

# St George's, University of London Regulations for the MBBS Programmes in Medicine

[Approved by Senate 11.06.2007, latest updates approved May 2023, latest review March 2024]

These regulations are subject to St George's, University of London's General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study and are made by the Senate of St George's, University of London in accordance with paragraph 2.5 of those General Regulations.

These regulations adopt the principles put forward in the GMC's *Tomorrows' Doctors Outcomes for Graduates (2018)* and *Promoting Excellence (2015)*.

## 1. Title of the programme of study

The programme of study shall be known as the MBBS programme in Medicine. It shall lead to the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) of St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent College of the University of London.

## 2. Responsible Committee

2.1. The Undergraduate Programmes Committee (UPC) shall be responsible to Senate for the admissions policy, syllabus, schemes of assessment and monitoring of the programme, and for the general management of the programme. UPC may establish a course committee to advise it on these matters and to undertake routine management of the programme.

## 3. Entry requirements

3.1. Before admission, a candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

have satisfied the general entrance requirements and the programme specific entrance requirements of St George's, University of London, as published from time to time;

3.1.1. have performed to a good standard in any entrance test;

3.1.2. have demonstrated proficiency in the English language;

have performed to a good standard in a structured interview to ensure that they possess the personal qualities and motivation required.

3.2. In the case of applications for the five-year stream, an applicant must in addition have satisfied the specific requirements for admission to the five-year stream as approved by UPC.

3.3. From 2021 entry onwards, in addition to the criteria set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 above, applications to the five-year stream will also be accepted from graduates with a first degree at upper second-class honours or above from a UK university or the equivalent overseas qualification, or a lower-second class honours degree with a master's degree or PhD (in accordance with the Admissions Policy referred to in paragraph 4.1).

3.4. In addition to the criteria set out in paragraph 3.1 above, applications to the four-year stream will be accepted only from applicants who have obtained a first degree with at least upper second-class honours from a UK university or the equivalent overseas, or a lower-second class honours with a master's degree or PhD (in accordance with the Admissions Policy referred to in paragraph 4.1).

3.5. Applications to the MBBS (SGUL) programme shall be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

- 3.6. Applications to the MBBS (SGUL, Nicosia) programme shall be made directly to the University of Nicosia.
- 3.7. Applicants to the MBBS (SGUL) programme will be charged a fee for taking the entrance test to cover the costs of that test.

#### **4. Admissions Policy**

- 4.1. UPC shall prescribe from time to time admission requirements and the procedures for selecting applicants, including those for applicants seeking admission with advanced standing (see 5.1 below) in accordance with the SGUL Admissions Policy. This Admissions Policy shall be made in accordance with St George's Equality Objectives and Single Equality Scheme.
- 4.2. A Course Director and an MBBS Admissions Tutor, responsible for admission to the SGUL programme and for implementing the admissions requirements, shall be appointed and shall be accountable to UPC.

#### **5. Exemptions and Admission with Advanced Standing**

- 5.1. The MBBS, in both its four-year and five-year streams, is an integrated programme and all students shall be required to complete all years and modules. Therefore, with the single exception set out in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 below, no exemptions from parts of the programme or from assessments on the grounds of previous study shall be permitted.
- 5.2. In accordance with the [SGUL Student Transfer Policy](#), applicants of Advanced standing who began their studies in autumn 2022 or earlier may be admitted to Year 2 (Transition (T) Year) of the four-year stream on the basis of having completed a BSc in Biomedical Science at SGUL. Such applicants for Admission with Advanced Standing must meet the requirements for admission specified for the programme and in the Admissions Policy.
- 5.3. Applicants admitted with Advanced Standing to Year 2 (Transition (T) Year) of the four-year stream shall be exempt from the Year 1 assessments, and from the SSC taken in Year 1.
- 5.4. Students on the SGUL MBBS and the SGUL/Nicosia MBBS programmes will not ordinarily be permitted to transfer their registration between the two programmes.

#### **6. Period of study**

- 6.1. Both streams of the MBBS Programme are designed as full time programmes, and attendance and engagement in line with university attendance and engagement policies, and requirements of the Becoming a Doctor (Professionalism) assessment domain.
- 6.2. Students shall normally be required to complete the course of instruction and complete satisfactorily all the prescribed assessments within a period of time no longer than the usual duration of the program plus 2 years<sup>1</sup>. This period may be extended in exceptional circumstances in accordance with the *Procedure for Consideration for an Extension to a Maximum Period of Study (Registration Period)*.

