PROGRAMME HANDBOOK FOR

NEUROSCIENCE BSc DEGREE PROGRAMME

Academic Year 2019-20

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(1) WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Welcome to Bart's & The London School of Medicine & Dentistry (SMD), to the School of Biological & Chemical Sciences (SBCS), and specifically to the Neuroscience BSc degree programme (B140).

Neuroscience is an exciting and rapidly developing field, both in terms of understanding the functioning of the nervous system as it relates to normal cognition and behaviours and the development of medical treatments for neurological and psychiatric disorders. Academic staff employed at Bart's and The London SMD and in SBCS have educational expertise and academic excellence in research in Neuroscience ranging from behavioural and cognitive neuroscience to abnormal psychology and translational neuroscience of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries and neurodegenerative disease.

A BSc in Neuroscience requires a strong grounding in basic science provided by a suite of modules during the first 2 years, when you will study topics including neuroanatomy, physiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics and pharmacology. Subject specific modules in Years 1 and 2 will foster your understanding of the interplay between genes and the environment that influences all neural functions spanning from development of the nervous system to its adaptation with learning and alteration in disease. In the second and third years of the course, you will have the opportunity to choose elective modules with a range of topics including stem cells and regeneration, translational neuroscience and psychology according to your own career goals and interests. The final year research-oriented project will enable you to develop team-working, analytical and practical skills and offers an opportunity to join an existing research group.

The BSc in Neuroscience offers excellent training for students wishing to pursue postgraduate study at the MSc or PhD level or in professional degree programmes. The degree provides excellent preparation for careers in neuroscience and pharmaceutical research, industry and the commercial or public sector. Recent graduates have gone on to medical and dental degrees at Bart's and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry and other leading UK medical schools.

In closing, we'd like to reiterate our welcome to QMUL, to SMD, to SBCS, and specifically to the Neuroscience BSc degree programme. We hope that you find this programme handbook useful and that, over the next 3 years, you find your undergraduate degree to be as enjoyable as it is educational. We hope that you will make the most of the opportunities for personal and professional development offered by the wide range of modules that each build on the breadth of expertise offered by academic colleagues in Bart's & the London School of Medicine & Dentistry as well as in the SBCS Departments of Biochemistry & Chemistry, Cell & Molecular Biology, Organismal Biology and Psychology.

All of the staff involved in your degree wish you good luck with your studies and look forward to supporting your personal and career aspirations over the course of your degree and, beyond that, when you graduate and become an alumnus of QMUL.

Dr Greg Michael and Dr Joanna Riddoch-Contreras

Programme Directors, Neuroscience BSc [B140]

September 2020

(2) KEY NAMES / CONTACTS

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
Director of Teaching & Learning (DTL) [Biomedical Sciences]	Dr Jayne Dennis	jayne.dennis@qmul.ac.uk
Programme Directors	Dr Greg Michael Dr Joanna Riddoch-Contreras (on maternity leave)	g.j.michael@qmul.ac.uk j.riddoch-contreras@qmul.ac.uk
Programme Tutors	Dr Dunja Aksentijevic Dr Sadani Cooray Dr Richard Grose Dr Shane Wilkinson	d.aksentijevic@qmul.ac.uk s.n.cooray@qmul.ac.uk r.grose@qmul.ac.uk s.r.wilkinson@qmul.ac.uk
Academic Advisors (assigned to students during induction week)	Dr Dean Semmens (maternity cover for Dr Riddoch-Contreras) Dr Greg Michael Dr Ping Yip Dr Arturas Volianskis	d.semmens@qmul.ac.uk g.j.michael@qmul.ac.uk p.yip@qmul.ac.uk a.volianskis@qmul.ac.uk
Student Support Officer	Ms Shaheda Batha	s.batha@qmul.ac.uk
Head of Undergraduate Science Teaching, SMD	Professor Lucinda Hall	lucinda.hall@qmul.ac.uk
Director of Taught Programmes (DTP), SBCS	Dr Chris Bray	c.bray@qmul.ac.uk

(3) PROGRAMME AIMS

The Neuroscience BSc programme aims to provide:

- A thorough understanding of Neuroscience including its core principles and current theoretical frameworks based on a strong foundation in the medical sciences;
- An in-depth appreciation of specific topics relevant to current advances in medical research;
- Practical skills in research and an informed understanding of research approaches in Neuroscience.

