School of Biomedical Sciences

Accreditation

Degree Programmes at the School of Biomedical Sciences

The School of Biomedical Sciences (SBMS) offers MSci degrees in Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry and Biomedical Genetics which have Advanced Accreditation from the Royal Society of Biology. This distinguished level of accreditation independently demonstrates the high quality research aspect of the degree.

Advanced accreditation recognises academic excellence in the biosciences, and highlights degrees that educate the research and development leaders and innovators of the future. The advanced accreditation criteria require evidence that graduates from advanced accredited programmes meet defined sets of learning outcomes, including gaining substantial research experience.

rsb.org.uk/education/accreditation/advanced-degeree-accreditation

Are SBMS degree programmes IBMS accredited?

The course in Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University is NOT accredited by the IBMS because our syllabus is not limited to the knowledge and skills required for hospital work. The Biomedical Sciences degree at Newcastle University offers students the chance to gain a broad knowledge of the various subject areas that underpin our understanding of human health and disease in a Medical School environment. In the later stages of your course you will choose from modules offered by our various world-class Research Institutes, and have the opportunity to learn at first hand how new knowledge is acquired by working alongside scientists in a research laboratory.

What career paths can I take after graduating from SBMS?

Our students have many different career destinations. For examples of the careers followed by Newcastle graduates please visit:

ncl.ac.uk/biomd/about/alumni/index.htm

It is important to understand that IBMS accreditation is required ONLY for jobs in an NHS hospital laboratory as a Biomedical Scientist. There are many other career options in the NHS (if that is the career course that you wish to take) and these can be found at nhscareers.nhs.uk.

One of the careers that our students opt for in the NHS is that of Clinical Scientist, and descriptions for these are found under headings such as Clinical Biochemist, Clinical Cytogeneticist, Clinical Embryologist, Clinical Engineer, Clinical Immunologist, Clinical Microbiologist and Clinical Scientist for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics on the website above. For all of these you do NOT need an IBMS accredited degree.

What are Biomedical Sciences?

The Biomedical Sciences are a collection of medically-related subjects such as anatomy, biochemistry, genetics, immunology, microbiology, physiology and pharmacology which are taught in our BSc (Hons) programmes and the title of which are similar to those offered by other UK Universities. Some of these programmes are specifically designed to train students for work as a Biomedical Scientist working in a hospital laboratory. Such programmes can easily be identified by the fact that they are advertised as being accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (IBMS) and a number may also be approved by the Health Professions Council (HPC).