

School of Life and Medical Sciences

Title of Programme: MSc Biosciences Programme

Programme Code: LMBIOM

Course Code: **LMDDTOX, LMDDTOXARM**

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology
MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (Sandwich)
MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research)

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:
27 September 2021

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):
Stefanie Schmeer

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

Date	Section	Amendment
30/03/21	G	Updated IELTS requirements for Sandwich route and Advanced Research route

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

Programme Specification MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology

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	University of Hertfordshire
University/partner campuses	College Lane
Programme accredited by	Not applicable
Final Award (Qualification)	MSc
All Final Award titles	Drug Discovery and Toxicology
(Qualification and Subject)	Drug Discovery and Toxicology (Sandwich) Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research)
FHEQ level of award	7
Language of Delivery	English

A. Programme Rationale

The programme is designed to provide a postgraduate education in Drug Discovery and Toxicology for graduates in the Biosciences. A strong practical foundation is provided in the first semester with the study of modules that concentrate on the basic principles and techniques used in modern drug discovery investigations, and on aspects of molecular biology and bioinformatics. In the second semester there is a progression to problem-based learning (PBL) to develop an in-depth understanding and high-level critical analysis skills of drug discovery and development and molecular medicine and toxicology. Students will also learn how to apply pharmacological and toxicological principles to the interpretation of case studies in drug discovery. During the final semester, the research project carried out in the state-of-the-art multimillion science facility may include aspects of gastrointestinal pharmacology, angiogenesis, cancer, molecular pharmacology/toxicology of vascular disease, Parkinson's Disease, neuropathic pain, drug metabolism. This course will cover all aspects of new medicine research and development from identifying novel targets through drug screening to clinical trials of candidate medicines. The MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (Sandwich) pathway provides students with the opportunity to gain practical experience in a UK professional workplace and strengthen their employability skills. The MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research) will provide opportunity to work in a research rich environment and allow them to apply theory to research.

All options will provide students with the skills they need to have for future opportunities in the fast-growing pharmaceutical industry and academia.

The use of problem based learning approaches is a key feature of the programme and will promote development of investigative skills, the ability to work in a group and confidence in the investigation of new research areas. Another key feature of the programme is the research project which provides training in research methods and hands-on laboratory experience. With our excellent facilities, emphasis on practical work, and teaching underpinned by the latest research, you will be qualified for research and development positions in pharmaceutical companies including discovery biology and toxicology, as well as a wide range of other non-laboratory roles in industry. Throughout the programme students will be provided with academic and personal support by their personal tutors, programme leader and academic support unit. Where required, students will be further supported to improve their skills in academic English writing through English language classes.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

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:

- engender a continuing and independent approach to learning, encouraging initiative and self-discipline such that students will be able to comprehend, contribute to, and harness advances in toxicology, pharmacology and related areas of molecular biology as applied to drug discovery;
- build and improve on students' cognitive skills, including the ability to think logically and independently; to be reflective and critical of scientific hypotheses, to analyse, synthesise and be creative;
- enable students to develop a systematic understanding and a critical awareness of associated issues, some of which are at the forefront of toxicology and drug discovery;
- provide a framework for the acquisition of a comprehensive understanding of drug discovery and toxicology techniques applicable to research, equivalent advanced scholarship and commercial situations;
- develop an ability to apply the techniques described above and an understanding of how the results may be used to inform judgements, and develop and advance ideas;
- provide opportunities for the continuing development of transferable skills including communication, mathematical analysis, use of information technology, problem solving both as part of a team and as an individual.

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 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 (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
A1 the relationship of gene expression to the phenotype of an organism via an understanding of gene and protein structure and function.	A1 is achieved through a combination of lectures, laboratory classes, tutorials and guided reading in <i>Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology</i> .	Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a combination of unseen tests (A1-A5) data interpretation exercises (A2, A3) oral presentations (A4, A5), laboratory records (A2, A5), <i>viva voce</i> examinations (A2, A3), PBL assignments (A2, A3), bioinformatics exercise (A2), and the design, execution and reporting of a research project (A2-A4).
A2 the methodologies of recombinant DNA technology and apply them to the investigation of therapeutic targets at molecular , cellular, tissue and whole organism.	A2 is achieved via a similar teaching programme in <i>Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology and Translational Medical Science</i> .	
A3 advances in knowledge, at a systems and molecular level, of the pathological basis of disease and their modulation by therapeutic strategies.	A3 is achieved through a combination of lectures and problem-based learning (PBL) exercises in <i>Molecular Medicine and Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology</i>	
	A4 is achieved through the lecture programme, and problem-based learning (PBL) exercises in	
		A6 A reflective analysis and placement report or presentation.

