UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

MSc

Cancer Biology and Therapy

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **29 August 2025** Starts on: **22 September 2025**

About this course

The Cancer Biology and Therapy MSc will provide you with a high level understanding of the theory and practice of cancer research and how to connect cancer-related biomedical research with clinical applications.

Introduction

The city of Liverpool is a centre for excellence in cancer care. This, coupled with the University's strong links with the new Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, makes it the perfect place to hone your knowledge and skills in this area. You will be taught by both internationally renowned biomedical scientists and clinicians in practice, providing in-depth scientific knowledge of the molecular mechanisms driving different cancer diseases and their relevance to clinical treatment options.

The core element of the programme covers a wide spectrum of research activities, starting from the identification of novel targets, through their validation in pre-clinical tumour models, and ultimately their validation in early phase clinical trials.

Our "bench to bedside" approach will enable you to work within a multidisciplinary environment of world leading scientists and cancer specialists to address the latest challenges in cancer research.

As part of this programme you will have the opportunity to join a cancer research team and pursue a research project where you will be exposed to the latest cutting edge technologies used for cancer research.

Please note that this programme is suitable for intercalating medical students.

Who is this course for?

This master’s is for graduates from a Biomedical Sciences background who want to pursue a career in cancer research.

What you'll learn

- Hallmarks of cancer, cancer diagnosis and biomarkers
- Cancer therapies and current challenges
- Modern biotechnology and bioimaging tools and approaches
- Statistical techniques in the design of experiments in biological research
- Latest cutting edge technologies used for cancer research
- knowledge and understanding of decisions affecting the design, delivery and assessment of clinical trials
- How to use computational biology to address fundamentally important biological questions.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH (LIFE702)	30
CELLULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL IMAGING (LIFE749)	15
BIOLOGICAL DATA SKILLS (LIFE707)	15
INFORMATICS FOR LIFE SCIENCES (LIFE721)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH (LIFE702)	30
FRONTIERS IN CANCER RESEARCH AND TREATMENT (LIFE724)	15
CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS (LIFE726)	15

Compulsory modules	Credits
COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY (LIFE752)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
MSC RESEARCH PROJECT (LIFE703)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

You will experience a range of teaching and learning methods, including lectures, seminars, workshops, group discussion and e-learning.

Programme modules encourage individual and group work where you will tackle problems by developing ideas and hypotheses, design learning strategies to solve problems, and then analyse and interpret your findings.

Course material is available 24-hours a day on Canvas, our online learning platform. One-to-one meetings with your research supervisor will allow you to discuss science, develop your critical thinking and creativity through an ongoing feedback model.

Your master research project provides a full academic research experience, including the planning, execution and communication of scientific research.

How you're assessed

Assessment of knowledge and understanding, practical skills and transferrable skills is through a blended mix of coursework that may include practical and project reports,

essays, completion of workbooks, talks, data handling sessions and posters.

All modules will provide you with feedback on your learning progress and allow for adjustment of your learning. Electronic resources available on the University virtual learning environment support learning and teaching.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The Cancer Biology and Therapy MSc will provide you with the necessary knowledge and skills to become a professional scientist in the area of cancer research.

If you're committed to a career as a research scientist, this programme will enable your to continue your studies to PhD level and go on to apply for research posts in academia or industry. Similarly, it'll allow you to apply for management posts in clinical trial units.

In the public sector, researchers are in demand in research institutes, government departments, the Health Service, forensic science and the Environment Agency.

The MSc Cancer Biology and Therapy prepares you for a diversity of job opportunities in the public and private sector. Potential career pathways include, but are not limited to, the roles of:

- A PhD
- Pharmaceutical company
- NHS
- Clinical trial units
- Scientific journals/editorial team.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £13,300

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £28,300

Fees stated are for the 2025-26 academic year.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies.**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in a Biological Sciences subject or equivalent. Candidates must have a scientific background acceptable to the Programme Director.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the **University of Liverpool International College**, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MSc, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our Pre-Sessional English courses to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or the equivalent score in selected other English language tests, to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no	40 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
component below 4.0		

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to Pre-sessional English entry requirements for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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