Welcome to the School of Life Sciences and thank you for choosing to study with us.

Welcome to the School of Life Sciences. The School is a rich community of administrative, research, teaching and technical staff, and postgraduate and undergraduate students, working together to provide learning, research and scholarship opportunities. You join in this community through your study, your participation in lectures/seminars and through your daily interaction with staff. We hope that your experience here will confirm the reputation of the School as a friendly, informal but supportive place in which to work and study, and that you will contribute positively to that atmosphere.

Undertaking a degree course is a major and important step in life, both in terms of personal development and in career planning. Studying for a degree is also a very complex activity, and science degrees in particular are very busy, because of the practical components. You may have concerns and questions about the organisation of your degree course, what is expected of you as a postgraduate student, what is the structure of the degree, what facilities are available, who to see, how is your work assessed etc.

The Postgraduate Taught Student Handbook should provide answers to many of your questions and clarify much about the organisation of the MSc Courses and the School. We hope that your time here will be stimulating and rewarding, and that you will use the opportunities and facilities of the University and School to the full, to achieve your goals.

Professor Phil Mullineaux
Head of School
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<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appendix 3: MSc Tropical Marine Biology Course Structure</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>48</td>
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Introduction

This Handbook is designed to provide you with an overview of all the essential information about the University and the School of Life Sciences. Your Student Handbooks provides details of your school, including staff and contact details, facilities and ways to communicate and receive updates, as well as information relating to your course of study at Essex, including Rules of Assessment and the related policies, prizes awarded by the department each year, student feedback and meetings, and University regulations regarding progress, appeals and extenuating circumstances.

At our three uniquely intimate campuses we celebrate diversity and challenge inequality. Whatever your background, race or sexual orientation, you are part of a vibrant community that lives, learns and plays together.

Essex is about more than just getting a degree: we have so much to offer our students! This Student Handbook contains information on your Essex Experience, including the Students’ Union, sports clubs and societies, Essex Sport, Careers Services, campus information, IT support and services and our extensive range of student support and services.

The Student Directory contains a wealth of other helpful sources of information which can be found at https://www.essex.ac.uk/student.
Practicalities and Getting Started

You’ve made it to Essex! We’ve outlined below the most important things you need to make sure you do as soon as possible to get your time at Essex started.

Complete your Registration
Whilst you have accepted your offer and made your way to Essex, you still need to officially register yourself. At the start of each academic year, all new and returning students are required to register at the University. Registration is not only a formal procedure of enrolling you into the University, but it also connects you up to a number of vital systems you will need access to, including your IT account. As part of this process, you will need to complete online pre-arrival, physically attend a registration event on campus, and also activate your IT account.

To begin your registration, use the link below:

New students: https://www.essex.ac.uk/welcome/registration

Explore your Campus
There is a broad range of facilities across each of our campuses to support your living and learning experience at Essex. We provide study-based services, like the IT helpdesk and group study pods, but also various food and drink venues and leisure facilities. The Students’ Union also runs a wide range of facilities, bars and general stores. Full details on all on-campus facilities feature on our student webpages and in the campus guide you received with your welcome information when you joined us as a student member.
https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/student-facilities

Get Connected
Your IT account
You will need to set up your IT account and create a password through the University website www.essex.ac.uk/it/getaccount. You will need to register an external email address and passphrase to set up your account. Once you’re set up, you can access your email, log on to lab computers, connect to campus wi-fi, and much more.

You must change your password within four weeks of your account being created, and then once every four months after that. You should receive email notifications to change your password shortly before it is due to expire. The easiest way to change your password is online at: www.essex.ac.uk/password. If you have forgotten your password, you can also reset it through this link using your external email address and passphrase. If you have forgotten those also, you should either visit the IT Helpdesk or call 01206 872345. Make sure you keep your password safe and do not share it with others!

Campus Wi-fi
Wi-fi is available across all campuses. Simply find the ‘eduroam’ network on your device and use the same log in details as your IT account to connect up!

Essex Apps
The University has a variety of online systems and platforms designed to enhance your learning and help make processes, such as submitting coursework, easier. We have rounded up the top platforms, portals and apps that you need to know about!
MyEssex
MyEssex is your online account. You can use it to see your timetable, keep your personal details up-to-date, request replacement registration cards or supporting documents, such as council tax exemption certificates, see how you’re doing on your course, let us know if you’ll miss a lecture or class, contact the Student Services Hub, and much more.

PocketEssex
Pocket Essex is the University’s official app for students, giving you access to comprehensive information about living and learning at Essex. The app provides an interface of icons that act as a portal through to a variety of useful links, areas and resources. PocketEssex links to many areas that MyEssex does in a handy app form, but also takes you through to many other key contacts and resources, such as the Students’ Union, FindYourWay and the Library.

Find Your Way
We know that finding your way from one room to another can be challenging to start with. Our Colchester campus in particular can be difficult to navigate with a historically complex room numbering system that leaves even our final year students still baffled! FindYourWay is our interactive campus map that can either be accessed via PocketEssex, downloaded as its own app, or via web browser. It is designed to help you get from A to B on either the Colchester or Southend campuses with quick and easy directions. http://findyourway.essex.ac.uk/

https://www.essex.ac.uk/myessex/

Your Personal Belongings
University insurance cover is very limited for the belongings of students using graduate study rooms. Therefore, you are strongly advised to take out personal insurance cover for your possessions. This is especially important for items of particular value, such as personal electronic devices (i.e., laptops, phones and tablets). The University does not cover costs for personal damage or loss of your possessions; only in instances where the University has been negligent would a claim be viable for compensation for personal belongings.

Right to Study
The University must ensure all students have the right to study at the University of Essex for the whole duration of their course(s). If you require immigration permission to study in the UK, this will be checked when you first register on your course and as necessary thereafter.

For Tier 4 sponsored students, you will have conditions attached to your leave restricting study and work; some nationals are required to register with the Police. You are expected to have the finances in place to pay your tuition fees and living costs throughout your course and do not have access to state housing or benefits.

The Tier 4 rules and guidance include restrictions relating to the length of time you can spend studying in the UK and academic progress; this may mean you are unable to take an academic option offered to you or that we can’t continue to sponsor you under Tier 4. The University has many duties as a Tier 4 sponsor and must ensure we remain compliant in order to retain our Tier 4 licence. Find out more on the University’s website: https://www1.essex.ac.uk/immigration/ and https://www.essex.ac.uk/about/governance/regulations

If you would like to get additional support with your English language skills, you can find helpful information and a range of resources here:

https://www.essex.ac.uk/welcome/international-students
English classes for the dependants of international students and staff (ECDIS)

The Department of Language and Linguistics offers dependants of international students and staff at the Colchester Campus the chance to improve their English language, through our ECDIS programme, at no extra cost. Classes are taught at three basic levels: Elementary (A1/A2), Intermediate (B1/B2) and Advanced (C1/C2) and will focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing.

https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/language-and-linguistics

ecdis@essex.ac.uk
The Essex Experience

The University and the Students' Union have developed our Student Charter as a part of our ongoing commitment to create an outstanding environment that offers the highest standards of teaching, research and support in an international and multi-cultural community. The Student Charter reiterates that you are a member of the University of Essex community, not just while you are a student or recent graduate here, but for life. You can read the full Student Charter at: www.essex.ac.uk/students/experience/charter

You are welcomed to a truly diverse community where differences are celebrated and individuality is valued. Your contribution is welcomed and encouraged based on your own thoughts and experiences. As part of our community you will have the freedom to explore, experiment, and challenge your discipline and have your ideas shaped by peer and professional knowledge from all over the world.

Your time at Essex will be an experience beyond the classroom; there is so much available to all students so you can make the most of your time at Essex and have a truly unforgettable Essex Experience.

Equality, Inclusion and Diversity

The University recognises the value of diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity within the University. It therefore aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated with dignity and respect, and solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of race, ethnic or national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, socio-economic background, family circumstances, religious or political beliefs and affiliations, or any other irrelevant distinction.

The University is committed to a programme of action to ensure that this policy is fully effective. You can find out more information on the University's policy, and get in touch with any comments or questions, here:

https://www.essex.ac.uk/information/equality-and-diversity/equality-and-diversity-policy-and-strategy

Support for Female Students

The School of Biological Sciences has a large and vibrant community of female scientists working at all levels in research, teaching, management and outreach. The University was awarded the Athena SWAN Institutional Bronze Award in November 2013 in recognition of its continuing work to support women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects and the School of Biological Sciences achieved an Athena SWAN Bronze Departmental Award in November 2014.

The School has a Women in Biological Sciences webpage with a range of information and resources for female staff and students https://www1.essex.ac.uk/bs/about/women_in_science/

Embrace the Essex Values

We are different at Essex. We are brave, we are bold, and we embrace challenges and drive change. Our values are underpinned by this very culture. While we full heartedly encourage students to challenge the status quo and explore the unknown, we expect that students do so respectfully, intelligently and act as true ambassadors for the University.

The University’s Code of Student Conduct can be found on the website: www.essex.ac.uk/governance/regulations
Essex Spirit, Social Media and events

Keep up-to-date with important news, events and offers from across the University with our Essex Spirit newsletter, delivered directly to your Essex email address.

Follow us on social:

-follow us on Facebook:/uniofessex
-follow us on Twitter: /uniess
-follow us on Instagram: /uniess
-follow us on LinkedIn: /uniofessex
-follow us on TikTok: uniess

Our Events calendar brings together all the events happening across our three campuses, so you can make the most of your time at Essex.

http://www.essex.ac.uk/events

International Students

We are proud to be a global community and we recognise that living and studying in the UK may be very different from your own country.

Essex has a wide range of support covering academic and health and wellbeing issues. Our friendly and professional staff will be able to guide, give advice and assist you during your time at Essex.

You can find helpful information here –

https://www.essex.ac.uk/welcome/international-students and http://www.essex.ac.uk/student/student-communities/international

Mature and Part-time Students

We appreciate that studying as a mature student can present challenges. This is particularly true if this is your first experience of higher education and you have other commitments and responsibilities to meet, such as work and family. We want you to be aware of the support available so that you can make the most of your time at Essex.

You can find more information here: www.essex.ac.uk/students/groups/mature-students.aspx

Student Ambassadors

Be a Student Ambassador, make a difference to others and also make a difference on your CV! Student Ambassadors help to promote the University and higher education. You’ll be a valued part of the Student Recruitment and Outreach teams. Keep an eye out for Student Ambassador vacancies on CareerHub+ in January.

www.essex.ac.uk/careers/job_hunting/on_campus

Essex Sport

Be active at Essex! Learning doesn’t just happen in the classroom. Keeping active during your studies can help relieve stress, increase productivity, provide a sense of community and improve your employability.

