

Description

1. Introduction

1.01 Welcome to the University of Manchester and the School of Biological Sciences

1.02 This handbook is accurate at the start of the 2025/6 academic year

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18600 snippet_title=SBS Welcome from Head of School 25-26]

1.04 Key Contact Details

If you have any queries or concerns at any time during your period of study at The University of Manchester, there is a range of people you can approach. Your Programme Administration Team will be your first point of call for general issues. Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Programme Director for specific aspects to do with the course or your Academic Advisor for career development issues. If you wish to raise a confidential matter at School level, you should approach the Head of Teaching, Learning and Student Experience – contact details below.

Responsibility for overall management of the Programme lies with the Programme Director who has assembled a Programme Committee, which meets regularly, to advise on content, structure, management, student supervision, and regulatory matters such as Programme improvement and refinement. The Committee also includes the student representative who is democratically elected by you to attend these meetings.

Programme Administration Team

Your first point of call should be directed as follows:

Student SharePoint site: [School of Biological Sciences Student Information Home](#)

Student Hub

sbs.hub@manchester.ac.uk

Student Support

sbs.wellbeing@manchester.ac.uk

Assessments

sbs.assessment@manchester.ac.uk

â?¢ Programmes & Curriculum

â?¢ sbs.programmes@manchester.ac.uk

Student Representative

â?¢ To be appointed democratically

Director of Education (UG and PGT)

â?¢ Professor Nicky High

â?¢ nicky.high@manchester.ac.uk

Head of Teaching, Learning and Student Experience

â?¢ Kerry Mycock

â?¢ kerry.mycock@manchester.ac.uk

Teaching and Learning Manager

â?¢ Kelly Salimian

â?¢ kelly.salimian@manchester.ac.uk

Student Service, Support & Development Manager

â?¢ Sam Green

â?¢ sam.green-1@manchester.ac.uk

Programme Director

â?¢ Dr Dave Gerrard

â?¢ dave.gerrard@manchester.ac.uk

Deputy Programme Director

â?¢ Dr Helen Stuart

â?¢ helen.stuart@manchester.ac.uk

Your contact details

You will be supplied with a [student e-mail address](#). The University will direct communications to you by using your student e-mail address and it is your responsibility to ensure that you can access and read mail from this source. You should check your university email regularly and in turn should send all emails to the University using your student email address.

1.05 Key dates in the academic year

A summary of the key dates is given below, and additional information can be found here:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/key-dates/>

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•19128â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Responsibilities of staff and studentsâ?•]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18603â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Canvas 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18617â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? My Manchester 25-26â?³]

1.09 Changes/Updates to your personal details recorded in the Student System

It is your responsibility to ensure that the Student System is kept up to date with changes to your recorded personal or programme details. Any change of personal details must be completed online via My Manchester.

Incorrect information can lead to problems with your fees and funding, at Examination times and with other official processes.

Please read guidance available on the University of Manchester Student Support webpage for details on [Updating your bank details](#) and changes to your [personal information](#) (for example, your address or name).

If you need any help, please contact the [Student Support Hub](#)

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18619â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? The Student Charter 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18621â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? The Digital Equity Charter 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18726â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Dignity at Work and Study 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18627â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Health and safety information 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18629â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? University learning resources 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18631â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Library 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18633â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Computers 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18635â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Developing Digital Skills 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18637â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Social Space 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18647â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Other facilities/resources â?? 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18641â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? University General Regulations 25-26â?³]

2. About your programme

2.01 Programme overview for MSc Genomic Medicine

2.02 Aims and Learning Outcomes of the programme

The aim of the degree is to provide a multi-disciplinary and multi-professional perspective in genomics, as applied to clinical practice and medical research, to enhance knowledge and skills in this rapidly evolving field.

Throughout the degree, students will be expected to gain a range of generic scientific and professional skills, including:-

- originality in the application of knowledge, and an understanding of how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research;
- application of analytical and synthetic skills to investigate and test new hypotheses;
- integration of information from a variety of sources to construct a coherent thesis on a scientific topic;
- critical appraisal and analysis of the scientific literature on a relevant subject, and the ability to judge and interpret findings;
- construction of hypotheses pertinent to the experimental exploration of topical questions in the field of medical genomics;
- evaluation of the significance of experimental results in the context of previous work;
- engagement and effective communication with diverse communities, including the lay public and professionals involved in research and clinical practice;
- summarisation and dissemination of information, including test results in oral and written forms to colleagues, patients and the public;
- critical evaluation of the published literature, with respect to the patient and carer perspective of genomic medicine;
- exercising initiative and personal responsibility;
- making decisions in complex and unpredictable situations; and
- learning independently as part of a commitment to continuing professional development.

2.03 Summary of the programme structure

Your chosen pathway will determine which course units you are able to select on your route through the programme.

Units 1-3 are core units.

Units 4-7 are elective core units

Units 8-12 are optional units.

Units 13a and 13b are research units.

