

ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Regulations for the BSc Honours Degree in Biomedical Science and Clinical Bioscience

1. Degree Title

The degree shall be known as the BSc Honours Degree in Biomedical Science of St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent College of the University of London. The title shall be amended to reflect the pathway taken by individual students, i.e. BSc in Biomedical Science *with* a particular subject where a student has undertaken a minimum of 75 credits in that subject area (e.g. Biomedical Science with Anatomy).

The title of BSc Clinical Bioscience will be conferred on students who complete 75 credits in Clinical, Communication & Professional Skills in Healthcare, Clinical Anatomy AND Structured Research Project modules and an additional 45 credits of any permissible combination of taught modules.

2. Responsible Committee

The Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science shall be responsible to the Undergraduate Programmes Committee for the structure, content and delivery of the degree programme.

3. Entrance Requirements

3.1 Before admission to the programme a candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

(a) satisfy the general entrance requirements of SGUL, as published by the Admissions department;

(b) satisfy the specific requirements for admission to the programme as approved by UPC.

3.2 Applications to the programme shall be made through the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

3.3 Mature candidates

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3.1 above, consideration will be given to mature candidates on the evidence of their individual merit. They will be required to demonstrate both achievement in the basic sciences and evidence of recent academic study at an appropriate level.

3.4 Graduates

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3.1 above, graduate candidates will normally be required to have obtained a non-science Upper Second Class Honours Degree *and* a GCE Advanced Level pass in Chemistry, Biology or its equivalent.

4. Admissions Policy

The Undergraduate Medicine and Bioscience Education Committee shall prescribe a detailed Admissions Policy for the programme which complies with the General Regulations provisions for admissions. This Admissions Policy shall be made in accordance with St George's Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement on Students with Disabilities.

5. Advanced Standing and Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme

Candidates who are able to show evidence of a prior qualification containing elements substantially similar to those within the BSc Honours Degree in Biomedical Science may be exempted from not more than one-half of the course of study and examinations leading to that degree and may be permitted to register for a minimum of two academic years.

6. Minimum Period of Study

Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 5 above, the minimum period of study required for the award of the degree shall be three academic years and the maximum periods allowed to qualify for the award of the degree shall be five years.

7. Course Design and Content

7.1 The Academic Year

Each academic year shall comprise two semesters.

7.2 The Modular System

Years One, Two and Three of the degree programme shall be delivered as a series of modules. All modules shall be taught during a single academic year.

Proposals for new modules will be considered for approval by the Course Committee, which will recommend any changes to the Validation Committee for final approval.

7.3 Course Modules

The modules taught shall be as follows (slight title changes may occur from year to year):

7.3.1 Year One (120 credits at Level 4)

All compulsory modules

Semester 1

Fundamentals of the Living Cell

Fundamentals of Pathology

Fundamentals in Pharmacology & Physiology

Personal & Academic Skills 1

Semester 2

Physiology 1

Anatomy 1

Personal & Academic Skills 2

7.3.2 Year Two (120 credits at Level 5)

All compulsory modules

Semester 3

Genomics

Physiology 2

Anatomy 2

Personal & Academic Skills 3

Semester 4

Microbiology & immunology

Molecular Basis of Disease

Personal & Academic Skills 4

7.3.3 Year 3

In Year 3, students will study modules to the value of 120 credits. All students, except those on the Clinical Bioscience pathway, will include a research project worth 45 credits and in addition will select a 75 credit pathway, subject to availability.

75 credit pathways:

Anatomy

Cell & Molecular Biology

Genomics

Global Health

Immunity & Infection

Medical Ethics & Law

Physiology & Pharmacology

Psychology, Psychiatry & Neuroscience

Compulsory 30 credit modules for Clinical Bioscience pathway

Clinical Anatomy

Clinical, Communication & Professional Skills in Healthcare

Compulsory 15 credit module for Clinical Bioscience pathway
Structured Research Project

Supplementary 30 credit modules for Clinical Bioscience pathway:
Immunity & Infection
Science of Reproduction

Supplementary 15 credit modules for Clinical Bioscience pathway:
Behavioural Medicine
Biomedical Research Techniques for Drug Development
Culture & Mental Health
Global Governance for Health
Learning & Teaching: Student & Professional
Primary Care: Complexity and Diversity

8. Assessment

8.1 Forms of Assessment

Assessment may take various forms. Written examinations may include essay, short answer questions, long answer questions, single best answer, data analysis, extended matching item and problem-solving questions and the production of Project and Research Reports. Practical and *viva voce* examinations may be associated with assessments at any stage.