Essex Sport offers a great range of sport courses, social active sessions, over 300 fitness classes a month and a state-of-the-art gym, so there’s something for everyone!
Visit the Essex Sport website or download the app to discover all the ways you can keep active during your time at Essex.

www.essex.ac.uk/sport

https://download.mobilepro.uk.com/a/1CJ8?p=4?pv=1

**Students’ Union**

We’re famous for our Students’ Union at Essex, and for good reason. Here you’re not just a member of a normal Students’ Union; you’re part of a family. We’re here to cheer you on as you walk into exams and to help you absolutely destroy the competition in interviews and land your dream job. The Students’ Union is run by students for students, and you have the ability to shape what we do. From suggesting what we serve in our venues, to changing aspects of your course, we are here to represent you and work with you to make amazing things happen. There are opportunities to join 45 different Sports Clubs, to get involved with our BUCS teams which offer a wide individual championships programme of activities taking place across the year and lots of competitions take place on Wednesdays and weekends, or if you don’t want to commit to a regular team check out our Just Play programme of activities.

[https://www.essexstudent.com](https://www.essexstudent.com)

**Get involved**

We have 120 existing Societies where you can meet people with similar interests, challenge yourself with something new or, if you can’t find what you’re looking for, start your own society!

Furthermore, we have our very own letting agency SU Homes designed to offer help and support for students to find off campus accommodation.

[https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/colchester-campus/get-involved](https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/colchester-campus/get-involved)
# About Our School

## Meet the Team

A full list of all academic and professional services staff for the [School of Life Sciences](https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/life-sciences) can be found on our website at: [https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/life-sciences](https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/life-sciences). Below is a summary of the roles of staff that you are likely to be in contact with most frequently.

For a list of key contact details please refer to Information for Current Students on Moodle [http://moodle.essex.ac.uk/](http://moodle.essex.ac.uk/).

### Academic Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Tel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Michael Steinke</td>
<td>Postgraduate Taught Director /MSc Tropical Marine Biology Course Director.</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>msteinke</td>
<td>3318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Michael Steinke is the Postgraduate Taught Director. He oversees the management of all aspects postgraduate teaching in the School. Dr Steinke can also advise on Board of Examiners outcomes and appeals and matters relating to the PGT Student Staff Liaison Committee. Dr Michael Steinke is also the MSc Tropical Marine Biology Course Director. You can contact him regarding attendance and progress, extenuating circumstances, requests for intermission, withdrawal and changes of course approval.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link to Research Area:</td>
<td><a href="https://www.essex.ac.uk/people/stein81600/michael-steinke">https://www.essex.ac.uk/people/stein81600/michael-steinke</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Vassiliy Bavro</td>
<td>MSc Molecular Medicine Course Director</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>vb16181</td>
<td>2243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Vassiliy Bavro is the MSc Molecular Medicine Course Director. You can contact him regarding attendance and progress, extenuating circumstances, requests for intermission, withdrawal and changes of course approval.</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Dr Michael Hough**  
MSc Biotechnology  
Course Director | Dr Michael Hough is the MSc Biotechnology Course Director. You can contact him regarding attendance and progress, extenuating circumstances, requests for intermission, withdrawal and changes of course approval.  
Link to Research Area:  
https://www.essex.ac.uk/people/hough20300/mike-hough | Office: 5.15B  
E-mail: mahough  
Tel: 3317 |
|---|---|---|
| **Dr Leanne Hepburn**  
Director of Education | Dr Leanne Hepburn is the Director of Education for the School. | Office: 6.17  
Email: l.hepburn  
Tel: 2752 |
| **Dr Louise Beard**  
Senior Tutor | Dr Louise Beard is the Senior Tutor for the School. She provides pastoral support and advice to students who have issues that are affecting their studies. Louise can also be a point of contact if you do not want to approach your MSc Course Director. | Office: 5.09  
Email: lhbeard  
Tel: 4048 |
| **Dr Phil Reeves**  
Disability Liaison Officer | Phil is the School’s Disability Liaison Officer (SDLO) If you have a disability, medical condition, specific learning difficulty or mental health difficulty Phil is the School representative who can help you to access your studies. | Office: 3SW.5.31  
Email: preeves  
Tel: 3763 |
Professional Services Staff

The School Administrative Offices are open 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5.15pm Monday to Thursday and 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm on Friday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Tel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicola Reason</td>
<td>Postgraduate Taught Administrator</td>
<td>Nicola handles all matters relating to the administration of postgraduate taught students and is your first point of call for general and administrative enquires and matters relating to postgraduate coursework submission. She is also secretary to the PGT SSLC meetings.</td>
<td>4.00A</td>
<td>n.reason</td>
<td>2051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vickie Banks</td>
<td>Timetabling and Operations Administrator</td>
<td>You should contact Vickie with any issues you experience with your timetable.</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bstimetb@essex.ac.uk">bstimetb@essex.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>6380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry Alban</td>
<td>School Office Administrator</td>
<td>Kerry is secretary to the School Undergraduate Progress and Late Submissions Committee and provides support to the School’s Plagiarism Officer.</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>kerrya</td>
<td>4074</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your Module Tutor

All teaching staff hold regular weekly academic support hours during term time. This is a time when you can go and see them about anything to do with your modules, from difficulties you might be having with your seminar readings, to discussions about feedback on your coursework. These academic support hours operate on a ‘drop-in’ basis - this means that you do not need to book an appointment; you can just turn up during the time advertised. Details of academic support hours are posted on office doors. If you cannot make the advertised time for any reason, you can e-mail your tutor to make an appointment.

Please note that academic staff do not hold regular academic support hours during the vacations, and may, on occasions, be away from the University on research trips and visits. Therefore, if you need to get in touch with them during the vacation periods, you should e-mail them in the first instance.

Your Personal Tutor

Your MSc Course Director will be your Personal Tutor during your studies. They are there to help you feel connected to your School and provide someone you can talk to if you have questions about your course or encounter any difficulties which affect your studies. Your MSc Course Director may also recommend other support services on campus that might be able to help and support you.

Students studying on the MSc Tropical Marine Biology course will be allocated a Personal Tutor (this will be an academic member of staff from the School) during the beginning of the Autumn Term and will be notified of their name/contact details by e-mail.

Staff Research Interests

Research in the School is organised into four main groups: Genomics and Computational Biology, Ecology and Environmental Microbiology, Protein Structure and Mechanisms of Disease, and Plant Productivity.

Academic staff are actively engaged in research on topics across a wide spectrum, including: agricultural sustainability; coral reef ecology; virology and immunology; molecular complications of diabetes; oxidative stress; photosynthetic metabolism and plant responses to environmental stresses. If you are interested in finding out more, see: https://www1.essex.ac.uk/bs/research/default.aspx

Departmental Resources and Facilities

A wide range of facilities and resources are available for all students to access and use as part of their study at Essex. Each department and school also has a selection for the exclusive use of their students. Below is a summary of the facilities and resources that are likely to be most useful to you.

School of Life Sciences Common Room

The School of Life Sciences Common Room 4.11 is located on Level 4 of the School of Life Sciences Building and is for the use of all students/undergraduate students/postgraduate students. It has tea and coffee making facilities, a microwave, fridge and a seating area.

Printing, photocopying and scanning

All students can print, copy and scan for free at Essex! There are over 100+ multi-function devices that can be used at various locations across our three Campuses, including in the following areas:

- All IT labs
- Silberrad Student Centre
- Albert Sloman Library
- Orangery
- Limehouse
- Roding House and Unit 4 (Loughton)
- Gateway Building (Southend)
- The Forum (Southend)
Simply log in to the devices using your Essex login and password, or tap with your student card. These devices can also scan to email and feature mobile printing. Whilst printing is free for all students, please think of your carbon footprint and only print if necessary.

Premium services (chargeable) for printing and finishing, including binding your documents for presentational purposes are available at The Copy Centre (Square 4).

Please note that there are strict laws about infringement of copyright; more information can be found on the library website which explains what and how much you are permitted to copy. Usage is monitored and subject to a fair use policy.

https://library.essex.ac.uk/copyright

**Noticeboards**

Every department and school has their own noticeboard(s) providing information on staff, courses and classes, updates, careers, events and opportunities. The Postgraduate Taught Noticeboard is located outside the School Postgraduate Office (Room 4.00A).

**School Prizes**

The School has several endowed postgraduate prizes which are awarded annually. The award of a School prize is noted on student transcripts. Postgraduate prizes are awarded at the Degree Day Reception.

**Communication**

It is important to keep up to date with information relating to your school and course. This section also summarises how the department/school will communicate updates with you and provides some guidance on communicating with University staff.

The University’s policy is to use e-mail for routine communication between staff and students. Your Essex e-mail address will have been added to the relevant e-mail groups specific to your department or school, course and modules to ensure that you receive the essential information, updates and general communication related to your study and issues that may affect you. It is therefore vital that you check your Essex email regularly. It is recommended that you check your Essex email each day to ensure you do not miss any important updates to classes and assessment.

If you are elected to a Student Representative position, work as or a volunteer in another form or means, it is even more important to regularly check your Essex email as should other students and staff need to get in touch, they will do so via your Essex email.

You will also automatically be subscribed to a small number of opt-out lists, again, based on your course. These will be used to send useful information and, while some of this may be about events, marketing or other opportunities, we try to avoid sending too much. To opt in or out of such lists, please visit:

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/it/services/forms/default.aspx

**How you should communicate**

While email can be a quick and easy means of communicating, you should still consider how you structure and write each email to ensure it is appropriate when contacting members of staff at the University. How you communicate is a reflection on your professional and academic self, and so we have provided some useful tips to consider when constructing an email for different purposes. These are also useful when contacting professionals and academics outside of the University and are widely recognised as a matter of courtesy in the United Kingdom.
The level of formality

- If you are writing to your lecturer for the first time, it is good practice to use a relatively formal manner and use their correct title, for example, ‘Dear Dr Bercow’ or ‘Dear Professor Hammond’.
- If your lecturer signs their reply using their first name, then it is generally acceptable to reply using just their first name in your response; if not, continue to address them with their full, formal name.
- If you are unsure of your lecturer’s title, you can find their full details here: https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/life-sciences/people/academic. If no title is noted, then you should use the member of staff’s full name.

Identify yourself

- In the first few weeks of term, academic staff will be busy getting to know all of their students. Therefore, it is important that you begin by introducing and identifying yourself to them as they will not know every student right away. For example, ‘I am taking module AB123 and was at your lecture on Research Methods on Tuesday morning…’
- You should always use your Essex email as your full name will appear to the member of staff you are emailing, but still remember to sign off your email with your name, including your preferred name if this is different to your official legal name on your record and account.

Consider your question

- You should always check that who you are contacting is the most appropriate person to answer your query. The useful department contact list provided earlier in this section should help you determine who will be able to help you on a range of different queries.
- Before emailing the member of staff, you should make sure that you have checked the resources provided, including the University website, Student Directory, Departmental Moodle pages and this Student Handbook in case the answer to your question can be found in one of these.

If your question is particularly long or complex, it may be quicker and more useful to see someone in person. Your department office is open daily and all staff hold academic support hours when you can just drop in. If you cannot make the advertised support hours, or wish to notify the member of staff before you drop in, you can always email them beforehand to arrange an alternative time or make them aware you will be coming along.

