

Human Biology

UCAS Code: Combined Honours only (please see website for details)

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027



Course Overview

Human Biology is an exciting and ever-changing field. It studies the human body, disease changes, and how humans interact with their environment. At Liverpool Hope, the Human Biology degree is part of a combined honours programme. This programme offers a modern curriculum that challenges students in many key areas of the field.

The human biology course covers key topics such as anatomy, physiology, cell biology, genetics, disease pathophysiology, immunology and pharmacology.

Students learn about how the body normally works and what causes major diseases. These include obesity, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and gut dysbiosis. The programme also covers new scientific advancements, including gene technology, showing how human biology relates to medicine and research. Classes are taught by active researchers with expertise in the School of Health and Sport Sciences.

Graduates of the human biology degree gain solid knowledge of the subject. They also develop essential skills and get hands-on experience with different lab techniques in biological science. Through small-group learning and practical work, students build the confidence and competence needed to succeed in today's job market.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2026/2027 are £9,790 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of your tuition fees, you will also need to consider the cost of field trips, text books, and a laboratory coat, which we estimate to cost around £300 per academic year.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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Human Biology Curriculum

Year One

Fundamentals of Human Biology

This highly applied module introduces students to the core principles of Human Biology, combining essential theory with hands-on laboratory experience. You will develop foundational lab skills and experimental techniques relevant to the biosciences, including spectroscopy and enzymology, while also gaining a grounding in the 'chemistry of life'.

Biological Systems

This module provides a comprehensive foundation in Human Biology, focusing on the structure and function of the human body, its major systems, and how dysfunction leads to disease. You will study body systems at multiple levels — from cells and tissues to organs and system integration through neural and hormonal control.

Year Two

Immunology

As a core branch of Human Biology, this module develops your understanding of the body's defence systems, including innate, active, passive, and adaptive immunity.

Molecular Biology

This module focuses on the structure and function of the key biological molecules that control cellular function and activity. You will study DNA, RNA, and proteins while examining how molecular biology is applied in areas such as medical diagnostics and forensic science.

Human Diseases

This module explores the pathophysiological basis of major human diseases across a variety of organ systems, including chronic, infectious, and age-related conditions.

Investigative Methods in Disease Biology and Practical Techniques in Molecular and Cellular Biology

You will build on your laboratory and research skills through advanced practical sessions and seminars. These

practicals include assessing biomarkers of health and disease, DNA extraction and amplification, antigen/antibody blood typing, and bacterial identification.

Year Three

Degenerative Disease Biology

In the second year of the human biology course, you will continue advanced laboratory-based practicals and seminars designed to enhance both your subject-specific knowledge and transferable skills.

Oncology and Immunology

This specialist module provides an in-depth study of cancer biology and immunology, exploring the complex interactions between the immune system and tumour cells.

Cell Signalling

This module builds on your molecular biology and biochemistry knowledge to explore cell-signalling pathways in detail.

Pharmacology and Research Methods

This module develops both theoretical and practical knowledge of disease treatment and clinical trial design.

Clinical Genetics

In this contemporary module, you will explore conditions with a known or probable genetic origin. Topics include mutations and epigenetics, providing insight into one of the fastest-growing areas of biological research.

Human Biology Research Project

The Human Biology degree culminates in an independent research project or integrated dissertation in your final year. You will apply skills developed throughout the first and second years to plan and execute a 15-credit research project, or a 30-credit integrated dissertation if undertaking a combined honours pathway.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on the human biology course is delivered through a combination of lectures, lab practicals, seminars, and tutorials. Practical lab work is a central feature of the programme, with students typically spending time in practical labs during most teaching weeks of term. First-year students may also have the chance to participate in a short field trip to the University's Plas Caerdeon outdoor education facility in North Wales.

In the first year of the human biology degree, students receive around 6 hours of face-to-face teaching each week. This then shifts to approximately 5 hours per subject in the second and third years of study. Alongside scheduled teaching, students are expected to dedicate additional time to independent study each week across both subjects of their combined honours degree, as well as collaborative group work for assessments. To provide further support, staff make themselves available weekly for one-to-one tutorials during office hours.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Students are assessed through a mix of coursework and assessments, with formal exams taking place in the summer term of the second and third years.

Coursework assessments are varied in style and format, giving every student the opportunity to excel. These include scientific and laboratory reports, critiques, essays, portfolios, case studies, individual and group oral or poster presentations, multiple-choice tests, and practical lab or data-driven assessments. Staff provide detailed online feedback for all coursework, along with future support and the option to discuss progress directly with academics.

In the final year of the Human Biology degree, students undertake an independent research project in Human Biology or a double-weighted integrated dissertation that combines both subjects from their combined honours award. This enables students to specialise in a chosen area of interest, supported by an academic supervisor with expertise in the field.



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