



University of  
**Nottingham**  
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

# **School of Biosciences**

# **Nutrition**

## **Course Handbook**

## **2019-2020**



Please note that all the information given in this Student Course Handbook is correct at the time of going to press. The School reserves the right to amend the course structures or information and amend, substitute or withdraw modules detailed in this publication.

Comments or suggestions on the contents of edition for 2019-2020. Please direct all comments to

[FOSAdmin@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:FOSAdmin@nottingham.edu.my)

Updated 21 August 2019

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## 1. ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

SEMESTER DATES	
<b>Autumn</b>	Monday 23 September 2019 - Saturday 18 January 2020
	Teaching begins on Monday 23 September 2019
<b>Spring</b>	Monday 03 February 2020 - Wednesday 3 June 2020
	Teaching begins on Monday 03 February 2020

EXAMINATION DATES	
<b>Autumn</b>	Thursday 2 January 2020 to Saturday 18 January 2020 - including Saturdays
<b>Spring</b>	Monday 4 May 2020 to Wednesday 03 June 2020 - including Saturdays
<b>Re-assessments</b>	Monday 10 August 2020 to Friday 28 August 2020 - excluding Saturdays

**Regulations require students to be at the University throughout the full period of each term, including the first and last days.**

### **Registration**

*Year 1 and direct entrants to Year 2*

**Tuesday 17 September 2019**

*Year 2*

Students will be notified through email by Registry office

*Final year*

Students will be notified through email by Registry office

## 2. COURSE HANDBOOK

This Manual is designed to give you all the information you need to allow you to progress your studies at Nottingham. It describes the various procedures and practices that are in place which are designed to help you achieve your goals. From time to time these have to be changed to meet new requirements put upon us by the University and changes are also made based on student opinion. Therefore at any time if you have a positive suggestion, which can bring about some improvement in what we do, please bring these to the attention of the Student Association, who are represented on a number of School Committees.

## 3. THE SCHOOL OF BIOSCIENCES

The School of Biosciences is part of the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FOSE). The School offers the following Undergraduate Courses: Bachelor of Science (Honours) Biotechnology and Bachelor of Science (Honours) Nutrition.

### Faculty Office

Office Hours	:	9.00am – 5.30 pm
Counter Operation Hours	:	9.30am – 12.30pm 1.30pm – 5.30pm

The Faculty Office is located on the ground floor of Block C. This should be your first port of call if you have any queries or concerns. You can visit or call in between 9.00 am to 5.30 pm from Monday – Friday or you can email [FOSE.StudentSupport@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:FOSE.StudentSupport@nottingham.edu.my)

As well as providing information and advice, the faculty office staff will receive work being handed in and return marked course work, module entry forms and other pieces of information.

## 4. ADVICE

One of the first people you will meet is your Personal Tutor. Your Personal Tutor will be a member of academic staff with whom you have regular meetings, sometimes as part of a group. Your Tutor is there to give you help and support in person as well as guidance in academic matters. You should make every effort to establish a good relationship. Your Tutor will provide you with advice and details of your exam performance so it is essential that you discuss your progress, in confidence, with him/her at regular intervals.

**Here are a few pieces of free advice; they come from fellow undergraduate students and from academic staff who helped us prepare this document.**

Most lecturers teach at a faster pace than you may be used to from school or college. Develop good note taking skills early in your university career.

Lectures are progressive, i.e. each one builds on the last. Missing lectures is therefore dangerous, as is ignoring things that you didn't fully understand at the time.

Module Conveners may issue a book list. Check with academic staff and 2nd and 3rd year students which are the most valuable to buy. You may not be able to afford them all. Books on your reading lists can be borrowed from the Libraries.

You should expect to work outside of class time. This may include reading, rewriting your notes, doing coursework, writing reports.

Don't be afraid of asking questions in lectures. Lecturers like to know that students are following what they are saying. The question you ask may be exactly what other students were wondering but were afraid to ask. Most lecturers will provide opportunities for questions. You can also ask for help outside of lecture time.

Don't be afraid to approach staff for help. Their offices are accessible to you and they have telephones and email. They are busy people but a large part of their work involves dealing with students. Please see "office hours" section for further details of how to make appointments with academic staff.

Make use of their time, advice, experience and expertise.

Remember that activities continue after the exams and that you are required to remain at the University until the end of each semester.

Never hesitate to see the lecturer if you are having difficulty with his / her module or don't understand why you were given a particular mark.

Handing in coursework late means losing marks. 5% will be lost for every working day late.

The School has a Learning Community Forum with staff and student representatives from each year. Use this system to make constructive comments about your course. Use this system to make constructive comments about your course.

If you become ill and have to miss more than a couple of days, or a coursework deadline, or if your performance in an exam is affected, go to see your tutor and complete an Extenuating Circumstances Form (forms available from the Faculty Office) and on the website: \_

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/quality-manual/assessment-and-awards/extenuating-circumstances-policy-and-procedures.aspx> . See appendix 9.

Missing an exam for any reason is extremely serious and should be avoided if at all possible. Let your Tutor know IMMEDIATELY and complete an extenuating circumstances form available as above. Check your email daily and Moodle updates; otherwise you may miss vital information.

## 5. STUDENT COMMITMENT

Students are expected to access their e-mail accounts regularly as this is the main means of communication. Please do not use any other personal email account which you may have for communication within the University. If you do, you risk losing out on important information

You are required to:

**Read** this handbook and other documents referred to so that you are clear about the structure of your degree course and what is expected of you.

**Abide** by University Ordinances, Regulations and other codes of practice (e.g. Computing, Safety etc.).

Read **notices** placed on official notice boards, these provide an important primary channel of general communication and may advertise such information as re- arrangements to the teaching timetable.

*It is wise to carry a diary in which to note appointments with tutors, module conveners, course diary, etc.*

## 6. YOUR SCHOOL AND YOUR STUDIES

**Teaching Staff** - Lecturers are responsible for teaching components of modules and for setting and marking assignments and examinations.

Each module has a **Convener** who is responsible for its organisation. At the start of the module, the Convener will issue to each student a document describing its aims, content, objectives, transferable skills, methods of assessment, dates for submission and return of coursework and penalties for late submission. Students will be given coursework turnaround details. S/he will also conduct a feedback exercise at the end of the module to gauge student opinion.

Each course has a **Course Director**, responsible for overseeing its structure and smooth running. The Course Director ensures balance between modules and liaises regularly with other staff to ensure that appropriate teaching and learning are provided. The **Course Directors** are directly responsible to the **Head of School** for ensuring that all levels of the teaching management structure operate efficiently. They should be notified of any significant problems. **Heads of School** are ultimately responsible for the services provided by their staff.

The Head of School oversees the organisation and management of teaching across the School.

The **Senior Tutor** is responsible for maintaining a balance of work between the core Semester 1 modules. S/he appoints student representatives to the Learning Community Forum (LCF) and holds meetings at which any matters which students may wish to raise can be discussed. Don't be afraid to make your views known!

A list of the staff who hold these positions is included in this handbook (see Academic Staff and Support Staff). Students should feel able to approach any of them with concerns they may have about aspects of their education. Your Personal Tutor can advise you and make the appropriate contacts.



## 7. ACADEMIC STAFF AND SUPPORT STAFF

The Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering is Professor Andy Chan Tak Yee and the Head of School of Biosciences is Dr Winnie Yap.

ACADEMIC STAFF				
NAME	KEY ROLES	TEL	ROOM	EMAIL (@nottingham.edu.my)
Dr Winnie Yap Soo Ping (WY)	Head of School Industrial Placement Officer	89248228	BA46	Winnie.Yap
Dr Chin Chiew Foan (CCF)	Deputy Head of School Director, Research and International Strategy	89248216	B1A14	Chiew-Foan.Chin
Prof Festo Massawe (FM)	Future Food Beacon Lead School Disability Liaison Officer	89248228	BA51	Festo.Massawe
Dr Lim Yin Sze	Director, Teaching and Learning Exams Officer	89248726	BB61	YinSze.Lim
Dr Christina Vimala Supramaniam (CVS)	Admissions Tutor, BSc Biotechnology	89248217	BA36	Christina.Supramaniam
Prof Sandy Loh Hwei San (LHS)	Associate Dean (FOS) - Teaching and Learning	89248215	B1A22	Sandy.Loh
Dr Susan Azam- Ali (SAA)	Course Director, BSc Nutrition Academic Exchange Liaison Officer	89248727	BB81	Susan.Azamali
Dr Soma Mitra (SM)	Chair-Science and Engineering Research Ethics Committee School Research Ethics Officer-	87253433	BB82	Soma.Mitra
Dr Le Cheng Foh (LCF)	Course Director, BSc Biotechnology Coordinator, Biotechnology Research Centre (BRC)	87253645	DB05	ChengFoh.Le
Dr Ajit Singh (AS)	Senior Tutor Advisor, Learning Community Forum (LCF) Coordinator, Green/shade house facility	89248167	BB64	Ajit.Singh
Dr Eunice Ngai Siew Ching (EN)	Admission Tutor and Advisor for Postgraduate Research Students (MRes, MPhil, PhD)	87253533	B1A06	Ngai.SiewChing
Prof Asgar Ali (AA)	Coordinator, Staff Support and Development	89248219	BA34	Asgar.Ali
Dr Cheng Shi Hui (CSH)	Admissions Tutor, BSc Nutrition Coordinator, School Website, Social Media Library Liaison Officer	87253618	BA50	ShiHui.Cheng
Dr Ng Zhi Xiang (NZX)	Director, Admissions, Marketing and Recruitment Timetabling Officer	87253616	DB05	ZhiXiang.Ng



## 8. COURSE STRUCTURE, ORGANISATION AND CHOOSING YOUR MODULES

### The Academic Year

The academic year at Nottingham is based on two semesters (Autumn and Spring) spread over three terms.

The following definitions might be helpful to you:

**Credits** indicate a quantity of assessed learning. They contribute to a cumulative indication of modules which a student has completed. One credit equates to approximately 10 hours of study.

A **course** is a specified programme of study which is self-contained and attracts a specified number of credits. Examinations are held at the end of most modules. A ten credit module accounts for approximately 100 hours of your time, of which usually no more than 40 hours will be spent in the lecture room or laboratory.

A **programme** is a set of modules satisfying the requirements for a particular degree and attracting 360 credits for an Honours degree.

The levels in a course of study leading to an Honours degree are as follows:

Year 1 (120 credits)	Level 1
Year 2 (120 credits)	Level 2
Year 3 (120 credits)	Level 3

Credits achieved in Year 1 are for progression purposes only and will not contribute to the final degree classification.

A **semester** is a division of the academic year. It consists of twelve weeks of teaching, coursework and revision, plus two (Autumn Semester) or four (Spring Semester) weeks of assessment and consultation. Note: Although each academic year is divided for teaching purposes into two semesters, there is still a short break at Hari Raya, Christmas and Chinese New Year. Depending on the dates of the Chinese New Year, the start of Semester two may be delayed.

A **year** is a period of study consisting of an Autumn Semester followed by a Spring Semester.

**Assessment** may be by means of written examination papers, oral examinations or coursework. Progression and/or degree classification are based on the outcome of the assessment.

A **mark** is a numerical indication of the quality of the assessed work completed by a student in each module. Marks awarded are subject to the approval of the Board of Examiners and are ratified by an External Examiner.

### Choosing optional modules

At module advisory days you will be asked to complete a module registration form that details your chosen optional modules for **ALL PERIODS**, i.e. for modules totalling 120 credits over a year. All entries must include the module code. **All optional choices must be approved by the module convenor.** You will have an opportunity at the beginning of the Autumn/Spring Semesters ('two week change of mind period') to make adjustments to your choices for that semester; you will also need to check that there are no timetable clashes.

Your choice of modules must normally total 60 credits per semester, and in any event not less than **50 credits** or more than **70 credits** per semester. To determine how a Full Year module contributes to the number of credits in a given semester, check the semester credit split for that module in the Module Catalogue

<http://www.nottingham.edu.my/CurrentStudents/StudentRegistry/Courseenrolment.aspx>

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to see that your combination of modules accords with the Regulations for your course and teaching timetable. **Failure to do so could prevent you from progressing to the next year of the course or from graduating.**

Once you have chosen your optional modules and they have been approved, **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to ensure that you read the Declaration, sign the form and hand it to the School Office staff by the indicated date. After that date, changes to Full Year and Autumn Semester choices will not be allowed. **Failure to hand in the form by the date displayed may lead to incorrect examination entries and records.**

*\*There are some courses in Year 1 where there are no optional modules; however this information is useful for Years 2 and 3.*

### **Modules outside Biosciences**

If you wish to register for an optional module from outside the School of Biosciences, you should write the module details on your Module Entry Form and obtain a signature in the "Agreed" box from the School that offers the module, as confirmation that the offering School accepts your registration (or email and provide email confirmation).

A complete list of modules within the University can be found in the Catalogue of Modules.

