THE SENIOR SOPHISTER YEAR IN MICROBIOLOGY

The Core Curriculum (MI4M02, MI4M03, MI4M04)

Students in their fourth year have an opportunity to explore, in detail, the major areas of Microbiology under the themes of (i) Molecular and Cellular Biology, (ii) Microbial Pathogenicity and (iii) Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology. The themes are covered in three Core Modules (MI4M02, MI4M03, MI4M04). Lectures in these core themes are compulsory for all students. Each 10 ECTS module consists of 20-22 lectures. Students also receive tutorials in data handling, problem solving and on a variety of ethical and professional issues to complement the lectures in the core themes. Students are expected to devote at least 20 hours of self-directed study per ECTS credit, which is guided through reading material provided by each lecturer.

Optional Courses (MI4M05)

Students are provided an opportunity to choose three areas of Microbiology for advanced study by taking a series of optional courses. Each optional course consists of ten one-hour session, and together the optional courses account for 10 ECTS credits. The format of these courses varies from lectures to small group tutorials and in many cases includes elements of student participation, assigned reading and group assignments. Students are required to carry out self-guided study on primary literature sources in preparation for class participation and presentations.

Research in Microbiology (MI4M01)

Research Project

All Senior Sophister students carry out a research project over a nine-week period. Projects are carried out in the research labs of the academic staff. Following consultation with their project supervisor, students prepare a short Powerpoint presentation on their proposed research, which is presented to the research group. Students produce a thesis of their research. Projects are assessed under three categories, Laboratory Performance (40%), Scholarly Performance (40%) and Thesis Production (20%). The research project accounts for 13 ECTS credits of the Senior Sophister year.

Review Essay

All students carry out an in-depth review of current research on a specific area of Microbiology. Students are provided with a list of essay titles at the beginning of Michaelmas semester and submit the essays at the beginning of the Hilary semester. The review essay accounts for 7 ECTS of the Senior Sophister year.

Microbiology Seminar Series

International and National speakers are invited to deliver seminars on the most current topics in Microbiology. Seminars are held on Thursdays at 1pm and attendance is compulsory. Students are encouraged to read up on the seminar topics and to integrate this information with that provided in lectures and tutorials.
Annual Examinations

The examinations are held during the Annual Examination period. Students are formally examined in four three-hour exams on all material covered in the Core and Optional courses. Students are encouraged to integrate into their answers information covered during their Junior Sophister year as well as material from Professional and Ethical lectures. A fifth paper is problem-based. Students may be asked to attend an oral examination which is held after the written examinations by an External Examiner.

The Moderatorship in Microbiology is awarded based on the student’s performance over the two Sophister years, with 80% of the final mark deriving from the Senior Sophister final mark and 20% from the Junior Sophister mark.