Our Website
Each department and school has its own section of the University website. This is an important source of information and news about all aspects of your studies. You can find the School] website here: https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/life-sciences

MyEssex
Your MyEssex student portal will alert you to updates about modules and other aspects of your course and studies. It is important that you check your MyEssex regularly, as well as email, to ensure you have the most up to date information.

By Telephone
You will only be contacted via phone in emergencies, or when it is otherwise necessary to receive an immediate response, but you should ensure that you provide the University with a contact number with your personal details.

By Text Message
In instances where a last minute change has been made, and the department or school need to communicate this with short notice, you may receive a text message to communicate the change,
such as a lecture or class cancellation. You should ensure that you provide the University with a contact number with your personal details.

**By Letter**
Letters may be attached to your Essex email or posted to your term-time address, so please make sure the University has got your current contact details. Your address and contact details can be updated via the MyEssex portal.

**Social Media**
School Facebook pages: [School of Biological Sciences](#)
Learning and Teaching

The University is committed to providing equal opportunities for all our students regardless of where or how you study. Our diverse student population is taken into account when developing the resources, services and facilities on and off campus, when we create our courses, write publications and course materials, and set our policies and regulations.

The Academic Year

The academic year uses a week numbering system that covers the 52 weeks of a calendar year, but corresponds to typical term dates. So, the start of the academic year is week 1, which is Welcome week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Week numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>2-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>16-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>30-39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can view the University’s week numbers with the equivalent dates in the week by week calendar. The University's key dates include an overview of the start and end of each term and exam periods. Some courses within departments have slightly different term dates. However, you will find that all campus activities and events make reference to the standard academic year terms and schedule noted above.

The official University teaching day runs from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and you are expected to be available during these times in term time to attend teaching events.

Teaching Timetable

Once you have chosen all of your modules (if applicable) and received confirmation, they will appear on your personal timetable. Each student has a personal timetable, this shows you when and where you teaching is taking place, as well as who is teaching you. Check your personal online timetable regularly for up to date teaching information. You can access your timetable on most mobile devices, including smart phones and tablets.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/timetables/timetable.aspx

You may find that the first week of your timetable is blank if you do not have any course commitments during Welcome Week (week 1). Due to unforeseen, unavoidable circumstances, there may be some room changes during the year; therefore it is vital that you regularly check your timetable and Essex email where any changes will be communicated immediately.

Information about teaching timetables, including requesting a class change, reporting a timetable issue and accessing your individual timetable can be found at:
https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/timetables/your-timetable

Course Structure

Each course at the University has its own syllabus, full details of which can be found in the University’s Programme Specifications Catalogue at:

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/programmespecs/
Programme specifications provide key information, including the aims and learning outcomes of your course. Your own course structure, including your specific programme specification, can be found in the MyStudy section of your MyEssex homepage.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/myessex/

Learning Outcomes

Each course has learning outcomes, as outlined in the Programme Specifications. Course learning outcomes are categorised into knowledge, intellectual, practical and key skills, and are also defined more specifically at a modular level highlighting the particular aims, learning outcomes and methods of assessment for each module. Having this information means that you can measure your progress against the outcomes, for example when reviewing coursework feedback, and they can be used to guide you when undertaking independent study.

Credits

The University credit-rating system for Postgraduate study is based on a nationally recognised framework. The Postgraduate academic year consists of 180 credits and each postgraduate module is assigned a number of ‘workload credits’. In our Biological Sciences MSc Courses, individual modules are assigned 15, 30 or 60 credits.

Module Information

Most modules taught reflect the individual research interests of members of our academic staff. New modules are regularly explored, researched and developed in collaboration with the University’s Quality and Academic Development Team to expand our transformative educational offering at Essex. https://www1.essex.ac.uk/modules/

Module Supervisors

Module Supervisors are responsible for the individual modules, which make up courses. They design the modules, teach them and examine them. They monitor student progress and talk to students about any academic issues related to their particular module.

Module Materials

Reading lists for each module can be found in the Module Handbooks. All other information and module materials can be found on Moodle.

Work-based Learning Research Project

An alternative Work-based learning Research Project may be available for PGT Students. This would include an 8 – 12 week placement. Work-based projects will be shared with students if available. These are not guaranteed and will vary according to the research needs of the placement provider. Students interested in these projects will be need to participate in a selection process.

Students are also able to identify their own work-based projects. These would need to be approved by the academic supervisor and Faculty Placements Team before the placement can start.

Employability Modules

The BS985-7-FY (Professional Skills and the Business of Biosciences) module for MSc Biotechnology and MSc Molecular Medicine students will provide insight into the functioning of the Biotechnology and Bio-Pharmaceutical industries work and an introduction to some of the most timely and contentious topics in Biotechnology, Molecular Medicine and related areas. This will be underpinned by the development of transferable professional and research skills to enhance students’ chances of gaining employment in the field. The ability to critically analyse, integrate and communicate in a
multidisciplinary research environment provides the foundation for students’ successful career in the Molecular Medicine or Biotechnology/Biopharma area, which is a very broad and applied subject.

The BS708-7-FY (Professional Skills in Tropical Marine Biology) module will equip students with an array of professional skills from utilising modern learning environments to the confident application of statistical methods for handling, analysing and interpreting large datasets. Students will build a portfolio of professional skills that assist with finding employment along various career paths after postgraduate education. A combination of seminars and workshops is provided to include CV and application clinics, facilitate expedition planning, introduce health-and safety aspects of practical work, and increase numeracy skills.

**Library Services**

At our Colchester Campus, the Albert Sloman Library on Square 5 is open 24/7 and has a variety of study spaces over six floors, including individual and group work areas. The Library offers a wide range of learning resources, online and in print, with a dedicated Helpdesk, live chat and the opportunity to book appointments with your Subject Librarian to help you through your studies and beyond.

[library.essex.ac.uk](http://library.essex.ac.uk)

The library has a team of Subject Librarians who can help you to find appropriate resources for your assignments and show you how to search effectively. They can also provide advice on referencing and academic integrity, using reference management software, and evaluating sources. Find out who your subject Librarian is and get help with your subject area at [library.essex.ac.uk/studyres](http://library.essex.ac.uk/studyres)

**Skills for Success**

We are committed to ensuring that every student is able to get the most out of their academic study and achieve their potential on their course. Whether you need support with researching, assignment writing, mathematics and statistics, digital skills, or English language for academic purposes, support is available to help you succeed during your time at University. Reach your potential and enhance your chances of success with classes, workshops, drop-in clinics and on-line resources. Find out more at: [https://www.essex.ac.uk/welcome/international-students](https://www.essex.ac.uk/welcome/international-students)

**The use of proofreading services**

Many students seek ‘proofreading’ services at some point during their studies, but different editing practices at times go on in this name that may not be appropriate in an academic context, and could potentially qualify as an academic offence. In a context where work is to be assessed, the University is keen to ensure as far as possible that students understand what proofreading work should entail and the acceptable boundaries to which any proofreading or editing must adhere to.

[https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/academic-skills/proofreading](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/academic-skills/proofreading)

**Before considering the use of proofreading services, all students should first discuss their work with their personal tutors.**

**Learning a Language**

Learn a language at Essex to increase your global and cultural awareness. Language learning can give you the confidence to work and travel internationally, expand your options for studying abroad, and get a competitive edge when you’re looking for a job. There are a number of ways to do it, so look online to discover the best option for you.

[www.essex.ac.uk/study/why/languages](http://www.essex.ac.uk/study/why/languages)
Attendance Monitoring (Count me in)

Recording attendance
You’ll need to record your attendance at all teaching events using the electronic reader in the teaching room. Just ‘tap in’ for every timetabled teaching event you attend.

Your attendance at lectures and classes has a significant impact on how successful you are in your studies. At Essex, we monitor attendance so we can identify students who may need extra guidance and support.

You should not tap in and then immediately leave the teaching event; you should not tap in for someone who is not attending the class. These are recognised by the University as a formal academic offence and may result in disciplinary action being taken against you.

Recording an Absence
If you are unable to attend a teaching event, you must report your absence in your MyEssex portal.

Your department consider the reasons and may record it as an authorised absence. Accepted reasons for absence from teaching include extenuating circumstances (such as illness), participation in certain events (such as a significant extra-curricular University or SU Society event or Jury Service). Examples of reasons that will not be accepted include oversleeping, or missing the bus or train. Be prepared that you may need to provide evidence, including medical evidence, if relevant.

If you need to report an absence from an examination or class test, you must report your absence in your MyEssex portal and submit an extenuating circumstances form. You can find out how to do this in the Extenuating Circumstances section of this Handbook.

Please contact your Personal Tutor, department staff or the Student Services Hub for advice and support, particularly if you are going to be absent for several weeks.

Lost or Faulty Cards
If you lose your card or it is faulty, please go to the Student Services Hub to get a new card and have your attendance record updated (a fee may be applicable).

https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/advice-and-support/ssh-colchester
https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/advice-and-support/ssh-loughton
https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/advice-and-support/ssh-southend

Fitness to Practise
Fitness to practise is only applicable to students on certain professional courses (such as nursing or social work) and is designed to ensure and regulate that a student is suitable for engagement in the relevant profession. Students are notified at the point of enrolment if their course of study is subject to the terms of this procedure. Students enrolled on courses where a practical professional placement is required have additional responsibilities placed upon them regarding not only their conduct but also their professional suitability as outlined in relevant regulatory and/or professional body codes of practice. Failure to meet these responsibilities can lead to the Breach of Professional Conduct with the Fitness to Practice and Termination of Training Procedure being invoked. If this applies to you, you will have been told by your department. You can find the full Fitness to Practise procedure online at: www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ppg
Making Changes to Your Study

Changing your course

If you are thinking about changing course, we recommend that you speak to someone in your school as soon as possible. They will be able to advise you if there are any specific requirements for the course you are looking to change to. If the course you are looking to change to is within a different school/department, then you should also speak to someone in that department.

There are deadlines in place for when you need to change course by, so please make sure you are aware of these deadlines before requesting to change. Further details on changing course and the relevant deadlines can be found at www.essex.ac.uk/students/course-admin/changing-course.aspx or by visiting your Student Services Hub.

You should investigate your potential new course by looking at course information on the department’s web pages, talking to students on the course and speaking to tutors. You should also look at our Rules of Assessment for the new course to check whether there are any course-specific requirements.

Maximum period of study

Postgraduate students have a maximum period in which to complete their studies. This is set from the date you are first admitted to a taught postgraduate programme. It is based on the normal length of the course, plus one or more additional years. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, periods of intermission will count towards the original maximum period.

Further details on the maximum period for your course can be found in the Credit Framework for Taught Postgraduate courses.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ppg/pgt/assess-rules.aspx

Thinking of leaving or taking a break from your studies?

You may experience doubts at some point during your studies, if you're thinking about leaving Essex, we're here to support you and give you the advice you need to help you make an informed choice.

Intermission is a temporary withdrawal or leave of absence from the University and provides you with the opportunity to take a break from your studies. Normally, this is for reasons beyond your control (e.g. health or personal problems) although other reasons are permitted. Intermission must be approved by the University first, so if you are thinking about intermitting, we strongly advise you to contact your department and your Student Services Hub to talk to one of our advisers.