<p>A4 molecular concepts of drug action and toxicity as related to the drug discovery process.</p> <p>A5 the process of drug discovery from target identification to marketing authorisation</p>	<p><i>Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology.</i></p> <p>A5 is achieved through the lecture and practical programme in <i>Translational Medical Science</i> and lectures, workshops and PBL exercises in <i>Molecular Medicine</i>.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Intellectual skills:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods & strategies</p>	<p>Assessment</p>
<p>B1 evaluate the applications of pharmacological and toxicological methods in fundamental research and the pharmaceutical industry.</p> <p>B2 critically evaluate scientific and clinical literature and experimental data.</p> <p>B3 integrate research skills, analytical and critical skills in an extended project.</p> <p>B4 integrate theoretical and practical skills in a professional working placement environment</p>	<p>Acquisition of B1 is through the laboratory classes, <i>Research Project with Research Methods</i>, and PBL exercises.</p> <p>Acquisition of B2 is through <i>Research Project with Research Methods</i>, PBL exercises and in <i>Translational Medical Science</i>.</p> <p>Acquisition of B3 is through <i>Extended Research Project</i>.</p> <p>Acquisition of B4 is through <i>working placement module</i>.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through laboratory reports, <i>viva voce</i> examinations, the Research Project and Extended Research Project, research internship portfolio and PBL assignments or placement report.</p>
<p>Practical skills:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods & strategies</p>	<p>Assessment</p>
<p>C1 design, execute, interpret and report investigations (practical and theoretical) of drug discovery and toxicology problems and critically evaluate the contribution made to current knowledge and propose avenues for future study.</p>	<p>Practical skills are developed through laboratory classes, the PBL exercises, <i>Research Project with Research Methods</i> <i>Extended Research Project</i> or <i>Placement Year</i>.</p>	<p>Practical skills are assessed through laboratory reports <i>viva voce</i> examinations the PBL assignments, the project proposal and project.</p>
<p>Transferable skills:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods & strategies</p>	<p>Assessment</p>
<p>D1 effectively communicate analyses of case studies in both the written and spoken</p>	<p>Transferable skills are developed throughout the programme:</p>	<p>Transferable skills are assessed through</p>

word and defend the findings of their work.	Acquisition of D1 is achieved in the PBL modules and the <i>Research Project with Research Methods module. Extended Research Project</i> and the work placement modules.	laboratory reports (D1,4); <i>viva voce</i> examinations (D1 and D2); seminars (D1), PBL reports (D1, D3, D4, D5) and the project reports and research internship and placement reports (D1, D2, D4, D5, D6 and D7)
D2 demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and executing tasks.	Acquisition of D2 is through the project, PBL and the supporting mentoring programme operated in Semester A.	
D3 contribute effectively to the functioning of a group and reflect on the learning experience.	Acquisition of D3, is achieved through the PBL modules.	
D4 demonstrate numeracy and manipulate, analyse and present data.	Acquisition of D4, D5, D6 and D7 is through all modules but particularly the PBL exercises, the <i>Research Project with Research Methods</i> module, the <i>Extended Research Project module</i> and the work placement modules.	
D5 apply appropriate information technology to the recovery, analysis and reporting of biological data		
D6 continue to learn independently and to develop professionally.		
D7 communicate effectively, with colleagues and a wider audience.	Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.	

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

The Drug Discovery and Toxicology programme is offered in full-time mode (Semester A intake, 3 semesters) or as a part-time programme (Sem A intake, 6 semesters) and leads to the award of MSc Cancer Immunotherapy. Entry is normally at level 7.

The programme of study leading to the awards of MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (Sandwich) and MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research) is offered in full time (2 years) mode (Semster A intake, 5 or 6 semesters) only. Entry is normally at level 7.

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

None

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

The Sandwich award requires the successful completion of a minimum of 30 weeks full-time equivalent placement activity in addition to the period of academic study required.

The work placement comprises an agreed period of a minimum of 30 weeks full-time equivalent (including employers' and statutory holidays) of work-based learning at an organisation or company which has agreed to those terms and conditions regarded as essential by the University of Hertfordshire. Students will be supervised according to University regulations. The learning experience will be assessed in the 'Work Placement Assessment' module, to enable students to demonstrate both their knowledge of the industry, their skills development and their professional attributes.