##### *Five-year stream*

- 6.3. For the five-year stream, students shall be required to complete not less than five academic years' study, normally within a period of seven academic years from initial enrolment.

##### *Four-year stream*

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<sup>1</sup> Periods away from the course due to Maternity leave, intercalation and registration on an alternative programme of study (BSc, MSc or PhD), or to take up a Student Union Sabbatical Officers do not count towards the maximum period study (registration period).

- 6.4. For the four-year stream, students shall be required to complete not less than four academic years' study normally within a period of six academic years from initial enrolment.

*Clinical Transfer stream*

- 6.5. Students admitted with Advanced Standing to the Transition (T) Year (known as "clinical transfer students"), shall be required to complete the course of instruction and complete satisfactorily all the prescribed assessments for the three-year course, normally within a period of five academic years from initial enrolment.

*Interruption of Study (IoS)*

- 6.6. Where a student who has taken an interruption of study requires an extension to the period of interruption beyond one year, this request will be reviewed by the Course Director, in accordance with the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study, and any IoS Policy approved by the MBBS Course Committee. To ensure students remain able to meet the regulatory and assessment requirements of the programme, the criteria and requirements for return to study may require adjustment as part of the review process. In particular, absence of more than one year from the programme, may require adjustment to the criteria and/or timing of return to the course to ensure currency of knowledge and fitness to study, particularly on clinical placements. Such adjustments remain at the discretion of the Course Director.

## **7. Structure of programme of study**

### **7.1. Overview**

*Five-year stream*

- 7.1.1. This comprises Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 (Transition (T) Year), Year 4 (Penultimate (P) Year) and Year 5 (Final (F) Year).
- 7.1.2. Year 1 and Year 2 are called Clinical Science; Year 3 (T Year), Year 4 (P Year) and Year 5 (F Year) are called Clinical Practice.
- 7.1.3. There shall be an Introduction to Medicine in the first semester of the first year (with some shared lectures with students on other health-related degree programmes).

*Four-year stream*

- 7.1.4. This comprises Year 1, Year 2 (Transition (T) Year), Year 3 (Penultimate (P) Year) and Year 4 (Final (F) Year).
- 7.1.5. Year 1 is called Clinical Science; Year 2 (T Year), Year 3 (P Year) and Year 4 (F Year) are called Clinical Practice.

*Both streams*

- 7.1.6. The core shall be studied through compulsory modules, taught during the Clinical Science year(s), and shorter teaching sessions, taught throughout the programme.
- 7.1.7. Student Selected Components (SSC) shall be studied in the Clinical Science Year(s), the Transition Year and the Final Year of the programme.
- 7.1.8. The Final Year shall be a period for intensive clinical experience.

### **7.2. Themes**

The programme shall be a fully integrated course which consists of three main curricular themes which are overtly studied throughout:

- Basic and Clinical Sciences (BCS)

- Professional Skills
- Patients, Populations and Society (PPS)

### 7.3. Modules

7.3.1. In the Clinical Sciences year, the programme shall be divided into seven common modules, each of which covers all three themes. In addition, MBBS 5 has a number of additional modules as listed below. The common modules are:

- Introduction to Medicine (MBBS5)/ Foundation of Clinical Science (MBBS 4)
- Life Control
- Life Cycle
- Life Maintenance
- Life Protection
- Life Structure
- Life Support

The MBBS 5 specific modules are:

Year 1 Genomics, Clinical and Community Experience

Year 2, Clinical and Community Experience, Public Health and Evidence-based Practice

In T year, four synoptic modules cover this content:

- Foundation of Clinical Practice
- Mechanisms of Disease
- Body Systems
- Specialties

The modules are repeated in cycles through the programme of study, as follows:

<i>Five- year stream</i>	
First pass	Term 1 Introduction to Medicine (includes some shared lectures with students from other healthcare professions)
Second pass	Remainder of year 1 and year 2
Third pass	T year
<i>Four-year stream</i>	
First pass	Terms 1, 2 & 3
Second pass	T year

