



# Special Regulations for Examinations Leading to the Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at University College London

## Including Candidates Following the MBPhD Programme

*(With effect for students in all years of the programme from September 2016)*

### 1. General Information

- 1.1 These regulations are governed by the Ordinances and General Regulations of University College London.
- 1.2 The MBBS programme is managed by UCL Medical School and taught in the four faculties of the School of Life and Medical Sciences: Faculty of Brain Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences and Faculty of Population Health Sciences.
- 1.3 The MBBS programme is designed as a 6 year integrated course consisting of:
  - Year 1 – Fundamentals of Clinical Science 1
  - Year 2 – Fundamentals of Clinical Science 2
  - Year 3 – Scientific Method in Depth (Integrated BSc degree)
  - Year 4 – Integrated Clinical Care
  - Year 5 – Life Cycle
  - Year 6 – Preparation for Practice
- 1.3.2 The course of study leading to the MBBS is governed by the provisions of the regulations for the MBBS degrees.
- 1.3.3 The MBBS degrees shall be taught in accordance with curricula that meet the requirements of the General Medical Council. The programme for the MBBS excluding Year 3 (IBSc), shall involve not less than 5,500 hours of practical and theoretical study, of which at least Years 4, 5 and 6 shall have been undertaken while registered at UCL, unless exempted from part of the programme of study under the provisions below, and of which not more than 12 weeks shall have been spent at an institution other than UCL either in the UK or overseas.
- 1.4 The MBPhD programme is designed to enable students to undertake an intercalated PhD between Year 4 Integrated Clinical Care and Year 5 Life Cycle, during which clinical study and experience is maintained.
  - 1.4.1 Entry to the MBPhD programme is after satisfactory completion of 2 years of undergraduate medical study and an IBSc (or equivalent). Applications may

be submitted during Year 4, Year 3 (iBSc), or, for graduate entrants who are exempted from the IBSc, during Year 2.

- 1.4.2 The course of study leading to the PhD is governed by the provisions of the regulations for the degrees of MPhil and PhD. A candidate for the MBPhD degrees must submit a thesis for the PhD before returning to the MBBS programme and be examined orally as prescribed in the regulations for the degrees of MPhil and PhD.
- 1.4.3 The period of interruption from the MBBS to complete the intercalated PhD is 4 years. At the discretion of the Faculty Tutor, a candidate may return to the MBBS after a 3 year period of interruption if a thesis has been submitted 2 months prior to the start of the academic session. Periods of interruption greater than 4 years will be at the discretion of the Faculty Tutor and Vice-Provost (Education).

## **2. Conditions of Admission**

- 2.1 All prospective candidates must comply with UCL admissions requirements for undergraduate degrees current at the time of application and with specific additional academic and non-academic requirements prescribed by the Medical School.
- 2.2 Graduate applicants with a degree awarded by a UK university are exempted from the integrated degree providing all other entrance requirements are satisfied.

## **3. Exemptions**

- 3.1 Graduates who have a degree from a university outside the UK may, at the discretion of the Divisional Tutor, be exempted from the integrated degree.
- 3.2 A candidate who has pursued in this or another university or institution of similar standing in the UK a course of study equivalent to the programme for Years 1 and 2 of the MBBS programme and who has passed the examinations therein and is eligible to continue at their own school may be exempted from the course of study and examinations for Years 1 and 2. All applications will be considered individually on their merits.
- 3.3 No exemption may be granted from any part of the course or examinations in Years 4, 5 and 6 and there are no aegrotat or special provisions in the MBBS/MBPhD programme.

## **4. Programmes of Study**

- 4.1 The programme of study will consist of:
  - Year 1 - Fundamentals of Clinical Science 1
  - Year 2 - Fundamentals of Clinical Science 2
  - Year 3 - Scientific Method in Depth (Integrated degree)
  - Year 4 – Integrated Clinical Care
  - Year 5 – Life Cycle
  - Year 6 - Preparation for Practice
- 4.2 The programme of study in Years 1 and 2 will integrate the study of human structure, function, development and behaviour with personal and professional development

and the acquisition of clinical skills. It will include sufficient study in medical sciences to enable candidates to understand disease and medical care. The course will comprise the following components:

a) Sequential integrated modules:

