

BSc in Medical Sciences with Humanities, Philosophy and Law

Welcome to Imperial College London's innovative intercalated BSc in Humanities, Philosophy and Law (HPL).

This guide will give you an idea of what to expect if you are accepted for a place on the HPL BSc. Please note, this is indicative content and potentially subject to change. Check the website for updates and details of entry requirements:
<http://tinyurl.com/yrk2vbbv>

Twenty-five places are made available on this BSc, of which seven are reserved for students intercalating from other medical, veterinary, or dental schools.

Prospective students who commit to undertaking ethics-related research for the project component of the course can apply for a scholarship from the Institute of Medical Ethics:
<http://tinyurl.com/534e5z4z>



Image: A woman dancing. Collotype after Eadweard Muybridge's locomotion studies (1887). © Wellcome Collection

What can you expect to learn?

The Humanities, Philosophy and Law (HPL) BSc ranges widely across disciplines and time periods. It offers you a critical framework in which to appraise medical knowledge and practice through the lens of the humanities paradigm. The course will develop and hone modes of analytical thinking and bodies of knowledge that complement your studies in medical, veterinary, or dental sciences. All students will have the opportunity to experience diverse approaches to scholarship in the medical and health humanities, drawn from history, law, ethics, philosophy, literature, and a wide variety of the creative arts.

Content is focused on three main areas of knowledge: **the body, the mind, and death and dying**. Within each area, topics are explored from interdisciplinary points of view. Topic areas include anatomy and the science of medicine, the medical gaze, mental health, pain, prostheses, and end-of-life issues. We emphasise creativity and you will have the opportunity to engage in a practical way with the arts through the guidance of expert practitioners. We take full advantage of our enviable location by including field trips to museums, galleries, and other sites across London.

The modes of teaching and learning are designed to suit the content with an appreciation of how context also affects learning. Therefore, there is an emphasis on active and experiential learning in settings in which you can make best use of face-to-face activities with teachers and your fellow students. Role modelling is an important aspect here: guest lectures and workshops facilitated by experts will inspire you and provide memorable learning experiences that facilitate reflective learning, and personal and professional development.

How is the course structured?

The taught component of the course (4 months) consists of sessions in which you will be taught by a variety of experts across a range of disciplines working at the intersections of medicine and the humanities. After every three-week block of teaching, there is a week devoted to self-directed learning during which you will work on individual and group assignments. In contrast with other intercalating BScs offered at Imperial, for this course, the

taught and self-directed components are interleaved to allow you to progress your group work steadily over time rather than in a single, concentrated block. The final component of the course (4 months) will be project work, where you will choose your own topic to develop for focused, high-level study, under the guidance of a project co-ordinator and supervisor. The project is supported by a series of skills workshops and weekly progress meetings.



How is the course assessed?

This is indicative information. Assignments and their weightings will be confirmed at the start of the course.

The taught component is partly assessed by essays in philosophy and in law. You will also create a podcast that interprets a museum object for a lay audience, and produce a narrative in a visual medium that tackles the representation of a pertinent issue.



The self-directed component is assessed through a clinical case study which consists of analysis of patients' stories published on the website CareOpinion.org.uk. There is also a group poster presentation exploring cultural representations of a particular condition.

The project involves planning and carrying out supervised research resulting in a project write-up. You will choose a topic and develop a research question. You will be expected to make an art object as part of your method, which you will have an opportunity to show as part of a specially curated exhibition (you can see past examples at hplshow.wordpress.com). The project is assessed through a written report and an oral presentation that includes reflecting on your research journey.

Left: an anatomical diagram from the Ottoman Empire, depicting the veins and arteries. **Above:** a case filled with a selection of glass eyes. © Wellcome Collection

Meet the team

Mr Greg Artus teaches philosophy at Imperial, covering areas such as epistemology, philosophy of mind, research ethics, and philosophy of medicine. His research interests also include machine ethics, and the works of both Wittgenstein and Heidegger.



Dr Giskin Day is a Principal Teaching Fellow at Imperial. She is a National Teaching Fellow and a recipient of the Imperial President's Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Excellence. Her specialism is creativity in medical education, and her research is on the role of gratitude in healthcare.



Prof. Mike Osborn is a consultant Histopathologist based at Charing Cross Hospital in London. He is the former President of the Royal College of Pathologists and a professor of practice at Imperial. His specialist areas are gastrointestinal pathology and non-forensic autopsy.



Dr Adrian Raby is a GP and Senior Lecturer in Medical Ethics and Law. He is involved in postgraduate medical training as a GP trainer, as well as teaching law and ethics in the MBBS and BMB programmes at Imperial. He has an interest in using film and the humanities in ethics teaching.



Dr Jennifer Wallis is a Senior Teaching Fellow in Medical Humanities, and Teaching Fellow in the History of Science and Medicine, at Imperial. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Her specialisms include the history of psychiatry and the body.



Ms Janice Pires is the Pathway Administrator for the HPL BSc and Programme Administrator for Phase 2



Questions?

To be put in touch with former students, or if you have any queries about the course, please contact the Pathway Lead, Dr Giskin Day (giskin.day@imperial.ac.uk) or Pathway Administrator, Ms Janice Pires (j.pires@imperial.ac.uk).