The programme will address skills requirements for:

- Progression to medical and dental degree courses and professions allied to medicine;
- Academic and clinical research;
- Employment in biotechnology, pharmaceutical and neuroscience based companies;
- Graduate training programmes and employment in a range of sectors.

In addition to these specific programme aims, the BSc degree also aims to:

- Provide a rational, flexibly structured and coherent programme of study which is relevant to the needs of employers, facilitates your professional development and lays the foundations for a successful career which is to the benefit of the economy and society;
- Provide a sound knowledge base in the fields studied and develop key transferable skills in the areas of communication, numeracy, information technology, working with others, problem solving, time and task management;
- Foster the development of an enquiring, open-minded and creative attitude, tempered with scientific discipline and social awareness, which encourages lifelong learning.

(4) WHAT WILL YOU BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

Academic Content	On successful completion of your BSc programme, you will have studied: 1. A systematic understanding of key concepts in Neuroscience including the development, anatomy and physiology of the nervous system as well as neurotransmitters, receptors and intracellular signalling systems. 2. Knowledge and insight of molecular and cellular mechanisms controlling neural function in both health and disease. 3. Conceptual understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying diseases of the nervous system and application of this knowledge to alternative therapeutic strategies. 4. Critical evaluation of experimental techniques and models used in neuroscience research considering ethical concerns and limitations.

Disciplinary Skills	On successful completion of your BSc programme, you will be able to: 1. Integrate information from a variety of sources to construct a coherent argument on a scientific topic. 2. Critically appraise and analyse scientific literature and interpret findings. 3. Construct hypotheses pertinent to the experimental exploration of topical questions in the field of Neuroscience. 4. Perform practical work efficiently and with due regard to health and safety. 5. Analyse and evaluate/interpret the results of controlled experiments. 6. Prepare scientific/technical reports.
Attributes	On successful completion of your BSc programme, you will be able to: 1. Communicate effectively by written and/or verbal means. 2. Capacity for independent learning, and to work independently. 3. Able to participate constructively as a member of a group/team, with skills to influence, negotiate and lead. 4. Evaluate the relevance, importance and reliability of the ideas of others and of different sources of information. 5. Competence in the use of computer-based technology, and in the manipulation and analysis of quantitative data. 6. Critical awareness of the role and impact of science in society, including the global perspective. 7. Use information for evidence-based decision-making and creative thinking.

(5) HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

(See also Section 6 "What is independent Study" and Section 8, "How is the programme structured?")

You will acquire knowledge and develop your understanding mainly through lectures and directed independent study. Your understanding will be reinforced through a combination of tutorial workshops, problem classes, laboratory classes and e-learning (depending upon the modules which you study), including regular feedback on submitted work. Additional learning support is provided through Queen Mary's online learning environment, QMplus, and the facilities of the QMUL Student PC Service.

Practical skills will be taught as part of organised practical classes, during the early stages of the programme. Each practical class is likely to be repeated two or more times in the same week. You will be allocated (randomly) to a specific practical group to attend the practical class on a given date/time. If you are unable to attend on the assigned date/time (*e.g.* if you are allocated to a Wednesday afternoon, but have sports commitments, or if you are allocated to a Friday afternoon but need to attend jumah or to get home before shabbat), you are required to (a) negotiate a swap with a fellow student from a different group and then (b) email the Module Organiser with details of that swap (confirming who you will be swapping with). If you are unable to negotiate a swap for an assessed practical class, you may be able to submit a claim for extenuating circumstances provided the reason for non-

attendance is (i) unforeseeable and (ii) beyond your control, and you can provide documentary evidence to support your application.

