

PROGRAMME REGULATIONS

St George's, University of London

MSc Sports Cardiology

PROGRAMME REGULATIONS - For students entering the programme in 2023/2024
Approved by Senate (date)

Degree Title

1. The programme of study shall lead to the award of MSc in Sports Cardiology

Awarding body

2. The awarding body is St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent college of the University of London.

Intermediate awards

3. The following intermediate awards are available with the MSc in Sports Cardiology programme:
 - 3.1. PGCert in Sports Cardiology
 - 3.2. PGDip in Sports Cardiology
4. Applicants can apply for the PGCert and PGDip. In these Regulations, MSc in Sports Cardiology is used to refer collectively to awards of PGCert, PGDip and MSc unless it is otherwise stated.
5. All constituent modules available within the programme may be taken as stand-alone modules. Modules covering the theory and practical aspects of Cardiovascular evaluation of athletes and Cardiovascular screening will be paired.

Responsible Committee

6. The Course Committee is responsible for the delivery of the MSc in Sports Cardiology. The Course Committee is responsible to the Taught Postgraduate Courses Committee (TPCC) for quality monitoring.

Entry Requirements

Academic

7. Physicians should have completed their MBBS (Medical Bachelor & Bachelor in Surgery). Other applicants should normally have, or be expected to achieve a minimum second class honours degree (2:2) from a UK or Republic of Ireland University, in a subject which offers an appropriate grounding, **e.g. sport science, cardiac physiology, cardiac physiotherapy, other healthcare-related degrees**. Applicants who do not have an undergraduate degree but are currently medical students who have successfully completed 360 credits (or equivalent) including at least 120 credits at Level 6 (or equivalent) of their medical degree are also eligible to apply. They must also have permission to apply for an intercalated MSc from the Course Director of their medical degree.
8. An MBBS or Honours degree equivalent to a 2:2 or above from an approved institution of higher education outside the UK and Republic of Ireland will be accepted. Advice on equivalence of overseas awards will be obtained from the National Recognition and Information Centre for the UK (NARIC).

Clinical

9. All candidates are expected to have a degree of clinical experience within the field of medicine, cardiology, sports medicine or sports science. Physicians are required to have a 2-year post graduate clinical experience. Cardiac physiologists and cardiac physiotherapists are required to have 2-year post graduate clinical experience in a cardiac department. Sport scientists are required to have 2-year post graduate practical experience.
10. All candidates are expected to have basic competency with the interpretation of the 12-lead ECG. All candidates with MBBS or BSc in cardiac physiology or cardiac physiotherapy will be presumed competent given that ECG interpretation is part of their curriculum training. Other candidates will need to present evidence of competency that may include certification from a recent course (within 1 year of the commencement day of the degree) or letter from their supervisor. For individuals who do not have the skill/experience of ECG interpretation, cannot provide the evidence or wish to refresh their ECG skills an ECG course will be available, offered at SGUL, outside the MSc programme that candidates could undertake. The course will be offered to MSc candidates at a discounted price.

Non-academic, non-clinical

11. Once accepted for the course all candidates will require an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Services criminal record check clearance (DBS). The course involves contact with patients and in line with legislation and standard practice in the UK DBS clearance will be necessary prior to registration and enrolment. Successful applicants must apply for DBS through the Admissions Team. Applicants will pay a small fee directly to DBS to access.
12. The course involves contact with patients. In line with standard practices and legislation all students will require to undergo a health check by our Occupational Health team once accepted for the course. The Admissions Team will support students through this process.

Application process

13. Candidates will be invited to apply via an online application system. The following documents need to be provided (original documents or certified copies, translated in English language can be uploaded. Original documents will be reviewed on registration):

- Application form
 - o Education
 - o Professional qualifications
 - o Employment/work experience
 - o ECG experience
 - o Research experience
 - o Personal (motivation) statement
- Undergraduate degree including a grade transcript of records, certified (translated to English) copy of additionally Masters or other diplomas, if applicable
- English language proficiency documentation
- ECG interpretation proficiency documentation (if required)
- Proof of nationality (certified copy of passport)
- Proof of address (recent (within 1 year) documentation such as official letter from respective municipality or two letters from national organisations such as voters register, bank statements, bills)
- List of 2 referees (minimum of 2, 1 from recent (within last year from application) academic supervisor and another 1 from a second academic supervisor or employer)

The Admissions Tutors will make an offer to a candidate based on information obtained from the application form. All applications will be independently be reviewed by the admission tutor and marked against set criteria out of a 100 possible points based on the pre-specified selection criteria:

1. Academic achievements
2. Clinical experience in the field of cardiology or sports and exercise medicine
3. Motivation
4. References

All criteria will contribute equally and candidates will be scored by each assessor between 0 and 25. Candidates who achieve an average mark of ≥ 75 will be accepted without the requirement for an interview. They will be invited to an open day event should they chose to attend. Candidates with 50-75 points will be offered a formal interview prior to the decision of whether they will be offered a place in the MSc. Applications who score < 50 will be rejected without interview.

