

ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Regulations for the BSc Honours Degree in Healthcare Science

1. Degree Titles

The degrees shall be known as BSc Honours Degree in Healthcare Science (Cardiac Physiology) and BSc Honours Degree in Healthcare Science (Respiratory and Sleep Physiology) of St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent College of the University of London.

2. Responsible Committees

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

2.2 The Course Committee shall be chaired by the Course Director and include module leaders, student representatives, placement representative(s) and key administrative staff. It shall meet three times a year and minutes shall be forwarded to the Undergraduate Programmes Committee.

3. Entrance Requirements

Entry Qualifications

3.1 Before admission to the programme a candidate must:

(i) satisfy the general entrance requirements of St George's, University of London, as published by the Admissions department

and

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

Application Procedure

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

Graduates

3.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3.1 above, graduate candidates will normally be required to have obtained an Upper Second Class Honours Degree.

Advanced Standing

3.4 Candidates able to show evidence of a prior qualification containing elements substantially similar to those within the BSc Hons Healthcare Science degree may be exempted from not more than one third of the course of study and examinations leading to that degree and may be permitted to register for a minimum of two, and maximum of four, academic years.

4. AP(E)L

4.1 Candidates who have completed 120 credits at level 4 on a relevant, comparable course within the last five years may present a claim to advanced standing to enter Year 2 (level 5) directly.

4.2 Candidates seeking exemption from Year 1 (level 4) will be required to present evidence of qualifications and practical experience which demonstrates sufficiently comparable coverage of Year 1 academic content and clinical competencies. Candidates may be required to undertake a short entry examination in order to demonstrate basic clinical competencies.

- 4.3 All decisions on credit exemption will be made by the course team and ratified by the Board of Examiners whose decision is final.

5. **Admissions Policy**

The policies governing admission to the degree shall be formulated and kept under review by the Course Committee for Healthcare Science and approved by the Undergraduate Programmes Committee. These policies shall be made in accordance with St George's Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement on Students with Disabilities.

6. **Minimum Period of Study**

Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 3.4 above, the minimum period of study required for the award of the degree shall be three academic years and the maximum period allowed to qualify for the award of the degree shall be five years.

7. **Course Design and Content**

The Academic Year

- 7.1.1 Each academic year shall comprise two semesters.

The Modular System

- 7.2.1 The degree programme shall be delivered as a series of credit-bearing modules; these will include compulsory core modules as well as optional speciality modules. A single credit shall represent 10 hours of student endeavour.
- 7.2.2 All modules shall be taught during a single academic year but may span one or two semesters. Modules that are contained within one semester will normally be assessed during that semester.

7.3 Course Modules

The modules taught shall be as follows:

7.3.1 **Year One (120 credits)**

Compulsory Core Modules (120 credits)

Scientific Basis of Healthcare Science 1 (30 credits)

Scientific Basis of Healthcare Science 2 (30 credits)

Professional Practice 1 (15 credits)

Scientific Basis of Cardiovascular, Respiratory & Sleep Science (30 credits)

Clinical Training 1 (15 credits)

7.3.2 **Year Two (120 credits)**

Compulsory Core Modules (75 credits)

Scientific Basis of Healthcare Science 3 (15 credits)

Professional Practice 2 (15 credits)

Research Methods (15 credits)

Instrumentation, Signal Processing and Imaging (15 credits)

Pathophysiology of Common Cardiovascular and Respiratory Conditions (15 credits)

Speciality modules (45 credits)

Students must follow one of the speciality pathway routes:

Cardiac Physiology

Cardiac Physiology (30 credits)

Clinical Training 2 – Cardiac Physiology (15 credits)

or

Respiratory and Sleep Physiology

Respiratory and Sleep Physiology (30 credits)

Clinical Training 2 – Respiratory and Sleep Physiology (15 credits)

7.3.3 Year Three (120 credits)

Compulsory Core Module (15 credits)

Professional Practice 3 (15 credits)

Speciality modules (105 credits)

Students must continue in the same speciality pathway as that followed in Year 2

Cardiac Physiology

Applying Cardiac Physiology to Practice (45 credits)

Research Project in Cardiac Physiology (30 credits)

Clinical Training 3 – Cardiac Physiology (30 credits)

or

Respiratory and Sleep Physiology

Applying Respiratory and Sleep Physiology to Practice (45 credits)

Research Project in Respiratory or Sleep Physiology (30 credits)

Clinical Training 3 – Respiratory and Sleep Physiology (30 credits)

8. Assessment

Forms of Assessment

8.1.1 Each module shall be assessed by one or more forms of assessment which shall be approved by Undergraduate Course Committee for Healthcare Science and published in the scheme of assessment for that year.