You should also read our guidance on intermitting very carefully at www.essex.ac.uk/see/intermit. If your intermission is agreed to, we will also give you the advice and support you need to help you carry on with your studies.

Withdrawing is the formal process for permanently leaving your programme of study and the University. If you are thinking of withdrawing, you should seek advice from your Department or the Student Services Hub at the earliest opportunity. It is very important that you discuss your circumstances with the University and follow the formal procedure for withdrawing. If the university is not formally notified, then you may risk continuing to incur further tuition or accommodation fees. More advice and information is available at www.essex.ac.uk/see/withdraw.
The Use of Personal Devices in Teaching

You can use laptops and tablet PCs during teaching classes for purposes related to the class you are attending. You should refrain from using your mobile phone during all teaching events, except in cases where a lecturer uses a programme which requires these devices to be switched on for participation.
Assessment and Good Practice

All schools and departments at the University should employ a variety of assessment methods designed to ensure that the learning outcomes of each module, and course, have been successfully met by the student.

The Regulations relating to Academic Affairs which govern assessment at the University can be found online:

www.essex.ac.uk/governance/regulations

Rules of Assessment
The Rules of Assessment are used to calculate your results. There is a main set of rules for 3 year and 4 year courses, but some departments also have additional variations which can be found in the Variation to the Rules of Assessment.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ppg/ug/default.aspx

In the School of Life Sciences we do not have a variation to the Rules of Assessment.

Each module you will take will have a credit value which you are awarded if you successfully complete the module. You need to obtain a certain amount of credits to be awarded your degree, and the Rules of Assessment and the Framework for taught postgraduate courses give you more information about this.

The following is only a summary of the key points. You should read the rules and make sure you understand them. If you need advice, ask your Personal Tutor, PGT Administrator, or SU Advice.

Core and Compulsory Modules
To understand the requirements to pass your course, you need to know the status of the modules that you are taking. You can find details of the status of your modules in Section C of your programme specification via My Essex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>You must take this module</th>
<th>Must pass this module. No failure can be permitted.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>You must take this module</td>
<td>There might be limited opportunities to continue on the course/be eligible for the degree if you fail it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most modules in each year must be passed, with only a small number of credits, if any, being allowed to be failed in the degree.

Ethics in Research
All research involving human participants, whether undertaken by the University's staff or students, must undergo an ethics review by an appropriate body and ethical approval must be obtained before it commences. You can find our Guidelines for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants here - https://www.essex.ac.uk/staff/research-governance/ethical-approval-resources-for-applicants - along with a link to the online Ethical Approval application form in ERAMS (https://erams.essex.ac.uk/do/essex-login/login).

‘Human participants’ are defined as including living human beings, human beings who have recently died (cadavers, human remains and body parts), embryos and foetuses, human tissue and bodily fluids, and personal data and records (such as, but not restricted to medical, genetic, financial,
personnel, criminal or administrative records and test results including scholastic achievements). **Research involving the NHS may require and research involving human tissue or adults lacking capacity to consent will require Health Research Authority approval.**

**Academic Integrity and Academic Offences**

The University expects students to complete all assessment with honesty and integrity and to follow our conventions for academic writing (including appropriate referencing of sources) and ethical considerations. If you don’t meet these expectations, then you may be charged with having committed an academic offence, a matter the University takes very seriously.

It is your responsibility to make yourself aware of the regulations governing examinations and how to correctly prepare your coursework. An academic offence can take place even if you didn’t mean to commit one, and examples include plagiarism, falsifying data or evidence, and communicating with another candidate in an examination.

If you aren’t sure what the conventions are, particularly in relation to referencing, you should ask your department and contact Skills for Success via the Student Services Hub.

More information about academic offences and getting support can be found at: [www.essex.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/academic-offences.aspx](http://www.essex.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/academic-offences.aspx).

**Methods of Assessment**

Whether a module is core, compulsory or optional, all methods of assessment are compulsory. If you do not complete coursework or attend examinations, and do not have extenuating circumstances to support your non-submission or absence, then you are at risk of being withdrawn from the University.

A variety of types of assessment are used in the School. The two categories are:

- **Coursework, e.g.**:
  - Essays
  - Worksheets, data analysis and interpretation (DAI) exercises
  - Practical field or lab reports: including SPF (Scientific Paper Format) reports
  - Posters
  - Oral presentations
  - Web-based, pod or vodcast productions
  - Writing summaries, popular scientific articles
  - In class tests
  - Exams:
    - A written exam, including short questions and longer essay questions. **This applies to MSc Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine students only. The exam is held in January (Week 15 during the Christmas Vacation Exam Period).**

The details of assessments are given in the Module Handbooks. We use defined marks criteria to mark all assessments (see ‘Marking’ section). You should study the marks criteria carefully to fully understand what is expected of you for each assignment. The marks criteria will also be provided in the Module Handbook on Moodle.  

**Assignment and Essay Length**

Part of your training in writing assignments is to produce a piece of work by a given deadline and conforming to a specified length. The work should be clear, comprehensive and concise and should answer the question. Significantly exceeding the word limit is a way of seeking an unfair advantage. When a word limit is set all students are expected to submit work **within** the limit and provide a **word**
count on the title page. The word count should include all the main text but exclude figures, tables and the reference list.

Staff will pay strict attention to word limits. If you have a particular problem with the word limit, you should discuss your difficulties with the member of staff who set the work.

If your work exceeds the word limit it may not be concise or well-focused on the question and will require editing. If your work is significantly (>10%) below the word limit it is likely that you will not have covered the material in sufficient depth and you may receive a lower mark as a consequence.

**Academic Writing Support**

**How to Approach Writing an Essay**

An essay should be a well-structured and well-reasoned written argument answering a particular question. It should not only help others to assess how much you understand about a particular topic, but also act as a piece of creative work that enables you to explain your point of view about a subject area or helps you explore or develop your widening knowledge base.

When you are asked to write an essay, the first step is to read the title carefully and identify what exactly it is you are being asked to write. You should identify the key words in the question and properly understand what the question is asking and how you should write the essay.

The definitions of common 'process' words used in essay questions are listed below:

- **Compare**
  Look for and explain similarities and differences between arguments/approaches, and reach a conclusion about which is preferable.

- **Contrast**
  Set different ideas or concepts in opposition in order to bring out and discuss differences.

- **Criticise**
  Give your reasoned and well-informed judgement or opinion about the merit of theories, concepts or accepted truths, discussing the evidence.

- **Define**
  Set down the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or idea; in some cases, explain how the distinctions and assumptions implied in the definition are necessary.

- **Describe**
  Give a detailed account of.

- **Discuss**
  Explore an issue by reasoned argument, debate and give reasons for and against.

- **Enumerate**
  Write in a list or outline form, giving points consistently one by one.

- **Evaluate**
  Make an appraisal of the worth of something, which can include your own well informed opinion.

- **Explain**
  Clarify, make plain, interpret or account for; in some cases, give reasons for differences of opinion or for results, and try to analyse causes.

- **Illustrate**
  Use a figure, diagram or examples to explain or clarify an issue.

- **Interpret**
  Clarify the meaning of: make clear and explicit, also usually giving your judgement.

- **Justify**
  Show and explain adequate grounds or evidence for decisions, or examples.

- **List**
  As in 'Enumerate', write an itemised series of concise statements.

- **Outline**
  Organise a description under main points and subordinate points, omitting minor details and stressing the arrangement or classification of things.

- **Prove**
  Establish that something is entirely accurate by citing factual evidence or giving clear, logical reasons.

- **Relate**
Show how things are related to, or connected with, each other or how one causes another, correlates with another, or is like another.

**Review**
Make a survey of a point or idea, examining the subject critically.

**State**
Present the main points in brief, clear sequence, usually omitting details, illustrations or examples.

**Summarise**
Give a brief account of the chief points or substance of a matter.

*Source: Wye College External Programme*

**Organising Your Thinking**
Organise your thoughts by producing a scheme or plan of the essay topic. There are many ways of arranging your ideas on paper, but what is important is that it helps you clarify the interrelationships, ideas, concepts, and examples you will be writing about. This will also be something concrete to which you can refer as you write, keeping your ideas and arguments progressing in a logical and ordered way.

One way of putting your initial thoughts down on paper is in the form of a spider diagram, mind map, or network, which clusters and links ideas together (see below).

Alternatively, a hierarchy is a more ordered, structured way of organising information under different headings and subheadings. Try to experiment with a number of techniques before deciding which is best for you.

Preparation always requires time, but it is a mistake to start writing before you have a definite plan and before you have thought matters out. Be selective about the information you provide.

**The Mind Map Method**
Unlike conventional linear notes which work down the page, this method involves starting in the middle of the page and working outwards. The title/main idea/topic is written in a box or bubble in the centre of a plain sheet of paper.

Then, major points/themes are written along lines radiating out from the centre. Subsidiary points branch off from these main branches.

A key word or phrase is used to encapsulate each point - the rationale being that if the word/phrase can be summoned up, the whole point will return to mind, in more detail. Dotted lines/arrows can be added in, to bring out links and connections; different coloured pens used, to highlight main points, and so on. Around these basic guidelines you develop your own system.

*From: Wye College External Programme*

**Essay Structure**
Your essay should be well structured. There should be:
- A clear **introduction**, which should state briefly the material you are going to cover and act as a lead into the subject of the essay.
- A **middle section**, which forms the discussion or main body of your essay.
- A **conclusion**, which very concisely rounds off your writing.

Your prepared plan outlining what you intend to cover in each part of the essay will give you something to refer to as you write. It will also help you maintain a clear, unified and precise piece of writing. Note, however, that there is never only one way to write to produce a sound and relevant answer.

Your writing should be composed of paragraphs, which together clearly convey to the reader the content, structure and thread of your argument.

You should, as you write, be aiming for clarity of expression and, as the essay may have a word limit, you should make sure that every word you write counts (see George Orwell’s six rules on the following page).

**George Orwell’s Six Elementary Rules for Good Writing**

1. Never use a metaphor, simile or other figure of speech that you are not used to seeing in print.
2. Never use a long word where a short one will do.
3. If it is possible to cut out a word, always cut it out.
4. Never use the passive where you can use the active.
5. Never use a scientific word or jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
6. Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

Also try to avoid verbose or long-winded language or expression. What matters about an essay is quality of writing rather than sheer quantity of words.

Your essay should also be clearly referenced (see guidance below) and you are advised to be familiar with and closely follow the advice given in this handbook avoiding cheating and plagiarism.

Style of Writing

Use the third person (this means not using "I"). You will be expected to use the third person as it enables you to show that you are being objective. You could try using:
- This essay discusses the importance of ...
- This research shows that ...

When you have thought about what you are going to write, you should ideally produce a first draft of your work in one sitting.

It is true that many new ideas tend to occur whilst you are actually writing. Interrupting your writing might cause you to produce a piece of work that is stilted or less thorough than it might otherwise have been.

After completing your first draft, it is a good idea to put your work to one side and come back to it after a day or two to re-read what you have written and check it for errors.

