



## **PROGRAMME REGULATIONS**

**City St George's, University of London**

**Master's in Physician Associate Studies**

### **PROGRAMME REGULATIONS - For students entering the programme in 2024/2025**

#### **Degree Title**

1. The programme of study shall lead to the award of Master's in Physician Associate Studies.

#### **Awarding body**

2. The awarding body is City St George's, University of London, St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences.

#### **Responsible Committee**

3. The Course Committee is responsible for the delivery of the Master's in Physician Associate Studies. The Course Committee is responsible to the Taught Postgraduate Courses Committee (TPCC) for quality monitoring.
4. The Course Committee will be chaired by the Course Director or a nominated individual in their absence. Membership will include all module leads and at least three other staff with an interest in the course and Head of Postgraduate Administration. A representative from the equality team will be invited to attend. Two representatives from each year of the course will be nominated by the students and are entitled to attend sessions of unreserved business. The Course Committee will meet at least twice annually. Minutes will be forwarded to TPCC.

#### **Entry Requirements**

##### Academic

5. Before admission, an applicant must satisfy the following criteria:
  - Obtain a first degree in a life science or health-related subject with at least second-class honours from a UK university or an equivalent overseas qualification;

- Degree should be awarded within five years of application. Any earlier than this and it may be accepted if the applicant has suitable work experience or appropriate supplementary qualifications of human physiology.
  - University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)  
Section score - Minimum of 500 in each individual section  
Overall score - Minimum overall UCAT score (calculated every year)
  - If applicants have completed English language tests or qualifications more than two years ago, they will need to demonstrate that they have maintained or improved their English in that time by studying in the UK (or majority English-speaking country). If they are unable to do so they may need to take a suitable English language test.
  - Demonstrate appropriate personal qualities, motivation, communication skills and understanding of the PA role in the selection process.
  - Applicants with non-standard entry qualifications which do not meet all the above criteria may be considered for entry at the discretion of the Course Director in consultation with the Course Team and the Admissions Manager.
6. 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.
7. 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**

8. Course applications are assessed by the admissions team and the academic admissions tutor. All successful applicants are invited to attend Selection Day Multiple-Mini Interviews. These are usually face to face. However, where this is not possible due to circumstances beyond the University's control these may be modified and applicants invited to answer online interview questions.

### **Applications for stand-alone modules**

9. The course does not accept applications for stand-alone modules.

### **IELTS**

10. For applicants whose first language is not English, and are not exempt as per SGUL English Language Requirements, they must demonstrate proficiency in the English

language via IELTS with a score of at 7.5 with at least 7.5 in writing and 7.0 in other three components.

### **Admissions Policy**

11. 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.
12. 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**

13. There will be no exemptions for prior certificated or experiential learning on this programme.

### **Period of Study**

14. The minimum period of registration shall be 24 months full-time. The maximum period of registration shall be 48 months, to allow for unexpected interruption.
15. 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**

16. The 11 programme modules are as follows:

#### Y1 modules:

Applied Pharmacology	15 credits
Evidence-Based Practice	15 credits
Foundations of Clinical Medicine A	30 credits
Personal and Professional Development A	30 credits
PA Applied Knowledge and Skills A	15 credits
PA as a Professional Evaluation Report – A	0 credits

#### *Investigations in Clinical Medicine (assessed in Year 2)*

#### Y2 modules:

Foundations of Clinical Medicine B	15 credits
Investigations in Clinical Medicine	15 credits

Personal and Professional Development B	15 credits
PA Applied Clinical Knowledge and Skills B	30 credits
PA as a Professional Evaluation Report – B	0 credits

### Master's in Physician Associate Studies (180 credits)

17. Students must pass all modules to earn the Master's in Physician Associate Studies.
18. Students who fail other modules may continue on the programme until the end of the academic year in order to be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Studies (60 credits) or a Postgraduate Diploma in Healthcare Studies (120 credits) or a Master's in Healthcare Studies (180 credits).

### **Assessment**

19. Methods of assessment include:
  - Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)
  - Knowledge Based Written Examinations
  - Practice-based Assessments
20. Course work assignments may be prescribed for some modules. Submission deadlines will be specified on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Module leaders will prescribe the topics and guidelines for each assignment and communicate these to students.
21. Written examinations and OSCEs will be set for some modules. Dates and requirements for each examination will be set out on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).
22. Other assessments will include practice-based assessments and an assessed presentation. Guidelines and deadlines for these assessments will be given on the VLE.
23. An attendance requirement for university sessions will be specified on the VLE. Not meeting the minimum attendance requirement may result in students taking an Interruption of Study, repeating part or all of the academic year or having their studies terminated.
24. Candidates will be required to achieve satisfactory reports on clinical work from their clinical supervisors in both years of the course.
25. Candidates will be required to pass all modules in year one before proceeding to year two of the course.
26. Candidates are required to pass all Year 2 modules.

### **Re-Entry to Assessments**

27. Students are entitled to two attempts at each assessment.
28. If a student requests an interruption of study (IOS), university process and policy will be followed. No student will be permitted to take an IOS between a first sit and a resit of an

examination unless there are exceptional circumstances and evidence of these. Students who request an IOS between a first sit and a resit where exceptional circumstances have been considered and declined, may be able to submit a form for extenuating circumstances (ECs). Students must follow the policy for ECs as outlined in the portal.

29. Course work assignments must normally be re-submitted within four weeks of receiving an initial fail grade. Marks for re-submitted course work are limited to bare pass (50%).
30. Students who fail a formal written examination or OSCE on first attempt will be eligible for a second attempt on the next occasion when the examination is held. This second attempt may occur in the following academic year, requiring an Interruption of Study. Marks for re-sit examinations will be limited to bare pass (50%).
31. Students who fail a practice-based assessment or presentation will be given guidance on what is required for the second attempt and on the deadline for the second attempt.
32. By entering assessments, students agree that they are fit to sit the assessment. Students with extenuating circumstances must submit the relevant documentation in line with the institutional guidance.

## **Awards\***

### **Distinctions and Merits**

33. Criteria for the award of **MPAS with Distinction** will be specified in the scheme of assessment.

Distinction will be awarded to candidates who:

- Achieve an overall standard-set mark of 70% or greater;
- Pass all 11 modules.

34. Criteria for the award of **MPAS with Merit** will be specified in the scheme of assessment.

Merit will be awarded to candidates who:

- Achieve an overall standard-set mark of at least 60% but less than 70%;
- Pass all 11 modules.

\*Refer to the scheme of assessment for more detail.

### **Date of award**

35. The date of award of the qualification for successful students will be the date of the Board of Examiners meeting at which their final results are determined. Students will be invited to attend the next graduation ceremony, which is usually the following summer.

36. 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.
37. 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.
38. Students enrolled on this programme are bound by the General Regulations in force at the time.