### 7.4. Credit accumulation

7.4.1. The MBBS degree is a FHEQ (Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (QAA)) Level 7 qualification.

7.4.2. The MBBS programme is not credit rated.

### 7.5. Clinical Science (Years 1 and 2) five-year stream

The structure of the Clinical Science years (Years 1 and 2) of the five-year stream shall be as follows:

- Term 1 (Year 1) – Introduction to Medicine
- Term 2 and 3, (Year 1) – Life Support, Genomics and Life Maintenance modules will be studied.
- Terms 1, 2 and 3 (Year 2) Life Structure, Life Control, Life Protection, Public Health and Evidence-based Practice and Life Cycle modules will be studied.
- There will be short attachments in General Medicine, General Surgery and Radiology/Geriatric Medicine in Term 2 of year 1, and Terms 2 and 3 of year 2, and a series of half day attachments in General Practice during the two years.

#### Clinical Science (Year 1) four-year stream

The structure of the Clinical Science year (Year 1) of the four-year stream shall be as follows:

- Term 1 (Year 1) – Foundation of Clinical Science, Life Support and Life Maintenance modules will be studied
- Term 2 (Year 1) – Life Protection and Life Cycle modules will be studied
- Term 3 (Year 1) – Life Structure and Life Control modules will be studied

#### 7.6. Transition (T) Year

The structure of the Transition Year shall be as follows:

*Introduction to T Year* – there will be a 3-week block

*Clinical Science* – there will be three 5-week blocks of Problem Based Learning (PBL)

*Clinical Practice* – there will be three 5-week clinical attachments in:

- Hospital Medicine
- Hospital Surgery
- General Practice

SSC – there will be one 3-week block of SSCT

#### 7.7. Penultimate (P) Year

The structure of the Penultimate Year shall be as follows. There will be clinical attachments:

- Introduction to Clinical Practice (four weeks in blocks of 0.5 to 1 week each)
- Integrated Medical Specialties and AMU (10 weeks)
- Integrated Surgery Specialties and Palliative Care (10 weeks)
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology (5 weeks)
- Paediatrics (5 weeks)
- Neurology and associated specialties (NeuroPlus) (5 weeks)
- Psychiatry (5 weeks)

## 7.8. Final (F) Year

7.8.1. The final year shall be a preparation for becoming an F1 doctor. The final year shall be a period for intensive clinical experience and honing of clinical skills.

7.8.2. The Final Year shall include the following periods of study and clinical attachments:

- Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) (up to one week)
- Assistantship General Practice attachment (5 weeks)
- Assistantship Medicine attachment (5 weeks)
- Assistantship Surgery attachment (5 weeks)
- Emergency Medicine attachment (4 weeks)
- Anaesthetics and Critical Care attachment (4 weeks)
- Final Year SSC (SSC FY1) (180 hours in a single 4-5 week block)
- Public Health attachment (2 weeks)
- Final Year Elective (SSCFY2, 9 weeks allocated, minimum 5<sup>2</sup> weeks required)

7.8.3. Following the Final Year Elective, there will be preparation for F1 posts.

7.8.4. A student may be required to forego the student arranged Final Year Elective if this period before the resit assessment is instead required for attendance at remediation, clinical attachment(s) or resitting the Final Year SSC (SSC FY).

## Student Selected Components

7.10.1 The aim of the Student Selected Components (SSC) programme shall be to allow students to study in depth areas of particular interest to them, building up a broad range of experience. Students shall be expected to: learn about and begin to develop and use research skills, have greater control over their own learning and develop their self-directed learning skills, study, in depth, topics of particular interest outside the core curriculum, develop greater confidence in their own skills and abilities, present the results of their work verbally, visually or in writing and consider potential career paths.

7.10.2 The components of the SSC programme shall be as follows:

### *Clinical Science (five-year stream)*

- Students shall take a Foundation SSC (FSSC) in Year 1. This shall be designed to prepare students for effective self-directed study
- Students shall take one SSC in Year 2.

### *Clinical Science (four-year stream)*

- Students shall undertake one SSC across the whole year.

### *Transition Year*

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<sup>2</sup> For the majority of students this will be a 5-week block undertaken during May/June of the final year. For students commencing the program, or entering F year from August 2021 onwards, where an April date of award is required, such as for North America bound students, an equivalent period (180 hours) may be undertaken flexibly between end of P year and March of Final Year if they have been approved for this option by the Academic Lead for SSCFY2 (electives).

