FAQ

What is the difference between the BIBU Program and the existing dual degree program of BSc in Biotechnology and BBA in General Business Management?

The 4-year BIBU Program has different objectives from the 5-year dual degree program. The dual degree program equips students with in-depth knowledge in both disciplines, whereas the interdisciplinary BIBU Program aims to equip students with the essential knowledge in biotechnology, complemented with business know-how and skills to effectively understand, manage, and market biotechnology initiatives.

How is the BIBU Program different from studying a Biotechnology degree with a minor in Business?

Students with a major in biotechnology and a minor in business will receive broad-based science training followed by in-depth theoretical training in biotechnology and bioproduct applications. The minor in business offers students a basic understanding of business but does not provide sufficient training for them to take on biotechnology management or entrepreneurial roles. The BIBU curriculum is designed to include approximately equal credits in biotechnology and business complemented with interdisciplinary courses.

What is the advantage of applying for direct entry to the BIBU Program?

Students taking BIBU as their first major are exempted from the SSCI/SBM core course requirements. The curriculum is tailor-made to include only select courses from both Schools, which allows students with dual interests to follow a coordinated and integrated curriculum so that they can adapt to their study earlier to pursue their interest or meet their career goals.

The Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology and Business (BIBU) Program is suited to high school graduates with a hybrid interest in both biotechnology and business. Ideal candidates will be students who are technically competent and interested in biotechnology applications, and who are eager to develop a managerial or leadership career in the biotechnology- or life science-related industries.

The Program aims to admit around 60 students per year (around 30 through direct entry via JUPAS/Non-JUPAS admission scheme, and around 30 through SSCI/SBM major selection exercise at the end of year 1 study).

Admissions Enquiries

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The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2358 5065 | Fax: (852) 2358 1444
Email: ugscience@ust.hk | Website: http://bibu.ust.hk

Jointly offered by:

School of Science
HKUST Business School
Biotechnology is the application of techniques and processes that utilize biological systems to provide innovative solutions to many complex issues in agriculture, medicine, food, energy and environment. As we enter the 21st Century, critical advancements in biosciences and scientific human resources, collectively point to a continued outgrowth of biotechnology industry.

Mainland China is one of the top five emerging biotechnology leaders in Asia Pacific. In light of these booming developments, both government and private sectors give fresh impetus to further move this emerging industry forward quickly. As indicated in the 2018-19 Budget of the HKSAR Government, Biotechnology is one of the focused areas for development under the Innovation and Technology sector; ten billion Hong Kong Dollars will be allocated to upgrade the facilities in the Science Park as well as to support enterprises engaged in biotechnology. With enormous potential of biotechnology for the future, there is an increasing demand in both Hong Kong and mainland China for candidates who can serve the industry at the levels of research and development, technical support, and management. Current biotechnology employees are mostly trained in either science or management; talents who possess both technical knowledge and a business mind are scarce in the region.

In view of this, the School of Science (SSCI) and the School of Business and Management (SBM) of HKUST have jointly developed a BSc program in Biotechnology and Business (BIBU) to meet the regional demand for professionals. The interdisciplinary curriculum will equip students with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills to function effectively in the industry, enhance students’ creativity and critical thinking skills, and provide them with a global outlook on biotechnology development and applications. The goal is to nurture students to become effective managers and leaders in the biotechnology industry in Hong Kong and Greater China.

The holistic BIBU curriculum spans multiple disciplines including various domains of life science and biotechnology, as well as foundational business subjects including managerial accounting, micro/ macroeconomics, and operations management.

Interdisciplinary courses such as “Biotechnology and Business Seminar” and “Biotechnology Entrepreneurship and Business Operations” represent unique elements in the curriculum. These courses allow students to make connections between ideas and concepts across the disciplinary boundary of biotechnology and business, deepen their learning experience, and develop their cognitive skills, critical thinking and creative problem solving skills.

This is a 4-year program with a total of 124-134 credits, including:
- University Common Core: 36 credits
- English Communication: 6 credits
- Mathematics: 3-4 credits
- Business: 29 credits
- Science/Life Science: 31-37 credits
- Interdisciplinary Courses: 10-13 credits
- Biotechnology and Business Electives: 9 credits*

*Students may reuse a maximum of 9 credits of these courses to count towards both Major and University Common Core requirements.

Program Highlights

- A unique undergraduate program specifically designed to groom competent students who are interested in pursuing a career in biotechnology or life science-related industries in the global and particularly the Greater China market
- Broad-based learning experience that cuts across biotechnology, life science applications and business management, providing students a solid foundation to serve and lead in the biotech industry
- Internship opportunities for students to gain practical industry experience, which helps to increase chances of employment post-graduation
- HKUST is ranked No. 2 in Hong Kong and Top 2 in Asia in two business-related disciplines (QS World University Rankings 2019), and No. 12 in Natural Science (QS Asian University Rankings 2019)

Career Prospects

- The holistic BIBU experience prepares students to excel in any career path they aspire to. A wide variety of career opportunities are available in both public and private sectors in Hong Kong and Greater China.
- Potential employers include multinational pharmaceutical companies, providers of biotechnology products/services, consulting firms focusing on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, and many more.

Admission Requirements

Students may apply for the BIBU program through direct choice in JUPAS/Non-JUPAS admission scheme, or transfer from the Science (Group B) program (JS5103) or any SBM programs after their first year of study. Admission is based on academic results and interviews.

For JUPAS–HKDSE Applicants

Minimum Requirement:
- Core Subjects Minimum Level Required
- English Language 4
- Chinese Language 3
- Mathematics (Compulsory Module) 3
- Liberal Studies 2
- Elective (Maximum)
- Elective 1: Must be Biology or Chemistry 3
- Elective 2: Any Category A subjects / M1/M2 3

JUPAS Score Calculation – Best 6 Subjects with Weighting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (Compulsory Module)</td>
<td>x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology or Chemistry</td>
<td>x 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next best 3 subjects</td>
<td>x 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Applicants with International Qualifications

In addition to fulfilling the University’s general requirements, applicants must have at least one senior level subject from: Biology / Chemistry / Mathematics