



Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	Foundation Certificate (FdCert)
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 year
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	FGH2, UCFF-QMSEFP1, USBLS
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 3
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	24/02/25
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Biological & Behavioural Sciences

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

School of Physical and Chemical Sciences

School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

School of Engineering & Materials Science

School of Mathematical Sciences

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Programme outline

The FdCert International Science and Engineering Foundation Programme (ISEFP Biological Sciences) provides an alternative route onto a range of Biology-based undergraduate degrees. QMUL offers tailored pathways for subjects across science and engineering.

Our ISEFP Biological Sciences is open to international students and sessions are taught entirely at the Mile End campus by university staff. In-line with Queen Mary's 2030 Strategy, high quality learning resources and interactive sessions with academic staff will be available online. As a foundation student, you have access to all QMUL's facilities and will be a full-time student of the university.

Highlights:

- Opportunity to apply to biological undergraduate degrees after completing the Foundation year at the appropriate level
- Study at campus-based university within easy reach of all of London's attractions
- Full access to all student facilities (academic, welfare, IT, library, social and sport)
- Experienced and well-qualified teaching staff, many of whom teach on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes

Aims of the programme

The ISEFP Biological Sciences will equip you with the skills and knowledge to undertake an undergraduate degree in Biological sciences. When you apply for the ISEFP you will choose a degree that you plan to study after completing the foundation year.

On successfully completing the ISEFP, and subject to meeting the progression requirements, you are guaranteed a place on your chosen degree programme at Queen Mary:

Biochemistry BSc

Biology BSc

Biomedical Sciences BSc

Medical Genetics BSc

Neuroscience BSc

Pharmacology and Innovative Therapeutics BSc

Psychology BSc

Zoology BSc

Environmental Science BSc

What will you be expected to achieve?

For progression onto Biology, Biochemistry, Medical Genetics, Zoology or Environmental Science:

- Pass 105 credits including SEF030 Communication in Science and Technology (if taken), SEF045 Foundations of Biological Science and either SEF040 Mathematics A or SEF041 Mathematics B.
- Achieve an overall mean average of 50% across all modules.
- Achieve at least 60% in SEF043 Foundations of Biological Science and 50% in SEF040/41 Mathematics A/B

For progression onto Biomedical Sciences, Psychology, Neuroscience or Pharmacology and Innovative Therapeutics:

- Pass 105 credits including SEF030 Communication in Science and Technology (if taken), SEF045 Foundations of Biological Science and either SEF040 Mathematics A or SEF041 Mathematics B.
- Achieve an overall mean average of 60% across all modules.
- Achieve at least 60% in SEF043 Foundations of Biological Science and 50% in SEF040/41 Mathematics A/B

For entry onto particular programmes there may be additional requirements. Please check the handbook or contact fedu@qmul.ac.uk for more information.

Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:	
A 1	Foundation of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science
A 2	Experience the deep relationship existing between all STEM subject
A 3	Laboratory techniques and instruments from Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Engineering
A 4	Basis of Computer Science and Mathematics practical classes
A 5	Career opportunities available to STEM graduate
A 6	Study Techniques
A 7	The Impact of AI on higher education studies

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Present data in reports in a readily-assimilated fashion, and in accord with scientific conventions
B 2	Identify most successful learning techniques to improve academic journey and success rate
B 3	Appreciate the interconnection between STEM subjects
B 4	Practice on a range of appropriate and relevant experimental techniques and how they are used; be able to perform some of them.
B 5	Identify skills required for job applications in STEM

Attributes:	
C 1	To grasp the principles and practices of field of study
C 2	To produce analyses which are grounded in evidence
C 3	To apply analytical skills to investigate unfamiliar problems
C 4	To work individually and in collaboration with others
C 5	To develop a strong sense of intellectual integrity
C 6	To acquire substantial bodies of new knowledge

How will you learn?

Independent study

For every hour spent at university you will be expected to complete additional hours of independent study. Your individual study time could be spent preparing for, or following up on formal study sessions; reading; assessing data from experiments; completing lab reports; and revising for examinations.

