

LF219-15 Tools for Biochemical Discovery

26/27

Department

Life Sciences

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Alexander Cameron

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module is a core requirement for the Biochemistry degree stream, and it is also a natural, though not obligatory, foundation for a more advanced module in Year 3, 'Structural Molecular Biology', which takes the subject further, particularly in terms of biophysical techniques and computer-based methods for studying protein structure and function. It will provide an appreciation of the principles upon which key techniques in the field of biochemical discovery provide biochemical information.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Students will gain from this module the ability to discuss with confidence the theoretical and practical basis of key techniques in the field of biochemical discovery. They will understand the principles which underlie the interpretation of data sets obtained with these techniques and be able to make informed decisions as to which technique is appropriate to use for a particular type of biochemical sample. They will gain an appreciation of how different techniques can collectively contribute to the understanding of a biological problem and will be aware of what is the current

state-of-the-art for key techniques in biochemical discovery.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Introduction to Spectroscopic techniques

Lecture 1-3 Introduction to mass spectrometry and proteomics

Lecture 4- Solution spectroscopies - Circular dichroism

Lecture 5 - Solution spectroscopies - Fluorescence

Biophysical techniques to identify and measure biological interactions

Lecture 6-7 Introducing affinity and thermodynamics, examples of biological interactions where this matters

Lecture 8-9 Protein-protein interactions; the interactome

Introduction to structural biology techniques

Lectures 10 - 12 Crystallography

Lectures 13-14 NMR

Lectures 15 and 16 - Principles of structure determination by cryo-electron microscopy

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand the theoretical and practical basis of key techniques in the field of biochemical discovery
- Understand the principles which underlie interpretation of data sets obtained with these techniques
- Understand research techniques and their applications
- Understand how different techniques can collectively contribute to the understanding of a biological problem
- Understand the current state-of-the-art for key techniques in biochemical discovery

Subject specific skills

Understand the theoretical and practical basis of key techniques in the field of biochemical discovery

Understand the principles which underlie interpretation of data sets obtained with these techniques

Make decisions as to which technique is appropriate to use for a particular type of biochemical sample

Appreciate how different techniques can collectively contribute to the understanding of a biological problem

Show awareness of what is the current state-of-the-art for key techniques in biochemical discovery

Transferable skills

Quantitative analysis, self directed learning, adult learning, appraisal of source material

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	16 sessions of 1 hour (8%)
Practical classes	3 sessions of 6 hours (9%)
Private study	84 hours 30 minutes (43%)
Assessment	75 hours (39%)
Total	193.5 hours

Private study description

Self-directed learning and revision

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
In-class assignment	30%	30 hours	No
Tools for Biochemistry Laboratory 3x6 hr laboratory class- students submit a written report			
Closed-book end-of-year examination	70%	1 hour 30 minutes	No
In-person locally-timetabled closed-book end-of-year examination			

Assessment group R3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Closed-book examination	100%		No
In-person locally-timetabled closed-book examination			

Feedback on assessment

Informally via lecture workshops.

[Past exam papers for LF219](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UBSA-C700 Undergraduate Biochemistry
- ULFA-C1A2 Undergraduate Biochemistry (MBio)
 - Year 2 of C1A2 Biochemistry
 - Year 2 of C700 Biochemistry
- Year 2 of ULFA-C702 Undergraduate Biochemistry (with Placement Year)
- Year 2 of ULFA-C1A6 Undergraduate Biochemistry with Industrial Placement (MBio)

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UMDA-CF10 Undergraduate Integrated Natural Sciences (MSci)