Workshops will reinforce knowledge acquired in lectures and provide opportunities for application of such knowledge to the solution of real problems. Advanced practical skills and specialised analytical skills are then developed during the project component of the third year. The third year also includes critical analysis through project development and tutorial led journal clubs and discussion forums.

Queen Mary's graduate attributes are developed in a progressive fashion, but most notably in tutorial-based components of modules. The Causes and Prevention of Disease module will provide a forum in which students will learn and evaluate scientific advancement and medical application with a global context. The project module provides further opportunities for the development of transferable skills and consolidation of knowledge, understanding and skills acquired during your degree.

(6) WHAT IS "INDEPENDENT STUDY"?

For every hour of contact with academic staff, you will be expected to devote between 3 and 5 hours to independent study.

Independent study is not the same as the homework you would have completed during Secondary/Further Education, where staff gave specific exercises which were often marked between classes. While studying for a degree, independent study will include staff-directed exercises or self-directed independent study.

There are various forms of independent study which include:

- **preparation** (in advance of a lecture/tutorial/practical class)
- **consolidation** of material introduced by the lecturer/tutor (*e.g.* writing up your lecture notes)
- **elaboration / extension** (*e.g.* reading around the topic after the lecture using textbooks or scientific papers as suggested by the lecturer or based on your own curiosity)
- **application** (*i.e.* reinforcing your understanding of a topic by applying any principles introduced in a lecture/tutorial/practical class to a new scenario)

To succeed in your undergraduate degree at university, you need to choose to commit to your degree. This commitment includes attending all timetabled sessions and making time to complete the independent study. Together, your taught programme and independent study will enable you to develop the knowledge and depth of understanding required to graduate with first or upper second class honours.

(7) HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

For each module that comprises your neuroscience degree, your knowledge and understanding will generally be tested through a combination of assessed coursework and unseen written examinations. For the majority of modules, the coursework: exam weighting will be as follows:

	Coursework	Exam
Year 1	25%	75%
Year 2	25%	75%
Year 3	20%	80%

For some modules, a higher proportion of marks will be derived from the coursework and a few modules (*e.g.* the final year research projects) the module will be assessed by coursework only with no written exam. (Please check the module details on QMPlus to confirm the exact coursework: exam weighting for each module.)

The exact nature of the coursework varies from module to module and may include work in the form of laboratory experiment write-ups, essays and/or problem sheets. The coursework mark may also include a contribution from computer-based assessments and in-course tests. Specific modules include assessed oral examinations, oral presentations and extended reports/dissertations.

Transferable skills are developed in a contextual manner throughout the teaching and learning programme, and are indirectly assessed as part of the normal assessment processes for the programme. For example, the assessment of the projects includes consideration of data-retrieval skills, report-writing skills and presentational skills.

Practical skills are assessed through in-class observation and through written laboratory reports, which often include attention to quantitative accuracy. The assessment of the final year practical research project also addresses the majority of the professional disciplinary skills that students of this programme are expected to acquire.

The weighting of marks available for a given component should be reflected in the amount of time that you will need to commit to working on each element. For example, where 25% of the module marks are available for coursework, you should expect to devote 25% of 150 hours (*i.e.* approximately 37 hours) to completing the coursework elements to the best of your ability. The remaining 75% of 150 hours (*i.e.* approximately 113 hours) should be devoted to attending lectures/tutorials and independent study to ensure you understand the module content well enough to achieve a high grade in the module exam.

Commencing in the 2019-20 academic year, QMUL will have two main exam periods. The first period, lasting two weeks, will take place in January and will assess modules completed in Semester A. The second exam period, predominantly in May, will last four weeks and will include exams for modules completed in Semester B and year-long modules. The exam timetable will be released to students in approximately week 10 of each semester. Answers

to frequently asked questions about semester-based exams are available on the QMUL website: http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/students/exams/semester-based-exams/

The default exam durations and structures also differ between years, as follows:

