

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Staff and students in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences are united by a desire to understand how living systems work and how we can deliver better sustainable health and wellbeing to our planet and all its inhabitants.

Our staff support and undertake world-leading fundamental and translational research that makes a difference, and we work with our students to create an inspiring education overseen by world-renowned academics. The excellence of our staff and students underpins our outstanding reputation.

The Faculty was established in August 2023 through a merger of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Life Sciences. It comprises nine Schools: [Anatomy](#); [Biochemistry](#); [Biological Sciences](#); [Cellular and Molecular Medicine](#); [Bristol Dental School](#); [Bristol Medical School](#); [Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience](#); [Psychological Science](#); and [Bristol Veterinary School](#).

Our teaching

We have a long-standing tradition of excellence in research-led teaching. Our broad range of expertise opens up a wealth of opportunities for students.

Our students study a range of challenging, research-focused, undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research programmes, all taught in the context of world-leading research environments, using specialist equipment and facilities.

We are one of the few Faculties in the UK who deliver professional programmes across Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. The Faculty offers 'Gateway' courses to these programmes, aimed at students who do not meet the academic entry criteria to apply directly to the five-year undergraduate programmes. The Faculty manages a wide range of intercalation degrees for its medical, veterinary and dental students, which are also open to students from other UK universities and internationally.

The Vesalius Clinical Training Centre delivers CPD training for a variety of public and private sector organisations in specific surgical techniques and the use of surgical implants and devices.

Our research

Our world-leading research expertise, ranging from studying molecules to populations, can be largely described within a set of eight focussed areas that are strategically developed and supported by our Schools to support our research and education programmes. These disciplinary areas are: molecular, cellular & structural biology; immunology, virology & microbiology; clinical sciences; population health & life course epidemiology; healthy & resilient plant & animal systems; the brain, mind & behavioural sciences; genetic epidemiology & informatics; and intervention research & methodologies.

We bring these areas together in different combinations to form six interdisciplinary 'Grand Challenge Research Clusters' that each address a major societal challenge in the health and life sciences. These research clusters will seek to understand and prevent: infectious diseases and anti-microbial resistance; the harms done by humans on our planet's living systems; poor mental health outcomes; cardiovascular disease;

cancer; and we will engineer biology to create novel therapeutics, diagnostics, food systems and biomaterials.

These disciplinary areas and research clusters are based on our excellent core and externally funded research facilities. These include: Animal Services Unit (ASU); Botanic Garden; Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock (CIEL); Flow Cytometry facility; Genomics facility; GW4 Facility for High-Resolution Electron Cryo-Microscopy; Histology services unit; Poultry unit; Proteomics facility; Translational Biomedical Research Centre; and Wolfson Bioimaging facility.

Key externally funded programmes of collaborative research include the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit; the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre (BRC); the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents & Children (ALSPAC); the NIHR Health Protection Unit; and NIHR Schools of Public Health and Primary Care Research; Cleft Collective (funded by the Scar Free Foundation) and the Head and Neck 5000 (funded by the NIHR).

The Faculty provides an ideal environment for collaborative research with colleagues across the Health and Life Sciences, the wider University, and with our colleagues across the GW4 Alliance of four of the most research-intensive and innovative universities in the UK: Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter. The Faculty leads these partners and others in the South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership (SWBio DTP).

The University's Elizabeth Blackwell Institute for Health Research, together with Bristol Health Partners and South West Life Sciences provide a catalyst for cross-Faculty, inter-organisational and impactful translational health research, creating an excellent environment for conducting research that can be rapidly tested, partnered with industry and applied in clinical settings.