The direction of your individual study will be guided by the formal study and laboratory sessions you attend, along with your reading and assignments. However, we expect you to demonstrate an active role in your own learning by reading widely and expanding your own knowledge, understanding and critical ability.

Independent study will foster in you the ability to identify your own learning needs and determine which areas you need to focus on to become proficient in your subject area. This is an important transferable skill and will help to prepare you for the transition to working life.

How will you be assessed?

To pass a module, you must achieve an overall mark of 40% or above. The overall mark in most modules is based on your performance in both the examination and coursework, the weighting of these two components vary.

You must also meet the necessary progression requirements in order to progress to the next year.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The programme structure outlined below is indicative of what you will study. It may change slightly from year to year as new topics are introduced and after we have listened to current student feedback on teaching.

The ISEFP Biological Sciences modules are designed to best prepare you for continuing your studies in biological sciences at undergraduate level. You will take 8 modules in total over two semesters, starting in September.

Year Long Modules

SEF042 Science and Engineering Success (Compulsory)

SEF043 Foundations of Chemical Science (Compulsory)

SEF044 Foundations of Physical Sciences (Compulsory)

SEF045 Foundations of Biological Science (Core)

SEF046 Foundations of Engineering (Compulsory)

SEF040 Mathematics A (Core) or

Students can opt for the more advanced SEF041 Mathematics B (within first 2 weeks of the academic year, Core if chosen)

Semester 1

SEF030 Communication in Science & Technology (Core)

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Communication in Science and Engineering (CST)	SEF030	15	3	Core	0	Semester 1
Science and Engineering Success	SEF042	15	3	Compulsory	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Mathematics A	SEF040	30	3	Core	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Mathematics B	SEF041	30	3	Elective	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Foundations of Chemical Science	SEF043	15	3	Compulsory	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Foundations of Physical Science	SEF044	15	3	Compulsory	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Foundations of Biological Science	SEF045	15	3	Core	0	Semesters 1 & 2
Foundations of Engineering	SEF046	15	3	Compulsory	0	Semesters 1 & 2

What are the entry requirements?

The International Science and Engineering Foundation programme (ISEFP) is suitable for international students with qualifications up to AS-level/Year 12 or equivalent. The ISEFP accepts applicants with a wide range of different qualifications. The grades you need to enter the course will vary depending on the qualification you have completed. For country-specific details, please refer to our detailed entry requirements: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/international-students/pathway-programmes/ify/ify-entry-requirements/>

You will need to provide the following documentation as part of your application:

Copies of your high school qualifications/transcript so far. This must show the subjects you are studying in your final year;

A copy of your UKVI IELTS (or accepted equivalent) certificate if you have taken it already;

A scanned copy of the data page of your passport (including any previous UK visas);

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School, together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Student-Staff Liaison Committees meets regularly throughout the year.

The Teaching & Learning Committee advises the School's Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level, including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through consideration of student surveys and input from the SSLC.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

Each student is provided with an advisor who is their main point of contact for advice regarding academic matters and for assistance with pastoral concerns, throughout their whole programme. Students can see their advisors in their office hours or arrange an appointment via email. Moreover, if and when advisors are unavailable or cannot help with a specific problem, the School has several Senior Advisors to assist with student concerns.

The School also operates a PASS programme for peer guidance.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

Upon completion of the ISEFP and following degree programme, half of our graduates find work or further training in the life sciences including teaching, research or environmental monitoring and regulation, sales work and careers in the growing biotechnology industry. The remaining half move on to other jobs or further training but take transferable skills from a scientific education: numeracy, computer literacy, data handling and analysis, descriptive and critical writing, familiarity with biotechnology and scientific methods.

Recent graduate roles include:
laboratory technician,
data analyst,
public health officer,
market researcher.
NHS administrator,
medical representative,
environmental consultant.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Sarahlouse Lawrence

Person responsible for management of programme:

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by
School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

20 Feb 2025

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught
Programmes Board:**

24/02/25