## 9. COURSE STRUCTURE (NUTRITION)

New Code	List of Modules	Credit	Module Convener
	<b>Core modules (55 credits)</b>		
BIOS 1036	Introduction to Nutrition	10/20	CSH
BIOS 1037	Biochemistry: The Building Blocks of Life	10/20	LCF
BIOS 1040	Biosciences Tutorials (Academic Development)	5/10	WY
BIOS 1050	Food Materials and Ingredients	10/20	SAA
BIOS 1032	Genes and Cells 1	10	SLHS
LIFE 1052	Human Physiology	10/20	Biomed

Code	List of Modules	Credit	Module Convener
	<b>Core modules (65 credits)</b>		
BIOS 1036	Introduction to Nutrition	10/20	CSH
BIOS 1037	Biochemistry: The Building Blocks of Life	10/20	LCF
BIOS 1040	Biosciences Tutorials (Academic Development)	5/10	WY
BIOS1050	Food Materials and Ingredients	10/20	SAA
BIOS 1034	Applied Genetics	10	SLSH
BIOS 1033	Microbial Physiology	10	CVS
LIFE 1052	Human Physiology	10	Biomed

Code	List of Modules	Credit	Module Convener
	<b>Core modules (50 credits)</b>		
BIOS 2062	Nutritional Regulation, Physiology and Endocrinology	20	WY
BIOS 2064	Global Issues in Nutrition	20	SAA
BIOS 2050	Principles of Immunology	10	LYS
	<b>Optional modules (choose 10 credits)</b>		
PSGA1002	The Individual 1: Cognition, memory and perception	10	OM
BIOS 2059	Molecular Biology and the Dynamic Cell	10	CCF
BIOS 2057		10	SAA

#### Semester 4 - SPRING

New Code		List of Modules	Credit	Module Convener
		<b>Core modules (50 credits)</b>		
BIOS 2051		Nutrition, Metabolism and Disease	20	SM
BIOS 2076		Personal and Professional Skills for Nutritionists	10	AS
BIOS 2079		Practical Techniques in Human Nutrition	20	NZX
		<b>Optional Modules (Choose 10 credits)</b>		
BIOS 2060		Microbial Mechanisms of Foodborne Disease	20	LYS
PSGA 1006		The Individual II: Individual Differences	10	SKZB
BIOS 2057		Global Food Security Summer School	10	SA (Summer Semester)

#### Semester 5 - AUTUMN

Code	List of Modules	Credit	Convener
	<b>Core Research Project (20 credits)</b>		
BIOS 3068	UG Research Project	20/40	FM
	<b>Core Modules (20 credits)</b>		
BIOS 3056	Nutrition and the Health of Populations	10/20	CSH
BIOS 3057	Molecular Nutrition	10/20	NZX
	<b>Optional modules (Choose 20 credit)</b>		
BIOS 3063	International Nutrition	10/20	SM
PSGA2001	People, Group and Society	10	PSGA
BIOS 3082	Postharvest Technology	10	AA

#### Semester 6 - SPRING

New Code	List of Modules	Credit	Convener
	<b>Core Research Project (20 credits)</b>		
BIOS 3068	UG Research Project	20/40	FM
	<b>Core Modules (20 credits)</b>		
BIOS 3056	Nutrition and the Health of Populations	10/20	CSH
BIOS 3057	Molecular Nutrition	10/20	NZX
	<b>Optional modules (Choose 20 credits)</b>		
BIOS 3063	International Nutrition	10/20	SM
BIOS 3060	Applied Bioethics: Sustainable Food Production, Biotechnology and Environment	10	EN
PSGA2006	Introduction to Counselling	10	PSGA
BIOS 3083	Advanced Postharvest Technology	10	AA

#### Remarks:

Optional modules will not run if less than four students have registered for the module.

FOR PSGA modules- please confirm with lecturers in Applied Psychology.

## 10. GENERAL STUDIES MODULES (MPU)

### GUIDELINES FOR THE GENERAL STUDIES MODULES (MPU)

All students (Malaysian, International and Malaysian citizens) are mandatory to [enrol, undertake, complete and pass] - these required stages in the General Studies Department modules (**formerly known as Compulsory Subjects**) before the end of the graduation. This is a precondition for the award of degrees in Private Higher Educational Institutions (PHEI) under the **Private Higher Education Act 1996**. As a private higher educational institution, University of Nottingham Malaysia (**UNM**) is subject to PHEI regulations effective 1 September 2013. Referring to the *Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education Malaysia Administrative Circular JPT / GS1000-606 JLD.1 (30)* dated 22 July 2013.

The General Studies Department modules (MPU) comprise four broad categories. **UNM** offers the following modules:

Level	Modules - Malaysian	Modules - International
U1: Appreciating philosophy, values and history	1. Tamadun Islam dan Tamadun Asia (MPU 3122) 2. Hubungan Etnik (MPU 3112)	1. Malay Language Communication II (MPU 3142) 2. Malaysian Studies (MPU 3222)
U2: Mastering humanity skills	1. Leadership (MPU 3232) OR 2. Bahasa Kebangsaan A (MPU 3212) <b>** **COMPULSORY for students who do not achieve credit in Bahasa Melayu subject in SPM exam.</b>	Leadership (MPU 3232)
U3: Broadening knowledge about Malaysia	Introduction of Multicultural Malaysia (MPU 3322)	Introduction of Multicultural Malaysia (MPU 3322)
U4: Developing practical community-minded skills	Community Service (MPU 3412)	Community Service (MPU 3412)

**Note: It is compulsory for all students to complete 30 hours of community service fieldwork designated by the General Studies Department, this subject to the predetermined conditions set out by the General Studies Department.**

Should you have any further enquires pertaining to General Studies modules/matters, please email to [GeneralStudiesDepartment@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:GeneralStudiesDepartment@nottingham.edu.my) or meet up with any of the administrative staff below at the General Studies Department office (located at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) for further assistance:

**Puan Amisah Mohd Amir (Administrator)**

**Puan Maizatul Akmal Nawati (Administrator)**

**Puan Rositah Abdul Rahman (Senior Administrative Assistant)**

**Puan Arina Aziz (Administrative Assistant)**

## 11. TIMETABLE INFORMATION 2019-20

<https://www.nottingham.edu.my/AboutUs/documents/Academic-Calendar/Academic-Calendar-2019-2020-UG-and-PG-26.03.19-Latest-2.pdf>

Academic Year 2019- 2020  
Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
2019	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
Sept																																				
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May																																				
June																																				
July																																				
Aug																																				
Sept																																				

### Public Holiday 2019

Tuesday 1 January - New Year  
Monday 21 January - Thai Pusam  
Tuesday 5 & Wednesday 6 February - Chinese New Year  
Friday April 19 - Good Friday  
Wednesday 1 May - Labour Day  
Sunday 19 May - Wesak Day  
Wednesday 22 May - Nuzul Al-Quran \* (TBC)  
Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 June - Hari Raya Puasa  
Sunday 11 August - Hari Raya Haji  
Saturday 31 August - National Day  
Sunday 1 September - Awal Muharram  
Monday 9 Sept - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday  
Monday 16 September - Hari Malaysia (Malaysia Day)  
Sunday 27 October - Deepavali  
Saturday 9 November - The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday  
Wednesday 11 December - Sultan of Selangor's Birthday  
Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

### Public Holiday 2020

Wednesday 1 January - New Year  
Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 January - Chinese New Year  
Saturday 8 February - Thai Pusam  
Friday April 10 - Good Friday  
Friday 1 May - Labour Day  
Thursday 7 May - Wesak Day  
Sunday 10 May - Nuzul Al-Quran \* (TBC)  
Sunday 24 & Monday 25 May - Hari Raya Puasa  
Friday 31 July - Hari Raya Haji  
Thursday 20 August - Awal Muharram  
Monday 31 August - National Day  
Wednesday 9 September - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday  
Wednesday 16 September - Hari Malaysia (Malaysia Day)  
Thursday 29 October - The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday  
Saturday 14 November - Deepavali  
Friday 11 December - Sultan of Selangor's Birthday  
Friday 25 December - Christmas Day



## 12. TEACHING METHODS

### Lectures

Throughout your university career, you will find that lectures are the most common method of teaching. It is most important for you to ensure that you have a set of good clear notes based on the lectures **and** your own reading. As you progress through the second and third years of your degree, you will be expected to do increasing amounts of reading; it is therefore useful to develop your reading skills during your first year. Teaching of some modules is complemented by the use of teaching software.

Hints and tips for making the most effective use of the teaching and learning opportunities available to you are provided in *Study Skills Guide* given to all students at the beginning of their first year).

**NB: Books which should be purchased will be identified at the start of teaching - you are advised not to buy any books prior to this unless otherwise indicated in the recommended reading lists at the end of each module synopses.**

### Practical Classes

Course requirements may require you to take practical classes. These may involve laboratory experiments or observations and analysis of data obtained during the sessions. Practical sessions provide an opportunity to learn and develop additional skills in techniques, observation and analysis. Practical classes also provide an opportunity to extend your knowledge of topics not covered in lectures. For each practical course you will receive a laboratory manual or collection of schedules which will expand on the learning experience of the course.

Some large first year classes are taught simultaneously in adjacent laboratories. Consult the class lists posted on the notice boards to identify the laboratory you will work in. For each practical class, at least one member of academic staff will always be in attendance. S/he will be accompanied by postgraduate students who work as demonstrators. In some cases, technicians may also be present to assist. The teaching team is present in the laboratory to aid your learning experience, so please seek their help as much as you need, and ensure you carry out your work safely, with no harm to yourself or other students. Practical classes provide a valuable opportunity for you to get to know the academic staff in a less formal way and for them to help you. These classes frequently provide an excellent opportunity for you to raise questions from the lecture course with the member of staff and deal with problems you may have.

For all practical classes, you **MUST WEAR** a suitable full-length laboratory coat, which must be buttoned at all times. You will be given a lab coat and safety glasses during Week 1 and advised about any other items you need to purchase. You **MUST** also **WEAR** safety glasses at all times unless advised to the contrary by an academic member of staff.

Safe working and good laboratory practices are essential in the laboratory environment and all laboratory exercises must be formally assessed under the regulations of COSHH. Details of these assessments are noted in the laboratory manual or schedule to draw your attention to specific hazards and the requirements of safe practice. During the introduction to a practical class, the member of staff in charge will give a verbal statement on safety issues.

Food and drink **MUST NOT** be taken into the laboratory.

**Assessed Work**

Many modules have an element of student-centred learning, especially in Parts I (Year 2) and II (Year 3) of your course. The work involved in these is assessed and forms part of the overall mark for the module. The proportion of the mark allotted to coursework is identified in each module description. Penalties are applied for late submission of coursework (5% per working day), unless there are extenuating circumstances and appropriate documentation is provided. In general, modules in the School of Bioscience use electronic submission of coursework through Moodle as the means of submission.

**IT Training**

IT is increasingly important as a basis of learning, communication and the preparation of your work e.g. dissertation, BSc project thesis and laboratory reports. It is important that you develop/improve your IT skills as you progress through your course.

**Computer-aided Learning (CAL)**

Several modules include computer-based teaching material, quizzes, exercises, simulations. In order to use these, you must be registered on the School of Biosciences Network. You may be assessed on some of these packages while using them or in the form of a conventional write-up. You should be prepared to take notes as you work through material on computers.

### 13. ASSESSMENT, PROGRESSION, COMPENSATION AND REASSESSMENT

**The University Undergraduate Course Regulations apply to all the School's BSc degrees.** The regulations can be found at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/studyregulationsforundergraduatecourses.aspx>

You should note that:

The pass mark for a module is 40%.

**Progression and Compensation (BSc):** You don't need to pass all modules in order to progress to the next stage of your course. Compensation of failed modules can be achieved in the following ways – if you have:

(a) passed modules worth at least 80 credits and have a weighted average for the stage of at least 40% with no module marks of less than 30%;

or

(b) passed modules worth at least 100 credits and have a weighted average for the stage of at least 50%.

or

(c) passed modules worth at least 90 credits, have marks of 30% or more in modules worth at least 110\* credits, and have a weighted average for the stage of at least 45%.

**Reassessment:** If you do not reach the criteria for progression at the end of stage of study, you have a right to one re-assessment in each failed module. The form of reassessment is normally the same as for the first sit, with some exceptions (for example some MCQ papers are sometimes replaced with essay-style papers).

For modules which are assessed by both coursework and exam, the School of Biosciences requires that, if the module has been failed overall, then you must be reassessed in the examination element of that module, even if that component of assessment has been passed.

In addition, if you have failed the coursework overall (of a module which is assessed by both coursework and examination) you may elect to resubmit remedial coursework.

However, if you have passed your coursework overall, you are not entitled to resubmit either the whole coursework or any failed component within your coursework assessments. If you wish to take up the option of remedial coursework, you must make contact with the appropriate module convener (or his/her representative) **within 7 days** of the date of the letter notifying you that you have failed to progress. The module convener will give you a title and submission date for the coursework. Any remedial coursework must be submitted before the start of the August examination period. However, individual module conveners have the right to set earlier deadlines at the time of setting the coursework.

**Please note: for modules which have both an examination and coursework component, it is not possible for you to be reassessed by resubmitting coursework alone; you are required to retake the examination, even if this element of the module has been passed.**

This policy allows students to maximise their chances of passing the module after reassessment. In Part I the ORIGINAL marks are carried forward for degree classification purposes. However, reassessment marks may be considered by the examining boards if the candidate is on the borderline between degree classes.

**Progression after reassessment:** For progression purposes, the higher or highest of the marks obtained in each module (at first attempt or upon re-assessment) are considered and the progression and compensation regulations applied accordingly.

**Marking Schemes:** see appendices 1-6.

**Progression Charts:** see appendix 6 and can be viewed at <http://goo.gl/N492mp>

## **BSc Degree Candidates**

Award of an Honours degree is dependent on completion and submission of a final year project.

When the overall Part I / Part II mark has been computed, it is rounded to provide a single overall integer mark before any degree classification is assigned. Subject to the exception of borderline candidates and those with extenuating circumstances, who may be awarded a higher degree classification, students shall be awarded the class of degree with their overall mark. The classes of honours degree are as follows:-

First Class - average of 70%+

Second Class (Division 1) - average of 60-69%.

Second Class (Division II) - average of 50-59%.

Third Class - average of 40-49%.

The standardised weighting for the stages of a Bachelor degree will be 33/67 for Parts I and II respectively, and the standardised weighting for an Integrated Master's degree (undergraduate) will be 20/40/40 for Parts I, II and III respectively.

