

International Foundation Programme Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Module information for September 2020 intake

All students will take the following modules to gain a solid base of skills:

- Academic Writing
- Text Response

If you're taking the International Foundation Programme Plus, you'll take the following modules instead of the ones above:

- Accelerated Academic Language and Literacy
- Language and Communication Studies

All students will also take between two and three of the following modules (academic staff on your course will advise on any modules you need to take for progression to your chosen degree):

- Foundations in Biomedical Sciences
- Foundations of Chemistry
- Foundations of Physics
- Foundations of Psychology
- Introductory Mathematics
- Mathematics for Social Sciences
- Mathematics for STEM

Module summaries – details of what you'll study

Academic Writing

This module is designed to prepare international students for undergraduate study in the UK. The unit is one of a number of complementary units whose overall aims are to improve the language, academic literacy and subject knowledge required to succeed at a British university.

Accelerated Academic Language and Literacy

This module aims to develop students' academic language and literacy through problem based learning using an integrated skills approach, focusing on reading, writing, listening and speaking, as well as appropriate academic vocabulary and grammar.

Foundations in Biomedical Sciences

This module will provide an introduction to selected topics in biomedical sciences. Through focussing on specific topics students will be introduced to skills required for scientific research, including data acquisition, handling and scientific reporting. The unit will have 4 themes, starting with an introduction to cell biology. Following this, 3 topics, for example antibiotic resistance, cardiovascular health and disease and synthetic biology, will be selected to highlight specific aspects of biomedical science. Each topic will include a key note seminar focussing on current research.

Foundations of Chemistry

This module is intended to provide students with a broad understanding of the fundamental principles of chemistry and experience of practical techniques, as a pre-requisite for entry or progression onto undergraduate degree programmes in science. Concepts will be illustrated with examples taken from across the full breadth of chemistry, although there will be a particular emphasis on applications within the life sciences.

Foundations of Physics

This module is intended to provide students with a broad understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and experience of practical techniques, as a pre-requisite for entry or progression onto undergraduate degree programmes in science and engineering.

Foundations of Psychology

This module is intended to provide students with a broad understanding of the fundamental principles of psychology and will cover three core areas: social, cognitive and developmental psychology.

Introductory Mathematics

This module provides a first course in core mathematics including calculus to a level equivalent to QCA level 3. It will prepare students on foundation and preliminary year programmes for entry or progression into higher level qualifications in the physical, life and biomedical sciences or quantitative social sciences.

Language and Communication Studies

This module provides an introduction to key areas of language and communication combined with some key related frameworks of analysis. Topics range from language in text and in context, to communication in art, film, and other media.

Mathematics for Social Sciences

This module will develop students' understanding of statistical methods and using data to a level equivalent to QCA level 3. The unit will prepare students on foundation and preliminary year programmes for entry or progression into higher level qualifications in the social sciences that require a more advanced understanding of mathematics.

Mathematics for STEM

This module will develop students' understanding of integral calculus, differential equations, vectors and matrices to a level equivalent to QCA level 3. The unit will prepare students on foundation and preliminary year programmes for entry or progression into higher level qualifications in the physical, life or biomedical sciences that require a more advanced understanding of mathematics.

Text Response

This module explores the difference between factual and evaluative responses to different texts. It will help develop critical questioning, reading, listening and speaking skills and strategies, academic vocabulary and summary writing.

Note: this information is for courses that will run in the 2020-21 academic year, is correct at the time of publication and is subject to change.
Published November 2019.