Full course unit details are outlined in section 2.06. Units are subject to availability

2.04 Modes of study

MSc Full-time (180 credits): all three core units, three elective core units, two additional units (elective core or optional) Students must take unit 13a. (60-credit research project)

MSc Part-time (180 credits): all three core units, three elective core units, plus four other units (elective core or optional) Students must take unit 13b. (30-credit dissertation)

PG Dip Full-time (120 credits): core units 1 and 2, plus either six additional core, elective core, or optional units each worth 15 credits, or four additional core, elective core or optional units each worth 15 credits and unit 13b

PG Dip Part-time (120 credits): core units 1, 2 and 3, plus one other unit to progress to year two. An additional four units to be completed in year two.

PG Cert (60 credits): any four 15 credit units.

2.05 Programme specification

These documents are stored internally within the School.

2.06 Course units

All course unit specifications were reviewed March 2025

BIOL67561: Fundamentals of Human Genetics (Unit 1)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67981: Bioinformatics, Interpretation, Statistics and Data Quality Assurance (Unit 2)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67562: Next Generation Sequencing and Omics in Medicine and Disease (Unit 3)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67971: Application of Genomics in Infectious Diseases (Unit 4)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67482: Molecular Pathology of Cancer (Unit 5)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67481: Pharmacogenetics and Stratified Healthcare (Unit 6)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67582: Genomics of Common and Rare Inherited Disease (Unit 7)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67381: Counselling Skills for Genomics (Unit 8)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67372: Economics of Genomics and Precision Medicine (Unit 9)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67361: Health Informatics (Unit 11)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67672: Disease Modelling and Genome Engineering (Unit 12)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67980: Research Project MSc Genomic Medicine (Unit 13a: MSc)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

BIOL67380: Research Project MSc Genomic Medicine (Unit 13b: MSc)

[Course unit information | MyManchester](#)

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18643â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Information on the way 25-26â?³]

The deadline for the research project will be Thursday 3rd September at 2pm.

2.08 Consequences of unsatisfactory progress

Progression to dissertation is dependent upon successful completion of all taught courses.

2.09 Programme Specific Regulations

Not relevant for this programme.

2.10 Professional and statutory body requirements

Not relevant for this programme.

2.11 Fieldwork and placements or study abroad

Not relevant for this programme.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18653â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Additional costs 25-26â?³]

2.13 Degree classification algorithm

During your degree programme, you will complete 180 credits; which will comprise of both Taught (teaching-based) course units and one or more larger Research-based course unit. Each course unit carries a weighting in credits and an average is calculated at the end of your degree programme of the marks you have achieved and this serves as your final degree mark out of 100. Course units are counted in to your degree mark based on their weighting in credits, so a 60 credit course unit would be counted in to the average 4 times, whilst a 15 credit course unit would be counted in to the average once. All degree marks are rounded to 1 decimal place. Please see below an example degree mark calculation:

Unit 1 (15 Credits): 67
Unit 2 (15 Credits): 55
Unit 3 (15 Credits): 78
Unit 4 (15 Credits): 70
Unit 5 (15 Credits): 80
Unit 6 (15 Credits): 59
Unit 7 (15 Credits): 65
Unit 8 (15 Credits): 72
Unit 9 (60 Credits): 66

The calculation would be:

$$67 + 55 + 78 + 70 + 80 + 59 + 65 + 72 + 66 + 66 + 66 + 66 = 810 / 12 = 67.5$$

Please note that in cases where students have approved mitigating circumstances for some of their marks, the final mark may be calculated differently, at the discretion of the exam board, for example a 15 credit unit where the student has under-performed may be excluded from the final calculation.

Degree Classification

For Masters Programmes, students must achieve an overall average of at least 50 to be eligible for an MSc award. If you achieve an average below 50, you will not be awarded an MSc award, but may be eligible for a lower exit award of a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate.

Degree classifications are awarded as follows:

Final mark of 50 – 59.9 : Pass
Final mark of 60 – 69.9: Merit
Final mark of 70 or above: Distinction

Classification Review:

For final degree marks which fall within the boundary zone; within 2 marks of the higher classification (68 – 69.9 for a Distinction or 58 – 59.9 for a Merit), the examination board will consider whether there is a case for the student to be awarded the higher classification and in some cases students will be awarded the higher classification where their final degree mark falls in the boundary zone.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no guarantee if your final degree mark falls in the boundary zone that you will be awarded the higher degree classification. This will only be awarded automatically if you have

achieved a degree mark above the degree classification boundary (e.g. 70 for a Distinction).

If your mark falls in the boundary zone; you will be awarded the higher degree classification in the following situations:

- If two thirds or more of the credits you have completed during your degree programme (120 credits or more) are marks at the higher degree classification, you will be automatically promoted to the higher degree classification (so 120 credits with marks above 70 would be needed to be promoted to a distinction)
- If you do not have two thirds of credits at the higher classification but are in the boundary zone, there will be an independent review of your final research project by the external examiner who will make a recommendation to the board as to whether or not there is a case for the student being awarded the higher degree classification. The board will then make a decision based on this and on the mark profile whether or not to promote the student to the higher classification. This is at the discretion of the examination board, is not a guarantee, and is a decision that cannot be questioned or challenged.