## **Borderline Profiling**

Classification borderlines will be based on the overall rounded average mark (credit and stage weighted). Borderline overall averages will be as follows:

2:1-1st      68, 69

2:2-2:1      58, 59

3rd-2:2      48, 49

A student should be given the higher class if either of the following criteria are met:

- Half or more of the final stage credits are in the higher class;
- Half or more of the final and penultimate stage credits are in the higher class

## **Further Reading**

Full details of regulations can be viewed on the UoN Quality Manual page at <http://goo.gl/qoQP3>

## 14. EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Policy regarding extensions to coursework on grounds of Extenuating Circumstances, Disability or Specific Learning Difficulties Summary:

- 1) Extensions to coursework will not normally be given unless the student has a specific recommendation from the School's Extenuating Circumstances Committee, or Academic/Disability Support.
- 2) Extensions will not normally be given as a result of short-term illness of less than 7 days unless the module convenor agrees this.
- 3) Students with Academic/Disability referrals allowing the option for coursework extension may arrange for a short extension to coursework submission with the module convenor, on the basis of particular circumstances, without the need to apply for extenuating circumstances.
- 4) Students with approved extenuating circumstances may be granted an extension to coursework submission of usually no more than 21 calendar days.

Full details of the school's implementation of University policy is below. Meeting deadlines is an important part of working life. It is important that students develop time management skills and the ability to meet deadlines before undertaking work placements or entering the workforce on graduation. Coursework deadlines are normally set at the start of the module by the module convenor, and clearly stated in module documents/introductory teaching sessions. This gives students the opportunity to identify periods of high workload within each semester and plan their time accordingly. Whilst course teams will try to adapt deadlines to avoid coursework 'hotspots', deadlines are set as appropriate for each individual module and it is the student's responsibility to plan their time accordingly.

Extensions to coursework deadlines can be given in limited circumstances – for example, if students have extenuating circumstances, disability or specific learning difficulties. These are dealt with in the following way.

Extensions to coursework will not be given to students unless they have a specific recommendation from Academic/Disability Support, the School's Extenuating Circumstances (ECs) committee or the module convenor (see below).

Students with specific recommendations from Academic/Disability Support may request one extension in advance of the deadline, giving justification for why they need it. Students should not expect to be offered an extension, and it is acceptable for the Module Convenor not to allow one, if it is not possible within the module structure – for example, if the work is subject to a very tight marking turn-around period, such as laboratory practical write-ups. In these circumstances, students should be given notice in advance of the deadline that no extensions can be allowed. If the module convenor feels that an extension is appropriate, the following extension lengths, which have been endorsed by Academic Support, will be followed:

### Length of Coursework

### Extension

Up to 2,500 words (or equivalent)  
2,500- 5,000 words (or  
equivalent) Final Year Dissertation

Maximum of 2 calendar days  
2-4 calendar days  
Maximum of 5 calendar days

Any further extension would normally only be given on the basis of approved extenuating circumstances.

Any unapproved late submissions will have marks deducted as outlined in the Quality Manual (5% for each working day).

Students who submit coursework late as a result of illness or other circumstances lasting more than 7 days should discuss this with the module convenor or their personal tutor and should submit an EC form in advance of the submission deadline and evidence within 7 days of the submission deadline. If evidence is not available at the time that the form is submitted, it can be submitted within 14 days of the EC form submission.

This documentation will be considered via the normal EC process (see: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicsservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/extenuating-circumstances-policy-and-procedures.aspx>)

If ECs are accepted, an extension to the submission will be agreed and any marks that have been deducted for late submission will be reinstated.

Any extension (within a teaching semester) for students with ECs will not normally be for more than 21 calendar days, to ensure that all coursework is submitted prior to the coursework return date. Any submission after the return date will not be accepted but a student may be given a first sit opportunity if they have approved ECs.

## 15. PLAGIARISM, PARAPHRASING AND OTHER ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

### Plagiarism and Paraphrasing

This section is also covered in the Study Skills book. It draws upon information available at the following University Web sources together with guidance from staff in the School of Biosciences. **As work is now submitted electronically through Turnitin, be aware that plagiarism is readily detected.**

### USEFUL ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

One good method to avoid plagiarism is to make notes from material you have read and construct your essay/report, in your own words, from these notes. It is tempting (and easy) to copy and paste, but this is unacceptable and constitutes an academic misconduct. It is also poor practice to construct a draft by copying and pasting material from multiple sources, with the intention of then paraphrasing the resulting document. Apart from the fact that the end- product may be disjointed, the paraphrasing is often incomplete and the work submitted may contain elements of plagiarised material. It is, however, acceptable to include relevant figures and tables from published work, as long as you acknowledge their source by citing the primary reference for them.

To make a specific point, there may be rare occasions when you have may to quote an author verbatim; this is acceptable if you put the quotation in inverted commas and give the source, but you should have a good reason why you can't put the material in your own words.

### USEFUL WEBSITES

#### Academic integrity and plagiarism \_

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively/writing/plagiarism/index.aspx>

#### Quality Manual \_

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/academic-misconduct.aspx>

**Studying Effectively**<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively/home.aspx>

### DEFINITION OF AN ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Any activity or behaviour by a student which may give that student, or another student, an unpermitted academic advantage in a summative assessment is considered to be an act of academic misconduct and unacceptable in a scholarly community. Such action(s) will be considered under the University's Regulations on Academic Misconduct and this may lead to a penalty being imposed

### DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM

*The following definition of plagiarism appears in the University Quality Manual:*

Plagiarism: representing another person's work or ideas as one's own, for example by failing to follow convention in acknowledging sources, or the use of quotation marks. This includes the unauthorised use of one student's work by another student and the commissioning, purchase and submission of a piece of work, in part or whole, as the student's own.

Note: A proof-reader may be used to ensure that the meaning of the author is not misrepresented due to the quality and standard of English used, unless a School/Department policy specifically prohibits this. Where permitted, a proof-reader may identify spelling and basic grammar errors. Inaccuracies in academic content should not be corrected nor should the structure of the piece of work be changed; doing so may result in a charge of plagiarism.

**Work in any year of study which is not undertaken in an Examination Room** under the supervision of an invigilator (such as dissertations, essays, project work, experiments, observations, specimen collecting and other similar work), but which is nevertheless required work forming part of the degree, diploma or certificate assessment, must be the student's own and must not contain plagiarised material.

Possible **penalties** for an academic misconduct including plagiarism are:

- a) No marks to be awarded in relation to the specific material which is the subject of the act constituting an academic misconduct (thus leading to a reduced overall mark for the piece of coursework, dissertation, examination question or examination script in which the specific material appears)
- b) Award a mark of zero for the entire piece of coursework, dissertation, examination question or examination script in which the academic misconduct has occurred
- c) Award a mark of zero for the entire module in which the academic misconduct has occurred
- d) Award a mark of zero for all the assessments in the semester (even where this will lead to a reduction in degree class). In the case of year-long modules, this penalty may affect both semesters
- e) Award a mark of zero for the whole year (even where this will lead to a reduction in degree class)
- f) Require the student to take reassessments (as a result of being awarded zero marks) in the following session before being allowed to progress or complete their course
- g) require the student to register with the University and enrol on modules in which they need to take reassessments (as a result of being awarded zero marks) in the following session before being allowed to progress or complete their course
- h) Terminate the student's course
- i) Withdraw the award of a degree or other qualification from, and issue an amended transcript to, a former student of the University
- j) Full details of possible School and University penalties can be found at: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessment/academic-misconduct.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessment/academic-misconduct.aspx)



## Academic Misconduct

Any activity or behaviour by a student which may give that student, or another student, an unpermitted academic advantage in a summative assessment is considered to be an act of academic misconduct and unacceptable in a scholarly community. Such action(s) will be considered under the University's Regulations on Academic Misconduct and this may lead to a penalty being imposed.

Here is a range of cheating behaviours:

1. False citation (i.e. attributing work to the wrong source)
2. Plagiarism
3. Using unauthorised sources or notes in examinations or tests
4. Dishonestly obtaining material or information prior to examinations
5. Copying from other students
6. Permitting other students to copy your work
7. Soliciting work from others (e.g. individuals, 'editors' or essay banks etc)
8. Submitting your own previously assessed work without acknowledgement (auto plagiarism)

**Unauthorised Collaboration, or Collusion,** occurs where:

Collusion: cooperation in order to gain an unpermitted advantage. This may occur where students have consciously collaborated on a piece of work, in part or whole, and passed it off as their own individual efforts or where one student has authorised another to use their work, in part or whole, and to submit it as their own.

Note: Legitimate input from University tutors or approved readers or scribes is not considered to be collusion.

**Fabrication** may take various forms but is essentially concerned with manufacturing aspects of the work produced. For example, the insertion of made-up information, data, sources, quotes, anecdotes or analysis would all amount to fabrication

### **Recycling or unauthorised, multiple submissions.**

The multiple submission by a student of their own material is not, in itself, considered as academic misconduct. Submission of material that has been submitted on a previous occasion for a different summative assessment is, however, unlikely to be academically

appropriate. The merit of such material will therefore be a matter of academic judgement and it may attract fewer (or no) marks than would have been the case if it had not been assessed previously

#### **Note:**

**Plagiarism is regarded as a serious academic misconduct by the University and will be penalised accordingly. Plagiarism can be easily identified by entering suspect passages into search engines. Specialist search engines (e.g. Turnitin) are available to check all submitted work against previously published sources, including coursework submitted by students in the current or previous years. The School of Biosciences uses Turnitin to assist academic staff detect plagiarism; students are required to submit all coursework in electronic form to facilitate automatic on-line detection of plagiarism.**

**All BSc Research Projects must be submitted electronically to be checked by Turnitin along with the necessary hard copies (see Guidelines for BSc Research Projects).**

If a student is required to attend an Academic Misconduct interview within the School for any suspected academic misconduct his/her tutor will be informed of this, together with the Head of School (or nominee), module convenor (or nominee) and the School Manager for Academic Administration (or nominee).

### **GUIDANCE TO HELP YOU AVOID COMMITTING PLAGIARISM**

1. You are allowed to use information from other people's work provided you acknowledge the source. This can apply to a statement, Table or Figure. The best way of doing this for Tables and Figures is to add: "After Smith (1988)" or "Modified from Smith (1988)", and include the reference in your reference list.

2. If you are discussing something somebody else has said, you can say, for example: Smith (1987) claimed that coral reefs in the Pacific were damaged by high temperatures in 1975. Or: It has been claimed that high temperatures in 1975 damaged coral reefs in the Pacific (Smith, 1975).

3. It is rarely necessary to quote previous work directly and you should try to avoid doing this. If quotation is unavoidable, you should put the passage in quotation marks, e.g. Smith (1980) described the outcome of unprecedented high temperatures on coral reefs as: "A disaster for the marine communities in the coastal regions of the Indo-Pacific", and then stated that: "The phenomenon appears to be due to unprecedented high temperatures".

**For information on paraphrasing see 8 and 9 below.**

4. Authors should be cited in text either as: Smith (1975), Smith and Allen (1978), Allen (1987, 1989), or as (Smith, 1975; Smith and Allen, 1978; Allen 1987, 1989). Note that these are in chronological, not alphabetic order. When more than two authors are quoted, this should be in the form Allen *et al.* (1993) in the text, but the reference given in your reference list should contain the names of all the authors. Do not use numerically cited or ordered references.

5. In your "References" or "Literature cited" section, the following style (authors, date, title, journal, volume number, page numbers; called the "Harvard" style) should be used and references should be listed alphabetically.

Provided you are consistent, you may also use any other accepted style - see journals in the library - unless instructed otherwise by the member of staff setting the coursework.

**Smith, A. J. and Allen, N. B. (1986). Temperatures and coral reefs. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association* 86: 101-123.**

**Smith, A. J., Jones, K. L. and Allen, N. B. (1988). Death of corals due to high temperatures. *Thermal Biology* 27: 19-34.**

If the source is only available electronically or is being published "ahead of print", give the DOI number in your reference.

Some electronic journals do not use page number

6. For books, the following style (author, title underlined or in italics, publisher, place of publication) applies:

Allen, N. B. (1992). *Coral Reef Biology*. Blackwells, London.

7. For chapters in edited volumes, the following style (author, date, title of chapter, title of book underlined or in italics, editors, page numbers, publisher, place of publication) applies:

Smith, A. J. (1987). Temperature and bleaching in corals. In: *Coral Reef Biology* (N. B. Allen and C. K. Hodges, eds.), pp. 65-90. Clumber Press, New York.

8. **Paraphrasing**, i.e. verbatim or almost verbatim restatement of a passage is a form of plagiarism frequently used in essays and dissertations. The following is paraphrased from C.

H. Gordon, P. Simmons and G. Wynn (date unknown). *Plagiarism - What It Is And How To Avoid It*. University of British Columbia.

Students often ask "How much do I have to change a sentence to be sure I'm not plagiarising?" If you have to ask, you are probably about to commit plagiarism! There is no set number of words that you need to change or add to make a passage your own – the originality must come from the development and expression of your own ideas.

Original work demands original thought. You should try and separate your ideas from those of others. If you use another author's conclusions then acknowledge them. If you come to the same conclusions as another author you should still acknowledge them. Once a piece of work is complete, look at each part and ask yourself if the ideas expressed are entirely your own, and whether the general language or choice of words is your own. If the answer to either is "no" the work should be credited to the original author

## 9. Examples:

### 9.1 Original

From Smith (1992):

The author has found that corals respond to high temperatures by expelling their zooxanthellae. This causes them to go white, a phenomenon known as "bleaching." Such corals soon become covered in algae, which makes it difficult for new coral planulae to settle and start a new colony (Davies, 1980). The phenomenon of bleaching is similar to the effect of a crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) attack where the polyps are digested by enzymes secreted onto the colony surface (Brown, 1990). As Jones (1972) found, *A. planci* poses a severe threat to corals in the Indo-Pacific. The recent occurrence of high numbers of these starfish on reefs has been correlated to run-off from land which contains high levels of plant nutrients (Jones, 1986). The subsequent increase in the number of algae apparently enhances the survival of the filter-feeding larvae of the starfish.

