

Biomed Newsletter

Aug Issue 2005



Dr Colm Lowery
Course Director

Welcome to the August Issue of the Biomed Newsletter

Term starts on October 3rd, so not too long to wait. I would ask you to ensure you are ready for online enrolment (Open from Sep 5th) and to make the most of the weeks before term to get used to our learning environment WebCT. There are articles in the newsletter to help you get the most out of your time until the start of term, and begin your planning for the coming months.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter, if you didn't receive the previous issues please e-mail vs@ulster.ac.uk requesting a copy.

Dr Lowery

Semester One Assessment

Most students in semester one study the two core modules – Current Controversies in Biomedical Sciences and DNA Technology & Oncology. Both modules contain course work throughout the semester, and a final piece of work (exam or assignment) during the exam period.

Current Controversies

Assignment 1: Due Week 4/5 of term
Assignment 2: Due Week 9/10 of term
Final Assignment: Due Exam Period

DNA Technology & Oncology

Assignment 1: Due Week 4/5 of term
Assignment 2: Due Week 10/11 of term
Hand written exam: Due Exam Period

Multiple choice questions are also set 2-4 times throughout the semester for this module.

Students must manage their time effectively in order to submit assignments on time, the distance learning programme isn't any easier than the on campus MSc – its just allows you the convenience and flexibility of fitting it around the other aspects of your life.

Dates for assignment submission will be given during the first week of term (the above dates are only indicative). The examination period for semester 1 is Jan 9th – Jan 23rd 2006.

Online Enrolment

When?

Online enrolment for Biomedical Science will be open from 5th Sep until the start of term on Mon 3rd Oct.

How?

An e-mail will be sent to your e-mail account in the first week of September with instructions about online enrolment – please ensure you have space in your account for this e-mail.

Where?

You can complete online enrolment from any pc or laptop with an internet connection anywhere in the world. However we would suggest that when completing the online enrolment you have all information you have received from the University of Ulster to hand.

Who?

You complete online enrolment by yourself – however should you require any help support is available.

Why?

Online enrolment negates the need to send out paper and rely on the postal service. It enables students to check their personal details and enrol on their chosen modules at any time of the day or night – its flexible and convenient.

Why study the MSc Biomedical Sciences? – A Student Profile

Interview: June Freeland, LRF Research Centre, Institute of Comparative Medicine

Why did you decide to begin studying?

"It became quite obvious in the last few years that as scientific research advanced at an alarming rate I would have to further my academic knowledge to keep up at the same pace. Being funded by The Leukaemia Research Fund for the last 18 years, it was just not possible to either take a year off to do a full time MSc or a day release course over two years."

Why did you choose the University of Ulster's MSc by distance learning?

"The answer came through a friend who had already started the distance learning MSc at UU and thoroughly recommended it. Although being more directed towards hospital based work I looked at the syllabus and realised that it could easily fit into my current scientific research. The modules proved to be extremely interesting and I found myself engrossed in some of the assignments particularly those that involved diseases I had never studied."

How did you manage to balance work, study and your home life?

"The work rate is certainly intense and all consuming but the immense sense of achievement as I passed each assignment was worth it and only encouraged me to work harder. Working at Glasgow University gave me access to library facilities but they were also available through the UU library online. To anybody contemplating doing this course I would not think twice to encourage him or her whatever their age – I had my 50th Birthday this year! But be prepared to commit yourself to your studies – planning your time is essential as is joining in the discussion boards. My academic knowledge has been broadened, as has my confidence in training and mentoring postgraduate students."

What did you think of the MSc Research project module?

"The project proved to be successful despite all the ethical stumbling blocks that now have to be overcome. It has formed part of a new programme grant, which we (in the LRF Research Centre) were successfully awarded in June. Hopefully the results will be published soon."

I cannot thank the lecturers and tutors enough as their obvious enthusiasm for their subjects often shone through and their willingness to help, usually the same day, was invaluable.

June graduated in June 2005 with an MSc with distinction in Biomedical Sciences

How will I manage without coming on campus?

This can often be a concern for someone who has never studied by distance learning before. However as a distance-learning student at UU you will have a lot of support to help you navigate your way through the programme.

Your first contact will be with CAMPUSONE, they will send you out an enrolment e-mail at the beginning of September. They also provide technical support for WebCT.

Once registered with UU you will have access to WebCT (online learning platform) where you will be able to contact The Virtual School (an administrative support unit for students on the MSc Biomedical Sciences). Additionally, the MSc programme has a course director (Dr Lowery) and an associate course director (Dr McKillop). Each module you study will have a module coordinator, and within each module you will be allocated an eTutor.

So don't panic there are lots of people to help you along the way!

MSc Biomedical Sciences First Year Course Team

Dr Colm Lowery
Course Director

Dr Aine McKillop
Assoc. Course Director

Ms Abbie Walker
Programme Manager

Semester Year 1
Module Coordinators

Semester 2 Year 1
Module Coordinators

Virtual School

Dr Anne Bridgen
Current Controversies

Dr Danny Quinn
Immunology

Ms Alison Cochrane
e-Learning Resource
Assistant

Dr Karsetn Melcher
DNA Tech & Oncology

Dr Mary Hannon-
Fletcher
Cellular Pathology I

Mrs Irene Ramsey
e-Learning Resource
Assistant

Dr Victor Gault
Clinical Chemistry I

Ms Joan Spence
Secretary

Dr Billy Gilmore
Haematology I

Dr James Dooley
Medical Microbiology I

If you would like more information on e-Learning a good resource is E-Learning Companion: A Students guide to online success, 2004, R Watkins and M Corry, Houghton Mifflin College Division. Amazon paperback price £11.57. ISBN 0618379703

Internet & Study Skills

You can find online tutorials to help you with study skills and internet by going to www.ulster.ac.uk/library/training

This section of the University of Ulster's website contains online tutorials, we would recommend you have a look at the Library Skills Tutorial and the Finding Information on the internet. These tutorials should help you prepare for your online course.

Preparing for the Start of Term

Ensure that your pc is set up correctly for your course by going to <http://campusone.ulster.ac.uk/potential/> and carrying out a browser tune up and testing your workstation.

It will save you time in the long run!

Please remember to keep the Virtual School informed of any changes to your address, telephone or e-mail. You can contact the virtual school by e-mailing vs@ulster.ac.uk or calling on 028 7032 4181.