When 10 or less point difference exists the candidate will be awarded the average of the two marks. In cases of a difference of > 10 points, tutors will meet to agree on a mark. In the unlikely event that agreement cannot be reached the issue will be referred to the executive course director for the final deliberation.

Applications for stand-alone modules

14. Applications for stand-alone modules will be subject to entry requirements 7, 8 and 10 as described above. For modules with considerable clinical component requirements 9 and 11 must in addition to be satisfied. Applicants with non-standard qualifications will normally be encouraged to consider taking a stand-alone module prior to registering for a longer degree. The deadline for application will be one month before the start date of the module and suitable applicants would be admitted on a first-come first served basis until the maximum capacity for that module was reached.

IELTS

15. If English is not the applicant's first language, he or she must sit and pass the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a score of 6.5 overall, with no component less than 6.0, or the Pearson test with an overall score of 67, with no component less than 67; Cambridge English Advanced (Certificate in Advanced English) with an overall score of 185, with no component less than 176; or Cambridge English: Proficiency (also known as Certificate of Proficiency in English) with an overall score of 185, with no component less than 176).
16. Test certificates should be dated within the last two years to be considered valid. Applicants will only be permitted to submit two test attempts undertaken within a 12 month period.

Non-standard applicants

17. Applications will be considered from non-standard applicants who can demonstrate that they have the capacity to achieve the learning outcomes for the programme.
18. The admissions policy for the MSc Sports Cardiology will include a procedure for considering non-standard applicants. This procedure may include inter alia:
 - 18.1. Submission of a brief personal statement
 - 18.2. Two satisfactory references. One of these must be a recent academic reference and the other should be either a second academic reference or a professional/employer reference.
 - 18.3. Attendance at interview
19. Non-standard applicants may be permitted to register for a stand-alone module with an entitlement to transfer to the MSc Sports Cardiology if they complete a stand-alone module successfully.

Admissions Policy

20. The Course Committee shall agree, and from time to time prescribe changes to, the admissions policy. The Course Director is responsible for determining who is eligible for admission to the programme within this policy.
21. The admissions policy shall be made in accordance with St George's Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement on Students with Disabilities.

Recognition of Prior Learning

22. Given the novel nature of the MSc in Sports Cardiology, which is the first post-graduate qualification in the field of Sports Cardiology, internationally, the team does not anticipate to receive RPL claims based on prior study at other UK universities. Experiential learning claims based on the knowledge and skills acquired in clinical practice may be possible in the future. Based on these considerations, the course team has decided to delay the introduction of an RPL process until the programme is well established.

Period of Study

23. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 17 above, the minimum and maximum periods of study required are:

	Full-time		Part-time	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
MSc	1 year	3 years	2 years	4 years
PgDip	1 year	3 years	2 years	4 years
PgCert	1 year	3 years	1 year	3 years

24. A student who wishes to request an extension to the maximum period of study shall do so in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Senate (see 4.13 *General Regulations*).

Programmes Structure

25. The structure of the programme is as follows:

<i>Module</i>	<i>Modules:</i>	<i>Credits</i>
	<i>Compulsory core modules</i>	
1	Principles of cardiovascular evaluation of athletes	15
2	Practice of cardiovascular evaluation of athletes	15
3	Principles of cardiovascular screening	15
4	Practice of cardiovascular screening	15
5	Cardiovascular anatomy and physiology	15
6	Cardiac rehabilitation	15
7	Research methods	15
8	Research Project	60
	<i>Option modules</i>	
9	Emergency response planning	15

10	Advanced management and genomics of inherited cardiac conditions	15
11	Ethical, legal and social issues in applied genomics	15
12	Counselling skills in genomics	15
13	Cardiovascular genetics and genomics	15

MSc Sports Cardiology (180 credits)

Students must complete 7 core modules (15 credits each), which are compulsory (6 newly developed Sports cardiology modules and the Research Methods module from the Common Postgraduate Pathway (CPF)). In addition, students must complete 1 of the option modules (1 newly developed Sports Cardiology module and 3 modules from the Genomic Medicine MSc, 15 credits each). Finally, students must complete a compulsory research project provides 60 credits.

Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Cardiology (120 credits)

Students must complete 6 core modules (Principles of cardiovascular evaluation of athletes, Practice of cardiovascular evaluation of athletes, Principles of cardiovascular screening, Practice of cardiovascular screening, Cardiovascular anatomy and physiology and Cardiac rehabilitation, 15 credit each) and 2 option modules (Emergency response planning, Ethical, legal and social issues in applied genomics, Counselling skills in genomics, Cardiovascular genetics and genomics and Research Methods, 15 credit each).