**To include this text verbatim in your own work, *without* placing the entire paragraph in quotation marks and acknowledging Smith (1992) (see 3 above) would constitute plagiarism.**

### 9.2 Paraphrased version

Paraphrased from Smith (1992):

Smith (1992) has found that corals respond to high temperatures by expelling their zooxanthellae. This phenomenon, known as "bleaching", causes them to go white. Such corals quickly become covered in algae and this makes it difficult for new coral planulae to settle and begin developing a new colony (Davies, 1980). Bleaching is similar to the effect of a crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) attack. Brown (1990) note that this is where the polyps are digested by enzymes secreted onto the colony surface. Jones

(1972) found that *A. planci* may be a severe threat to corals in the Indo-Pacific. Recently high numbers of these starfish on reefs has been correlated to run-off from land with high levels of plant nutrients (Jones, 1986). The increase in the number of algae apparently enhances the survival of the filter-feeding larvae of the starfish.

**To include this text in your own work, even *with* the initial acknowledgment Smith (1992) would constitute plagiarism since it reads as if only the first sentence is taken from Smith, and the rest of the references (Davies, Brown and Jones) have been sourced and read by you and that the development and expression of the text is your own original work.**

### **9.3 Unacknowledged version (i.e. submitting this as if it were your own thoughts or work)**

The presence of high numbers of crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) on reefs has been connected to run-off from land containing high levels of plant nutrients. This causes an increase in the number of algae which results in better survival of the filter-feeding larvae of the starfish. The starfish kills corals by secreting digestive enzymes onto their surfaces. *A. planci* poses a severe threat to corals in the Indo-Pacific and their effect is similar to that caused by "bleaching", a phenomenon caused by high temperatures which results in zooxanthellae being expelled. Subsequently the dead corals become covered in algae which makes it difficult for a new colony to start.

**To include this text verbatim in your own work, would constitute plagiarism since there is no acknowledgment of Smith (1992).**

### **9.4 Acceptable version (based on information from Smith, reading the cited references yourself and drawing upon other work)**

Smith (1992) quoted Jones (1972, 1986) in suggesting that the crown-of-thorns starfish poses a threat to corals in the Indo-Pacific, and that their recent upsurge may be due to an increase in plant food levels caused by an input of nutrients from land. Brown (1990) found that these multi-armed starfish killed corals by evert their stomachs onto the coral colony surface and secreting an enzyme to digest the tissues externally. The resulting "bleaching" effect is similar to that which occurs when corals are exposed to high temperatures and the zooxanthellae are expelled (Smith, 1992). Davies (1980) found that the settlement of algae on the colony surface made it difficult for new coral larvae to settle and, although fish often grazed the algae continually, he found they could not keep these under control. Recent studies have shown that plagues of crown-of-thorns starfish may be a natural phenomenon, as the fossilised remains of previous outbreaks have been found in rocks millions of years old (Cromer, 1994).

**To present your work like this would not constitute plagiarism.**

Note that all the references and authors used in this document with the exception of Gordon *et al.* are fictitious.

**PLEASE CONSULT YOUR TUTOR IF YOU ARE STILL IN DOUBT ABOUT PLAGIARISM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Personal and Academic Record (PAR) is designed as a working document for you to carry with you throughout your course in Nottingham University Business School. Combined with the Personal Tutor System the PAR provides the main focus of the School's academic and personal support. Under the Campus Solutions system, PAR is maintained as Advisory Notes.

During each meeting the tutor will key in the details of your meetings with him/her in the system. The information is agreed on by both the tutee and tutor. The records are kept in the MyNottingham portal for your reference in future and it is confidential. Your Tutor will also monitor your development or tutoring activities online. This allows the tutor to have a reference on your achievement and will be able to write references that are more informative on your behalf.

Although the School and its staff will assist you, the principal responsibility for the maintenance and effective use of the PAR is yours. The onus is placed upon **you** to be responsible for ensuring that you take full advantage of the opportunities that are made available to empower yourself academically, personally and professionally.

The PAR is designed to be 'developmental' rather than 'judgmental' – although it is recognised that some judgements are a necessary part of your development. All the notes for your personal tutor meetings and your academic records will be stored online.

There may be occasions when you need to supply your Tutor or another member of staff with documentation of a confidential nature (e.g. medical evidence). This documentation should not be held in your PAR folder but given separately to the relevant member of staff for placing in your personal file in the School Office. However, a note should be made in your PAR indicating that such documentation has been lodged with the School.

Although the PAR system is similar in each year, the way that you make use of it will change over the duration of your course. Each year of a course is as important as any other.

- Your First Year is an important foundation for the rest of your course and especially for your Second Year. Many students comment on what appears to be a 'big step up' between the First Year and the Second Year.
- At the end of year one you should be thinking about your plans beyond the completion of the course and about how you want your career to progress and develop. This is especially important for informing your choice of Second and Third Year modules.
- By the Third Year you should be thinking in much greater detail about what happens after you have completed the course and graduated.
- Many of you will spend a period of time studying or working abroad. Your PAR should help you think about what this involves and reflect on what you have learned from the experience.

Your education and training does not stop when you graduate – continuing education is increasingly important and is recognised by most professions in the form of formal requirements for Continuing Professional Development.

## THE PAR SYSTEM

### AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The PAR focuses on two areas:

- **To encourage you to develop a greater awareness of yourself and your skills.**

The PAR will help you to identify your strengths and weaknesses (after all, we all have weaknesses). Using this information you can decide on which skills you need to develop, decide where you need to focus attention, where you would like to put more effort and where you need more help.

- **To help you review and reflect upon your progress on the course.**

The PAR will help you identify areas you see as particular strengths to be built on, and those which need further work. The PAR aims to help you reflect upon your progress at regular intervals and record self-evaluations in relation to your academic work, your leisure activities and general skills. These activities will help to improve your learning, focus your thinking about career options and build up an effective CV.

The PAR may also contribute to a tutor's references for you.

**The PAR also aims to provide you with support and guidance in the following areas:**

- Obtaining the knowledge and understanding that you will require in the future, appreciating the values and attitudes and skills necessary for your future career.
- Becoming more aware of your existing knowledge and skills and those you are developing.
- Enhancing your academic performance by clearly identifying how you could improve and where to get help.
- Developing the skills which employers are looking for.
- Becoming more self-aware by encouraging you to reflect and use feedback and personal review, in your academic studies. It is important for you to know how well you are doing; to learn to assess your own progress and gain confidence in your own judgements.
- Compiling a record of your progress throughout the course.

## THE ROLE OF THE PERSONAL TUTOR

### PERSONAL TUTORS

Your Personal Tutor plays the key role in the development of your PAR within the School. He/she is normally a member of academic staff who will also be involved in teaching you through lectures or tutorials at some point during your course. Your Personal Tutor is there to help you individually in terms of pastoral support, welfare and personal development. He/she will also advise you about your academic performance and choice of modules.

Personal Tutors will normally indicate the times at which they are available to see students; alternatively you can always contact them by email to arrange appointments. However, please remember that in an emergency you do not need to wait for office hours; contact your tutor as soon as you can.

### **The role and responsibilities of Personal Tutors are to:**

- Meet with you individually at least three times a year (once at the start of each semester and at the end of the spring semester).
- Review your academic progress and personal development and help you to identify successes and areas for future development.
- Support and guide you in the development of academic and professional skills, help you to identify strengths and weaknesses, and decide on appropriate activities to improve.
- Give you your examination marks/or other feedback on your performance and help you to reflect on it.
- Check on your well-being if any gaps in your attendance begin to give cause for concern.
- Act as the first point of contact for any guidance you may need in the event of any problems arising with regard to academic, organisational and personal issues.

### **Your Personal Tutor may also:**

- Prepare a reference for your job applications. References should, if possible, put your academic achievements into a broader context. Thus, details of your activities and achievements outside of the course (e.g. in sports or voluntary work) are very helpful for your tutor. The more they know about you, the more accurate a reference they can provide.
- Discuss other matters relating to your progress on the course.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your Personal Tutor will respect the confidential nature of any conversation which you ask to have so treated. If you feel more comfortable discussing particular issues with a member of staff of the same gender and are unable to identify an appropriate individual, the School Senior Tutor or Director of the School will be able to advise.

<b>YOUR ROLE</b>
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### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

You are the most important person in the development and maintenance of your PAR. Therefore, as a student, we expect you to:

- Maintain and develop your academic, personal and professional knowledge and skills and develop your PAR portfolio.
- Attend meetings arranged with your tutor.
- Be prepared for meetings by completing the relevant form where appropriate. These will be discussed, signed and kept in your MyNottingham record. A record of the meeting will be kept in your file.

### STUDENT ACTIONS

<b>SEMESTER ONE</b>	During 1 <sup>st</sup> three weeks of semester.	<p>Check notice board in the Faculty Office for name of assigned tutor.</p> <p>Attend 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled meeting of the year with your Personal Tutor. (Please arrange this with your Personal Tutor).</p>
<b>SEMESTER TWO</b>	During 1 <sup>st</sup> three weeks of semester.	<p>Attend 2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled meeting with your Personal Tutor. (Please arrange this with your Personal Tutor).</p> <p>At this meeting you will also receive feedback on coursework and/or examination performance.</p>
<b>END OF SESSION</b>	Shortly after Examinations Board and before you leave for the summer.	<p>Attend 3<sup>rd</sup> scheduled meeting with your Personal Tutor. (Please arrange this with your Personal Tutor).</p> <p>At this meeting you may also receive feedback on coursework and/or examination performance. If marks are not available at this point in time they will be posted on to you and can be discussed in your first meeting at the start of the Autumn Semester.</p>

**Please Note:**

- If you do not attend your meetings with your Personal Tutor you will not receive your marks or feedback on your examination performance. It will also be noted for record purposes that you chose not to attend.
- If you want to withdraw from the course you must contact your Personal Tutor
- Anyone needing to be absent for more than a week during term time, or leave before the official end of the summer term, must consult their Personal Tutor.
- You can request other meetings with your Personal Tutor at any time. In some circumstances, your tutor may wish to arrange an additional individual meeting with you. Normally your Tutor will have specified office hours and it is advisable to make an appointment in advance. However in urgent matters contact your Personal Tutor as soon as possible. In urgent cases you do not need to worry about appointments.
- Please note that you are not expected to disclose confidential or personal information unless you choose to do so.



This table sets out the goals that you should strive for as you progress through your degree. If you can achieve these you will be well prepared for the diverse opportunities that lie ahead

	<b>Qualifying year Year 1</b>	<b>Part I Year 2</b>	<b>Part II Year 3</b>
Learning experience	Establish a strong factual base Learn the basics of the scientific method and develop a questioning approach	Link knowledge from diverse sources and develop an ability to relate information Develop a critical and analytical approach to information	Develop the ability to handle complex information Evaluate information and synthesise ideas Develop a creative approach to problem solving
Skills acquired	Cope with varying lecture styles Make effective use of library and IT facilities Acquire basic laboratory skills	Consolidate information skills with extensive use of library and IT Enhance practical Skills Enhance presentation skills Organise study and manage time to meet deadlines Appreciate the importance and value of team work	Develop a mature approach to study Exhibit strong self-discipline and commitment Clearly articulate knowledge and understanding Respect the views of others and engage in reasoned argument
Developing independence	Learn to combine teacher-driven study with work based on individual initiative	Make independent use of library and other information resources Acquire experience in a range of learning styles	Take responsibility for self-learning Demonstrate individual style and flair Exhibit professionalism and ownership of subject

## ACADEMIC TUTORING IN THE SCHOOL OF BIOSCIENCES

Academic tutoring is the support which the school provides to students in addition to formal teaching. It is complementary to the University's central support services and pastoral care provision.

The objectives of Academic Tutoring are to:

Help you acquire the necessary study skills to pursue your studies successfully.

Address problems of lack of knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Address any problems with aspects of a module or your studies in general.

Provide you with an overview of your academic progress at module and programme level.

Assist you in making academic choices e.g. module enrolments, programme pathways.

Provide assessment feedback to help you improve your future performance.

Contribute to the acquisition of key employability skills.

Assist and encourage you to gain employment or continue your education after you graduate.

The School takes its responsibility for academic tutoring very seriously and provides the following to ensure that you are properly supported:

One-to-one meetings with your personal tutor for personal development, pastoral support and guidance (e.g. on module choices).

Meetings with course directors for module guidance, either informally or at module enrolment days.

Tutorials/seminars within modules comprising your degree programme.

Provision of specific credit-bearing academic tutoring and study skills modules D21BP1: Biosciences Tutorials (Academic Development) and also through skills embedded in other academic modules including project and dissertation modules.

Drop-in support sessions for mathematics and statistics.

Written feedback on assessments including;

- individual written or verbal feedback on coursework and mark allocation based on a transparent marking scheme,
- generic feedback one week after exam results,
- constructive comments provided by markers through individual appointments with module conveners
- students' evaluation forms collated from students' comments, available through Moodle.

Student led-seminars.

Peer support groups, including mentoring.

'Office hours' system for appointments with module coordinators/tutors. A flexible and comprehensive virtual learning environment (Moodle).

Links to central support services e.g. Academic Support, the Counselling Service and the Student Services Centre.

Assistance and guidance on academic administrative matters through the school office.

Encouragement to make use of central on-line study skills resources e.g. 'Study Skills' [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively](http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/mod/folder/view.php?id=461738)

Assistance with personal support or guidance from the School Senior Tutors.

### School of Biosciences Tutoring Statement

The full Biosciences tutoring statement can be found in appendix 8 and at <http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/mod/folder/view.php?id=461738>. Students are encouraged to read the statement.

## **Attendance and Engagement**

Students are required to attend all teaching activities necessary for the pursuit of their studies, undertake all associated assessments and attend meetings and other activities as required by their School or the University. In addition, International students are required to maintain at least 80% attendance average during their study, failure to do so may negatively impact their student visa approval process and ability to continue studying at UNM. Where required the University will report non-attendance to appropriate authorities including the immigration authorities.

Please see the [Quality Manual](#) for further details on attendance and engagement regulations at the University. It should be read in conjunction with UNM's [Supplementary Policy on Attendance](#), and the Attendance Monitoring Procedure at schools and departments. Please refer to the University's website for further information.