8.1.2 Assessment shall take various forms. Written examinations may include: short answer questions (SAQs); multiple choice questions (MCQs); single best answer questions (SBAs) and essays. Practical examinations may include: objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE); interactive practical examinations and competency based assessments. Other forms of assessment may include: case-based discussion (CBD); observed clinical events (OCE); direct observation of practical procedures (DOPS); poster presentations; written reports; audits; research projects; portfolios and oral viva.

Timing of Assessments

8.2 Module assessments will be at the times specified and outlined in the current scheme of assessment.

9. Scheme of Assessment

9.1 The Course Committee for Healthcare Science 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.

9.2 A candidate required to repeat a year with full attendance will be examined in accordance with the scheme of assessment in place in the academic year in which the repeat year takes place.

9.3 A candidate returning from an approved absence (e.g. interruption of studies) part way through an academic year will have their assessment requirements (i.e. the assessments in which they will be formatively and summatively examined) determined on a case-by-case basis.

10. Rules for Progression

Students must normally pass all Year 1 modules to progress to Year 2, and must normally pass all Year 2 modules to progress to Year 3. Students will not normally be permitted to progress carrying forward incomplete modules from the previous academic year.

11. Re-entry to Assessments

SGUL-based academic modules

11.1 Students who have failed an assessment may resubmit work and re-enter examinations as of right on one occasion only. The reassessment will normally be by the same method as at the first attempt before the commencement of the following academic year and may take place outside of scheduled term dates for the programme.

Work-based Clinical Training modules

11.2 Students who have failed an assessment may resubmit work and re-enter examinations as of right on one occasion only. The reassessment will normally be by the same method as at the first attempt before the commencement of the following academic year and may take place outside of scheduled term dates for the programme.

11.3 The work-based training modules in all years shall be assessed as Pass or Fail. A student who fails a Clinical Training module may be required to attend additional placement weeks to enable them to fulfil attendance requirements, complete competency requirements or gather further evidence required for resubmission of the portfolio. In some cases the student may be required to re-sit the entire placement in the following academic year. The arrangements for reassessment will be negotiated between the SGUL Work-Based Placement Co-ordinator and the NHS Work-Based Placement Supervisor according to the student's needs.

11.4 Final discretionary attempt (academic and clinical modules)

A student who fails at reassessment 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. A student may be considered for a discretionary third attempt at multiple assessments within each year of the programme.

12. Award of Degree

To qualify for the award of the degree, students must complete all the course requirements and pass all modules for which they are registered. The marks from summative assessments in Years 1, 2 and 3 will contribute to the final classification of the degree in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment.

13. Classification of Honours

The degree of BSc in Healthcare Science may be awarded with First, Upper Second, Lower Second or Third Class Honours in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment. The relationship between grades, marks and their interpretation in the award of honours classifications is as follows:

MARKS	INTERPRETATION
70% - 100%	Marks represent a First Class performance
60% - 69%	Marks represent an Upper Second Class performance
50% - 59%	Marks represent a Lower Second Class performance
40% - 49%	Marks represent a Third Class performance
0% - 39%	Fail

14. Date of Award

The date of the award of the degree shall be the date of the Board of Examiners meeting at which the award is conferred.

15. Course Syllabus

A detailed syllabus for each component part of the degree course shall be prescribed by the Undergraduate Course Committee for Healthcare Science and shall be published to staff and students.

16. Constitution of the Board of Examiners

Appointment and Accountability

16.1 The Board of Examiners for the BSc (Honours) Healthcare Science degree will be appointed by Senate for each academic year to conduct examinations for that degree at St George's in accordance with the Regulations and the Schemes of Assessment for that course.

16.2 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.

Membership

16.3 The Board shall consist of:

- The Vice Chancellor (ex officio)
- A Chair who shall be an Internal Examiner

- At least two further Internal Examiners
- At least one External Examiner

Appointment of the Board

- 16.4 In March of each year the Vice Chancellor, acting on the advice of the Healthcare Science Course Committee, shall nominate the 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.
- 16.5 In April of each year the Academic Registrar shall invite the Healthcare Science Course Committee to nominate Internal Examiners and External Examiners for the forthcoming academic year.
- 16.6 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.
- 16.7 To be eligible for nomination as an External Examiner, the nominee must meet the criteria for appointment specified by the Quality Manual. 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 five years has elapsed.
- 16.8 The complete list of the nominated Board shall be forwarded by the Academic Registrar to Senate in Autumn for appointment.
- 16.9 Following confirmation by 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.

Duties of examiners and conduct of examinations

- 16.10 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.

Meetings of the Board

- 16.11 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 his or her unavoidable absence, by the nominee of the Principal.

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 Healthcare Science Course Committee.

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