Whilst you review your essay draft you should be asking yourself whether you have kept to the main themes, as suggested by the essay question or title; if each paragraph is a natural and logical unit; if you have included an adequate number of relevant examples; and if the general effect of your writing is what you intended.

You might find it useful to ask somebody else to review your work and to offer some constructive criticism, and to spot flaws and weaknesses.

It is also useful to remember that diagrams and tables can often convey ideas in a concise and immediate form.

The entire process of writing an essay, then, should follow this basic pattern:
- Read the question carefully
- Think about the question
- Order your thoughts and ideas, produce a plan, gather source material
- Write a draft essay
- Review your work
- Correct and redraft your work
- Produce a final copy

The main things to bear in mind to achieve a good essay are:
- Logical, well reasoned argument
- Relevance of examples, diagram and argument
- Effective use of source material
- Clear and easily understood presentation

Referencing in Coursework

Respecting authorship through good academic practice is one of the key values of higher education in the UK.

The University takes academic offences very seriously. You should read the sections of this handbook which refer to referencing, coursework and examinations very carefully.

Referencing is a key academic/scientific skill. It is how you will acknowledge all sources used within a piece of work. You must reference all works used directly (quotes) and indirectly (paraphrasing and summarising).
Referencing allows you to give credit to authors'/researchers' concepts and ideas/results, demonstrate your breadth of reading and knowledge on a subject, direct readers to your sources, and avoid plagiarism.

You should always use the best available sources of evidence, such as peer reviewed journals and recognised books.

To find out about your school referencing style and for help with referencing, visit the library website: library.essex.ac.uk/referencing, or take the Academic Integrity Moodle course: https://moodle.essex.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=5844

Submission of Coursework
The online coursework submission system (FAser) can be accessed through myEssex or at this web address: http://faser.essex.ac.uk/ where you will find full instructions. The system allows you to upload a digital copy of your assignment to the web.

You are encouraged to log on to FAser at the start of the year so that you understand how it works before you reach your first deadline. There is a trial module and deadline for you to use as a practice submission. There is a helpful guidance on how to use FAser here: https://www1.essex.ac.uk/e-learning/tools/faser/Student/HelpCentre#uploading

You can upload as many draft versions of your work as you like onto the server and are encouraged to use this as a safe and secure area to store your coursework. This can help to avoid the problem of your computer crashing at the last minute and your important files being lost. In cases where multiple versions are uploaded you will need to make any which you do NOT want to be included in the final submission a ‘draft’ otherwise just the most recently uploaded file will be taken as the final version. The maximum file upload size is 50MB.

Problems with FAser
If you have technical difficulties: Please contact the Learning Technology Team ltt@essex.ac.uk as soon as possible to find out if this is a University issue or whether it may be a problem with your computer. This will count towards your claim when submitting a late coursework form should you need to. You can also contact IT Services helpdesk on it.helpdesk@essex.ac.uk

If you are confused or unsure how to upload, or are having any non-technical difficulties you should contact your Postgraduate Taught Administrator

Late Submission of Coursework
We have a single policy at the University of Essex for the late submission of coursework in postgraduate courses: all coursework submitted after the deadline will receive a mark of zero. No extensions will be granted. A student submitting coursework late will have the University’s and School’s arrangements for late submission drawn to their attention. The policy states that the mark of zero shall stand unless you submit satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that indicate that you were unable to submit the work by the deadline.

Where a student is unable to undertake the assessment by the deadline, and it is deemed impossible to consider a late submission request due to the nature of the assessment (e.g. absence from in-class tests, practical assignments and presentations), an extenuating circumstances form should be submitted which will be considered by the Board of Examiners.

The University’s full Late Submission policy and further information can be found on the website: https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/late-submission.aspx

Marked work is normally returned within three weeks of submission.
Postgraduate Taught Research Projects are not counted as coursework and therefore are not covered by the policy on the late submission of coursework. Students can request an informal extension of up to four weeks from the School by submitting an Extenuating Circumstances Claim with evidence to support the claim. The form will be considered by the PGT Extenuating Circumstances Committee and the student will be notified of their decision. Should students be unable to submit their Research Project by the published deadline and require a longer extension, they are required to submit a formal request to the Dean for their approval.

The form can be found at the following link: https://www.essex.ac.uk/esf/ Please note that the request must be supported by the School.

**Examinations**

Attendance at examinations is **compulsory** and if you do not attend them and do not have extenuating circumstances then you are at risk of being withdrawn.

You can find your personalised exam timetable online at: www.essex.ac.uk/examtimes/ The exam timetable will be published on the date shown at https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/dates-and-timetables.aspx and you will receive an email to your Essex account when it is available to view.

**You must bring your registration card and exam entry form with you to the exam.** You will not be allowed entry without them. Remember to check your exam entry form carefully and email the Examinations Office (exams@essex.ac.uk) if there are any errors.

For exams that are more than an hour long, you will not be allowed to enter the examination room if you arrive later than 55 minutes after the start of the exam. If your exam is only an hour long, you will only be admitted up to ten minutes after the start of the exam.

You can download a guide to examinations and watch a short video at: www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/default.aspx

**Examination Dates**

The BS934-7-AU (Gene Technology and Synthetic Biology) Exam for MSc Biotechnology and MSc Molecular Medicine students will be scheduled in Week 15 (week commencing 7th January 2019). Attendance at this exam is compulsory and you should be aware that **Week 15 is the week before the start of the spring term.** Please do not book any holidays or trips during Week 15.

**Help to prepare for your Examinations**

You should plan to have completed your revision for all your exams before the exam period starts, with gaps between exams reserved for some relaxation and for quickly refreshing your memory of what you already know.

This requires you to organise your time so that you study the material as each module progresses, consolidating and extending your knowledge and understanding.

Module Handbooks are an important learning tool because they provide detailed documentation of what you should know for each module. The learning outcomes define what you should be able to do on successful completion of a module, and the detailed learning objectives specify how you will be assessed to see if you have met those outcomes.

Note in particular which terms are used – to meet a learning objective that specifies “Discuss …” would usually require much more work in preparation than one which is “Define…” or “List…”.

**Sample and Past Papers**

Students can access sample and past exam papers on Moodle: https://moodle.essex.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=5844
Exam Stress
Exams create stress for most people, but there is a lot that you can do to prepare for them and help manage the levels of stress associated with exams. The University's Skills for Success Team offers a series of Exam Workshops which are run by specialist staff. These sessions cover revision planning and techniques, as well as sessions on relaxation and how to cope with stress. Staff in the Student Services Hub can also provide sessions on stress management if required.

Calculators in Examinations
If you are allowed to use a calculator in your examinations, the only models you are permitted to use are the Casio FX-83GT X, Casio FX-85GT X, Casio FX-83GT PLUS or the Casio FX-85GT PLUS.

The only exception is for certain Finance exams that require a financial calculator, in which case you may use the Hewlett Packard 12c (all variants) or the Texas Instruments BAII Plus (including the BAII Plus Professional).

A limited number of Casio calculators will be available to borrow on the day of your exam from the Exams Office on a first-come, first-served basis, on production of your registration card. Please note financial calculators will not be available.

Dictionaries
Please note that dictionaries are not allowed during exams. If you take a dictionary into an exam, you will be reported on suspicion of committing an academic offence. Even if English is not your first language, you are still not entitled to use a translation dictionary or any other kind of dictionary.

Moderation and Marking
The University's Marking Policy can be found online and includes our policy and procedure on the moderation of work.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/quality/university_policies/examination_and_assessment/marketing_policy/default.asp

Moderation
Moderation is a process separate from that of marking and provides assurance that the assessment criteria have been applied appropriately. When work is moderated, it means that a second member of academic staff takes a random sample of the work for a particular assessment and reviews the marks given. In instances where the moderator feels marks may not be entirely appropriate, the moderator would not change individual marks for the work, but would liaise with the first marker to agree whether marks should be reviewed across the particular piece of assessment or module. Should a review of marks be agreed, this may lead to marks being adjusted accordingly.

External Examiners
External Examiners are typically academics from other universities, but may also be from industry, business or the relevant profession depending on the requirements of the course. They give an impartial view of the course and independent advice to ensure that courses at the University meet the academic standards expected across UK higher education. External Examiners write reports on the courses and modules they are responsible for which are made available to you via your department. Unless the External Examiner has been specifically sent work to arbitrate on a dispute between internal markers, the External Examiner's role will in assessment will be as a moderator. You can find the name and institution of the External Examiner for your course and modules by looking on the Programme Specifications Catalogue and the Module Directory.
You can find out more about how the University uses External Examiners here: www.essex.ac.uk/quality/external_examiners/default.asp

**Please note: you may not contact External Examiners directly under any circumstances.** If you have any concerns about the quality and standards of your course, please contact your Student Representative, your Head of Department, or the Students’ Union.

**Second Marking**

Second marking is where a second marker marks the work but has access to the first marker’s marks and/or comments. Where two members of staff are involved in marking a piece of work, the markers should make every effort to agree a mark, rather than merely averaging the two marks. Departments keep a full record of both individual and agreed marks for all work which is second marked.

**Anonymous Marking**

Anonymous marking is when your work is marked anonymously, i.e. your name is not attached to the piece of work for marking.

Where it is practical to do so, all coursework which contributes to your final module mark should be marked anonymously. Where this is not possible, departments will inform you in advance of the assessment task.

All formal examinations at the University of Essex are marked anonymously. You will be provided with a candidate number on your exam entry form. This will be in large print in the centre of the page. This is the number you should write on your examination scripts. It is important that you do this so we can, once the paper has been marked, allocate the marks to your record correctly.

**Re-marking of Coursework**

You may, under certain circumstances, have the right to request a re-mark of your coursework. Should you feel that your work needs to be reviewed and potentially re-marked, you should first contact the Module Supervisor for a fuller explanation of the mark. If you are still unhappy you can ask for a second opinion and to do this you should approach the Postgraduate Taught Director. Any requests for second marking must be made within two weeks of return of the work. By submitting your work for re-marking, your marks are not guaranteed to increase, but the mark awarded after re-marking will override your original mark. Therefore, please be aware that in all incidences where coursework is re-marked, it is possible that your marks could go down, as well as up.

The re-marking of work is included within the University’s Marking Policy can be found here: www.essex.ac.uk/quality/university_policies/examination_and_assessment/marking_policy.

**Appeals**

Appeals on academic grounds can be made following the meeting of the Board of Examiners and the publication of your results. There are limited grounds available to appeal on and strict deadlines to adhere to. As such, we strongly advise all students thinking about making an appeal to contact the SU Advice Centre.

More information about appeals, including the deadlines and forms to complete, can be found online at: www.essex.ac.uk/see/appeals

**Extenuating Circumstances**

Extenuating circumstances are circumstances beyond your control which cause you to perform to less of a standard in your coursework or examinations than you might have expected, or in some instances, may prevent you from submitting coursework or attending an exam entirely. In general,
valid extenuating circumstances will be of medical or personal natures that affect you for any significant period of time and/or during assessment.

