



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Department
Of
Materials Science &
Engineering

Course Information

Autumn 2018

BEng Biomaterials Science and Engineering

UCAS Code: JH56

This course covers the fundamentals of Materials Science and Engineering, and how these ideas can be applied to address the challenges of using materials in medicine and healthcare.

Year 1

The first year of the course is intended to build the fundamental background knowledge required for all Materials Science and Engineering study, with a particular focus on how materials interact with the body.

Core Modules

100/120 credits

Courses introduce natural and replacement biomaterials, the basics of the biology and chemistry of living systems (in particular for cell and human biology), the structure and function of body tissues, and more general materials issues, such as the chemistry of materials (how atoms arrange themselves in crystalline materials and how polymers are formed), microstructure, mechanical properties of materials and their use in structural applications, thermodynamics and energy and how these relate to materials, magnetic, electrical and optical properties, and the key elements of mathematics.

Optional Modules

20/120 credits

There are also options choosing either specialist materials / biomaterials components, modern languages or management.

Other parts of the course

Lecture courses are supported by a program of practicals and tutorials. You will also participate in the week-long Global Engineering Challenge, working in multidisciplinary teams with other engineers to come up with solutions to sustainable development needs.

Year 2

In the second year the ideas from year 1 are developed further, with a number of courses that build directly on first year topics. Certain material classes are addressed separately, and processing and manufacturing considered.

Core Modules

120/120 credits

Topics explored further include artificial biomaterials, the mechanical behaviour and deformation of materials, as well as underpinning mathematics. Human physiology is extended to look at the musculoskeletal system, the neural and endocrine systems in more detail, and there is more in depth study of the biology and chemistry of living systems.

New topics include cellular and molecular biology, the biomechanics and fluid mechanical descriptions of the human body, formal methods for the selection of materials for different applications, along with industrial materials processing from primary production to final component manufacture. Software and methods for numerical data analysis and modelling are also covered.

Other parts of the course

Lecture courses are supported by a further program of practicals and tutorials. There is another week-long project with other engineers (Engineering: You're hired) where projects are provided by industry.

Note: the courses have a lot in common for the first 2 years. It is therefore possible to change to another degree in the Department at the end of year 2 (provided that a 60% average is achieved for MEng degrees).

Year 3

In year 3 there is an increased use of other types of teaching as compared to the traditional lectures. The intent here is to give high-level knowledge in major areas of materials science and technology.

Core Modules

90/120 credits

The main areas addressed in detail in the 3rd year are tissue engineering, materials used in biological applications, composite materials, engineering metals, surface degradation and protection. There is also training in performing Finite Element Modelling, and an introductory module on finance and law.

Other parts of the course

30/120 credits

Individual Research Project: Students will have the opportunity to select project areas of interest from across the research of the department, and then spend the entire academic year working on the project with one of the research groups.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research, funding changes, professional accreditation requirements, student or employer feedback, outcomes of reviews, and variations in staff or student numbers.

We aim to provide accurate and up-to-date information in all of our publications, but applicants should always refer to our website for the most up to date course information.

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