	Default exam duration	Number of sections	Section A	Section B	Section C
Year 1	1.5 hours	2	25 Multiple Choice Questions (*50% of mark*)	Short Answer Questions (*choice of 1 from 2*) (*50% of mark*)	N/A
Year 2	2 hours	3	20 Multiple Choice Questions (*25% of mark*)	Short Answer Questions(*choice of 1 from 2*) (*25% of mark*)	Essay (*choice of 1 from 3*) (*50% of mark*)
Year 3	3 hours	3	25 Multiple Choice Questions (*34% of mark*)	Essay (*choice of 1 from 3*) (*33% of mark*)	Essay (*choice of 1 from 3*) (*33% of mark*)

Note that on the BSc Neuroscience Programme you may have variants to this structure. For example, some Year 3 module exams will replace the Section A multiple choice questions with a third essay (choice of 1 of 3; worth 1/3 of the exam equivalent to Sections B&C).

Students do not automatically progress to the next year of the course.

To progress beyond Year 1 of the degree, you must pass at least six 15 credit modules (*i.e.* 90 credits in total). To progress beyond Year 2, you must pass at least 195 credits cumulatively from Year 1 and 2 modules. To graduate with a BSc degree, you must pass at least 315 credits across your 3 year programme.

The threshold for passing a module is a final module mark over 40%, derived from the exam and/or coursework in the specified ratio. If you fail a module, you have one resit opportunity. The resit is usually an exam which supersedes all previous assessment, including coursework assessments (i.e. only the resit exam mark is counted). Additionally, the resit mark is capped at 40% which means that if you score higher than 40% in the resit exam then your mark will be recorded as 40% only. Resit exams take place in the Late Summer Exam period, which is usually the first two weeks in August.

(8) ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic honesty is a very important consideration in this course and in your university career. We take a zero-tolerance approach to any form of academic dishonesty and misconduct, including but not limited to plagiarism, collusion, cheating (i.e., providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on assignments or exams), and impersonation. It is your responsibility to be aware of the rules and policies associated with academic dishonesty. Here are the University's Academic Misconduct Policy and Regulations for Assessment Offence can be found on the QMUL website.

At QMUL, any instance of academic dishonesty or negligence must be reported confidentially to the department's Plagiarism Officer, who follows procedures outlined by the university.

(9) HOW IS THE PROGRAMME STRUCTURED?

In each academic year you must study 120 credits, such that you study a total of 360 credits over your 3 year BSc. Modules are worth 15 credits except for the final year project module which is worth 30 credits. All modules in the first year are compulsory; elective modules occur in the second and third year of your programme.

It is strongly recommended that where elective modules are available, you should select a total of 60 credits to study in Semester A and a total of 60 credits in Semester B. If you wish to study more credits in one or other Semester, you should discuss this with your Academic Advisor and then with the Programme Director, Dr Greg Michael, before making your pre-selection. You may not enrol for more than 75 credits in any given semester.

To assist your choice of elective(s) most appropriate to your interests and career aspirations, we enable you to research the elective modules available to you prior to module pre-selection (which happens in March/April). We will provide you with information outlining module content and, in Semester B, we will also organise a "Module Fair" at which you can meet with Module Organisers and students who have studied each module to ask any questions you may have for the following academic year.

Please note that some infrequent cases, elective modules have a cap on the maximum number of students that the module can accommodate. In these modules, acceptance on to the module may be contingent on your academic performance prior to the point of module selection (typically your Year 1 academic performance).

The modules listed in the programme outline which follows are indicative only. Every effort will be made to run all of the modules advertised in the degree programme outline. However, to offer you the best educational experience while at QMUL, in any one year, a module advertised on the following pages may not be offered if:

(a) the numbers of students eligible to select a particular module (either too many or too few) would provide you with a compromised student experience;

(b) academic staff with the requisite experience are unavailable to teach a module (*e.g.* through ill health, injury or retirement)

Likewise, dependent on staff availability and appropriate quality assurance, we may be able to add new modules to subsequent years of your degree programme and improve even further your choice of elective modules.

