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| ***GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES******& BSc BIOSCIENCE PROGRAMME*** | *www.cardiff.ac.uk/carsv* |

**OVERVIEW**

By completing a degree from the school of bioscience you will have developed the necessary graduate attributes that can be used in many graduate jobs, regardless of the degree you have studied.

It is recognised that all bioscience programmes are a very hard degree academically, with a full timetable and continuous assessment and exams. As a graduate, you will leave university not only with specialist knowledge, but also with an ability to be a **reflective** and **critical thinker**, communicate complex ideas and creatively adapt to dealing with problems. At the same time, you will have worked with your colleagues both in practical sessions and research projects thus developing your **collaborative** skills – a vital skill to take into any workplace.

**THE PROGRAMME**

In the first year, you will gain a strong and broad scientific knowledge base and as your understanding grows you can specialise choosing modules that interest you the most. After your first year, you have the option of maintaining a wide breadth of learning or specialising in a particular area of interest, from choosing one of the bioscience degrees or one of the field courses. No matter which degree you decide to study, you will develop an understanding of experimental design, literature review, statistical analysis, and **independent and critical thinking** skills. The research technique’s module enable you to apply knowledge learned and practically tackle problems and interpret, assemble, and discuss critically scientific results in context of existing data.

**PROFFESSIONAL TRAINING YEAR**

You can opt for a placement year between years 2 and 3 of your study. This is an excellent chance to develop your **ethical, social, and commercial awareness**, an attribute which is often cited as lacking in many of today’s graduates. During your year in industry, you will not only significantly develop your scientific skills in the workplace, but you will also be given the opportunity to develop **collaborative** working and **communication skills**. Being selected for the placement in the first place is not easy and will require you to develop your application interview and presentation skills, but the rewards are worth it - placement students have a very good record in gaining employment following their degree, due partly to the excellent evidence of graduate attributes which they can present to an employer. Students you can also be able to develop these skills by undertaking summer placements.

**THE FINAL YEAR PROJECT**

The 30-credit module consisting of an original project based on a research topic deliverable within the School of Biosciences, culminating in the production of a project report and presentation. You will be supported in the interpretation and analysis of research papers, and reviews, whilst learning to apply knowledge and technical skills gained on your course to produce a substantial research-based (laboratory, literature, pedagogic or scientific engagement) report. The nature of a research project means that you will develop your **ability to think independently** and hone your reflective skills. You will need to be **innovative and investigative** in your approach to undertaking this project, generating ideas, and taking initiative throughout the process. **Resilience** will also be vital throughout this research project; you will be provided with supervision, but it will be up to you to manage your time, your workload and organise yourself effectively in a very busy and pressurised final year. The research will reinforce many of the graduate attributes and enhance your personal and inter-personal capabilities needed to succeed in any professional working environment.

**ARE YOU MISSING ANY ATTRIBUTES?**

Your degree provides you with varied opportunities to develop the graduate attributes that employers say are necessary to be effective in the workplace. Presenting these attributes in a convincing way on paper or at interview can feel like a challenge, however, should you want help with this, please look at all the sessions run by Careers & Employability to help you throughout your time at Cardiff University.

If you want to develop and experience more throughout your time at university, there are so many opportunities available for you to do so. Careers and Employability and the rest of Student Support and Wellbeing can help you with this and the Cardiff Award provides you with a structure to help you focus your efforts.

**For more information on graduate attributes and on how employable you are, search Career Central on the Intranet.**