

Biochemistry BCH31MMB (Biological Macromolecules & Molecular Biology)
Summary of responses to QAU questionnaire - 2006

Students voluntarily completed a questionnaire during the final week of first semester. The response rate was 81% (47 questionnaires were returned from a class of 58 students).

Questions 1 – 14 were answered with the following numeric responses:

1 = none of the time; 2 = little of the time; 3 = half of the time; 4 = most of the time; 5 = all of the time (so the higher the score, the more positive the response from the students).

The average scores (out of 5) for the responses to these questions were as follows:

Q1:	The aims were made clear	4.1
Q2:	The workload is manageable	3.8
Q3:	The amount and type of assessment is appropriate for this unit.....	4.0
Q4:	The level of support, help and advice is appropriate for this unit	4.1
Q5:	I have learned a lot in this unit	4.2
Q6:	The unit was well organized.....	4.2
Q7:	Things have been explained well in the lectures	4.0
Q8:	You can clearly see how the various parts of the unit fit together	3.8
Q9:	I try to relate ideas in this unit to those in others, whenever possible	4.1
Q10:	Practicals were a useful learning experience	4.6
Q11:	The instructions in the prac manual were clear	4.1
Q12:	The demonstrators helped me to understand the pracs.....	4.1
Q13:	Access to the online lecture material enhanced my understanding of the lecture content	4.4
Q14:	Overall, the quality of the teaching was high	4.3

Question 15 was answered with the following numeric responses:

1 = very poor 2 = poor 3 = satisfactory 4 = good 5 = very good
(again, the higher the score, the more positive the response from the students).

The average score (out of 5) for the responses to this question was:

Q15:	All things considered, how would you rate this unit?	4.1
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The overall average score for all 15 questions answered with numeric responses was 4.1 out of 5.

Questions 16 to 18 were open-ended questions about the unit. The most common responses to each of these questions are summarized below, with the % of respondents shown in parentheses. Only those responses given by two or more students (4% or more of respondents) are shown.

Q16:	What is the best thing about this unit?
	The lecturers were friendly and helpful (13%)
	The practical classes were well organized (11%)
	The practical classes were interesting (11%)
	The pracs related well to the lecture content (8%)
	All topics seemed relevant to our future work (6%)
	Lectures were interesting (6%)
	The pre-prac talks allowed for pracs to be explained well without encroaching on prac time (4%)
	All lecture notes were available on WebCT by the end of each session (4%)
	The handouts assisted with learning (4%)
Q17:	How could this unit be improved?
	The Biopolymers prac involved too much work (6%)
	Too much material covered in some theory units (4%)
	Would be beneficial to have a tutorial session every Wednesday (4%)
Q18:	Do you wish to comment on any other aspect of this unit?
	Pracs were fantastic – thanks SPJ (4%)

In response to these comments, some sections of the lecture course will be revised for next year and attempts will be made to reduce the amount of work associated with assessment tasks in the practical component of the unit at the end of the semester.