Placements are advertised through the Career and Placements Office. Students may also source their own placement, but it must be subsequently approved by the School in terms of health and safety, equality legislation and supervisory guidelines before a student can take it up. The placement will need to take place in the UK.

Depending on the nature of placement, a successful enhanced Disclosure and Barring check or equivalent, immunisation and occupational health check may be required.

All students on the pathway leading to the award MSc Molecular Biotechnology (Sandwich) are eligible to proceed to a placement year provided they have achieved 60 credits by the end of semester A and a further 60 credits by the end of semester B, and they have completed the appropriate placement documentation. Success in the placement will be recognised in the title of the award but does not carry additional credit towards the Masters programme.

Programme Structure

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

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology

Mode of study Full-Time (one year)

Entry point – Semester A

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology	7LMS0279	30	English	0	100	0	A
Translational Medical Science	7LMS0271	30	English	0	75	25	A
Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology	7LMS0275	30	English	0	80	20	B
Molecular Medicine	7LMS0277	30	English	0	80	20	B
Research Project with Research Methods	7LMS0278	60	English	0	100	0	ABC

The award of MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology requires 180 credit points passed at level 7. Although the modules are assessed by coursework, this will also include some in-class tests.

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology

Mode of study Part Time (two years)

Entry point Semester A

Students study 60 credits in Year 1 and 120 credits in Year 2:

Year 1 (60 credits):

Compulsory Modules

Module Title

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Molecular Cellular Biology & Immunology	7LMS0279	30	English	0	100	0	A
Molecular Medicine	7LMS0277	30	English	0	80	20	B

Year 2 (120 credits):

Compulsory Modules

Module Title

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology	7LMS0275	30	English	0	100	0	B
Translational Medical Science	7LMS0271	30	English	0	100	0	A
Research Project with Research Methods	7LMS0278	60	English	0	100	0	ABC

The award of MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology requires 180 credit points passed at level 7. Although the modules are assessed by coursework, this will also include some in-class tests.

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (Sandwich)

Mode of Study Full Time (2 years)

Entry point Semester A

Students study 120 credits in year 1 and 60 credits in year 2:

Year 1 (120 credits):

Compulsory Modules

Module Title

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Molecular Cellular Biology & Immunology	7LMS0279	30	English	0	100	0	A
Molecular Medicine	7LMS0277	30	English	0	80	20	B
Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology	7LMS0275	30	English	0	80	20	B
Translational Medical Science	7LMS0271	30	English	0	75	25	A

To progress to a placement, students on the 'Sandwich' award must normally have completed 120 credits. Students who have not met these progression requirements, including students with outstanding deferrals, will be transferred from the 'Sandwich' award to the two-year 'with Advanced Research' programme. Entrants may alternatively transfer onto the standard, one-year programme.

Year 2 (60 credits):

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
MSc Biosciences Placement	7LMS2002	0	English	0	0	0	CAB

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Work Placement Assessment	7LMS2003	0	English	0	0	0	C
Research Project with Research Methods	7LMS0278	60	English	0	100	0	BC

The award of MSc Molecular Biotechnology (Sandwich) normally requires 180 credit points passed at level 7, with successful completion of the required placement activity and the module Placement Assessment.

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research)

Mode of Study Full Time (2 years)

Entry point Semester A

Students study 120 credits in year 1 and 120 credits in year 2:

Year 1 (120 credits):

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Molecular Cellular Biology & Immunology	7LMS0279	30	English	0	100	0	A
Molecular Medicine	7LMS0277	30	English	0	80	20	B
Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology	7LMS0275	30	English	0	80	20	B
Translational Medical Science	7LMS0271	30	English	0	75	25	A

Year 2 (120 credits):

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Research Internship	7LMS2004	30	English	0	50	50	A
Extended Research Project	7LMS2005	90	English	0	80	20	ABC

The award of an MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research) normally requires 240 credit points passed at level 7, with successful completion of the modules Research Internship and Extended Research project modules.

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of (normally):	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Masters	Drug Discovery and Toxicology	180 credit points including at least 150 at level 7	3 semesters	All programme learning outcomes except B3 and B4 (see Table 2)
Masters	Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research)	240 credit points	5 semesters	All programme learning outcomes except B4 (see Table 2b)
Masters	Drug Discovery and Toxicology (Sandwich)	180 credit points including at least 150 at level 7	6 semesters	All programme learning outcomes except B3 (see Table 2a)

Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Postgraduate Diploma	Drug Discovery & Toxicology	120 credit points, including at least 90 at level 7	2, 3 Semesters	A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, C1, D1, D2, D3, D4, D5
Postgraduate Certificate		60 credit points, including at least 45 at level 7	1-2 Semesters	<i>For untitled awards:</i> See UPR AS11, section 13: http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm

Masters and Diploma awards can be made "with Distinction" or "with Commendation" where criteria as described in [UPR AS14](#), Section D and the students' handbook are met.

Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12/UPR AS13](#) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University:

- None

Further points of clarification and interpretation relevant to this specific programme are given below:

- For the award of Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Drug Discovery & Toxicology the 60 or 120 credit points, respectively, must include either 7LMS0271 Translational Medical Science (30 credit points) or 7LMS0275 Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology (30 credit points)
- To qualify for the 'with Advanced Research' award, students must successfully complete the 30-credit Research Internship and 90-credit 'Extended Research Project' module.
- The award calculation for the MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research) is based on the average of the best 150 credits; these will include the 90-credit point Extended Research Project.
- To gain the 'Sandwich' award, students must successfully complete the 180 taught credits, successfully complete a 30-week full-time equivalent placement and pass the 'Work Placement Assessment' module. Students who do not successfully complete the placement and associated module assessments will be offered the award MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology, on successful completion of the Research Project with Research Methods module.
- Students are responsible for securing their own placement. Students are usually required to secure their placement by the end of April in order to process the necessary paperwork in order to embark on the placement in sufficient time to complete the 30 weeks full-time equivalent work required. Students who do not secure a placement within this timescale will be transferred from the 'Sandwich' award to the two-year 'with Advanced Research' award or to the 'Standard Route of one year full time MSc award.
- You are expected to attend all classes including lectures, workshops and practicals and attendance will be monitored for each module.

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- Dean of School
- Associate Deans (Academic Quality Assurance and Education)
- A Programme Leader who is responsible for the day to day management of the programme and admissions tutor who is responsible for the admissions
- A designated Programme Administration team
- Module Co-ordinators who are responsible for individual modules
- A Programme Committee with the following membership: Programme Leader (chair), a Programme Administrator, Module Co-ordinators, School Learning Information Services Consultant, lecturing staff who have a substantial input into the programme, and student representatives.

Support

Students are supported by:

- An induction period at the beginning of the academic session
- An extensive Learning Resources Centre, incorporating a library and computer centre
- A Programme Leader to give advice on the programme regulations
- Personal tutors to provide pastoral and academic support
- Project tutors
- Module guides providing module information and study guidance
- On-line module information provided via the University's managed learning environment Studynet and Canvas, a University-wide system for study support
- A student handbook
- Comprehensive feedback on assessed assignments
- Student representatives on the Programme Committee

- An English Language Teaching Centre
- A substantial Student Centre that provides advice on issues such as finance, University regulations, legal matters etc
- An Accommodation Office
- An Overseas Student Orientation course
- A Mathematics Drop-in Centre
- A Disabled Student Co-ordinator
- An Equal Opportunities Officer
- The Students' Union
- Careers, Enterprise and Employment Service

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.
- University of Hertfordshire Course website:
<http://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/>
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016): <http://www.seec.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SEEC-descriptors-2016.pdf>
- Information on Programme and Module External Examiners
<http://www.studynet1.herts.ac.uk/ptl/common/studentcentre.nsf/Teaching+Documents/184A221E5EECA6B780257A5C00250BA9?OpenDocument>

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/>. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel's report and conclusions can be accessed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147>

G. Entry requirements

“For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the University website or on the online prospectus”.

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (one year full-time and two year part-time):

- i. a first or second class Honours Degree in Biosciences or Biological Chemistry with a final classification grade of a minimum 55%; or
- ii. a professional qualification accepted as equivalent to the above; or
- iii. a qualification in veterinary science, medicine or dentistry or
- iv. a first or second class Honours Degree in disciplines other than those described above with a final classification grade of a minimum 55% but where the applicant, in the opinion of the Programme Leader, would benefit from, and succeed on, the programme

In addition, all international students are required to demonstrate an English Language capability of IELTS 6.5 (with no less than 6.0 in any band) or equivalent qualification.

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (Sandwich) and MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research) (two year full-time):

- 65% or above average grade in an undergraduate degree in the Biological Sciences
- Students will be selected through interview

In addition, all international students are required to demonstrate an English Language capability of IELTS 6.5 (with no less than 6.0 in any band) or equivalent qualification.