- Students shall undertake one SSC, being a three-week block.

*Final Year*

- Students shall undertake two SSCs, both will be a minimum of 180 hours each, with at least one (SSC FY1) undertaken in a solid block.

## **8. Assessment and Student Progress**

### **8.1. Formative and Summative Assessments**

Students will be required to take Formative Assessments throughout the programme, which shall be for the information of the students and their teachers. The marks or grades obtained at such assessments shall not contribute to decisions concerning progress, although attendance at these assessments is mandatory.

8.1.1. Summative assessments are those directly contributing to progression through the programme.

8.1.2. Assessment shall be by a variety of methods which may include in-course assessment, written tests, practical and clinical assessments or such other forms of assessment as are specified in the Scheme of Assessment.

### **8.2. Student progress**

8.2.1. The MBBS shall have a number of progression points. In order for a student to proceed to the next stage of the programme they shall have satisfactorily completed the assessments set out in the Scheme of Assessment. The progression points shall be as follows:

- From five-year stream Clinical Science year 1 to Clinical Science year 2
- From five-year stream Clinical Science year 2 to the Transition year
- From four-year stream Clinical Science year 1 to the Transition year
- From the Transition year to the Penultimate year
- From the Penultimate year to the Final year
- From the Final year to the Final Year examination period for MBBS students who are North America bound and who have completed the longitudinal SSCF
- From the Final year examination period to the Final Year SSC FY2 (Elective) and graduation for students who are not bound for residencies in North America

Before entry to any of the assessments a student must have made satisfactory progress in the course to date. Satisfactory progress shall include: pass performance in the MBBS assessments; an acceptable level of attendance and participation in group work and other such activities; compliance with deadlines for submission of written work; an acceptable level of professional behaviour and compliance with the regulations of SGUL. Students making unsatisfactory progress may be required to undertake additional study.

### **8.3. Student Selected Components**

8.3.1. Each Student Selected Component will be marked in accordance with the process set out in the Scheme of Assessment. Detailed criteria for these grades will be set out in the Scheme of Assessment.

8.3.2. The Student Selected Components occurring in the programme shall be regarded as part of the assessment for the progression point. The Scheme of Assessment shall

specify the arrangements for re-entry in the event of unsatisfactory performance.

## **9. Schemes of Assessment**

- 9.1. UPC shall, in accordance with the General Regulations paragraph 7, prescribe from time to time a Scheme of Assessment for each part of the assessment specified in paragraph 8.2 above, which conforms to the general provisions of section 8 above and section 10 below concerning re-sit assessments.
- 9.2. Each Scheme of Assessment shall detail the types of assessment to be used, the general timing of these assessments, marking schemes, marking procedures, and how each assessment element contributes to an overall assessment mark. It shall also specify which elements may be re-submitted or re-sat independently of other elements.

## **10. Re-entry to assessments**

- 10.1. A student will be permitted to re-enter a summative assessment on one occasion as of right, unless specified to the contrary in the Scheme of Assessment.
- 10.2. A third (final) attempt at a summative assessment shall be at the discretion of a Discretionary Panel of the Senate under the provisions of paragraph 4.10 of the General Regulations and established under the [Procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment](#) (published on the SGUL website).
- 10.3. A student may only be considered by ONE Discretionary Panel during the MBBS Programme.
- 10.4. A student who, having failed a summative assessment and having used all of their automatic re-sit attempts, is not granted a third (final) attempt at that assessment under paragraph 10.2 above, will not be permitted to continue on the programme.
- 10.5. A student who, having failed a summative assessment and having used all of their automatic re-sit attempts, and having been granted previously a third (final) attempt at a summative assessment, will not be permitted to continue on the programme.
- 10.6. A further period of study may be prescribed prior to re-entry to an assessment. This shall normally be satisfied by continued attendance on the course and/or remediation.

In determining decisions concerning re-entry to assessments for reasons of ~~study~~ mitigating circumstances (General Regulation 11.11(ii)), the Board of Examiners may deem the affected entry to be not valid.

## **11. Award of qualification**

- 11.1. To be awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, a student shall have completed the course of study prescribed above and have passed all assessments prescribed above (including any exemptions under section 5 above).