Postgraduate Certificate in Sports Cardiology (60 credits)

Students must complete any 4 taught modules, 15 credit each. The recommended modules are: Principles of cardiovascular evaluation of athletes, Practice of cardiovascular evaluation of athletes, Principles of cardiovascular screening, Practice of cardiovascular screening. Students, however, may choose to do two out of the four recommended modules (EITHER Principles of cardiovascular evaluation of athletes and Practice of cardiovascular evaluation of athletes OR Principles of cardiovascular screening and Practice of cardiovascular screening) and chose two further modules from the rest of the core or option modules offered within the MSc.

Assessment

26. A combination of course work assignments and research dissertation are prescribed for the core and optional modules and will be detailed in the module descriptors and relevant module handbooks.
27. The dissertation will take the form of a report on the research project conducted during the course. The research project has a word limit of 15,000.

28. Generic criteria for marking academic assessments will be published on Canvas.
29. Candidates will be given a single final percentage mark for each module, taking into account the weightings of the elements prescribed in the module descriptors and relevant module handbooks. The pass mark for each assessment will be 50%.
30. The Course Committee shall agree, and from time to time make changes to, the Scheme of Assessment for the course. The Scheme of Assessment shall be approved by the Taught Postgraduate Courses Committee.
31. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic performance at all the assessments specified on Canvas. Coursework must be submitted by the deadlines specified unless written permission for an extension is given.
32. The Board of Examiners will determine whether a student's progress is sufficient to merit the award of credit for each module completed.
33. The Board of Examiners will determine at the end of the year whether a part-time student's progress in first year assessments is sufficient to permit continuation to the second year of the programme. Examiners will determine at the end of the programme whether a student's progress is sufficient to merit the award of the qualification for which the student has registered.
34. Examiners will determine whether MSc students successfully completing module credits, but not completing the whole degree, are eligible for the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate.
35. Examiners will determine whether Postgraduate Diploma students successfully completing module credits, but not completing the whole Diploma, are eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate.

Re-Entry to Assessments

36. Students are entitled to two attempts at each assessment.
37. Course work assignments must normally be resubmitted within four weeks of ratifying the initial fail mark. Marks for any module that involves a resubmission or resit will be capped overall at 50%. Students are required to pass each core module and sufficient numbers of optional modules to complete the course. Students who persistently fail to submit course work by the deadlines specified may have their registration terminated.
38. Students who fail the dissertation at the first attempt will be permitted to resubmit the dissertation on one occasion at a date determined by the Board of Examiners. Marks for the re-submission of the dissertation will be capped at the passmark of 50%. Students who fail the dissertation at the second attempt will fail the MSc but

may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma at the Examiners' discretion if they have successfully completed 120 credits at level 7.

Awards

39. Candidates for the award of MSc Sports Cardiology must obtain a pass in all modules undertaken within the maximum registration period specified.
40. Candidates for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Cardiology must obtain a pass in all modules undertaken within the maximum registration period specified.
41. Candidates for the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Sports Cardiology must obtain a pass in all modules undertaken within the maximum registration period specified.

Distinctions and Merits

42. Criteria for the award of distinctions and merits will be specified in the scheme of assessment. Outright distinctions will be awarded to MSc candidates obtaining an overall average assessment mark of $\geq 69.5\%$. The award of merit will be given to MSc candidates obtaining an overall average assessment mark falling in the range 59.5-69.4%. Outright distinctions will be awarded to PgDip candidates obtaining an overall average assessment mark of $\geq 69.5\%$. There is no award of merit for the postgraduate diploma, and no award of merit or distinction for the postgraduate certificate.

Date of award

43. The date of award of the qualification for successful students will be the date of the Board of Examiners' meeting at which their final result is determined.
44. A Board of Examiners shall be appointed annually with membership agreed by the Course Committee and approved by Senate. This membership shall include a Chair of the Board (who shall not be the Course Director), the executive course director, the head of assessment and at least three other internal examiners (as defined in General Regulations 8.2.1.) deemed appropriate. At least one external examiner will be appointed each year as a member of the Board. Assessors may be invited to attend the Board where appropriate. The Assistant Registrar (Postgraduate) or his/her nominee shall act as secretary to the Board.
45. The Board of Examiners shall have the power to determine all final marks awarded to students, to decide on students' progression within the course, to decide on the award of degrees, diplomas, certificates, merits and distinctions, and to make recommendations concerning changes to the Scheme of Assessment where necessary. The Board of Examiners shall meet at least once a year to fulfil these purposes.

46. Students enrolled on this programme are bound by the General Regulations in force at the time.