Applicants will be interviewed in order to establish their suitability based upon the following criteria:

The applicant will be rated on a 5-point scale for their ability to demonstrate:

1. an advanced knowledge in the field of drug discovery and toxicology and how this has been developed
2. critical awareness of current issues in drug discovery, toxicology and pharmacology, in particular the impact of molecular biology on recent developments in the discipline.
3. practical experience in a range of laboratory techniques relevant to the biosciences.

If more students meet the above criteria than there are places available on the programme, students will be ranked and selected according to their interview performance and undergraduate degree grade average.

Non-Standard Entry

Applicants not within the categories described above, but who can demonstrate by other means, as specified below, that they can succeed on the programme will be considered on an individual basis.

- i. The equivalent of at least 5 years' experience of working full-time in the biotechnology or pharmaceutical industry.

Applicants will be interviewed in order to establish their suitability based upon the following criteria:

The applicant will be rated on a 5-point scale for their ability to demonstrate

1. an advanced knowledge in the field of drug discovery and toxicology and how this has been developed during employment.
2. critical awareness of current issues in drug discovery, toxicology and pharmacology, in particular the impact of molecular biology on recent developments in the discipline.
3. practical experience in a range of laboratory techniques relevant to the biosciences.

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:
ask@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to aqo@herts.ac.uk

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (one year full time and two year part time)

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	B1	B2	C1	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology	7LMS0279	x	x				x	x	x				x	x	x	
Translational Medical Science	7LMS0271	x	x			x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x
Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology	7LMS0275		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Molecular Medicine	7LMS0277			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Research Project with Research Methods	7LMS0278		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology(Sandwich)

Table 2a: 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	B1	B2	B4	C1	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology	7LMS0279	x	x				x	x		x				x	x	x	
Translational Medical Science	7LMS0271	x	x			x	x	x		x				x	x	x	x
Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology	7LMS0275		x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Molecular Medicine	7LMS0277			x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Research Project with Research Methods	7LMS0278		x	x	x		x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x
MSc Biosciences Placement	7LMS2002								x							x	x
Work Placement Assessment	7LMS2003								x	x				x	x	x	x

MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology(with Advanced Research)

Table 2b: 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	B1	B2	B3	C1	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology	7LMS0279	x	x				x	x		x				x	x	x	
Translational Medical Science	7LMS0271	x	x			x	x	x		x				x	x	x	x
Contemporary Topics in Drug Discovery and Toxicology	7LMS0275		x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Molecular Medicine	7LMS0277			x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Extended Research Project	7LMS2005																
Research Internship	7LMS2004		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
			x	x	x		x	x	x							x	x

KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

A1. the relationship of gene expression to the phenotype of an organism via an understanding of gene and protein structure and function.

Practical Skills

C1. design, execute, interpret and report investigations (practical and theoretical) of drug discovery and toxicology problems and critically evaluate the contribution made to current knowledge and propose avenues for future study

A2. the methodologies of recombinant DNA technology and apply them to the investigation of therapeutic targets at molecular, cellular, tissue and whole organism.

A3. advances in knowledge, at a systems and molecular level, of the pathological basis of disease and their modulation by therapeutic strategies.

A4. molecular concepts of drug action and toxicity as related to the drug discovery process.

A5. the process of drug discovery from target identification to marketing authorisation

Intellectual Skills

B1. evaluate the applications of pharmacological and toxicological methods in fundamental research and the pharmaceutical industry

B2. critically evaluate scientific and clinical literature and experimental data

B3. integrate research skills, analytical and critical skills in an extended project.

B4. integrate theoretical and practical skills in a professional working placement environment

Transferable Skills

D1. effectively communicate analyses of case studies in both the written and spoken word and defend the findings of their work

D2. demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and executing tasks

D3. contribute effectively to the functioning of a group and reflect on the learning experience.

D4. demonstrate numeracy and manipulate, analyse and present data.

D5. apply appropriate information technology to the recovery, analysis and reporting of biological data

D6. continue to learn independently and to develop professionally.

D7. communicate effectively, with colleagues and a wider audience.

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements	None
Type of programme	Taught postgraduate
Date of validation/last periodic review	February 20
Date of production/ last revision of PS	March 2021
Relevant to level/cohort	Level 7 entering September 2021
Administrative School	School of Life and Medical Sciences

Table 3 Course structure

Course details		
Course code	Course description	HECOS
LMDDTOX LMDDTOXARM	MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology MSc Drug Discovery and Toxicology (with Advanced Research)	100250, 100277