Biochemistry Pre-Course Reading List

One of the important things to do before coming to University is to try and widen your horizons by reading general books and periodicals. Scientific periodicals that are valuable to study include *New Scientist* for short articles and *Scientific American*. Both of these are generally available, e.g. in your local public library, and will enable you to understand how different scientific disciplines approach solving important questions.

You are also receiving a booklet of maths problems for the Maths course in the first year. This booklet is mainly for students who have not taken A-level Maths. For students with an A grade in A-level Maths, there is a General Maths course which can be taken, but is not compulsory. For those of you who are not taking A-level Maths and for those of you who might be rusty after a year away from full-time study, please complete the examples in the booklet before arriving in October.

Please extend your knowledge of basic organic chemistry, as this is examined in the first year and can give rise to problems if basic understanding is not maintained. A recommended text is “*Guidebook to Mechanism in Organic Chemistry*” by Sykes, 6th Edition @ £41.99 published by Pearson. You are likely to need to buy this text.

Excellent texts for general reading of basic biochemistry and cell biology are:

“*Organic Chemistry*” by Fox & Whitesell (2004) published by Jones & Bartlett (this may be difficult to get hold of)

“*Biochemistry*” by Stryer et al, published by W H Freeman

“*Molecular Biology of the Cell*” by Alberts et al, published by Taylor & Francis

“*Essential Cell Biology*” by Alberts et al, published by Taylor & Francis

“*Molecular Cell Biology*” by Lodish et al, published by W H Freeman

“*Fundamentals of Biochemistry*” by Voet, Voet & Pratt, published by John Wiley & Sons

“*Biochemistry & Molecular Biology*” by Elliott & Elliott, published by Oxford University Press

“*Biochemistry*” by Campbell & Farrell, published by CENGAGE Learning - an extremely good basic introduction

“*Cells*” edited by Lewin, Cassimeris, Lingappa and Plopper - an excellent text for more cellular aspects

“*Biochemistry*” by Garret and Grisham, published by Cengage Learning - an excellent all-round introductory text. Good on basic enzymology, metabolism and its control

These are useful texts to look through to give you some idea of what to expect. It is a good idea to find which texts best suit your needs for essay writing before purchasing them. Another useful book
with medical facts included is “Textbook of Biochemistry with Clinical Correlations” by Devlin, published by Wiley-Liss.

You may also like to look at “Genes X” by B Lewin. However this is a more advanced text than those listed above, and is thus more suitable for second and third year undergraduates.

A comprehensive list of appropriate books can be found on the Web @ http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk

Do not buy them all!  

Nicholas Lakin

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