Where students face difficulty in attending sessions, teaching activities, meetings or other activities required for their studies, it is their responsibility to inform their faculty office and to provide a satisfactory explanation. Request for authorized absence should be done using the Absence Request form.

UNM has a system in place to monitor attendance during the academic year. A drop below the attendance requirements set out in the above policies may trigger a warning and/or an Attendance Intervention Meeting (A.I.M). It is important that students attend A.I.M's to discuss the reason(s) for absences. By not doing so, the School/Department will assume that there is no satisfactory explanation. Where student's absenteeism reaches to the point that it is not possible to continue with the course, the Student Registry Office will write to the student stating that they will be deemed to have withdrawn from the University and their student record will be amended to show that they have withdrawn.



## COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

Details of the University's Complaints and Appeals Procedure can be found at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academic-services/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/academic-appeals-policy-and-procedure.aspx>

The procedure regarding a complaint concerning your course is that in the first instance you should contact the lecturer concerned. If the matter cannot be resolved, the next points of contact would be:

Module Convenor

Course Director Head

of School

Student Year Representative (names are on the Learning Community Forum notice board together with the Module Convener)

Students are encouraged to involve their Personal Tutors at any stage, whether the matter of concern is of an academic or personal nature. Students also have the right to bring matters of concern before Learning Community Forum.

### **1. General policies and procedures**

Students are encouraged to participate in the industrial placement programme during the summer vacation after the second year of studies. Throughout the programme, students will have to complete a project under the supervision of an industry partner that lasts for at least twelve consecutive weeks in the same company or institution.

The onus of securing placement lies with the students themselves. To assist students in finding placements, the Faculty will issue identity-confirmation letters for all students to the participating companies or institutions.

Students are advised to start looking for placements during the second semester of their participating year. Upon securing the placement, an official employment letter from the participating company will be required. If a student fails to secure placement for industrial training, the School will assist.

### **2. International students**

International students may encounter difficulties securing placements in Malaysia due to possible work permit issues. In this case, students can pursue industrial training in their home country or any parts of the world, subject to School approval.

If you have any questions or want to find out more, you may contact **Dr Yin Sze Lim**, the **Director of Teaching and Learning**.

## STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

### Inter-Campus Exchange

Students who are studying at The University of Nottingham Malaysia campus can apply to study at our overseas campuses in China and the UK for a period of one semester or one academic year through the Inter-campus Exchange Programme.

To be eligible to apply to the programme:

- students must have completed at least one year of their degree study at the Malaysia Campus.
- students have to obtain a passing mark of minimum 55% average in year one to progress onto the exchange scheme. No students taking resits are permitted to progress onto the exchange scheme.
- students studying for an undergraduate degree programme which is also offered at either the China Campus or the UK Campus.

### Before you apply

Choosing to study abroad is a big decision, before you take the plunge, here are a few things you should do:

- Attend the exchange programme information session.
- Consider your exchange options, please refer to study abroad opportunities by school.
- Research the university/campus that you intend to go for exchange by finding out about courses offered, fees, English language requirements etc.
- Discuss with your parents/guardian about funding your study abroad.
- Consult your Director of Studies/personal tutor for module selection at the host university or any academic enquiries. It is applicant's responsibility to ensure that there are suitable modules for their degree programmes at the host university.

**For details of Study abroad opportunities please contact our International Office and for informal inquiries please contact Dr Susan Azam-Ali, Academic Exchange Officer, School of Biosciences.**

## CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

Dissemination of information is an on-going process during the academic year; this will come from both the School Office and academic staff. We use several ways to give out information.

- **Email** - Email is the normal means of communication to individuals or class groups; your tutor and module conveners will email regularly and it is also a good way for you to contact academic staff. However, this and other media should not detract from personal meetings, which are necessary for the communication of several matters including the conveyance and discussion of examination.
- **Moodle** - Moodle is the online learning environment across the University. The resource allows you to access lecture notes, find links to external learning resources, access self-test exercises and assessments, participate in online learning activities, submit assignments and collaborate on group projects. You can log in using your University username and password the day after you have completed your registration online and access to it at: <https://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/login/index.php>
- **The Student Portal** - The Portal is a central part of the University's communication system for staff and students. Make sure you have access to it at: <http://my.nottingham.ac.uk>

- **Social Media** - The University of Nottingham uses the latest technology to bring Nottingham to life and to ensure that you can experience and interact with the University community at any time, see: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect/nottinghamconnect.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect/nottinghamconnect.aspx)
- **Blue Castle website** - students can view their marks, progression status and final award information electronically at: <https://goo.gl/txm85c>

**It is your responsibility to check all these sources of communication on a frequent basis;**

## STUDENT/STAFF CONSULTATION

The courses you are taking have evolved over a number of years and incorporate many features arising from student feedback and evaluation. Each department has its own procedures for allowing students to participate in the evaluation and future development of courses.

Broadly, two channels exist:

- feedback questionnaires which enable you to comment on the content, style and objectives of modules; we urge you to take the time and effort to complete these so you and future students can play a role in improving our teaching
- the Learning Community Forum (LCF) consists of representatives of undergraduate students and teaching staff who discuss a wide range of academic and non-academic matters. Anyone who has comments, criticisms or suggestions that they wish to be discussed should contact one of the representatives, whose names will be found on the School notice board on the ground floor of Block B.
- The Student Association also elects student representatives to the School Board and other School committees. If you want to influence academic procedures in the School and University on behalf of your fellow students, you must join the Association first.

## OFFICE HOURS

The Faculty office hours policy, see below:

- Appointments for meetings with staff should be requested by students by email or in person (by phone or office notice board). Requests by email can be made at any time.
- *Staff should respond to such requests by email within two working days (both during term and outside term-time). Staff are not obliged to send their responses outside of normal working hours, nor during official University holidays, nor when on vacation.* They should put out-of-office messages on their emails during vacations and respond within two working days upon return.
- Following a request, appointments should be arranged with the student at a mutually convenient time, normally to be held within three working days of the request.
- Once an appointment has been made, both the staff member and the student are expected to honour the appointment. Should either be unable to attend they should email to cancel prior to the meeting.
- Staff have the option of restricting their availability to students to particular days or times of day (other than in emergencies). In this case, they will communicate their preferred availability to their tutees and to other students they see on a regular basis.



## **STUDENTS' ACCESS TO ACADEMIC STAFF POLICY**

Appointments for meetings with staff should be requested by students by email or in person (by phone or office notice board). Requests by email can be made at any time. Staff should respond to such requests by email within two working days (both during term and outside term-time). Staff are not obliged to send their responses outside of normal working hours, nor during official University holidays, nor when on vacation. They should put out-of-office messages on their emails during vacations and respond within two working days upon return.

Following a request, appointments should be arranged with the student at a mutually convenient time, normally to be held within three working days of the request.

Once an appointment has been made, both the staff member and the student are expected to honour the appointment. Should either be unable to attend they should email to cancel prior to the meeting.

Staff have the option of restricting their availability to students to particular days or times of day (other than in emergencies). In this case, they will communicate their preferred availability to their tutees and to other students they see on a regular basis.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCES**

The primary aim of the University of Nottingham is to sustain and improve the high quality of its provision as one of the leading research-led universities in the United Kingdom. It is also committed to providing a learning environment of the highest quality for students, in which first class teaching is underpinned by excellent research. The School of Biosciences endeavours to maintain these goals in the Biosciences, where relevant in collaboration with other schools, in the following ways:-

- by recruiting motivated students with a proven record of high level of learning; by providing a broad education across the discipline;
- enabling the development of an analytical and critical appreciation of scientific ideas and problem solving; providing a learning experience enriched by an active research environment;
- enabling the development of independent learning and skills for a wide range of careers within and outside the biological sciences;
- to ensure that students receive appropriate support and guidance in their academic development and career planning;
- to identify and support the academic and pastoral needs of individual students;
- to provide a flexible, effective and adequately resourced learning environment, and
  - to maintain and improve teaching and learning through effective management structures in line with the University Quality Manual.

As part of an ongoing process of improving quality, some of our teaching facilities have been recently refurbished and modernised. We look to our students to help us maintain these areas in good condition for the benefit of future generation.

## COURSEWORK AND EXAMINATION FEEDBACK

Feedback is provided in three main forms on i) assessed coursework, ii) examination performance and iii) general aspects of each module. In addition to individual marks given for assessed coursework in each module, you will receive an overall module mark and the end of each semester and a full set of module marks will be made available to you through Blue Castle ( <https://bluecastle.nottingham.ac.uk>) and MyNottingham ( <https://mynottingham.nottingham.ac.uk>). Your module marks are confidential and not shown to other students. Individual mark components (e.g. coursework marks) are also confidential; the only exception to this is when you receive a mark for a piece of 'group work' in which all members of your group receive the same mark. The sections below provide further details about feedback.

### Coursework Feedback

Coursework feedback is normally provided through written comments on your work. For many pieces of coursework, a cover sheet will be returned with your work to explain the mark received and give advice on how your work could be improved. For other pieces of non-examination assessed work, it may not be feasible to provide written comments on your work, for example, a group oral presentation; in such cases, feedback may be provided verbally or by email. Feedback for other assessed work e.g. laboratory practicals, may be provided in other ways as appropriate to the assignment set. Whilst the manner by which you receive coursework may vary depending on the type of coursework set, the purpose of the feedback is to provide a mark for the work together with constructive comments to help improve your performance in future assignments. If you wish to discuss your performance in any assessed work, you should contact the module convenor.

Module convenors will set a deadline by which you must submit coursework and a date when you can expect to receive feedback on your work. This information will be provided when the module convenor sets the piece of work. In normal circumstances, marked coursework and associated feedback should be returned to students within 21 days of the published submission deadline, i.e. students submitting work before the published deadline should not have an expectation that early submission will result in earlier return of work. See details \_ [www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicsservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/feedback-to-students.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicsservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/feedback-to-students.aspx)

### Examination Feedback

After each examination period, general examination feedback from each module will be posted on Moodle. This will include: i) feedback on examination questions where students' performance could be improved, ii) suggested strategies for improving performance in those questions and iii) general comments about examination technique. Students wishing to discuss their examination performance should contact the relevant module convenor(s)

## **General Feedback**

A copy of the Module Report Form, which is a summary of the discussion/feedback with students at the end of each module, can be found within a folder for the module in Moodle. This feedback sheet is used by module convenors to identify which areas of the module students felt worked well, and others that could be improved; in the latter case, the module convenor will make appropriate academic adjustments to the module for the following academic session. The areas of feedback covered by the module report form follow the headings detailed in the Module Report Form.

The University's Quality Manual provides information on good practice for feedback on assessed work and what you can expect to receive as a student at the University of Nottingham – see <http://goo.gl/DI1Gqo>

## STUDENT SERVICES/DEPARTMENTS

### UNDERGRADUATE ADMINISTRATION

All School undergraduate administration is organised by the Faculty Office (Block C). Any changes in personal details (change of address, home or local etc.) **must** be notified to the Office.

General enquiries and queries regarding registration for modules and examination are also dealt with by the Faculty Office.

Financial matters (grants, loans etc.) are the concern of the Finance Office - (Central Administration Building).

### LIBRARY

**Library Services** is responsible for managing information resources for learning, teaching and research and providing support on their use.

The core collection covers materials that meet the taught courses offered by the university with generous allocations in developing resources required for research purposes.

The library is proactive in developing a wide range of electronic resources and in promoting and guiding the use of information resources, including:

- ☐ subject-based reference enquiry
- ☐ services. internet gateway services.
- ☐ subject-focused academic support services.

See: <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/thelibrary/LibraryServices/index.aspx>

During Semester 1 you should attend an introductory lecture provided by the appropriate library followed up later with practical sessions or seminars designed to familiarise you with the resources of the library.

Learning these basic information retrieval skills is essential - you will need them for essays and projects throughout your course.

As you progress, more specialised studies are undertaken and you must become familiar with the experimental data published in various journals. Acquaintance with published research provides the foundation for most final year research projects. You should not forget to read the more popular scientific press such as New Scientist or Scientific American, as well as those appropriate to your discipline.

#### Circulation Desk

The Circulation Desk provides general support for the library needs of both staff and students.

**Location:** Level B, Block G, Library

**Direct Line:** +6 (03) 8924 8318 (within campus: Ext 8318)

**Email:** [libraryservices@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:libraryservices@nottingham.edu.my)

The Circulation Desk is staffed between 8:30am and 9pm, weekdays; and between 10am and 6pm, weekends. It is closed on public holidays.

## Reference Desk

The Reference Desk offers reference services and helps users locate answers to their questions and use a wide range of library resources in print and electronic formats.

**Direct Line:** +6 (03) 8924 8319 (within campus: Ext 8319)

**Email:** [ITServiceDesk@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:ITServiceDesk@nottingham.edu.my)

The Reference Desk is staffed between 11am and 3pm, on weekdays only.

## Library

Last entry to the library is 15 minutes before closing time. Please note that when the Customer Services Counter (including the self-service machine) is closed, no lending services and cash transactions may be carried out.