In the programme outline provided on the following pages, compulsory modules are denoted in standard text whereas elective modules are denoted in *italicised* text.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>SEMESTER A</th><th>SEMESTER B</th></tr>
<tr><td>Year 1</td><td>BMD111 Chromosomes & Gene Functions
BMD115 The Human Cell
BMD153 Causes and Prevention of Disease
BMD161 Exploring Neuroscience</td><td>BMD121 Biomedical Physiology I
BMD123 Biomolecules of Life
BMD163 Functional Neuroanatomy
BMD181 Tissue Biology</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Year 2 (two elective modules)</td><td>BMD211 Human Molecular Biology
BMD221 Biomedical Physiology II
BMD261 Cellular & Molecular Neuroscience

BIO213 Cell Biology & Developmental Genetics
BIO215 Comparative & Integrative Physiology
BIO227 Human Genetic Disorders
PSY124 Exploring Psychology
SBC5215 Health and Wellbeing</td><td>BIO263 Membrane & Cellular Biochemistry
BMD225 Biomedical Pharmacology
BMD265 Systems Neuroscience

BMD269 Infection, Immunology & Inflammation</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">SMD5251 Engaging the Public in Science</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Year 3 (four elective modules)</td><td>BMD361 Repair & Regeneration in the Nervous System

BIO324 Advanced Human Genetic Disorders
BIO363 Molecular Basis of Disease
BMD363 Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine
PSY211 Cognitive Psychology</td><td>BMD369 Perspectives on Brain Disorders

BIO333 Neuroscience: From Molecules to Behaviour
BMD365 Biomarkers in Neuroscience
BMD371 Drug Discovery & Design
PSY253 Psychopathology</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">30 credit project module:
BIO603 Project Skills in the Life Sciences (30 credits) OR
BMD650 Research Project in Neuroscience (30 credits)</td></tr>
</table>

Year 1: All Year 1 modules are compulsory to ensure that all students on the degree programme have the requisite understanding to prepare them for Years 2 and 3 of the degree programme.

Year 2: Six of the Year 2 modules (90 credits) are compulsory:

- BIO263 (Membrane & Cellular Biochemistry)
- BMD211 (Human Molecular Biology)
- BMD221 (Biomedical Physiology II)
- BMD225 (Biomedical Pharmacology)
- BMD261 (Cellular & Molecular Neuroscience)
- BMD265 (Systems Neuroscience)

This will leave you with a choice of 2 elective modules (30 credits). Note that one elective module, SMD5251, runs across both semesters.

Year 3: There are 2 compulsory, 15 credit modules:

- BMD361 (Repair & Regeneration in the Nervous System)
- BMD369 (Perspectives on Brain Disorders)

In addition, you must select one of the two 30 credit modules: either BMD650 (Research Project in Neuroscience) or BIO603 (Project Skills in the Life Sciences). There may be limited enrolment on the BMD650 module as sufficient laboratory projects may not be available for all students. Thus, please note that in order to study BMD650 you may need to perform well in Year 1 of your degree, typically scoring in excess of 65% (if not 70%) in each of your modules. If you are not above the set average mark % cut-off (usually between 65-70%), you may have to take BIO603; if you do pass this threshold you may choose between the two project modules.

Along with the compulsory components, you must choose 4 elective modules (60 credits) from the 8 offered.

Please note that some courses have prerequisites. Students must take PSY124 (Exploring Psychology) in Year 2 in order to be allowed to enrol on either of the Year 3 psychology elective modules, PSY211 (Cognitive Psychology) or PSY253 (Psychopathology). BIO227 (Human Genetic Disorders) is a prerequisite for BIO324 (Advanced Human Genetic Disorders).

(10) HOW DO WE LISTEN AND ACT ON YOUR FEEDBACK?

You are strongly encouraged to provide informal feedback to Module Organisers and/or to the Programme Director when you can see a way that your teaching could be significantly improved or you have cause for complaint. If you feel uncomfortable approaching a Module Organiser and/or Programme Director, you can also make any suggestions/raise any

concerns by email to: sbcs-studentvoice@qmul.ac.uk. This email address is monitored daily by several colleagues so you can reasonably expect a response within 3 working days.

The Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC), Chaired by the Director for Student Experience, Dr Caroline Brennan, provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of elected student representatives from each year of each SBCS and SMD undergraduate degree programme, together with appropriate representation from staff within both SBCS and SMD. The SSLC is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The SSLC meets regularly throughout the year.

The SMD Science & Undergraduate Teaching & Learning (SUTL) Committee advises the Head of Undergraduate Science Education for SMD, Professor Hall, on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level, including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board (TPB). The SBCS Teaching & Learning Committee (TLC) performs equivalent roles, advising the Director of Taught Programmes (DTP) in SBCS, Dr Chris Bray, who works very closely with Professor Hall and with the Programme Directors, Dr Greg Michael and Dr Joanna Riddoch-Contreras, to ensure that all student concerns are identified, shared, and acted upon, as appropriate. Student views are incorporated into the work of both SUTL and TLC in a number of ways, such as through consideration of student surveys and input from the SSLC.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review (APR) of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the National Student Survey (NSS), Queen Mary Student Survey (QMSS) and module evaluations.

(11) ACADEMIC SUPPORT

You will be provided with a personal tutor, referred to as an Academic Advisor, who will serve as your main point of contact throughout your programme for advice on general academic matters and for assistance with pastoral concerns, i.e., personal issues which may impact on your ability to study. When you need to meet with your Advisor, you can schedule an appointment via email. (Note that we no longer operate a drop-in system of "office hours" since all advisees may have very different patterns of availability dependent on their choice of elective modules.)

If your Advisor is unavailable or cannot help with a specific problem, other sources of support are Programme Tutors and the Student Support Officer (SSO). Programme tutors

are experienced Academic Advisors; the Student Support Officer is not a member of teaching staff and can offer advice or point you towards a person or service that can help you. The SSO is also the person you need to speak to regarding any extenuating circumstances you may have for your assessments.

The Schools also operate a Peer Assisted Study Support (PASS) programme for peer guidance. PASS is a subject-based mentoring scheme, run for first-year students by higher-year undergraduates.

Learning Development offers students practical guidance in developing insights and practices that will contribute to their success whilst at Queen Mary. Learning Development works with students on an individual basis and in groups. They can help you with interpreting feedback receive on your assignments, general study advice, developing written skills, referencing sources in essays and much more. They also have a range of resources available on their website.

(12) SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning differences and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning differences like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

(13) ADVICE AND COUNSELLING

Queen Mary has an Advice and Counselling Service (ACS), based in Geography Square, that offers support for all students at all stages of their degree studies. The full range of services offered by the ACS is detailed on their website (www.welfare.qmul.ac.uk). On this website, you will find a series of self-help and guidance booklets covering such diverse issues as adapting to life as a student at university through making a claim for extenuating circumstances to requesting an interruption of studies or withdrawing.

(14) CHANGE OF PROGRAMME

You may request a single Change of Programme during your degree.

Should you wish to be considered for a Change of Programme (CoP), either within SMD/SBCS or out of the Schools, you will need to complete a CoP form, available from the SBCS reception.

Before signing and submitting your form you should meet with your Academic Advisor or a Programme Tutor to discuss the pros and cons of switching programmes. Please note that there are deadlines during the academic year by which a CoP should be submitted, depending on the implications for entry to examinations and studying the necessary modules in each semester: your academic advisor and/or the Student Support Office can advise you on these deadlines.

Once completed you should then return the signed form to the SBCS reception to be considered and, if possible, approved by Dr Bray as the SBCS DTP. As soon as a decision has been reached, you will be emailed and advised of the outcome of your application by the SBCS SSO. Approval will be contingent on (a) there being places available on the programme onto which you would like to transfer, and (b) meeting the admissions criteria for the new programme.