## **12. Alternative qualifications**

- 12.1. A student who leaves the programme, not having taken an Intercollegiate BSc degree, may be awarded an Undergraduate Certificate in Human Life Sciences, an Undergraduate Diploma in Human Life Sciences, a BSc ordinary (non-honours) degree in Human Life Sciences or a BSc (honours) degree in Human Life Sciences. The detailed criteria for the award of that qualification, and the rules for classification of degrees, will be determined by the Scheme of Assessment.
- 12.2. The title of any award made under paragraph 12.1 may exceptionally be changed better to reflect the study undertaken by the student. The criteria for this will be set out in the Scheme of Assessment.

## **13. Honours and distinctions**



The MBBS degrees are honours degrees but are awarded without classification

### 13.1. Marks of Merit and Distinction

13.1.1. Students awarded the degrees of MBBS may, on the basis of outstanding performance in assessments, be awarded either Marks of Merit or Marks of Distinction in the following areas:

- Medical Sciences (on performance in Years 1 and 2 (of the Five-year stream) or Year 1 (of the Four-year stream))
- Clinical Science (on performance in the assessments in the Transition Year)
- Clinical Specialties (on performance in the assessments in the Penultimate Year)
- Clinical Practice (on performance in the assessments in the Final Year)

13.1.2. Criteria for the award of Marks of Merit and Distinction shall be prescribed in the Schemes of Assessment.

### 14. Date of award of qualification

14.1. The date of the award of the degrees to successful students will be the date of the meeting of the Board of Examiners that ratifies the final year assessment results.

14.2. There will be two meetings at which the Board of Examiners can ratify degree awards. The first, will take place immediately before the Final Year Elective period (by end of April), and the second before mid-July. The formative and summative elements of the assessment for the Final Year Elective are defined in the Scheme of Assessment.

### 15. Syllabus

15.1. A detailed syllabus for each module/attachment in each year will be prescribed by UPC and published to staff and students.

### 16. Board of Examiners

16.1. Assessments for the MBBS Programme shall be held under the authority of a Board of Examiners for the MBBS degrees. The Board of Examiners shall be appointed annually for the period 1 October – 30 September.

16.2. Each sub-board of the main Board (one for each progression point described in paragraph 8.2.1 above) shall comprise:

- A Year Lead
- At least five other Internal Examiners drawn from a range of disciplines
- At least three External Examiners drawn from a range of disciplines.

16.3. The Year Leads shall be appointed by Senate following consultation with UPC. The remaining members shall be nominated by the Year Leads following consultation with the relevant Directors of Research Institutes/Education Institute, and the nominations approved by Senate on their recommendation of UPC.

16.4. In addition to the above members of the Board, the SGUL may appoint such numbers of Assessors as are necessary to undertake the setting, conduct and marking of assessments. Such Assessors are not members of the Board of Examiners.

16.5. Meetings of the Board

- 16.5.1. Where a Scheme of Assessment provides for provisional results to be issued, a meeting of the relevant Senior Internal Examiners shall be held for this purpose. These meetings shall be chaired by the relevant Year Lead or Domain Lead.
- 16.5.2. At the conclusion of assessments for each Year, the sub-board shall meet to determine the results for that Year. These meetings shall be chaired by the Chair or the Deputy Chair of the Board or, in the unavoidable absence of one of these, by the nominee of the Principal. Attendance at these meetings shall be expected of the relevant Senior Internal Examiners and External Examiners, and the agenda for the meetings shall be sent to these persons. All other members of the Board may attend and speak and vote, and shall be notified of the dates of meetings annually (through Senate or letters of appointment), but shall not routinely receive an agenda. The quorum for any meeting of the Board to determine results shall be in accordance with General Regulation 8.2.11.
- 16.5.3. There may be an annual meeting of the whole Board for the purpose of reviewing procedures and standards, and at which no assessment results shall be determined.

Meetings of the sub-board and whole Board shall be clerked by the Head of Examinations or their nominee, and other administrative staff may be in attendance as required.

- 16.5.4. Except in the most extreme situations (e.g., in an emergency where the results of an assessment are likely to be seriously prejudiced) the Board is not empowered to alter assessment protocols including Schemes of Assessment but only to recommend amendment to UPC and Senate. Any emergency amendments to procedures will be reported to the Senate.