Suggested Reading, 1st Year Biochemistry

Students starting to study at QMUL often ask for information about recommended textbooks because their A-level courses typically followed one textbook. There are many ways in which studying at university is different from studying at school. For example, at university you will find that we rarely follow just one textbook. Instead, academic staff use lectures to introduce you to topics; you will then explore those topics in more detail during your independent study by using a variety of sources.

At the beginning of each module your lecturer will direct you towards sources relevant for that module. Below we have listed the key textbooks for the compulsory modules you will study in the first year. However, your lecturer may also direct you to other sources in addition to these.

Please note it is not necessary to purchase all of the textbooks listed below. There are some copies of the physical books available to borrow from the QMUL library, plus some textbooks also have an electronic version, which you will be able to access via the QMUL Library website. Note also that if the most recent edition is not available, the previous edition is often a good (and cheaper) substitute.

There is a bookshop (John Smith’s) on the Mile End campus which offers a price match against Amazon, Waterstones and WHSmith. Further details of the price match can be found online.

Semester A & Semester B

BIO101 Essential Skills for Biochemists
  • No recommended reading list – please refer to module page on QMplus after enrolment.

CHE102 Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry
Semester A

BIO111 Cell Biology


Alternatively, any of the following are also appropriate textbooks for this module:


BIO163 Molecular Genetics


BIO190 Practical Molecular & Cellular Biology

- No recommended reading list – please refer to module page on QMplus after enrolment.

Semester B

BIO161 Basic Biochemistry


BIO125 Physiology


BIO198 Practical Biochemistry

- No recommended reading list – please refer to module page on QMplus after enrolment.