
BBIOMEDSC(HONS) YEAR INFORMATION SHEET

The overall goal of the BBiomedSc Honours programme is a hands-on training in scientific research that will allow you to develop the skills and attitudes required for a research career. During this 'research apprenticeship' you will become an integrated member of one of the many active research groups at Otago University. Once you have successfully completed your BBiomedSc Honours year you will have acquired the following attributes, which we believe will assist and help guide your future career choices:

- critical thinking with the ability to access, analyse, integrate and apply information
- grounding in the basic disciplines of biomedical science coupled with advanced research experience in a specific area of interest
- understanding of the principles of experimental design and the application of quantitative methods
- understanding of the broad mechanisms underlying normal and abnormal human biology, and the ability to apply scientific principles to biomedical problems
- recognition that life-long learning is required to remain informed in the rapidly changing and advancing knowledge in biomedical sciences
- self-motivated learning with the ability to work independently, whilst recognising the value of teamwork

The BBiomedSc Honours programme can be completed in Dunedin or at the Otago University campuses in Christchurch or Wellington.

Overview of a typical BBiomedSc(Hons) year

The BBiomedSc Honours programme is a 'research-only' postgraduate year. There are no final exams during the BBiomedSc (Hons) programme, with 85% of the final mark being derived from the Research Project and the remaining 15% from a Coursework Module.

The course work module consists of workshops and journal clubs - these can vary each year. Example of workshops covered as part of the course work component: *Writing techniques; Human and animal ethics; Presentation skills; Māori context to research; Mental health & maintaining wellness; Thesis writing skills*. The rest of the time you will be working on your research project as part of a research group.

The initial research project design is largely driven by your supervisor/co-supervisor. You will join their research team and be based in their home department. The supervisor and their team will provide training on the necessary techniques required.

CONTACTS:

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BBiomedSc Deputy Director and Dunedin Hons coordinator Dr Greg Giles greg.giles@otago.ac.nz

BBiomedSc Christchurch coordinator Prof. Madhav Bhatia madhav.bhatia@otago.ac.nz

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BBiomedSc Director A/P Liz Ledgerwood director.biomedsc@otago.ac.nz

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/bbiomedschons.html>

FAQ

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BBIOMEDSC(HONS) PROGRAMME VS BSC(HONS)?

The BBiomedSc 400-level programme is offered as a research focused degree (120 points), only a small proportion of this programme is course work that is related to research in the biomedical sciences.

A BSc 400-level programme combines both 3x 400 level topic papers (20 points each), with a 490 Dissertation (research project report) paper (60 points). As the research component is smaller and as such, the projects have a smaller scope.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR ENTRY INTO BBIOMEDSC(HONS)?

In your 3rd year of your BBiomedSc degree:

Complete: 7 x papers in total (126 pts) at 200 level and above, this must include 5 x 300-level papers

Achieve: an average grade of at least a B+ for your four core 300-level papers.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you have completed your qualifying degree at Otago and met the entry requirements you will be invited to apply after the semester 2 exam results are available; although you can apply before receiving an invitation if you believe you meet the criteria.

You should enrol online via eVision by early December (although late applications are possible if a supervisor is still available). You will be asked to upload a preliminary research proposal and a CV – neither of these are necessary, and you should upload a blank document. You will also need to identify a supervisor. Ideally, you would have done so prior to applying but this is not necessary, so long as you have one confirmed with the administrator before final acceptance into the programme. If you do not already have a supervisor, you should enter “Jordan Bunton” as the supervisor application field and your proposed host department as the “Topic”.

Upon confirming supervision and eligibility, your application will be accepted, and you will be notified via eVision. The final course enrolment declaration should be completed by the week before semester 1 starts.



HOW DO I FIND A SUPERVISOR?

A supervisor is either a Research group leader or Principal investigator (leading research projects), many of your lecturers are group leaders. Most often, students approach a lecturer whose topics they have enjoyed during the semester to ask about project opportunities during second semester.

Your research project can be undertaken in the Anatomy, Biochemistry, Human Nutrition, Microbiology & Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology & Toxicology, and Physiology Departments in Dunedin, the University of Otago Christchurch, and the University of Otago Wellington. Each department will have its own project selection guidelines which will be made available in semester 2.

Typically, you approach a potential supervisor (often via email) to enquire if they are planning accept any Hons students next year, and if they have a potential project suitable for a BBiomedSci(Hons), and if so, you would like to meet up with them to discuss these project options. It can help to briefly outline what you interests are/what you enjoyed about their lecture topics.

WHAT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

The university has a number of scholarships (see <https://www.otago.ac.nz/graduate-research/scholarships/>). Ones that are specifically available for BBiomedSc(Hons) students include:

The Elizabeth Jean Trotter 400-level Scholarship in Biomedical Sciences is available for students enrolled in BBiomedSc(Hons). The closing date is February 1st.

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/scholarships/database/otago622386.html>

The School of Biomedical Sciences Māori Postgraduate Scholarship is available for Māori students enrolled in BBiomedSc(Hons) in a School of Biomedical Sciences Department. The closing date is November 1st. <https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/scholarships/database/search/otago387601.html>

The School of Biomedical Sciences Pacific Peoples' Postgraduate Scholarship is available for Pacific Islands students enrolled in BBiomedSc(Hons) in a School of Biomedical Sciences Department. The closing date is November 1st.

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/scholarships/database/search/otago388001.html>

The Barbara Heslop Memorial Scholarship is available for BBiomedSc(Hons) students in the disciplines of Pathology or Immunology. Applications close on October 1st.

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/scholarships/database/search/otago703405.html>