8.2 Timing of Assessments

8.2.1 Years One and Two

Examinations in Years One and Two comprise in-course assessments and written papers taken at the end of each Semester. The written paper at the end of each semester will examine the course material from modules taught during that semester.

8.2.2 Year Three

Year 3 taught modules will normally be assessed by a combination of in-course assessment and written examination. In-course assessments will normally be submitted at the end of the semester in which the module was taught. Module co-ordinators will prescribe the topics, guidelines and submission deadlines for in-course assessments and will communicate these to students. Written examinations will normally take place at the end of the academic year.

The Research Project will be assessed by the award of a research proposal mark, an in-course mark, a mark for the written report and a *viva voce* examination. Structured Research Projects also include a written exam paper and an oral presentation, but do not have a *viva voce* examination.

9. Scheme of Assessment

The Undergraduate Programmes Committee shall prescribe a Scheme of Assessment for each component part of the degree course in accordance with Regulation 7 of the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study.

10. Rules for Progression

Students must obtain an overall mark of at least 40% in Year 1 to progress to Year 2 and an overall mark of at least 40% in Year 2 to progress to Year 3.

Additionally, students must obtain a weighted average mark of 66% at the end of Year 2 to be eligible to progress to the Clinical Bioscience pathway. Average weighted marks will be calculated by combining the marks for Year 1 and Year 2 at a ratio of 1:2. For example, a Year 1 mark of 60% and a Year 2 mark of 70% would be averaged as $60+(70 \times 2)/3 = 66.7$. The Clinical Bioscience pathway is COMPULSORY for students who have been provisionally offered a place for Clinical Transfer to MBBS4 at SGUL. Students on this pathway must complete modules in Clinical Anatomy (30 credits), Clinical, Communication & Professional Skills in Healthcare (30 credits) and Structured Research Project (15 credits), in addition to 45 credits from any permissible combination of supplementary taught modules. Numbers will be limited by module capacity and therefore, not all students who meet the eligibility criteria can be guaranteed a place on the Clinical Bioscience pathway.

11. Re-entry to Assessments

- 11.1 Students may normally re-sit examinations and/or resubmit work on one occasion only. The reassessment will be by the same methods as at the first attempt. Marks for resubmitted in-course assessments or resit examinations shall be capped at 40%, as detailed in the relevant Scheme of Assessment.
- 11.2 A student who fails at first re-entry to examinations will normally have their registration on the course terminated but will be eligible to be considered for a discretionary third attempt at failed assessments, in accordance with the relevant Scheme of Assessment and the *Procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment*, as approved by Senate. Under this procedure, Boards of Examiners will have the authority to approve a discretionary third attempt if a candidate meets programme-specific fast-track criteria. For candidates who do not satisfy the programme-specific fast-track criteria, a Discretionary Panel of Senate will consider the student's application for a discretionary third attempt. Detailed information about process and timescales is published on the Student Affairs section on the SGUL Website.
- 11.3 A student will be permitted to undertake a discretionary third attempt at assessments on only ONE occasion on the programme.

12. Award of Degree

To qualify for the award of the degree, students must complete all the course requirements. The marks from Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 assessments will contribute to the final classification of the degree in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment.

13. Classification of Honours

The degrees of BSc Biomedical Science and BSc Clinical Bioscience may be awarded with First, Upper Second, Lower Second or Third Class Honours in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment.

14. Award of Aegrotat Degree

The aegrotat provisions of the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study shall apply to the programme.