Your school will review your claim at an Extenuating Circumstances Committee and determine whether it will be accepted or rejected. The Board of Examiners will determine an appropriate course of action and the corresponding methods, to take into account your extenuating circumstances, if appropriate, such as permitting further reassessment opportunities for uncapped marks. Please note that extra marks cannot be given in light of extenuating circumstances.

If you do need to make an extenuating circumstances claim, you should first read the guidance very carefully and seek advice from SU Advice (www.essex.su/advice) or the Student Services Hub (www.essex.ac.uk/students/contact/default.aspx). Please be prepared that you may need to include supporting evidence with your claim. Extenuating circumstance claims must be submitted via MyEssex by the appropriate deadline noted.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/myessex/ExtenuatingCircumstancesHome.aspx

Further information and the full Extenuating Circumstances Policy can be found on the website: https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ext-circ.aspx

**Return of Coursework/Feedback**
For coursework submitted electronically (via FASer) you will receive an email notification alert when your marked work is available. Marked work is normally returned within three weeks of the hand-in date. Where this three week deadline falls during the vacations, work will be returned to you in the first week of the next term.

**The Board of Examiners**
The Board of Examiners meet in mid-June (for the Interim Exam Board) and mid-November (for the Final Exam Board) and use the Rules of Assessment to determine whether:

- you can be awarded credit for the modules you have studied
- you have met the requirements to progress to the next stage of your course (if you are on a course which lasts more than one year)
- you have met the requirements to pass your course
- you are eligible to receive a merit or distinction

If it determined that you have not passed sufficient credits to progress to the next stage of study, or, for final year students, to graduate, the Board of Examiners will also determine:

- what reassessment you could be offered and when you can take it

**Failure to Pass**
The following is only a summary of the key points. You should read the rules and make sure you understand them. If you need advice, ask your personal tutor, departmental administrator, or SU Advice.

If you **fail your course** you are not able to repeat it. The Rules of Assessment for Postgraduate Taught Awards only allow reassessment for up to a maximum of 60 credits worth of modules for taught masters degrees. The Board of Examiners will inform you if you are eligible for reassessment once it has considered your marks.

If you **fail your dissertation** you may be permitted by the Board of Examiners to resubmit your work, provided you meet the criteria as set out in the Rules of Assessment for Postgraduate Taught Awards. Alternatively, if you have obtained enough credits in your taught modules, you may be eligible for another award such as a postgraduate diploma or certificate.
**Credit Accumulation**

You can decide if you want to accumulate credit by taking individual modules with the aim of achieving a postgraduate award; this is called **Modular study**. There are opportunities to achieve postgraduate awards through **credit accumulation study** in an increasing number of departments, as an alternative to standard full or part-time study. You can find more information on the ‘Study by credit accumulation’ webpages: [www1.essex.ac.uk/quality/university_policies/credit-accumulation.asp](http://www1.essex.ac.uk/quality/university_policies/credit-accumulation.asp)

Individual modules can yield 15, 20, 30 or 40 credits depending upon which department you are studying in. Each award has a defined structure, normally consisting of a combination of core, compulsory and optional modules, and requires a specific volume of credit to be achieved:

- Graduate/Postgraduate Certificates - 60 credits (all taught module credits)
- Graduate/Postgraduate Diplomas - 120 credits (all taught module credits)
- Masters Courses - 180 credits (normally 120 credits of taught module credits and a 60 credit dissertation or equivalent)

Credit is awarded for successful completion of individual modules. Students taking a credit-accumulation route of study register for the separate modules individually and accumulate the required volume of credit for the relevant award, including the dissertation if necessary. You will be given a different registration number for each module.

The Rules of Assessment are different when you study individual modules; make sure you check the relevant Rules of Assessment for the award you’re studying towards.

**You will have a maximum of six years to study** (this is usually five years with a sixth year for a dissertation). We measure the six years from the first module you register on towards the award.

You can find out more information here: [www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ppg/pgt/modular](http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ppg/pgt/modular) and you should talk to your tutors about fees, and applying accumulated credit towards an award.

**Examination Results**

You will receive an email to your Essex email account as soon as your results are published. You can find the publication schedule at: [www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/schedule.aspx](http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/schedule.aspx)

**Access to Exam Scripts**

If you want to see your exam script, you should normally make the request within four weeks after the exam to the department which is responsible for that module. The department should either: let you see the script in the presence of one of the staff responsible for teaching the module or give you a copy or summary of the examiners’ comments on your performance. If you need to undertake an exam as part of reassessment on a module, your department will provide you with written feedback on any elements being reassessed.

**Students must not attempt to engage the member of staff in discussions about whether the work has been marked correctly. The marks will have been approved by the external examiners and ratified by the examination board.** A student who wishes to view an examination script or project should the Postgraduate Taught Administrator, Nicola Reason in the Postgraduate Office. You can find further information about Assessment Policies at: [www.essex.ac.uk/quality/university_policies](http://www.essex.ac.uk/quality/university_policies)

**Reassessment**

You may only undertake reassessment if the Board of Examiners says that you may do so.
If you have to take compulsory reassessment, whether coursework or examination, it is really important that you do this. If you do not, it is likely that you will be unable to progress with your studies at the University. The Board of Examiners will not consider permitting you to proceed carrying fails if you have not undertaken the required reassessment offered.

Please be aware that reassessment in examinations and coursework carries a fee.

Reassessed modules are normally capped at the pass mark of 40% unless you have extenuating circumstances which are accepted by the Exam Board. Please be aware that reassessment in examinations and coursework carries a fee.

In the School of Life Sciences, all reassessment is conducted through coursework (and examinations for those students undertaking the BS934-7-AU Module Gene Technology and Synthetic Biology).

Resit Exams
Resit exams are scheduled in early September or ‘out of residence’ in the summer of the following year. A considerable amount of useful revision material is available on Moodle. Students can contact staff, particularly Module Supervisors for the modules they are resitting if they need help with revision or specific queries (do not leave this until the last minute as staff availability will be reduced throughout the summer). Staff can give individual feedback on summer exam performance, if requested.

You can find further information relating to resitting exams at: www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/resits.aspx

Feedback
If you need to undertake any reassessment on a module, your school will provide you with written feedback on any elements being reassessed. A very important part of our teaching and your learning is the feedback that we give you on all assessed coursework; this may be comments written directly on your work, or on marks criteria grids, or it may be more general feedback included when the work is returned. You should review carefully and learn from all these sources of feedback. Whilst staff may give general feedback on the coursework assignments, you will not receive feedback on the BS934-7-AU January exam (for MSc Biotechnology and MSc Molecular Medicine students), unless you specifically request it.

Exit Awards
If you decide to withdraw from your course before you finish, or you fail too many credits to be awarded a Bachelor’s degree, you may be awarded a qualification at a lower level, if appropriate.
Computers, Learning Technologies and your Information

Computers

Using a Campus Computer

If you need to use a computer on campus our computer labs are the perfect place to study or work. We also have group study pods which are ideal for group projects. You can find a full list of computers available to use on our website: https://www1.essex.ac.uk/it/labs/usage/. Many labs stay open until late and some are open 24/7. Labs may be booked for teaching, and so it is best to check availability first.

As part of your IT account at Essex, all students have full access to:

- **Office 365**
  Office 365 is an online version of the Microsoft Office suite of programmes. You can access these by logging into your account from anywhere, which means you can use Microsoft programmes from at home too.

- **1TB of OneDrive cloud storage space**
  OneDrive lets you create, edit, and share documents online so you can access them from anywhere in the world and from any device.

- **1 GB of local storage**
  This is known as your M: drive. You can only access this when logged onto a lab computer on campus. Go to ‘This PC’ and select the M: drive network. If you want to access documents saved here from your personal laptop, you will need to either save them in your OneDrive or transfer the documents in another secure method, such as via USB.

Information on other software available to students and general IT matters is available here: www.essex.ac.uk/it/services/computers-and-software/default.aspx?tab=3

**IT Help and Guidance**
You can search the Student Directory for more IT information, including how-to guides, answers to frequently asked questions, and links to video screencasts.

https://www.essex.ac.uk/student

If you can’t find what you’re looking for, or if you need to talk to someone, then the IT Helpdesk team are here to assist you further. The contact details for your campus Helpdesk can be found online along with the opening times: https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/it-services/it-helpdesk

**Learning Technologies and Systems**

**Learner Engagement Activity Portal (LEAP)**
LEAP is our student centered, personalised engagement tool. LEAP displays your engagement with university resources (Moodle, FASER, Listen Again, the Library and university computers usage as well as attendance).
An algorithm within LEAP combines your engagement with university resources and activities to produce an overall engagement indicator. There are 5 engagement indicators (high, good, partial, low and very low) which will help you map and better understand your engagement pattern over time.

By providing you with a more holistic view of your studying experience, LEAP offers you the opportunity to take control of your own learning and make more informed choices about your studies, enabling you to:

- Reflect on your academic activates and overall engagement to make informed decisions about your academic studies
- Discover who your Personal Tutor is
- Review the notes created in LEAP from meetings with Tutors or other university staff
- Check your attendance and ensure the information is correct

Tutors and other university staff may use the information in LEAP to:

- Suggest ways you could achieve better outcomes
- Check that all is well and offer information, advice and guidance
- Help you in areas of their studies that you are finding a challenge

https://leap.essex.ac.uk/login

**Moodle**

We use Moodle as our online learning environment, to enhance face-to-face teaching. It lets you get to course materials, and has built-in features to enhance learning such as discussion forums, chat facilities, quizzes, surveys, glossaries and wikis.

https://moodle.essex.ac.uk/

**FASER**

FASER is our online coursework submission and feedback system. Use it to check coursework deadlines, upload coursework and receive electronic feedback all in one place.

faser.essex.ac.uk

**Talis Aspire**

Talis Aspire is our online reading list system. Use it to find out the details of each week’s reading and to access resources through the library.

https://essex.rl.talis.com/index.html

**Listen Again**

Did you miss something? Our Listen Again digital recording service lets you listen again to lectures so you grasp every detail. It’s available in teaching rooms or lecture theatres where you see the sign.

listenagain.essex.ac.uk

**Your information**

**Changes to your Information**

During your period of study at Essex, you wish to be known by a preferred name or update your legal name on our student record database (ESIS) if your circumstances change. It is important you keep your information up to date. Information about updating your name on your student record is available at: https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/course-admin/default.aspx
Keep your Information up to date
During your period of study at Essex, your details may change, including your name. It is really important that your information on our student record database (ESIS) is accurate, so make absolutely sure that if your circumstances change that you let us know. Equally, you may wish to be known by a preferred name. You can add this to your record for staff to use, and find more information about updating your name on your student record at:
https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/course-admin/default.aspx

Your Personal Information
We collect and hold lots of information about you, your course, and your progress so that we know who you are, what you’re doing, and how you are getting on. This means we can support you and also improve our services to reflect the need of our students.

All information about you is kept securely, and access to your information is only given to staff who need it in order to do their job. Where possible, we will ask you for your permission to share.

