Degree in Sports Science	100433, (100)
HICIYEM	Initial Year for Extended Degree in Environmental Management	100381, (100)