Programme Specification

Doctor of Biomedical Sciences [Frenchay]

Version: 2025-26, v2.0, Validated

Contents

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Doctor of Biomedical Sciences [Frenchay]

Highest award: DBMS Doctor of Biomedical Sciences

Interim award: PGCert Research Methods in Biomedical Science

Interim award: PGDip Biomedical Science Practice

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Applied Sciences, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Part-time

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

For implementation from: 01 January 2026

Programme code: B90011

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The Doctor of Biomedical Sciences (DBMS) is intended to provide highly experienced practitioners employed within Biomedical Science with an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills to meet the higher professional practice demands of the NHS.

The DBMS is designed to provide a high-level set of learning opportunities combining structure, a community of practice and independent research in a practitioner context.

Features of the programme: The DBMS is a professional doctorate, which recognises the 'researching professional'. It supports learning at a doctoral level with emphasis on original thought, empirical research and mastery of a substantial leading-edge body of knowledge.

Educational Aims: The programme aims to provide:

Opportunities for senior practitioners and managers from a range of biomedical science-related backgrounds to develop and realise their potential in a supportive and responsive environment.

An understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of professional practice.

An understanding of the strategic issues and external drivers which inform biomedical science practice.

Heightened self-awareness with regard to professional practice and personal behaviour in leading and managing teams of biomedical-related personnel, as a basis for improving personal effectiveness in senior roles.

Knowledge and skills needed to conduct, at an advanced level, a research project into significant biomedical science issues and present the findings in a coherent form to satisfy peer review and the needs of publication.

Knowledge and skills needed to be able to critically reflect on the findings of a research project and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses including validation procedures.

Support to challenge and critically review findings in biomedical science.

Abilities in applying tools, techniques and in-depth analytical skills for exploring biomedical science issues, and contributing to the extension of new knowledge and understanding.

Added value for learners in specific knowledge and transferable skills.

The ability to translate complex biomedical science research outcomes into development of practice.

A coherent and flexible programme of part-time study at postgraduate level.

A programme responsive to feedback from students, external examiners and other stakeholder as part of quality management and enhancement .

Appropriate facilities and resources to deliver a quality teaching and learning experience within a research-led environment.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

PO1. Demonstrate an advanced knowledge base of research methodology with a range of transferable skills incorporating a deep understanding of the contribution of research and scholarship to biomedical professional practice.

PO2. Develop as a doctorate level independent researcher and practitioner through execution of a research project, critical analysis of data and concepts arising from various means of inquiry and communication of complex arguments in a logical, articulate and intellectual manner.

PO3. Demonstrate an understanding of the value of continual professional development, the strategic issues which affect biomedical science practice and the ability to manage time and plan work to deadlines.

Assessment strategy: Knowledge and understanding:
Testing of the knowledge base is through completion of a range of differing assessments including reflective Portfolios, a log incorporating evidence of attendance at specific Workshops and seminars plus assessed project proposal, progression report, presentations, a final project report and oral viva examination.

Intellectual Skills:
A variety of assessment methods are employed. All test a learner's ability to demonstrate intellectual skills through reflective portfolio, oral presentations, project proposal, progression report and final thesis.

Subject, Professional and Practical Skills:
Professional and practical skills are primarily assessed through the Project proposal, Interim Report and Project report. Vivas for the latter aspects will also assess the acquired skills.

Student support:

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1
The student must take 90 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Part A1 (Compulsory Modules)
The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Part A1 (Compulsory Modules).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJFR-30-M	Project Development Towards a Doctorate 2025-26	30
USSJGX-30-M	Research Theory and Practice 2025-26	30

Year 1 Part A2 (Compulsory Modules)
The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Part A2 (Compulsory Modules).
Please note that module USSJGY-30-M Professional Development for Biomedical Sciences is started in Year 1 and completed in Year 3.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJGY-30-M	Professional Development for Biomedical Sciences 2025-26	30

Year 2
The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Year 2.

The module USSJFS-30-M Interim Research Report is started in Year 2 and completed during Year 3.
The student carries on completing the module USSJGY-30-M Professional Development for Biomedical Sciences.

Year 2 Part A2 (Compulsory Modules)
The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Part A2 (Compulsory Modules). The module USSJFS-30-M Interim Research Report is started in Year 2 and completed during Year 3.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJFS-30-M	Interim Research Report 2026-27	30

Year 2 Part B1 Research Project
The Research Project (Part B1) is started in year 2 and completed in Year 5.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2026-27	0

Year 3
The student works on the Research Project during Year 3.

The module USSJFS-30-M Interim Research Report which was started in Year 2 is completed during Year 3.

Year 3 Part B2 Research Project
The student works on the Research Project during Year 3

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2027-28	0

Year 4
The student works on the Research Project during Year 4

Year 4 Part B2 Research Project
The students work on the Research Project during Year 4

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2028-29	0

Year 5
The student works on the Research Project during Year 5

Year 5 Part B1
The student continues to work on the Research Project during Year 5, culminating in the Viva voce exam (Part B1)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2029-30	0

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

In designing the DBMS, account has been taken of the following;

QAA UK Quality Code, Advice and Guidance: Research Degrees (2018)

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.