You have a right to ask for copies of information we hold about you.

www.essex.ac.uk/records_management/request

To find out more about what information we collect, what we do with it, who gets to see it, and your rights under the data Protection Act 2018, read our Privacy Notice for students.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/records_management/policies/students.aspx
**Student Voice**

At the University of Essex, the views, ideas and feedback of our students are at the heart of what the University does. The time students take to offer feedback is hugely appreciated. This feedback, both positive and developmental, is used to help make short and longer term improvements, both to the experience of current students, but also for Essex students of the future. You can do this in a number of ways.

**Student Representatives**
You can contact (or volunteer to be) a **student representative** who represent the voice of fellow students in school Student Voice Groups (SVG) and other University level committees.

https://www.essexstudent.com/representation/
http://www.essex.ac.uk/quality/student_representation/student_rep.asp

**Student Voice Groups**
Student Voice Groups (SVGs), formerly known as Student Staff Liaison Committees (SSLCs), are made up of **elected student representatives** and members of staff. SVGs typically meet once per term and provide an accessible arena for students to discuss with staff issues connected to teaching, learning and student support. They also provide an opportunity for the academic department/school/centre to consult with students and receive feedback on new proposals.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/quality/student_representation/SVGs.asp

**Student Surveys**
**Student satisfaction surveys** enable the University to gauge overall satisfaction amongst students. When the results have been reviewed and analysed, the University can then enhance your experience of learning at Essex. The University participates in the Office for Students (OfS) PGT survey. You will be invited to participate via a link once it is open. It asks questions about your life at university and your experience studying at Essex.

**Student Assessment of Module and Teaching**
Every year, we will ask you to complete the **Student Assessment of Module and Teaching (SAMT)**. This survey allows you to feedback on each of the modules you have studied. Receiving feedback at this level is critical for the University to understand what works well, and what could be improved, from the perspective of students. All feedback from SAMT will be summarised and discussed by SVGs and will inform reports written for central University committees as part of our quality assurance processes.

There are also many other satisfaction surveys taking place, to ensure students are happy with the services the University of Essex provides. From time to time you will be invited to participate via an email.

If you have some feedback but don’t know who to tell, email studentexperience@essex.ac.uk

There are also many other satisfaction surveys taking place, to ensure students are happy with the services the University of Essex provides. From time to time you will be invited to participate via an email.

If you have some feedback but don’t know who to tell, email studentexperience@essex.ac.uk
You Matter

We know university life can throw up all kinds of concerns and questions - if you need some information, advice or support to succeed, stay healthy and happy, we’ve got it covered.

Student Services Hub

If you need practical advice, a confidential conversation, or general information and guidance on University life, no matter what the issue is, the Student Services Hub is the place to go. Ask us about health and well-being, accommodation, careers services, money matters and much more. Your questions matter and you’ll get answers from our team of experts.

Colchester: askthehub@essex.ac.uk / 01206 874000
Southend: askthehub-sc@essex.ac.uk / 01702 328444
Loughton: askthehub-lc@essex.ac.uk / 020 8508 5983

Health Centre

If you’re studying on a course for more than six months, you’re required to register with a local doctor. Our Colchester Campus has its own health centre or you can use the NHS Choices postcode finder to find your nearest doctor.

www.rowhedgesurgery.co.uk
www.nhs.uk

Disability and Emotional Wellbeing

We would encourage all new students with a disability, long term medical condition, specific learning difficulty or mental health difficulty to disclose and register with the Student Services Hub so that we can plan how best to support you in your studies.

You can find out about the support we offer here:

www.essex.ac.uk/students/contact/help.aspx

UK students may be eligible for a Disabled Students’ Allowance grant. See our webpages for more information, including application forms and key changes:

www.essex.ac.uk/students/disability/funding.aspx

Your Student Services Hub provides advice, information and support on a range of health and wellbeing issues.

www.essex.ac.uk/students/health

Counselling Services

Our University offers a range of services and resources to support students with a variety of counselling opportunities.

Validium

The University works in partnership with an organisation called Validium to offer short-term counselling to help you explore and work through problems and difficulties that are causing distress and interfering with your life at University.
You might be worried, depressed, confused or feeling bad about yourself. There might be a problem in your family, friendships or with your partner, or you might be experiencing difficulties with your work and exams. Counselling can provide a safe space for you to talk through and explore your feelings.

You can also contact the Validium 24-hour Student Wellbeing Support Line. You will be able to have an initial chat, in confidence, about the difficulties you’re experiencing and the support available to you.

Call 0800 970 5020 or +44 141 271 7168.

**Chat with Charlie**

Chat with Charlie offers online mental health support every evening between 6pm – 10pm. You can get support with exam stress, relationships, low mood, anxiety or anything else which may be troubling you, however big or small it may seem.

Log on just to chat or find out how to get additional support. For more information, contact wellbeing@essex.ac.uk.

[https://mnessexmind.org/chat-with-charlie/](https://mnessexmind.org/chat-with-charlie/)

**Nightline**

Established at Essex in 1970, Nightline is a friendly help and support service run by students, for students. We work under strict confidentiality ensuring complete anonymity, and we’re always willing to listen. From tea and toast to camp beds, whether you’re waiting for a taxi, need a revision break, or just want to chat, pop in or call us.

[www.essex.ac.uk/students/health-and-wellbeing/nightline.aspx](http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/health-and-wellbeing/nightline.aspx)

If you feel you would benefit from support, including counselling, please contact your Student Services Hub. You can find more information, including the full range of counselling services available to you, on the website: [https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/mental-and-emotional-health/counselling](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/mental-and-emotional-health/counselling)

**Money Management**

If you get into financial difficulty you should get help and talk to someone as soon as possible. The sooner your problem is identified, the sooner it can be solved. Advisers in our Student Services Hub and our independent SU Advice can listen and talk you through the issues you are experiencing.

[www.essex.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/money/](http://www.essex.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/money/)

**Students’ Union Advice**

Our SU Advice service also offers free, confidential, independent and impartial advice on many issues that might be affecting you. Our friendly, trained staff are on hand to support you throughout your time at Essex. You can speak to us about Academic processes and procedures, representation at University meetings, Tier 4 UK visa extensions, housing, complaints, welfare and consumer issues.

[www.essex.su/advice](http://www.essex.su/advice)

Colchester students - [sualadvice@essex.ac.uk](mailto:sualadvice@essex.ac.uk), 01206 874034

Southend students – [suacsou@essex.ac.uk](mailto:suacsou@essex.ac.uk), 01702 328235 (term time only)

Loughton students – [suaclo@essex.ac.uk](mailto:suaclo@essex.ac.uk), 01206 874034
**Residence Life**
Our Residence Life team is here to help you settle in and support you during your time living on campus. Each residents’ assistant (RA) is assigned an area and will aim to get to know you and organise a range of social activities. Plus they can help if you’ve got any concerns or complaints. Residence Life operates outside of office hours when other University support services are closed.

[https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation/living-on-campus/residence-life](https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation/living-on-campus/residence-life)

**Religion, Faith and Beliefs**
We’re proud of our vibrant and diverse multicultural community and welcome everyone, of all faiths and none. The calm, friendly and supportive atmosphere in our Faith Centre is a welcoming place for staff, students and the wider community to meet, interact and engage with each other.

[www.essex.ac.uk/students/experience/mfc](http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/experience/mfc)

**Harassment Support**
We are Essex. We encourage a culture of dignity and respect. We’re committed to upholding an environment that’s free from any form of harassment or bullying. Though rare, these incidents can occur and if they do our Harassment Report and Support Service of trained Harassment Support Workers are on hand to help.

[https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/report/report-harassment](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/report/report-harassment)
[https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/equality-and-diversity](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/equality-and-diversity)
[https://www.essex.ac.uk/welcome](https://www.essex.ac.uk/welcome)

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming and inclusive student community. We offer a wide range of support to individuals and groups of student members who may have specific requirements, interests or responsibilities – to help you fulfil your potential.

[https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/student-communities](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/student-communities)
[https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/access-and-disability](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/access-and-disability)

**Health and Safety on Campus**
Our campuses are generally very safe environments. We want to ensure that things stay this way. In order to achieve this we work closely with local agencies including the police and borough councils. Take a look at our website for general advice and information:

[www.essex.ac.uk/students/experience/safety.aspx](http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/experience/safety.aspx)

Please familiarise yourself with fire safety and emergency evacuation procedures for your accommodation, work or study location. If you have a permanent or temporary disability that may mean you have difficulty in evacuating one or more areas, you can arrange for a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP).

[https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/emergencies/fire-emergency-action](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/emergencies/fire-emergency-action)

[https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety/peep](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety/peep)

Please take note of our advice on the safe use of electrical items and prohibited electrical items in residential and non-residential areas.

[https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/health-and-safety/electrical-safety](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/health-and-safety/electrical-safety)

You will find further health and safety information connected with your studies and life on our campuses in the Student Directory under health, safety and wellbeing.
If you have any health and safety concerns or need to report an incident, please do get in touch:

https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/report

**Making a Complaint**
The University is a large community engaged in many activities of both an academic and non-academic nature. From time to time, you may feel dissatisfied with some aspect of your dealings with the University and, when that happens, it is important that the issue is dealt with constructively and as quickly as possible without risk of disadvantage or recrimination.

The University aims to resolve complaints quickly and informally in accordance with the Student concerns and complaints procedure which can be found on our website.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/students/experience/complaints.aspx
Student Development

Careers Services
Get valuable, one-to-one advice from careers specialists throughout your time at Essex and beyond. You can access our services via the Student Services Hub or log in to CareerHub+ whether you have one hundred questions or just don’t know where to start! We offer one-to-one advice and guidance, job-hunting workshops, CV and job application reviews, and online services for creating CVs, interview preparation and job vacancies.

www.essex.ac.uk/careers You can also undertake many courses that include a Placement year – for more information, see your department handbook and email placements@essex.ac.uk.

CareerHub+
Find hundreds of part-time jobs, internships and graduate vacancies, book on to careers events and workshops, take career assessments, practice your interview skills, build your CV, and connect with employers on CareerHub+, the online Essex careers and jobs portal. Login with your Essex username and password.

careerhub.essex.ac.uk/students/login

Big Essex Award
The University’s Big Essex Award gives you recognition for all your extra-curricular achievements. All of your Big Essex Award activities can be recorded through GradIntel. Get involved and get ahead of the game.

www.essex.ac.uk/careers/bige

Frontrunners
Challenge yourself. Frontrunners is Essex’s unique on-campus work placement scheme for students. You’ll get the chance to work on real projects in real workplaces and develop real skills for you to enhance your CV. You’ll get fully trained in your role and you’ll get paid for it.

www.essex.ac.uk/frontrunners

Volunteering
Join the vTeam and be the difference. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer during your time at Essex. The vTeam, run by the Students Union, is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, make friends, give something to the local community, and gain valuable skills.

www.essex.su/vteam

Essex Interns
Essex interns create paid internships exclusively for you as an Essex student. They’re flexible too; part time during term time or full time in vacations. You can even take part up to three years after you graduate, as part of our Essex graduates support package. Sign up for Essex Interns to kick-start your career.

www.essex.ac.uk/careers/internships
You Are Essex

Year and Degree Marks
As your studies draw to a close, and once your exam board has met, it takes up to five working days for your results to be confirmed. You will be sent an email to inform you when the results are live on a password protected web page. You will be able to see your marks obtained and any decisions that you must make in order to progress to the next stage of study.