Days	Library	Customer Services Counter
<b>Semester</b>		
Monday - Friday	8.30 am - 11.00 pm	8.30 am - 8.45 pm
Saturday & Sunday	10.00 am - 6.00 pm	10.00 am - 5.45 pm
<b>Vacation</b>		
Monday - Friday	8.30 am - 7.00 pm	8.30 am - 6.45 pm
Saturday & Sunday	10.00 am - 6.00 pm	10.00 am - 5.45 pm
<b>Exam period (Semesters 1 &amp; 2)</b>		
Monday - Friday	8.30 am - 2.00 am	8.30 am - 9.45 pm
Saturday & Sunday	10.00 am - 12.00 am	10.00 am - 5.45 pm
<b>Public Holiday Closed</b>		

## Learning spaces

*Last entry to the Learning@The Core is 15 minutes before closing time. Please note that when the student adviser's desk is closed, no lending services may be carried out.*

Days	Learning@The Core	Learning@Foundation	Learning@Vetro
<b><u>Semester</u></b>			
Monday - Friday	10.00 am - 12.00 am	10.00 am - 6.00 pm	24 hours
Saturday & Sunday	10.00 am - 10.00 pm	Closed	24 hours
<b><u>Vacation</u></b>			
Monday - Friday	10.00 am - 10.00 pm	10.00 am - 6.00 pm	24 hours
Saturday & Sunday	10.00 am - 10.00 pm	Closed	24 hours

<b>Exam period (Semesters 1 &amp; 2)</b>			
Monday - Friday	10.00 am - 12.00 am	10.00 am - 6.00 pm	24 hours
Saturday & Sunday	10.00 am - 12.00 am	Closed	24 hours
<b>Public Holiday Closed</b>			

\* *Subject to change.*

### **IT Service Desk**

#### **Monday - Friday**

8.30 am - 7.00 pm

#### **Saturday & Sunday**

9.00 am - 5.30 pm

**Public Holiday Closed**

Additional information: <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/thelibrary/Using/index.aspx>

## **IT FACILITIES**

You should aim to enhance and develop your keyboard, word processing and information processing skills and apply them in the preparation of assessed essays and projects. Dissertations and other forms of assessed coursework must be presented in typed or computer-printed form. Poor presentation, spelling and grammar may be penalised by examiners; word processing software can make a contribution on all those fronts as well as greatly facilitating the editing process.

Members of staff marking coursework will point out errors in spelling, grammar, structure and reference citation. Note these carefully and use them to improve your writing skills. If you have particular difficulty, consult your Tutor - do not let a problem with language prejudice your performance.

Information Services (IS) maintains networked PC user areas (Computer Rooms) which are used for teaching, computer-assisted learning, statistical analysis, modelling and general IT applications at all campuses. IS manages the computing service and provides full printout facilities. You will be given an introduction to this system and the facilities during the first week of Semester 1.

See: <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/thelibrary/Using/index.aspx>

Once you have registered with the University you will be given a username and password. Undergraduate usernames give access to electronic mail, the Internet and connection to remote information services. The campus is wireless in all buildings and outside seating area. Feel free to make as much use of the system as you wish, within the limits of the user agreement. E-mail is the preferred and main method of communicating with your tutor, staff and other students.

Students' email address are in the form of [username]@ [nottingham.edu.my](mailto:username@nottingham.edu.my) and has a restricted quota. Staff emails are in the form of [firstname].[lastname]@ [nottingham.edu.my](mailto:firstname.lastname@nottingham.edu.my).

Secured and encrypted email access via the web is available for both staff and students.

Scanning is done via printers in and around the Library. All printers are capable of printing in colour. The main entrance to the Library is on the ground floor at the front of the building.

### **IT Helpline**

We can be contacted as follows:

**Location:** Level B, Block F2 (Central Teaching)

**Direct Line:** +6 (03) 8924 8199 (within campus: Ext 8199)

**E-mail:** [ITServiceDesk@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:ITServiceDesk@nottingham.edu.my)

IT Support is staffed between 8.30am and 7:00pm on weekdays; and between 9.00am and 5.30pm on weekends. It is closed on public holidays.

### **Opening hours of Computer Rooms and Computer Laboratories**

See: <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/thelibrary/Opening-Hours/index.aspx#Library>

## **The Portal and the Virtual Learning Environment**

The staff and student portal enables you to discover what's happening at the University and access a range of personalised tools and information.

On the other hand, Workspace is an online collaborative portal that allows Nottingham University staff and students from *all three campuses* (i.e. UK, Malaysia and China) to share information, news and documents.

**The portal** is accessible at <http://my.nottingham.ac.uk> and personalised login is via University username and password. You will find the following in the portal:

- Course Materials
- Library & Reading Lists
- Transcript
- Financial Information
- Services & Support

**The University supports the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** through [Moodle](#) which can be used:

- to place lecture notes online, along with supporting tools such as a linked glossary, contents page, and search tool
- as a gateway to topic-related external websites for research purposes
- for self-test exercises and assessment purposes
- to facilitate collaborative group projects, in which students communicate with each other electronically and place their own work online
- to create a fully integrated distance-learning course

These environments not only enable the lecturer to upload his or her own learning material, but also provide tools such as bulletin boards and online quizzes. Only students registered and enrolled on the module will be able to access your uploaded materials.

VLEs allow a student's progress to be tracked, and therefore enable you to trace which pages the student has visited and when. This facility can make it possible to pinpoint potential problems at an early stage.

### Services for students who have a disability, dyslexia and/or a long-term medical condition

At the University of Nottingham we are strongly committed to equality of opportunity for all our students. We welcome disabled and dyslexic students and aim to ensure that, as far as possible, appropriate support is offered to meet your needs.

Full information on the range of support and services available for students is available at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services)

### Disclosure and confidentiality

We will respect the confidential nature of information you provide and act in accordance with data protection regulations. Confidential information will only be shared within the University on a need-to-know basis.

If you have a disability, dyslexia or other Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs), we would strongly encourage you to make early contact with us.

Knowing about your requirements in advance can help us to prepare and arrange support in time for the start of your course.

We would therefore encourage you to disclose your disability or SpLDs to us as soon as possible. Failure to do so may affect our ability to make some of the adjustments that you require.

For more information about confidentiality and disclosure, please see: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services/support-for-your-studies/disability-support/student-disclosure-and-confidentiality-policy.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services/support-for-your-studies/disability-support/student-disclosure-and-confidentiality-policy.aspx)

### Eligibility

If you are disabled or have a long term medical condition, you will need to provide evidence from a medical professional (such as a GP, consultant or specialist nurse) in order to access our services and support. For more information about our medical evidence policy, please see: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services/support-for-your-studies/disability-support/medical-evidence-policy.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services/support-for-your-studies/disability-support/medical-evidence-policy.aspx)

If you are dyslexic, you will need to provide a report, in English, from an educational psychologist or a specialist teacher, dated after your 16th birthday. If you have dyspraxia or AD(H)D, or other Specific Learning Difficulties you will need to have a letter or report from a suitable, qualified professional; for example an educational or occupational psychologist or medical practitioner.



## **What we can offer you...**

### **Wellbeing and Learning Support**

Wellbeing and Learning Support Services is located at Room HB22, Block H Datuk Sir Colin Campbell Student Association Building opposite to the Health Centre on the first floor.

We can assist with queries regarding:

- Support in making the transition to University
- Liaison with your School or department about any impact your condition may have on the study elements of your course
- recommendations to academic staff for reasonable adjustments in teaching
- recommendations and referral for adjustments to examinations and assessment
- access to alternative formats such as Braille and large print
- residential accommodation – adapted study bedrooms
- accessible transport around and between campuses
- applying for Disabled Students' Allowances

Academic Support also provides support for students who wish to develop their strategies for academic writing and time management.

If you have any queries about the support provided at Nottingham, your first contact is Wellbeing and Learning Support Services at 03-8924 8060 or by email at [disabilities@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:disabilities@nottingham.edu.my)

### **Disability Liaison Officers (DLO)**

The School appoints Disability Liaison Officers, who provide a point of reference, advice and guidance for members of staff and students in the School about student disability issues and support. The DLOs are part of a network that meets regularly to share information and good practice. DLOs liaise with both the Academic Support and the Disability Support Teams, as necessary, in relation to individual students and general policies and procedures.

If you have any requirements or concerns talk in the first instance to your DLO - or contact your personal tutor.

### **School Disability Liaison Officer (DLO)**

The DLO for the School of Biosciences is Professor Festo Massawe (Tel: 03-89248228, email: [Festo.massawe@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:Festo.massawe@nottingham.edu.my)).

### Careers and Employability Service

Many first year students think it is too early for them to start thinking about their future career, but in our experience it is never too early. By making the most of your time at university you can develop skills and build experiences that will be of interest to your future employers.

You could:

- join a **society** or **sports team**
- complete an **Advantage Award** module
- find a part-time job

For more information about the Advantage Award, or other ways to make the most of university life you can visit our webpage <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/Careers/index.aspx> or speak to a member of the careers team.

Whether you have one or several career ideas or none at all, it is a good idea to start researching possible career options. There are a number of ways the Careers and Employability Service can help you to do this:

- **Speak to a Careers Adviser.** You can book a one-to-one appointment to discuss your career ideas or questions at Centre for Career Development.
- **Meet employers on campus.** Throughout term time there will be a range of different employers visiting UNMC. While you're in your first year you can attend these events to find out about different industries and companies, which will help you with your career planning.
- **Attend a workshop.** There are a series of workshops held at UNMC These are free for you to attend and could help you with career ideas, making successful applications or developing job hunting strategies.
- **CV Reviews.** Whether applying for work experience, a summer internship or a part-time job you can have your own CV reviewed at Centre for Career Development.

The Careers Advisory Service is located at Room HB18 & HB18f, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Block H Student Association Building.

For further information, consult your Personal Tutor, or the Careers Adviser at [Careers@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:Careers@nottingham.edu.my); Tel: +603 8924 8000

## COUNSELLING SERVICE

The University Counselling Service is a free confidential service available to students and staff. It is registered with the Malaysian Board of Counsellors.

Counselling offers an opportunity to talk in confidence about problems that concern you. It may also be known as psychotherapy, therapeutic counselling or psychological counselling. Some of the issues brought to the service include anxiety, depression, family concerns, bereavement, difficulty in adjusting to a new way of life, work and study related problems, family issues, relationship issues, aggressive and violent behaviour, suicidal tendencies, sexual abuse etc.

There are numerous articles that provide information on what is counselling and the kind of services that can be expected from your counsellor on this site. Please visit us at <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/Wellbeing/Counselling/UniversityCounsellingService.aspx> for some excellent materials on various common issues. However these are only reading materials for information. The website also provides information on the kind of services we offer.

If you are in need of help, you may want to think of discussing your issue with someone who is trained. By talking through your problems or concerns with a counsellor, you may deepen your understanding of what is happening and develop alternative ways of dealing with your situation or concern.

The University Counselling Service is confidential. This means that we do not disclose verbal or written information without your permission or agreement. In rare cases, disclosure may occur without your consent if there is good reason to believe that you or others are at risk.

The Counselling Service complies with the Data Protection Act of 1998. Brief hand written notes are kept in a secure place only within the Counselling Service.

The university is concerned about the wellbeing of our students and staff. All our counsellors are very experienced and trained in their professionalism. They receive regular supervision and are constantly monitored for quality of service. There is even a mental health counsellor whose main responsibility is in providing mental health service to concerned students and staff.

Please contact us via E-mail: [WellbeingandLearning@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:WellbeingandLearning@nottingham.edu.my) or Tel: 03-8924 8060. We are located at the Datuk Sir Colin Campbell Student Association Building (Block H), opposite to the University Health Centre.

## HEALTH, SAFETY & SECURITY

The research buildings are open to students from 09:30am until 18:00pm, Monday to Friday, except public holidays and University holidays. If for any reason you have to be in the building outside of these times, you must be supervised by an academic member of staff.

There are lifts available in all teaching buildings for use by disabled students. The other use of the lifts is for movement of goods, and should not be used for other purposes.

### Fire

- In the event of fire in the building the alarm will sound continuously. In the event of this the lecturer in charge of your class will organise evacuation of the building to the relevant assembly point. Fire exits are clearly sign-posted. Re-entry into the building after a fire alarm is given by the Fire Monitor.

### Safety

- Safety in the building, especially in the Laboratories is paramount. See further reference to this matter under 'Practical Classes'
- Practical classes are continuously supervised by an academic member of staff with the support of demonstrators and occasionally technicians. You should not enter a laboratory until a member of staff arrives.
- Suitable protective clothing must be worn for laboratory classes. (see 'Faculty of Science Safety Handbook').
- Defined procedures must be followed for the disposal of certain types of laboratory waste, such as syringes and syringe needles, broken glass, organic solvents and microbial cultures. Instruction on the correct disposal of these and other items will be given in practical classes.

### Accidents and First Aid

- For minor injuries, first aid boxes are available in all laboratories and certain offices. In such situations it is likely you can deal with such injury yourself.
- Where an injury is more serious a qualified 'First Aider' should be called. Names of First Aiders are listed on the School's notice board.
- If a 'First Aider' is not available or if further treatment is required, you will be taken to the Health Centre.
- All accidents, whatever their severity, must be reported on an accident report form available on Sharepoint

### Food and Drinks

- On no account should food and/or drink be taken into a laboratory, lecture theatre or computing rooms.

For more in-depth safety information, please refer to the Faculty of Science and Engineering Safety Handbook on Sharepoint.

