

Higher Education Courses at West Thames College

High quality and great value for money courses to give you the skills you need that employers want.



Applied Biology



Applied Biology HNC or HND

Applied Biology is one of the most popular courses at West Thames. In this course, you will learn a core skillset for your career journey.

Great career opportunities are available if you are interested in science, especially in Biology or Chemistry. You could work in the life sciences, such as biomedical, pharmaceuticals, immunology or biotech research, manufacturing: food production and development, monitoring various aspects of the environment, or use of forensic science in the field of criminology.

You could also work as a nutritionist or medical assistant in hospitals. Our laboratories have specialist equipment including DNA isolation, PCR, gel electrophoresis, gram staining, chromatography, and spectrophotometry.



We have excellent links with universities like Kingston, Royal Holloway, and Queen Mary University of London, and organisations such as GlaxoSmithKline and local hospitals. You will attend programmes such as the Rare Disease Day and Food Sciences exhibition. You will take part in National Science Week and sessions with guest speakers and have work experience opportunities, educational trips, and visits throughout the academic year.

Estimated salary

£30,000
Laboratory technicians

£38,000
Natural & social science
professionals

Higher Education at a lower cost

We proudly offer several Higher National Certificates and Diplomas (HNC/HND). These are highly valued by employers in the UK and overseas. An HNC is one year. An HND takes two years, with both offering you a chance to study a subject to make sure you like it before taking it to the degree level.

Direct industry experience

Our students love the practical emphasis on our courses and our strong links with industry. Real-life briefs, projects, work placements, industry-sponsored competitions, and field trips are essential to our courses. You may also visit trade shows, galleries, museums, exhibitions, and relevant organisations in the UK, Europe, and beyond.

In today's highly competitive jobs market, this vocational experience is key to your success, as you will gain the essential skills that employers are looking for – which looks great on your CV and helps you stand out from the crowd.

Careers advice

Our Careers Team will give you all the advice you need to plan your future career.

While you study we take care of you

- ▶ **Gym:** Our gym is equipped with treadmills, cycling & rowing machines, cross trainers, resistance machines & weights to keep you fit and active.

- ▶ **Hair and beauty salon:** Get pampered with a beauty treatment or new hairstyle and buy professional products for a fraction of the cost.
- ▶ **Nursery:** Our nursery offers full and part-time places for children aged 3 months to 5 years, providing a safe and stimulating learning environment for your child.
- ▶ **Student Common Room:** You can watch music, sport, or films on the plasma TV screens, go online, play pool, table tennis, table football, and other games or meet with friends.

Fees & accommodation

Home students do not usually have to pay fees upfront. Your fees will be covered by a student loan. You will not start repaying this until after you have graduated and earned a salary of over £26,575.

Student finances

To cover the cost of studying if you can demonstrate that you are in financial hardship, you can apply for:

- ▶ A Tuition Fee Loan to cover your tuition fees in full
- ▶ A Maintenance Loan to help you with your living costs
- ▶ Extra financial support if you have a disability or children or adults who depend on you.

You may not have to pay tuition fees if:

- ▶ You receive state benefits and qualify for a concession
- ▶ You are aged 19-23 and do not already have a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification.

Living in London is exciting but it does come at a price. We recommend you start your accommodation search early as most specialist providers book several months in advance.

Private accommodation providers

- ▶ crm-students.com
- ▶ host-students.com
- ▶ freshstudentliving.co.uk

Your application

Applications should be made direct to UCAS via their website **ucas.com**. Alternatively, you can apply through the college website **west-thames.ac.uk**. We will then contact you and help you through the admissions process.

Entry requirements

- ▶ At least one relevant A Level pass or Level 3 qualification
- ▶ GCSE English and maths at grade 4 (C) or above are desirable, or functional skills in English and maths at Level 2
- ▶ Mature students are encouraged to enter with a pass in an appropriate access Certificate
- ▶ Relevant skills or work experience will be considered
- ▶ Additional course-specific requirements are detailed on the course page and may include an audition or a portfolio.

Please refer to the course page below on our website for more information: **west-thames.ac.uk/higher-education**

Next steps

You can apply using the 'Your Application' information in this leaflet. Alternatively, you may want to speak to the course leader in this area for a quick chat about our applied biology course. You can contact **Dr. Anjana Pal** on:

- ▶ **020 8326 2339**
- ▶ **Anjana.Pal@west-thames.ac.uk**

Further information

For general questions about student loans and how to apply, call the College's Information Centre on 020 8326 2000. They will help directly or book an appointment for you with our Careers Team.