Under QMUL's International Exchange Programme, students on most BSc and MSci programmes may have the opportunity to 'study abroad' at one of QMUL's partner universities for a full year between Years 2 and 3 of their BSc degree. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, you would have to request a CoP onto Neuroscience with a Year Abroad. While the year overseas would not count towards your degree classification, any Year Abroad should include relevant modules and you would need to meet the pass standards of the overseas university in order to graduate with the title "Neuroscience with a Year Abroad". As you will appreciate, positions on such international exchanges are subject to a successful application, which includes meeting specific mark criteria, and are awarded on a competitive basis. (If you wish to apply to transfer on to a Year Abroad programme, in the first instance, you should discuss the pros and cons with your Academic Advisor or Programme Tutor, as appropriate.) SMD and SBCS offer several degrees "with a Year Abroad" because we appreciate the opportunities that this can provide for personal and professional growth, and for the acquisition of transferable skills that will enrich your CV and bolster your prospects for a graduate career.

(15) OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN SBCS AND SMD

On completion of your BSc degree, you might wish to embark on a postgraduate research degree to become a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Increasingly, competitive applicants for PhD opportunities have not only a high class honours degree (first or upper second class honours), but they will also have completed a postgraduate taught Master of Science (MSc) or Masters by Research (MRes) degree (commonly with a Merit or Distinction).

SBCS offers a range of biological MSc degrees which exploit the research expertise of staff in SBCS, including an MSc in Bioinformatics. If you wish to know more about any of these MSc programmes, information can be found on the SBCS website and/or you can contact the Director for Teaching & Learning [Postgraduate], Dr Christoph Eizaguirre (c.eizaguirre@qmul.ac.uk).

An MSc degree in Neuroscience and Translational Medicine is offered by the School of Medicine and Dentistry and may be of interest to graduates from the Neuroscience BSc. If you are interested in this programme, please contact its director, Professor Adina Michael-Titus a.t.michael@qmul.ac.uk.

Other QMUL MSc post-graduate degree programmes that may be of interest, to name only a few include:

- MSc Regenerative Medicine (Dr John Connelly j.connelly@qmul.ac.uk or Dr Kristin Braun k.braun@qmul.ac.uk
- MSc Global Public Health and Policy msc-enquiry-globalhealth@qmul.ac.uk
- MSc Genomic Medicine and other courses run by the William Harvey Research Institute n.ravic@qmul.ac.uk
- MSc offerings from the Wolfson Institute of Preventative Medicine's Centre for Psychiatry https://www.qmul.ac.uk/wolfson/centres/cfp/ ; mha-admin@qmul.ac.uk
- Physician Associate Studies msc-pa-studies@qmul.ac.uk

Further information about all postgraduate programmes can be found on the QMUL website.

(16) WHAT HAPPENS AFTER GRADUATION

The Neuroscience BSc degree will allow graduates to go on to further study (for example medicine, dentistry, a Masters degree or a PhD) or work in diverse professions using their skills and attributes as outlined in *Section 4.* Previous students are pursuing careers in healthcare, research, education, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries and other businesses (finance, human resources), the charity sector and civil service.

All students are encouraged to visit the QMUL Careers & Enterprise Service in the Queens' Building and use the resources available on their website (www.careers.qmul.ac.uk). The Careers Service run employer and alumni events on campus, offer one-to-one careers

advice, practice interviews, CV and application advice and resources to help you with job hunting. Graduates can access the service for up to two years after graduation.

The top 19 ranked candidates from the Biomedical Science programme, Neuroscience and Pharmacology and Innovative Therapeutics (based on their cumulative academic performance after the first 2 years of the BSc programme and UKCAT score) will automatically be offered an interview to study medicine at Bart's and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. Further details will be sent to you in the summer after you have completed your second year.

QMUL's MSc in Physician Associate Studies may be of interest to students wishing to pursue a career in healthcare. Physician Associates have direct contact with patients and they work within medical teams to support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients. Physician Associates work in General Practice or a hospital department using generalist clinical skills but also with opportunities to specialise. Further information is available on the QMUL website.

After graduation as valued alumni of QMUL and the Neuroscience BSc, we hope that you will remain in contact, sharing with us important news of your careers and lives.