There is no classification review available for the classification of Pass; any degree mark below 50 cannot be awarded an MSc degree under any circumstances.

3. Assessment and academic standards

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18772â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Assessment 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18659â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Dissertation 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•19015â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? 3.03 Examinations and coursework (PGT)â?•]

3.04 Laboratory work and practical reports

Not relevant for this programme.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18788â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Examination Boards and release of marks 25-26â?³]

3.06 Programme-specific assessment requirements

Not relevant for this programme.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18663â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Prizes and awards 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18661â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Statement about the use of Turnitin 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18665â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Plagiarism and academic malpractice 25-26â?³]

3.10 Referencing and Proofreading statement

If a student chooses to approach another person to proofread their written work or seeks to use the services of a proofreading service or agency, they must take account of the following principles:

- it is the responsibility of students to ensure that all work submitted is their own, and that it represents their own abilities and understanding. Any proofreading of work that is undertaken by a third party must not compromise the student's own authorship of the work;
- proofreading undertaken by a third party must not take the form of editing of text, such as the adding or rewriting of phrases or passages within a piece of student's work;
- proofreading undertaken by a third party must not change the content or meaning of the work in any way

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18667 snippet_title=SBS Artificial Intelligence (AI) statement 25-26]

3.12 External Examiner

External Examiners are individuals from another institution or organisation who monitor the assessment processes of the University to ensure fairness and academic standards. They ensure that assessment and examination procedures have been fairly and properly implemented and that decisions have been made after appropriate deliberation. They also ensure that standards of awards and levels of student performance are comparable with those in equivalent higher education institutions.

The External Examiner for the MSc Genomic Medicine programme is Professor Karen Liu from Kings College London.

Please note that it is inappropriate for students to make direct contact with External Examiners under any circumstances, in particular with regards to a student's individual performance in assessments. Other appropriate mechanisms are available for students, including the University's appeals or complaints procedures and the UMSU Advice Centre. In cases where a student does contact an External Examiner directly, External Examiners have been requested not to respond to direct queries. Instead, External Examiners should report the matter to the School contact who will then contact the student to remind them of the other methods available for students.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18673 snippet_title=SBS Academic Appeals 25-26]

4. Student Voice

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18675 snippet_title=SBS Representation at programme 25-26]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18677 snippet_title=SBS Role of the Student Voice Committee (PGT) 25-26]

4.03 Role of the Programme meeting

The PGT Programme meeting meets three times a year. The committee's functions and responsibilities are to maintain the standards of teaching, to evaluate and revise the programme in the light of feedback, to monitor student progression and to provide a forum for discussion between the University and the students.

The meeting reviews the annual monitoring report and acts on recommendations arising from the annual monitoring process.

The membership of the meeting includes: the Programme Directors; the Programme Administration Team; Teaching Staff and Student Representatives. The PGT Programme meeting reports to the PGT Programme Committee.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18679 snippet_title=SBS Mechanisms for collecting and 25-26]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18681 snippet_title=SBS Use of University unit surveys and 25-26]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18683 snippet_title=SBS Student Complaints 25-26]

5. Attendance requirements, interruptions and mitigating circumstances

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18686 snippet_title=SBS Attendance Requirements 25-26]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18689 snippet_title=SBS Student Engagement 25-26]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=18691 snippet_title=SBS Consequences of paid employed 25-26]

5.04 Procedure for reporting ill health

Absence from examinations due to ill health

You should make every effort to participate in all examinations. It will not be possible to make special arrangements to take the exams in an alternative location, unless this has been arranged through the Disability Advisory Support Service.

If you are so ill you are unable to take an exam, you **must** contact the SBS Hub email sbs.hub@manchester.ac.uk or telephone **0161 275 1387** as soon as possible, and certainly **no later than the day and start time of your examination**. You should complete a Mitigating Circumstances application which must be accompanied by appropriate evidence.

Illness not resulting in absence from examinations

You may be unwell but able to proceed with an examination but feel that your performance will have been impaired. If you wish this to be taken into account, you must follow the same procedures as stated in the earlier Section Absence from Examinations due to Ill Health by applying for mitigation. Note that typical levels of exam stress that are not diagnosed as a long-term condition, would not normally be considered a mitigating circumstance. If you anticipate or experience high levels of stress related to your exams, or studies in general, we strongly recommend you contact the Student Support and Wellbeing team (sbs.wellbeing@manchester.ac.uk), who will be able to support you.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18693â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? How to change, interrupt or 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18695â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Mitigating circumstances 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18697â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Policy on Supporting Health 25-26â?³]

6. Support for students

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18699â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Student Support microsite 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18701â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? The role of the Programme Director, AA, SS Hubs 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18703â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Studentsâ?? Union and SU Advice Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18705â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Counselling and Mental Health Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18707â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS -Disability Advisory and Support Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18709â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Student Occupational Health Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18711â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? PASS (PGT) 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18714â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Careers Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18716â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? University College 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18718â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Stellify 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18720â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? International Society 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18722â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? University Centre for Academic English 25-26â?³]