15. Certificate and Diploma qualifications

- 15.1 Qualifications at certificate and diploma level shall be available to students who have successfully completed some parts of the programme of study, as set out in the paragraphs below, but who are not continuing registration for the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science or any other degree award at St George's. The award of these qualifications shall be considered by the Board of Examiners on the recommendation of the Course Director.
- 15.2 An Undergraduate Certificate in Biomedical Science may be awarded to students who have successfully completed Year One of the Biomedical Science degree programme (120 credits at Level 4).
- 15.3 An Undergraduate Diploma in Biomedical Science may be awarded to students who have successfully completed Years One and Two of the Biomedical Science degree programme (120 credits at Level 4, and 120 credits at Level 5).
- 15.4 The awards referred to in this section shall be made by St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent college of the University of London, and shall not be classified.

16. Date of Award

The date of the Board of Examiners meeting will be the date the award is conferred.

17. Course Syllabus

A detailed syllabus for each component part of the degree course shall be prescribed by the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science and shall be published on Canvas.

18. Constitution of the Board of Examiners

Appointment and Accountability

18.1 The Board of Examiners for the BSc (Honours) Degree in Biomedical Science is appointed by the Senate for each academic year (starting 1 October) to conduct examinations for that degree at St George's in accordance with the Regulations and the Schemes of Assessment for that course.

18.2 The Board of Examiners shall make reports to SGUL's Senate, through the Academic Registrar, after the conclusion of examinations for each stage of the degree course.

18.3 Membership

The Board shall consist of:

- (a) The Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (*ex officio*).
- (b) A Chair and a Deputy Chair who shall each be an Internal Examiner
- (c) A Responsible Examiner, who shall be an Internal Examiner, for each module or half module examined within the curriculum.
- (d) An External Examiner for each subject area included within the curriculum; at least one External Examiner shall be external to the University of London.

18.4 Appointment of the Board

In October of each year the Vice-Chancellor, acting on the advice of the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science, shall nominate the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board. To be eligible for nomination, a person must be a member of the academic staff of SGUL or hold an honorary academic appointment and have at least three years' experience of examining. These nominations shall be confirmed by the Senate in April.

18.5 In October of each year the Academic Registrar shall invite the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science to nominate Internal Examiners and External Examiners for the coming academic year.

18.6 To be eligible for nomination as an Internal Examiner, a person must be a member of the academic staff of SGUL or hold an honorary academic appointment.

18.7 To be eligible for nomination as an External Examiner, a person must be a member of the academic staff of another college of the University of London, another university or equivalent institution, or hold an honorary teaching appointment with that university or institution, and must have at least three years' experience of examining within their own institution. Nominations as External Examiners should not be made unless it has first been ascertained that they are in principle willing and able to serve. An External Examiner may not serve on the Board for more than four consecutive years and after retiring from membership shall not be eligible to serve again until a period of two years shall have elapsed.

18.8 The complete list of the nominated Board shall be forwarded by the Academic Registrar to the Senate in the Autumn term for appointment.

18.9 Following confirmation by the Senate, letters of appointment shall be sent by the Academic Registrar to all members of the Board, with the relevant Scheme(s) of Assessment, Instructions for Marking, dates of examinations, and advice as to the duties of examiners.

18.10 Duties of examiners and conduct of examinations

The General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study of SGUL, and the Schemes of Assessment for each stage of the degree, detail the duties of examiners and the rules for the conduct of the examinations.

Assessors may be appointed by the Chair of the Board to assist with the setting of examinations or the marking of candidates' work. Assessors need not be members of the Board but shall be invited to meetings of the Board where they may speak but not vote.

18.11 Meetings of the Board

Where a Scheme of Assessment provides for provisional results and the determination of borderline oral examinations, a meeting of the Board shall be held for this purpose. At the conclusion of examinations for each stage, the Board shall meet to determine the results for that stage. These meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Board or, in their unavoidable absence, by the nominee of the Vice-Chancellor.

Except in the most extreme situations (e.g. in an emergency where the results of an examination are likely to be seriously prejudiced) the Board is not empowered to alter examination protocols including Schemes of Assessment but only to recommend amendment to the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science and Senate.

Any emergency amendments to procedures will be reported to the Senate.

Last updated: March 2024