Welcome to this live chat about our innovative new course in Integrated Science!

Hi, I'm really interested in the research aspect of this course. Can you tell me a bit more about what I'd be learning in the first year?

Morning Lucy! In the first year you will be doing research right from the outset. We recognise this is a big ask, when you may never have set foot in a research lab before - but we will support you extensively to allow you to do effective experiments. By the end of the first year you will have a very extensive skillset.

That's great to hear - what sort of skills can I expect to gain specifically?

That's a big question! The first year is structured so that you will start by working on problems at the scale of atoms and molecules, and transition to problems at the scale of organelles and cells, and finish up working at the scale of organisms and populations. We'll give you the manual skills to do wet lab experiments, skills in experimental design and skills in computation to allow you to be effective in all these areas. We'll teach you how to write, how to present, how to think. As I said, a long list!

Wow that sounds exciting! What about the final year? Would I be learning more skills then or would it just be up to me to conduct my project on my own?
Excellent question! Integrated Science is a 4 year course and your final (Masters) year is given over almost entirely to pursuing your own, self-designed research project. You’ll join a professional research lab and the lab leader will supervise and support you. We’ll support you to design a great project. We’ll encourage you to sustain the integrated approach - harnessing methods from multiple disciplines as necessary to solve your problem.

Great! Have you got any examples of projects, just to get an idea of the sort of thing I could consider? Also I’m assuming the project would all be at Warwick?

More good questions. To take your second question first - we expect that most of the projects will be at Warwick most of the time, but we are open to the lab you join running a collaboration with an external lab, which would give you the opportunity to spend time elsewhere. This is very common in real research and we are aiming for you to do real research, so it's very natural to include this possibility. We would need to agree that the project called for work to be done in a non-Warwick lab. Then your first question - an example of a project. Well just off the cuff, you might decide you want to look at the mechanical effects of a cancer drug on the cells that it is treating. Questions like that - does my drug make the cells stiffen, how is that related to cancer? Do not usually get asked.

Ooh that sounds really interesting! Thanks! So what about years 2 and 3?

Another fine question. Years 2 and 3 are built predominantly (70-80%) from tried and tested modules that are already running in Warwick’s School of Life Sciences. Our first year is entirely new, but years 2 and 3 are built from more established, tested material. The driving idea is that you will use years 2 and 3 to go into more detail on the molecular basis of life, really drilling down to answer questions about how life works. Alongside the SLS material, we will run tutorials to encourage and support you in continuing the integrated approach. And you will do specially developed integrated science lab sessions.

Ok. So if I'd be with Life Sciences students from year 2 - would they be at an advantage for the course content in years 2 and 3 having already been there in year 1 though? And how many people would be with me from integrated Science? Do you have an idea of numbers?
So the Integrated Science cohort will be just 12 students in our pioneering year. But the interesting part is that you would be a member not only of this tightly-knit group of 12, but also of the much larger cohort doing the School of Life Sciences modules in years 2 and 3. We will carefully maintain the cohort culture of Integrated Science, but you will, at the same time, be a member of this much larger cohort. The idea is that you get all the advantages of a small cohort, plus all the advantages of a larger cohort!

Sounds like a good balance! Thanks

I noticed on your website it mentions cohort activities... can you tell me a bit more about these please?

Cohort activities are student-lead. That means, for around one evening per week, the student cohort will run an activity. This might be a programme of invited speakers (science journalist? Politician? Flat earther?) or it might be some kind of student lead science club. I think one possibility would be to have a student-led programme to further develop the open source microscope we have built for the course. But as I say, the idea is for students to come up with an pursue their own programme of activities.

That sounds really fun!

Exactly. I think it was Noel Coward who said 'work is more fun than fun'...

Haha!

I really like the sound of the course but I'm not actually doing maths A level and I think that's one of your requirements... is there any way you'd still accept me onto the course?

I'm afraid we are having to stand firm on the Maths requirement. This is because we have been advised by the people running these types of course at Harvard and Princeton in the US that anyone arriving without a grasp of basic calculus will struggle. I'd be happy to discuss how you might be able to take an extra course to reach the standard required in Maths.

Ah ok, well that makes sense I guess. But I could potentially still do the course if I did an extra maths course to bring me up to the right level? I've heard about contextual offers at Warwick... do you have any more information on this?

We do do contextual offers - there are a number of criteria that you would need to meet. The typical contextual offer, assuming you qualified, would be a modest grade discount on the entry requirement for the course. We offer this because it is clear that people coming to Warwick from such backgrounds actually do really well once they get here.

Ok thanks

Can I just urge anyone who's listening in who wants to ask a question to go ahead? We'll be closing this chat in 10 mins
Hello - hope I am not too late

Not at all, welcome Georgie!

Hello

I was wondering if the application timescales are the same for international students?

We are currently open for applications to UK, EU and non-UK international students. Can I ask you a question Georgie, how did you find out about the course?

I'd been looking at the Warwick website and courses on ucas

Interesting! To answer your first question more completely, we are accepting application right up until almost the end of January - I'd need to check the exact date, if this matters to you you should get in touch by email or phone. Sally Blakeman is our course point-person

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Great. I am studying the IB. Is this accepted?

Also, where is the Medical School based?

Great. I am studying the IB. Is this accepted?

Absolutely! We are asking for 38 points, and you need to have done Maths and either Biology or Chemistry.

Also, where is the Medical School based?

Warwick Medical School is split between the University Hospital site in the north of Coventry, and the main Warwick Campus to the south. We are entirely on the man campus, specifically on Gibbet Hill. It is a short walk to the student union and campus shops, arts centre and other student facilities. Gibbet Hill is our biomedical sub-campus.

Ok great, thank you for this

Also, where is the Medical School based?

thanks everyone for participating today, please get in touch if you want to know more! WMS-UG-IS@warwick.ac.uk