Pre-arrival information: Biomedical Sciences

Congratulations on your examination results: I am looking forward to meeting you again in October.

The first year course comprises six main subjects - Body, Behaviour, Brain, Genes, Cells, Molecules - and smaller Chemistry, Mathematics & Statistics and Physics modules. The University will provide lectures, seminars and practical classes on all of this material throughout the year. In college, we will supplement teaching in the main subjects with tutorials, which will help you to integrate material. There will typically be two tutorials each week, for which you will be asked to produce a piece of written work (an essay, some notes, a table).

In the first ('Michaelmas') term, you will receive regular tutorials from the following tutors:

Dr Iana Alexeeva	Behaviour
Dr David Dupret	Brain
Dr Robert Wilkins	Cells

Other parts of the course will be covered in subsequent terms. I will explain how we will organise these tutorials when we meet before the start of term.

You will need to consult textbooks in order to consolidate notes from University teaching and to prepare for and complete the work set by tutors. There are many textbooks that you might consult, but past experience suggests that the following will be useful during your first term:

Alberts *et al*	*Molecular Biology of the Cell*
Berg *et al*	*Biochemistry*
Berne & Levy	*Physiology*
Boron and Boulpaep	*Medical Physiology*
Carlson, NR	*Physiology of Behaviour*
Goldstein, EB	*Sensation and Perception*
Lewin *et al*	*Lewin's Genes X*
Rang *et al*	*Pharmacology*
Wilkins *et al*	*Oxford Handbook of Medical Sciences*

Individual tutors will also offer you guidance as to the most appropriate books to use for the subjects.

It is probably best, however, to wait until you arrive in Oxford before buying particular books; the College library has most of the important textbooks, and the University also has an extensive sciences lending library. College Grant funds are available to support the purchase of essential course materials, currently at the level of £300 per year, with £100 available to spend on books.

In preparation for our first tutorial, please prepare a table summarising the nature of the different pathways by which a solute can move across the cell membrane. I will collect this work when we meet at the start of term: please look out for an e-mail at the start of October providing details of our meetings in Freshers' week.

Robert Wilkins
August 2026