



IBSc Clinical Sciences

Guide to Optional Module Selection 2012-13

The intercalated BSc in Clinical Sciences, as with all BSc in University College London, is made up of four units, each of which contributes 25% to the overall degree mark. Individual degree modules will contribute either 0.5 or 1.0 unit. The academic year is split into three terms. The dates for 2012-13 are as follows:

Term Dates:

Term 1: Monday 24 September – Friday 14 December 2012

Term 2: Monday 7 January – Friday 22 March 2013

Term 3: Monday 22 April – Friday 7 June 2013

The IBSc in Clinical Sciences is made up of 3.0 compulsory modules and 1.0 optional module (taken as either 1 unit or as two 0.5 units) as below:

Core modules: Term 1	1.0 unit and 0.5 unit
Research project: Terms 1 to 3	1.5 units
Optional module(s): Term 2	1.0 unit

There are approximately 39 optional 0.5 and 1.0 units for you to choose from. These are drawn from other BSc on offer at UCL. They have been selected because their content is

interesting/ innovative and because they are rigorously assessed to a standard comparable to the other Clinical Sciences IBSc modules.

Details of these optional modules are provided before the start of the year in list form with information on the parent BSc, the module title and code, their unit equivalents and, as far as is available, the dates, days and times of the main lectures/tutorials etc.

The main thing to remember when choosing your optional modules is that they really do count. The marks for these modules contribute 25% to your overall degree mark.

Full details of all the optional modules can be accessed through the teaching departments' own websites, and is also contained within the IBSc Booklet 2012 – 2013 which can be downloaded from:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/medicalschoo/bsc-ibsc/>

Details of the timetable for each module can be viewed at:

<https://cmis.adcom.ucl.ac.uk:4443/timetabling/createCustomTimet.do>

There are several factors to take into account when selecting these options:

- No additional modules can be taken during the first 6 weeks of Term 1 as the core module runs full-time---none of the options available during this time have, therefore, been listed.
- Modules are assessed differently.
 - The core module CLCS3001 is assessed on the basis of two written assignments, one of which includes an oral presentation and viva, and one three hour unseen written paper undertaken at the end of the module in November. There is no end of year examination.
 - The research project is assessed on your written report, an oral presentation and viva, and on your supervisor's assessment of your performance throughout the year.
 - The optional modules will be variously assessed but the majority have an unseen written examination in April/May. You have to take the April/May examinations

into account when choosing your modules because these fall during the period when you will be busiest with your project. It stands to reason that if you select two 0.5 modules you will have two written examinations, whereas if you chose a one unit module you will have only have one. However, most students feel that the work for the 0.5 unit examinations is more or less equivalent to the work needed for the 1.0 unit examination.

- Two modules which run as 0.5 unit can be relatively easily upgraded to 1.0 unit without extra lectures or tutorials by addition of an extended essay (e.g. Neurodegenerative diseases) or practical classes (e.g. Immunopharmacology).
- Modules that run at the same time can be taken together as most only have lectures on certain days and times of the week. Please refer to the timetable.
- Some modules have prerequisites such as completion of another module from the same course; we have generally weeded these out. However, some courses in the list do make stipulations, for example certain psychology modules require candidates to have A-level psychology.
- Modules that look like soft options are often more difficult to pass well. So if you are good at book work and have a retentive memory go for the 'harder' options, e.g. *Neurodegenerative Diseases, Fetal & Neonatal Physiology*. If you are more of a free spirit and can think outside the box look at some of the options offered by History of Medicine, Medical Anthropology and Philosophy, Medicine & Society. These, however, do require a degree of written fluency and, as most medical students have lost their 'essay writing' skills, may stretch some.
- The choice of modules determines, to a degree, when you will be able to work on your research project. You will be expected to work on the project full-time from the end of Term 2 though the Easter holidays and throughout Term 3. However, you will be able to spend 5 weeks working on your project in the second half of Term 1. In addition, as most of the optional modules run part-time, you should also be able to undertake some project work during Term 2 as well. If you chose your modules carefully you can maximise the time you have available to work on your project while at the same time getting the best out of your selected options. For example:

- If you choose *Fetal & Neonatal Physiology* (1.0 unit), which runs for three half-days a week, you will have two months free from the end of the core module to the start of this module in which to set up your project. You can then return to your project from late March until late May while allowing time for the module written examination in April/May.
- If you choose the *History of Asian Medicine* (0.5 unit) together with *Medicine in Modern Society* (0.5 unit), your formal taught commitment will only be 4 hours a week for the whole term. This means that you should be able to work on your project from early November to early January, and then full-time from late March until the end of May with no other commitment except for the two formal module written examinations in April/May.
- Finally, and above all, remember that your optional modules are your own personal choice. You do not need to choose a theme or even modules that tie in with your research project. Select modules that interest you and which you think you will enjoy/get something out of. Above all give consideration to topics which you might not ordinarily consider, for example ‘*Anthropology and Psychiatry.*’ Consider carefully---speak to students who have done the modules if you can--- we keep assessments of the optional modules provided by previous IBSc students which we are happy to let you see. Course tutors/administrators are happy to provide additional information.

You are more than welcome to discuss you optional module choices with Carolyn Cohen, the course administrator, on 020 7472 6105, or by email at carolyn.cohen@ucl.ac.uk. Please let Carolyn know what choices you have made before posting your final choices on Portico.

This information is correct at the time of writing (January 2012) and subject to modification before the start of the 2012-13 academic year.