## APPENDICES

- A1 Qualitative Assessment Criteria - General Guidelines for Examinations
- A2 Qualitative Assessment Criteria - General Guidelines for Essays & Reports
- A3 Qualitative Assessment Criteria - General Guidelines for Posters
- A4 Qualitative Assessment Criteria - General Guidelines for Oral Presentations
- A5 Marking at Different Levels within Degree Programmes
- A6 Policy for Consistency in Negative Marking on MCQs across the School
- A7 Policy on Dyslexia
- A8 Information for students with a disability
- A9 Extenuating Circumstances Form

## Appendix 1

CLASS	%	QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATIONS
First <b>A1</b> <b>A2</b> <b>A3</b> <b>A4</b>	100 90 80 73	a. Deep understanding of subject; carefully balanced arguments clearly presented; all material highly relevant to the question. b. Considerable and effective use of literature information, beyond that supplied as taught material. c. Clear evidence of critical thinking, originality and novelty d. Excellent structure and good use of illustrative diagrams etc.; evidence of originality/novelty in presentation.
Upper Second <b>B1</b> <b>B2</b> <b>B3</b>	68 65 62	a. Sound grasp of subject material; presentation of logical arguments relevant to the question. b. Reasonable evidence of wider study beyond lecture material. c. Well organised answer; appropriate use of illustrative diagrams; clear presentation.
Lower Second <b>C1</b> <b>C2</b> <b>C3</b>	58 55 52	a. Reasonable understanding of subject material, but some flaws in the logic of arguments and factual errors; possibly some irrelevant material. b. Only limited evidence of wider study and use of literature information. c. Little evidence of independent thinking or originality. d. Fairly clear presentation; generally conforming with accepted format but with some flaws in style;
Third <b>D1</b> <b>D2</b> <b>D3</b>	48 45 42	a. Limited understanding of subject; numerous flaws in the logic of arguments; considerable factual errors and/or irrelevant material. b. Virtually no inclusion of literature information beyond lecture material. c. Virtually no evidence of independent thinking or originality. d. Little attention given to structure; very limited use of illustrative diagrams; serious flaws in presentation.
Soft Fail <b>E</b>	35	Minimal understanding of subject; serious factual errors; general lack of any logical arguments; considerable amount of irrelevant material. b. Virtually no inclusion of literature information. c. No evidence of independent thinking or originality. d. Very poorly structured answer; disorganised and untidy; missing sections; virtually no use of illustrative diagrams.
Fail <b>F1</b>	25	Insubstantial answer; very poor coverage of material with little information that is relevant. Virtually no evidence of understanding the question and minimal attempt at
Fail <b>F2</b>	10	A few lines of relevant material
Fail <b>F3</b>	0	No relevant material

- Only broad classes (A,B, C, D and E) have qualitative criteria attached; the division into (e.g.) C1, C2, C3 etc. is at the discretion of the examiner.
- The qualitative criteria include consideration of :
  - Student's knowledge of subject; depth, relevance and quality of answer.
  - Evidence of reading / study beyond regurgitation of standard taught material.
  - Independent or critical thinking / originality etc.
  - The quality of presentation - structure of answer, the use of sections; diagrams etc., general neatness etc.

## Appendix 2

CLASS	%	QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ESSAYS & REPORTS
First <b>A1</b> <b>A2</b> <b>A3</b> <b>A4</b>	10 90 80 73	a. Excellent report structure with professional presentation of figures, tables, diagrams, references etc.; evidence of originality/novelty in presentation. b. Deep understanding of subject; all arguments carefully developed and clearly expounded. c. Considerable and effective use of literature information, beyond that supplied as taught material. d. Clear evidence of critical thinking, originality and novelty.
Upper Second <b>B1</b> <b>B2</b> <b>B3</b>	68 65 62	a. Well organised report; appropriate choice of illustrative figures, tables, diagrams etc.; clearly presented throughout. b. Sound grasp of subject material; generally logical arguments. c. Reasonable evidence of wider study beyond lecture material. d. Some evidence of independent thinking and originality.
Lower Second <b>C1</b> <b>C2</b> <b>C3</b>	58 55 52	a. Generally clear report conforming with accepted format but with some errors in style and/or omissions in presentation of illustrative figures. b. Reasonable understanding of subject material, but some flaws in the logic of arguments and factual errors. c. Only limited evidence of wider study and use of literature information. d. Very little evidence of independent thinking or originality.
Third <b>D1</b> <b>D2</b> <b>D3</b>	48 45 42	a. Little attention given to report structure; limited use of illustrative figures, tables etc.; serious flaws in presentation. b. Limited understanding of subject; considerable factual errors demonstrated. c. Virtually no inclusion of literature information beyond lecture material. d. Virtually no evidence of independent thinking or originality.
Soft Fail <b>E</b>	35	a. Very poorly structured; disorganised; missing sections; minimal presentation of supporting data, figures etc. b. Minimal understanding of subject; serious factual errors; general lack of any logical arguments. c. Virtually no inclusion of literature information. d. No evidence of independent thinking or originality.
Fail <b>F1</b>	25	Very poor coverage of material with little information that is relevant. Virtually no evidence of understanding the question; minimal attempt to provide a structured answer.
Fail <b>F2</b>	10	A few lines of relevant material
Fail <b>F3</b>	0	No relevant material

- Only broad classes (A,B,C,D and E) have qualitative criteria attached; the division into (e.g.) C1, C2, C3 etc. is at the discretion of the examiner.
- The qualitative criteria include consideration of :
  - The quality of the report/essay etc. - the use of sections; diagrams; figures etc.; citation of references; general neatness etc.
  - Student's knowledge of subject; depth and quality of answer.
  - Evidence of reading / study beyond regurgitation of standard taught material.
  - Independent or critical thinking / originality etc.

## Appendix 3

CLASS	%	QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR POSTERS
First <b>A1</b> <b>A2</b> <b>A3</b> <b>A4</b>	100 90 80 73	a. Excellent use of headings, text appropriate size, figures and diagrams clear and well-labelled, very easy to follow progression of poster theme. b. Visually very attractive and creative. c. Factually very accurate and informative with clear evidence of extensive knowledge of published literature. d. All relevant aspects of own data presented, where inclusion is appropriate.
Upper Second <b>B1</b> <b>B2</b> <b>B3</b>	68 65 62	a. Good use of headings, text of appropriate size, some loss of figure clarity or slight errors in labelling, easy to follow progression of poster theme. b. Visually quite attractive and creative. c. Factually accurate and informative with some evidence of knowledge of published literature. d. Most relevant aspects of own data presented, where inclusion is appropriate
Lower Second <b>C1</b> <b>C2</b> <b>C3</b>	58 55 52	a. Adequate use of headings, text a little too small, figures not clear and inadequately labelled, more difficult to follow progression of poster theme. b. Visually unstimulating. c. Some factual inaccuracies with only limited evidence of knowledge of published literature. d. Several aspects of own data omitted, where inclusion is appropriate.
Third <b>D1</b> <b>D2</b> <b>D3</b>	48 45 42	a. Very poor use of headings, text too small or hand-written, figures unclear and unlabelled, no obvious progression of poster theme. b. Visually unattractive and dull. c. Many factual inaccuracies with very limited evidence of knowledge of published literature. d. Most of own data omitted, where inclusion is appropriate.
Soft Fail <b>E</b>	35	a. No headings used and poster somewhat disorganised. b. Visually unattractive and dull. c. Inaccurate with virtually no evidence of knowledge of published literature. d. None of own data included.
Fail <b>F1</b>	25	a. No headings used and poster very disorganised and difficult to understand. b. Visually very unattractive and dull. c. Inaccurate with no evidence of knowledge of published literature. d. None of own data included.
Fail <b>F2</b>	10	A few lines of relevant material presented
Fail <b>F3</b>	0	No poster presented

- Only broad classes (A,B,C,D and E) have qualitative criteria attached; the division into (e.g.) C1, C2, C3 etc. is at the discretion of the examiner.
- The qualitative criteria include consideration of :
  - Structure and organisation of the poster.
  - Visual impact and attractiveness.
  - Accuracy and completeness of the content.
  - Where appropriate, inclusion of students' own experimental data



## Appendix 4

CLASS	%	QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS
First <b>A1</b> <b>A2</b> <b>A3</b> <b>A4</b>	100 90 80 73	a. Clearly audible, well-paced presentation delivered without obviously reading from notes the time allocated. Addressed to the audience. b. Very well-planned with a clear logical structure focused on the topic being presented. Excellent introduction and summary. c. Excellent use of visual aids which are easy to read and understand. Main points of slides clearly explained. d. Content of presentation very well-researched with relevant data where Response to questions asked indicates thorough understanding.
Upper Second <b>B1</b> <b>B2</b> <b>B3</b>	68 65 62	a. Clearly audible, well-paced presentation delivered with some reading from notes in the time allocated. Mainly addressed to the audience. b. Quite well-planned with logical structure focused on topic being presented. Good introduction and summary. c. Good use of visual aids which are quite clear to read and understand. Good attempt to explain main points of slides. d. Content of presentation quite well-researched with relevant data where appropriate. Response to questions asked indicates good understanding.
Lower Second <b>C1</b> <b>C2</b> <b>C3</b>	58 55 52	a. Audible presentation which may be too fast or too slow. Tendency to read from notes and to address floor or ceiling. May be outside time allocated b. Some flaws in structure and not always focused on the topic being presented. Weak introduction and summary. c. Adequate use of visual aids which are not always easy to read and understand. Little attempt to explain main points of slides. d. Some omissions in literature research and little relevant data presented. Response to questions asked indicates incomplete understanding.
Third <b>D1</b> <b>D2</b> <b>D3</b>	48 45 42	a. Difficult to hear. Too fast or too slow. Read from notes and little attempt to address the audience. Outside allocated time. b. Poorly-structured, rambling presentation which strays from topic being presented. Very weak introduction or summary. c. Poor visual aids which are difficult to read and understand. Poor explanation of main points of slides. d. Little evidence of literature research and no data presented. Response to questions indicates
Soft Fail <b>E</b>	35	Mumbled, halting presentation. Much too fast or too slow. No attempt to address a. audience and well outside allocated time. b. No discernible structure to presentation with some relevant material. No introduction or summary. c. Very poor visual aids. No explanation of main points of slides. d. Poor literature research and no data presented. Response to questions shows serious weakness in understanding.
Fail <b>F1</b>	25	Extremely difficult to hear presentation and well outside allocated time. a. b. No discernible structure and very little relevant material. No introduction or summary. c. No visual aids used. d. Little evidence of research. Response to questions shows minimal understanding.
Fail <b>F2</b>	10	Very minimal attempt to give a presentation.
Fail <b>F3</b>	0	Failed to give a presentation.

- Only broad classes (A,B,C,D and E) have qualitative criteria attached; the division into (e.g.) C1, C2, C3 etc. is at the discretion of the examiner.
- The qualitative criteria include consideration of :
  - Presentation of talk; audibility, speed, use of notes, addressed to audience, time keeping.
  - Organisation of talk; logical coherent progression with introduction and summary.
  - Use of visual aids; clarity and explanation of salient points.
  - Research and response to questioning; evidence of extensive reading, presentation of own data (where relevant), evidence of wider understanding

## Appendix 5

### School of Biosciences Qualitative Marking Schemes Supplementary Guidelines

#### Marking at Different Levels Within Degree Programmes

The School's qualitative marking schemes provide general guidance for assessment of various types of work. However, in applying these schemes to individual assessments, account must be taken of the level at which students are working. The criteria outlined below provide general guidance, and not all criteria will be applicable to all forms of assessment.

#### Academic Levels

<b>Level 1</b>	Certificate level, generally qualifying year students
<b>Level 2</b>	Diploma level, generally taken by year 2 students
<b>Level 3</b>	Degree level, generally taken by year 3 students
<b>Level 4</b>	Masters levels, generally taken by post-graduate or year 4 undergraduate students

#### Major considerations

##### Mark Class A

**Level 1:** Draws on available evidence to make sound conclusions supported from a range of sources.

**Level 2:** There is evidence of further reading and careful analysis offering alternative views.

**Level 3:** There is critical analysis offering alternative views. There is clear expression of own views, which are supported by appropriate literature. Draws on available evidence to make persuasive conclusions.

**Level 4:** Detailed, orderly and critical work with clearly specified focus/foci exhibiting rigorous analysis, synthesis and evaluation. There must be evidence that the student has developed their own arguments.

##### Mark Class B

**Level 1:** Content is accurate and relevant with appropriate use of supporting material.

**Level 2:** There is sound analysis with good expression and argument with evidence of independent thinking supported by appropriate material

**Level 3:** There is sound critical analysis. Alternative views are expressed using supporting evidence from a variety of sources.

**Level 4:** Evidence of originality and significant critical analysis. There is evidence of integration of material from a variety of sources

##### Mark Class C

**Level 1:** Content is largely accurate and relevant with some evidence of understanding.

**Level 2:** There is adequate analysis with limited evidence of wider study.

**Level 3:** There is reasonable understanding, with some attempt at analysis and limited use of supporting material.

**Level 4:** There is reasonable understanding and analysis supported by a range of relevant evidence.

**Mark Class D**

**Level 1:** Some relevant content but with evidence of only very limited understanding.

**Level 2:** Some relevant content with limited understanding but little evidence of wider study.

**Level 3:** Basic understanding with limited evidence of wider study.

**Level 4:** Basic understanding with limited evidence of understanding and some attempt at analysis.

**Mark Classes E/F**

**All levels:** Work does not demonstrate above criteria and reference should be made the qualitative criteria in deciding final mark.

Modules offered at levels A-C are considered intermediate between Levels 1-2, 2-3 and 3-4 respectively

## Appendix 6

### The University of Nottingham - School of Biosciences

## Policy for Consistency in Negative Marking on MCQs across the School of Biosciences

### Rationale

A number of modules are assessed by multiple choice questions (MCQs). Consistency in negative marking on MCQs is required across the School to ensure equity of treatment for all students undertaking MCQ examinations.

### Proposals

- ☐ Adopt a consistent negative marking scheme across the School.
- ☐ That any negative marking schemes should result in a student achieving a mark of zero for guessing at all questions.

### Policy 1

The following is adopted for MCQ papers where there are a number of possible correct options (e.g. A, B, C, D) and the options exclude a "don't know" answer.

### Marks for incorrect answer

where  $n$  is the number of possible options (A, B, C etc) and there is only one correct answer per question

**Example of Policy 1**  $n=4$ , thus negative marks on incorrect answers =  $-1/3$

Question No.	A	B	C	D
1	1	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$
2	$-(1/3)$	1	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$
3	$-(1/3)$	1	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$
4	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	1	$-(1/3)$
5	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	1	$-(1/3)$
6	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	1
7	1	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$
8	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	1
9	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	1	$-(1/3)$
10	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	1
11	1	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$
12	$-(1/3)$	1	$-(1/3)$	$-(1/3)$
Sum	0	0	0	0

Thus guessing all As etc provides a zero sum game: *Note that the above table is an example only and in real examinations the spread of correct answers may not be split evenly across the possible options.*

## Policy 2

The following is adopted for MCQ papers where there are the following three options (True, False and Don't Know).