When in your final year of study, graduating students will receive a degree certificate at Graduation and graduating undergraduate students also be able to access their electronic HEAR which gives details of all marks obtained during their studies.

Further information can be found at:
www.essex.ac.uk/students/graduation/award-documents/default.aspx

GradIntel
Postgraduate students do not currently have access to the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR); this is only available for undergraduate students. However, you can use GradIntel to record any extra-curricular activities you may be involved in through the Big Essex Awards but not full access to your academic achievements.


Graduation
The culmination of all your hard work, Graduation ceremonies take place at our Colchester Campus each July in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall. All eligible students studying at our Colchester, Loughton and Southend Campuses will be invited to attend. For more information visit our graduation pages:
www.essex.ac.uk/students/graduation/default.aspx

Job References

Requesting References from Members of Staff
If you require a personal reference, always ask permission from a member of staff before giving their name as a referee. You should consider from whom it is most appropriate to request a reference and who will be best equipped to evidence your character and performance in the subject.

For example, final year project supervisors, year organisers, and core course supervisors are likely to be more suitable than lecturers that have taught you on a first-year option course. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet a request for reference for a student who has undertaken study within our Department. Requests received from students who have graduated from the University within the last three years will be prioritised. Requests received outside of this period may, of course, be met if a member of staff is equipped with the necessary information and is willing to provide a reference.

It is always helpful if you can provide the member of staff with details about the course or job you have applied for and, if relevant, a CV or other summary of your qualifications and experience. Please try to ask for references in good time – it is not always possible for a member of staff to write a reference immediately.
Copies of References
A copy of any reference provided will be retained within our department for no longer than three years for taught students.

Alumni
Essex is forever and although your time here will fly by, you’ll be part of the Essex family for life. When you graduate, you’ll get an alumni card and join a community of over 100,000 fellow graduates around the world. We’d love to keep in touch and invite you to our alumni events, networking and volunteering opportunities, as well as offer you special alumni benefits. Want to know more? Visit our website https://www.essex.ac.uk/alumni

What Comes Next?
The world is your oyster! The options and opportunities open to you as a postgraduate can be overwhelming. You may know the exact path and next steps that you wish to take, or you might not, and this is okay. Our Careers Services can offer information, guidance and advice on your different options after graduation and you can return to Essex for these services at any time.

Spread your wings graduand; but you can always come back! As an alumnus of Essex, you can take advantage of generous discounts on further postgraduate qualifications or research degrees should you choose to return to study at Essex now, or at any time in the future.

https://www1.essex.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/masters/loyalty/

We are proud of our world-class research at Essex and your invitation to contribute is lifelong. If you do decide to stay on for further study with us, you’ll develop extensive knowledge in your chosen area and learn from some of the top academics in the field. You can explore our incredibly range of courses online.

Whatever you chose to do, please stay in touch! Keep us up to date with your achievements and explore the variety of ways through which you can give back to Essex too.

https://www.essex.ac.uk/postgraduate-research-degrees

Please note that the individual MSc Course Structures are attached as Appendices at the end of this handbook.
Appendix 1: MSc Biotechnology Course Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Core/Compulsory for Masters:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BS934-7-AU</td>
<td>GENE TECHNOLOGY AND SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS982-7-AU</td>
<td>GENOMICS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS983-7-SP</td>
<td>PROTEIN TECHNOLOGIES</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS937-7-SP</td>
<td>INDUSTRIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY: ENZYMES, BIOCHEMICALS AND BIOMATERIALS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS985-7-AP</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND THE BUSINESS OF BIOSCIENCES</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS984-7-PS</td>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECT: MSC BIOTECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>180</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course extends over a full year with taught modules scheduled during the Autumn (AU) and Spring (SP) Terms (until Easter), over the Autumn and Spring Term (AP) and Spring and Summer Terms (PS). The preparatory work for the research project is initiated during the Easter vacation, with a Dissertation to be completed by early September.

The taught modules are comprised of five compulsory modules. The Research Project is a core module, meaning it must be passed with a mark of 50 or higher.

The Research Project involves a literature search, research project proposal (research plan), safety assessments, research practical work, poster and oral presentation and research project report.

Core/Compulsory Modules

MSc Biotechnology students take module BS934 (Gene Technology and Synthetic Biology) in the Autumn Term, along with the other compulsory module BS982 (Genomics) and BS985 (Professional Skills and the Business of Biosciences) which is an autumn and spring term module. Students then take BS983 (Protein Technologies) along with BS987 (Industrial Biotechnology: Enzymes, Biochemicals and Biomaterials) in the spring term.
The compulsory/core modules provide a rigorous theoretical background to the key techniques in Biotechnology. These modules run as a thread through the first two terms and provide the foundation of the degree. The compulsory modules complement each other to provide a solid platform from which to approach the Research Project.

The difference between core and non-core (compulsory) modules is that a fail mark between 40 and 50 can be condoned in up to 40 credits worth of non-core modules. Core modules must be passed with a mark of 50 or above in order to pass the Masters degree.

**BS934-7-AU Gene Technology & Synthetic Biology**

*Gene Technology and Synthetic Biology*

**BS982-7-AU Introduction to Genomics**

*Genomics*

**BS983-7-SP Protein Technologies**

*Protein Technologies*

**BS937-7-SP Industrial Biotechnology: Enzymes, Biochemicals and Biomaterials**

*Industrial Biotechnology: Enzymes, Biochemicals and Biomaterials*

**BS985-7-AP Professional Skills and the Business of Biosciences**

*Professional Skills and the Business of Biosciences*

**BS984-7-PS Research Project: MSc Biotechnology**

*Research Project: MSc Biotechnology*

Further information on the modules including lecture content, details of assessment, deadlines and reading lists is listed in the Module Handbooks which are available via Moodle:-

https://moodle.essex.ac.uk/login/index.php
### Appendix 2: MSc Molecular Medicine Course

#### Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Core/Compulsory/Optional for Masters:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BS934-7-AU</td>
<td>GENE TECHNOLOGY AND SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS982-7-AU</td>
<td>GENOMICS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS983-7-SP</td>
<td>PROTEIN TECHNOLOGIES</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS985-7-AP</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND THE BUSINESS OF BIOSCIENCES</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS938-7-SP</td>
<td>MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF DISEASE</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS986-7-PS</td>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECT: MSC MOLECULAR MEDICINE</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>180</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course extends over a full year with taught modules scheduled during the Autumn (AU) and Spring (SP) Terms (until Easter), over the Autumn and Spring Term (AP) and Spring and Summer Terms (PS). The preparatory work for the research project is initiated during the Easter vacation, with a dissertation to be completed by early September.

The taught modules are comprised of five compulsory modules. The Research Project is a core module, meaning it must be passed with a mark of 50 or higher.

The Research Project involves a literature search, research project proposal (research plan), safety assessments, research practical work, poster and oral presentation and research project report.

#### Core/Compulsory Modules

MSc Molecular Medicine students take module BS934 (Gene Technology and Synthetic Biology) in the Autumn Term, along with the other compulsory module BS982 (Genomics) and BS985 (Professional Skills and the Business of Biosciences) which is an autumn and spring term module. Students then take BS983 (Protein Technologies) and BS938 (Molecular Mechanisms of Disease) in the spring term.

The compulsory/core modules provide a rigorous theoretical background to the key techniques in modern molecular biology and their applications to normal and pathological processes in cells.
and organisms. These modules run as a thread through the first two terms and provide the foundation of the degree. The compulsory and optional modules complement each other to provide a solid platform from which to approach the Research Project.

The difference between core and non-core (compulsory) modules is that a fail mark between 40 and 50 can be condoned in up to 40 credits worth of non-core modules. Core modules must be passed with a mark of 50 or above in order to pass the Masters degree.

BS934-7-AU Gene Technology and Synthetic Biology
Gene Technology and Synthetic Biology

BS982-7-AU Genomics
Genomics

BS983-7-SP Protein Technologies
Protein Technologies

BS938-7-SP Molecular Mechanisms of Disease
Molecular Mechanisms of Disease

BS985-7-AP Professional Skills and the Business of Biosciences
Professional Skills and the Business of Biosciences

BS986-7-PS Research Project: MSc Molecular Medicine
Research Project: MSc Molecular Medicine

Further information on the modules including lecture content, details of assessment, deadlines and reading lists is listed in the Module Handbooks which are available via Moodle:– https://moodle.essex.ac.uk/login/index.php
Appendix 3: MSc Tropical Marine Biology Course

Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credit Value</th>
<th>Indicate Core/Compulsory/Optional for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS705-7-FY</td>
<td>Tropical Marine Resources</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS706-7-FY</td>
<td>Tropical Marine Systems</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS707-7-FY</td>
<td>Methods in Tropical Marine Biology</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS708-7-FY</td>
<td>Professional Skills in Tropical Marine Biology</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS782-7-FY</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course extends over a full year with taught modules during the Autumn and Spring Terms (until Easter), followed by a dissertation to be completed during the Summer Term. The course contains a programme of four Thematic Modules (BS705, BS706, BS707 (a Practical-based module) and BS708), all of which are compulsory, as well as the Research Project (BS782). The difference between core and non-core (compulsory) modules is that a fail mark between 40 and 50 can be condoned in up to 40 credits worth of non-core modules, whereas core modules must be passed with a mark of 50 or above in order to pass the Masters degree.

Students who do not pass sufficient credits to be awarded a Masters may receive a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) or a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert). Students must obtain 120 credits for the award of PGDip and 60 credits for the award of PGCert.

Compulsory Modules

Thematic Modules (BS705, BS706, BS707 and BS708)

There are four compulsory Thematic Modules. The Thematic Units are Tropical Marine Resources (BS705), Tropical Marine Systems (BS706), Professional Skills in Tropical Marine Biology (BS708), and Methods in Tropical Marine Biology (BS707), a more practical-based module which supports the other, theoretical modules. A wide range of assessment techniques is employed – please see the individual Module Handbooks for these modules to obtain further information on the assessments.

The Thematic Modules are designed to provide the fundamental knowledge and tools required to deal with marine biological issues and problems, and to increase graduates’ knowledge base across a broad range of tropical marine biology topics.
BS705-7-FY Tropical Marine Resources
Tropical Marine Resources

BS706-7-FY Tropical Marine Systems
Tropical Marine Systems

BS707-7-FY Methods in Tropical Marine Biology
Methods in Tropical Marine Biology

BS708-7-FY Professional Skills in Tropical Marine Biology
Professional Skills in Tropical Marine Biology

BS782-7-FY Research Project: MSc Tropical Marine Biology
Research Project: MSc Tropical Marine Biology

Further information on the modules including lecture content, details of assessment, deadlines and reading lists is listed in the Module Handbooks which are available via Moodle:
https://moodle.essex.ac.uk/login/index.php