- ☐ Where the correct answer is selected a mark of +1 will be achieved.
- ☐ Where the incorrect answer is selected a mark of -1 will be achieved.
- ☐ Where the "don't know" option is selected a mark of 0 will be achieved and will have the same effect as the student electing to not answer the question.

**Therefore marks for incorrect answer = -1**

### Example of Policy 2

Question No.	True	False	Don't Know
1	1	-1	0
2	-1	1	0
3	-1	1	0
4	1	-1	0
5	1	-1	0
6	-1	1	0
<b>Sum</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Thus guessing all "True" provides a zero sum game. *Note that the above table is an example only and in real examinations the spread of correct answers may not be split evenly across the possible options.*

Revised 2/4/2004

## A strategy for answering Multiple Choice Questionnaires

The School of Biosciences uses MCQs alongside other forms of assessment. They are useful for finding out how much you know. They also help you to find out how well you are doing. This guidance sheet will help you to get the best results in MCQ tests and examinations.

### Why MCQs?

We use MCQs for summative assessment (to measure performance and give you a mark), and for formative assessment (to encourage you to keep up with your studies and identify strengths and weaknesses). MCQs are often used for mid-course tests and end of course exams. Unlike written exams, they can assess the breadth of module content.

MCQs require factual answers and don't allow you to express ideas freely. Questions are designed to be unambiguous with a single correct response. They are marked electronically and marks are awarded *objectively*. In contrast, essay-type exam questions are marked *subjectively* according to the question setter's expectation and the marker's interpretation.

MCQs usually test your knowledge rather than your understanding (although they can do this too). Sometimes they test your ability to work things out. You may find that the answers prompt you to reveal what you know, even if you can't remember everything. Some students find MCQs straightforward while others find them problematical. Of course, the same is true for other forms of assessment which is why we use a combination of approaches.

### Why negative marking?

Policy in the School of Biosciences is that MCQs are negatively marked. This means that incorrect answers attract a minus score. We use negative marking for two main reasons. Firstly, if we didn't, it would be possible to get a proportion of marks by random guessing. Secondly, we want you to try to give answers with confidence and to develop clarity and focus in the way you approach your studies. The amount deducted for a wrong answer is calculated using the following formula:

Deduction =  $1/(n-1)$ , where n is the number of possible answers

Not answering, or choosing "Don't know", always scores 0. An answer paper with a total score of  $<0$  is given a mark of zero.

Many people find negative marking discouraging, especially if they are not sure whether to guess or not. To get the best marks it helps to understand the structure of an MCQ test and to know how to maximise your chance of finding the right answers.

### MCQ structure and types of question

MCQ tests come in two main flavours:

- a) True/False/Don't know (called TFD)
- b) Answer 1 from 5 (called AtoE) [Other ratios, such as 1 from 4, are occasionally used]

In either case, the questions may be independent of one another or grouped. Grouped questions sometimes relate to a preceding statement and so are really arranged in subsets.

A question in a TFD test provides a substantive statement (positive or negative) and asks you to judge its truthfulness.

Questions in an AtoE test take a wider variety of forms. Common types are

- 1) Interrogative: a question starting with *What*, *Why*, *Where* etc and offering five possible answers;
- 2) Substantive: an incomplete positive or negative statement with five possible endings;
- 3) Imperative: an instruction to follow (starting with *State*, *Calculate*, *List* etc) and offering five possible results or outcomes.

Sometimes, questions are more complex: the question itself is preceded by a numbered list of items or statements and you are asked to select the correct combination. The possibilities will often include "All of the above" or "None of the above". These types of questions require particular care and a clear, logical approach.

Although MCQ question are carefully designed, few statements in biosciences are completely true or false or free of possible exceptions. Equally, question setters are human and fallible. You are expected to interpret each question in the most obvious/straightforward sense and answer accordingly. The context for the question will have been set by the module and your answers should reflect its level and content. Questions are not designed to mislead you. Neither should you try to outwit the setter with your answers. Written comments on answer papers are ignored and may cause your paper to be rejected during marking.

## What's the best approach?

You can maximise your score in an MCQ test if you take the right approach. Negative marking discourages reckless guesswork but you can turn it to advantage with a wise strategy. The effect of negative marking is different for TFD and AtoE, so they need different strategies. Use the following seven steps to maximise your test score:

Before the test	
1. Find out if the test is TFD or AtoE, how many questions there will be and how long it lasts. 2. Look out for a sample test, if there is one, and use it for practice.	
TFD	AtoE
Correct = +1; Incorrect = -1 Don't know/abstain = 0	Correct = +1; Incorrect = -0.25 Abstain = 0
3. Go right through the paper, answering all the questions you are confident about. Think carefully about the logic of each one. Take particular note of grouped questions.  4. Go back to the start and try questions you can answer with a little extra thought.  5. Consider each remaining question in turn. If you have <i>some idea</i> about whether the statement is true or false but are not sure, it may be worth a calculated guess, especially if you have answered most other questions with confidence.  6. If you still have no idea about a question, choose "Don't know" or abstain. 7. If there is time, reconsider the questions you were not sure about.	3. Go right through the paper, answering all the questions you are confident about. Think carefully about the logic of each one. Take particular note of grouped questions.  4. Go back to the start and try questions you can answer with a little more thought.  5. Look carefully at each remaining question. In each case, identify any answers which you know to be wrong. If you can exclude some possibilities it may be worth making a calculated guess, especially if you have answered most other questions with confidence.*  6. If you cannot exclude any possibilities, don't answer.* 7. If there is time, reconsider the questions you were not sure about.

**\*Note:** In AtoE tests, questions have five possible answers. Negative marking means that completely random guesses will, on average, give a zero overall score. *However*, if you can exclude some obviously wrong answers, the risk of losing marks by guessing is substantially reduced. *For example*, if you exclude two of the five answers, you are choosing from three rather than five possibilities. The penalty for getting it wrong is still 0.25 so, on average, a guess may now give a better result than not answering. There is no simple rule about this, but the risk to your overall score by guessing is reduced the more wrong answers you identify and remove.

### Things to remember

- ☐ Question setters often include answers which are *obviously* wrong. Spotting and eliminating these can significantly boost your chance of finding the correct answer.
- ☐ Avoid choosing an answer just because you recognise a phrase; it could be the answer to another question or to a question phrased differently.
- ☐ Setting MCQ questions is very difficult and staff often create banks of reusable questions which they know work well. For this reason, correct answers may not be published and past tests may not be available.
- ☐ MCQ tests are marked objectively on a linear percentage scale. This means that your score cannot be interpreted with the degree grading system used for subjectively marked tests and assignments (the assessment grids in course handbooks).

## Appendix 7. Policy on Dyslexia

### School of Biosciences

#### Procedure for Students with Dyslexia Wishing to Identify their Coursework to the Marker

- 1) Academic staff will have lists of students with dyslexia so they can check the validity of identified coursework.
- 2) You may, if you wish, talk to the marker before submitting your work about any presentational (i.e. grammar, syntax, spelling, vocabulary, layout, formatting, ordering, paragraph coherence, source referencing etc.) difficulties you may be having, **but do not leave this until the last minute**.
- 3) If you feel it would be helpful, the marker may use two different coloured pens (neither red) – one for marking the factual content of your work and one for marking presentation (i.e. grammar, syntax, spelling, vocabulary, layout, formatting, ordering, paragraph coherence, source referencing etc.). **Please ask the marker if you would like this to be done**. If you are unclear about the meaning of any comments, please ask the marker to explain them.

#### Notes:

- You have the same opportunity as any other student to seek advice on presentation before submitting your work. There is no marking penalty associated with this action.
- You are encouraged to ask markers for further explanation when marked work is returned.
- You should always take account of the guidance provided in the School of Biosciences' *Study Skills* booklet. Follow the recommended formats for general reports, laboratory reports, essays and referencing. You must also observe any formatting requirements specified by the module convener or setter of the coursework.
- You should seek the support of the Counsellor or Disability Liaison Officer (DLO) if you require further help.

Counsellor and University  
DLO:

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## **Appendix 8. Information for students with a disability**

### **School of Biosciences**

#### **1. Student Disability Disclosure and Confidentiality Policy**

The University undertakes to maintain student data in secure conditions and to process and disclose data only within the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998. Personal information concerning a disability disclosed by a student to a staff member of the School of Biosciences will be maintained in confidence and will not be released to anyone inside or outside the School without the student's authorisation. The only exceptions to this are where there is a legal obligation to do so or where exceptional issues of personal safety arise.

However, where the School believes it is in the student's best interests that contact is made with other professionals, eg: Academic Support, Accommodation Office, a doctor or psychologist, the student will be encouraged to sign a **Disability Disclosure Form**. If authorised by the student this way, the School will then be able to discuss issues relevant to the student's disability and the impact on study with other professionals in order to best serve the student's interests. Information regarding a student's circumstances can then also be shared between staff within the School in situations where it is felt this would enable us to extend support for the student.

#### **Storage of written information**

Any written information held by the School's Disability Liaison Officer (DLO) regarding a student's situation will be kept in confidential files locked within a filing cabinet in the DLO's office. In cases where the student has signed a Disability Disclosure Form (see above) other staff within the School may consult the student's file on occasions where the DLO is not available.

**If you have any concerns regarding the above policy,**

**Please talk to the Disability Liaison Officer**



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Nottingham

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### University of Nottingham Extenuating Circumstances Form

Before completing this form, please ensure you have read the [Extenuating Circumstances procedure](#). You must complete all sections of this form before submission.

This form must be completed by the student and submitted via MyNottingham within 7 days of an affected examination or before the affected coursework/dissertation/project deadline.

Student Name

Course

ID Number

Personal Tutor

Home School / Department

Year of Study

**1. Please indicate why the form is being completed by ticking the appropriate box or boxes:**

- ☐ absence from an examination/assessment or non-submission of coursework
- ☐ request for extension(s) to deadlines for submission of written assignment(s)
- ☐ claim of adversely impacted performance in an assessment
- ☐ request for extension to the date set for / a further annual review (PGR students only)
- ☐ late diagnosis of a disability or long-term medical condition

**2. When were you affected e.g. from 02 May 17 to 09 May 17. The evidence you provide should cover these dates**

From

-

To

**3. What work / examinations was affected?**

Module code	Module title	Assessment affected?	Date(s) of exam/coursework/placement affected
		Exam/coursework/placement	
		Exam/coursework/placement	
		Exam/coursework/placement	
		Exam/coursework/placement	
		Exam/coursework/placement	
		Exam/coursework/placement	
		Exam/coursework/placement	
		Exam/coursework/placement	
		Exam/coursework/placement	



#### 4. What evidence are you providing in support of your claim?

It is important that the evidence you supply not only covers the dates declared in section 3, but supports the claim of impact provided in section 5. Please submit scanned copies with your claim form. The University reserves the right to request original copies.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor's note/letter                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from counsellor                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Record of hospital admission               | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting statement from member of staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from consultant or other specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Police incident report                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death Certificate                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from Court                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                      |  |

Please note that the Counselling service and Personal Tutor/Welfare Officers are not obliged to provide supporting evidence and cannot do so if you have not made them aware of your circumstances prior to making this claim.

#### Will supporting documentary evidence be submitted separately?

If not provided at the point of submission, supporting documentary evidence should be submitted within 14 days of the coursework deadline or examination. A decision cannot be made until evidence is received.

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

#### 5. Although it isn't mandatory for you to speak to someone before you submit a claim, staff members can provide helpful advice, if needed. If you've been speaking to someone about the circumstances affecting your study, it can be helpful for the Panel to know this.

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, my Personal Tutor       | Name _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a Welfare Officer       | _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, another staff member    | _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, I have not spoken anyone | _____      |

#### 6. Explanation of the situation

What happened? How serious was it? How did it impact upon your studies or assessment?



**7. What outcome are you seeking from this claim? e.g. coursework extension, further attempt at the affected assessment**

This is for indicative purposes only, the School/Department has the final decision as to what action will be taken.

**Student signature and consent**

The information I have provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. In submitting this form I give my consent for this information to be disclosed to relevant Examiners and Officers of the University responsible for considering my claim. I understand that the claim will be kept on my University record.

**SECTION D: EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**1. BOARD OF EXAMINERS DECISION CODES**

- 1 Approved
- 2 Not approved – reason given is not acceptable within the University’s Extenuating Circumstances Policy
- 3 Not approved – supporting evidence does not cover the relevant period
- 4 Not approved – evidence not supplied by an approved source
- 5 Not approved – evidence is insufficient to support the claim of seriousness of impact
- 6 Not approved – wording of evidence supplied does not support the claim
- 7 Other

**2. CODES FOR USE BY SCHOOLS TO INDICATE PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN:**

- A Examination(s) to be taken as a first sit in August/September or other reassessment period as appropriate for the programme
- B Coursework to be submitted as a first sit in August/September or other reassessment period as appropriate for the programme
- C Examination(s) to be taken as a reassessment in August/September or other reassessment period as appropriate for the programme
- D Coursework to be submitted as a reassessment in August/September or other reassessment period as appropriate for the programme
- E Extension to coursework/dissertation to be granted: please give new deadline above
- F Module to be retaken as for first time as registered student next Session (repeat tuition fee payable)
- G Module to be repeated as a reassessment as a registered student next Session (repeat tuition fee payable)
- H Module to be reassessed as an external candidate next Session at the student’s request
- I Refer to final Examination Board for consideration
- J Other – specify separately (Approval from Quality and Standards Committee will be required if this is outside regulation. Cases should be sent to the Head of Student Administration in the UK or equivalent at UNMC and UNNC.)

Options may be limited by the University’s Immigration Sponsorship responsibilities –

see <https://www.nottingham.edu.my/International/Offerholders/Visasandimmigration/Index.aspx>

If in doubt Schools should consult the International Office.

NOTE: This form includes the minimum information that is required – Schools may request supplementary information on a separate form to ensure that they capture subject-specific requirements. Please provide the required information.

*Last updated 7 February 2014*

subjected to updates/changes