- Foundations of Health and Medical Practice Infection and Defence
- Circulation and Breathing
- Fluids, Nutrition and Metabolism
- Movement and Muscular Skeletal Biology Neuroscience and Behaviour
- Endocrine Systems and Reproduction
- Genetics, Development and Cancer

b) Clinical and Professional Practice modules which span the programme including:

- Patient Pathways
- Anatomy and Imaging
- Clinical Skills
- Pathological Sciences
- Use of Evidence
- Use of Medicines
- Clinical Communication
- Ethics and Law
- Mental Health
- Social Determinates of Health
- Professionalism

c) Student Selected Components (SSCs) which may be in biomedical sciences, arts, languages or humanities.

4.3 The programme of study in Year 3 is an integrated degree which is governed by the provisions of the regulations for the degree programme undertaken.

4.3.1 The integrated degree is a compulsory part of the MBBS programme unless specific exemption is granted for graduates in appropriate subjects by the Divisional Tutor.

4.3.2 Successful completion of the integrated degree is required before candidates may proceed, and only in exceptional cases may the MBBS degrees be awarded without successful completion of the integrated degree.

4.4 The programme of study in Years 4, 5 and 6 comprises rotating integrated modules, clinical and professional practice modules and clinical placements. The emphasis will be on the principles and practice of medicine, clinical skills and the use of appropriate ancillary investigations. Clinical placements will be planned to reflect patient pathways, and current patterns of health care delivery.

4.5 Clinical placements for candidates following the MBBS programme:

a) Not less than 104 weeks will be taken up in clinical placements in hospital wards and outpatient clinics and in the community. These placements will involve primary care, teaching hospitals and district general hospitals. They will include placements in medicine, surgery, obstetrics & gynaecology, paediatrics, psychiatry (including

children) and general practice. Instruction and/or experience will be provided in medical and surgical specialities including geriatrics, infectious diseases (including genito-urinary and tropical medicine), cancer medicine/radiotherapy, neurology, cardiothoracic medicine and surgery, orthopaedics and rheumatology, urology and nephrology, anaesthesia, resuscitation and intensive care, otorhinolaryngology, ophthalmology and accident and emergency work, student selected placements. These placements will include experience of acute on-call work, a student assistantship shadowing the work of a Foundation Trainee and opportunities for revision and preparation for clinical examinations.

- b) The elective period will be not less than 8 weeks and arrangements must be approved by the Divisional Tutor or nominee.

## **5. Examinations in Years 1 and 2**

- 5.1 There will be summative examinations at the end of Year 1 and at the end of Year 2.
- 5.2 Reports of concerns over professional behaviour(s) will be considered by the relevant Sub Board of Examiners in determining results.
- 5.3 The examinations will consist of a series of integrated written, practical and clinical assessments, with a variety of formats, covering each module and discipline. The clinical assessment may include an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).
- 5.4 The pass marks for written and clinical assessments will be determined by criterion-referenced standard setting.
- 5.5 The overall result will indicate a pass or fail designation for each candidate.
- 5.6 Candidates will be required to observe the instructions for conduct of examinations in the Examination Guide for Candidates.
- 5.7 To progress to the next year of the programme, a candidate must have completed the full prescribed course of study to the satisfaction of the Divisional Tutor and submitted a portfolio containing marks for all required course work and student selected components, and satisfied the examiners in all preceding parts.
- 5.8 In Year 1 and Year 2, candidates are permitted two attempts at the examinations in the same academic session.
- 5.9 Candidates are required to complete all sections of the assessments in one diet and at the times designated by the Medical School except where extenuating circumstances approved in advance by the Divisional Extenuating Circumstances Panel preclude an attempt. In such cases, the candidate will be required to sit all sections at the next possible occasion after following a repeat period of study as determined by the Medical School.
- 5.10 In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Examiners may recommend to the Vice Provost (Education & Student Affairs) that a third and final discretionary attempt be granted. Where a discretionary attempt is granted by the Vice Provost (E&SA) , candidates will be required to sit all sections at the next possible occasion after following a repeat period of study as determined by the Medical School. Representations for a discretionary attempt made after the Examination Board has concluded cannot be considered as any such recommendation must have the support

of the full Examination Board including external examiners.

- 5.11 Candidates who fail to attend the examinations without prior approval from the Divisional Extenuating Circumstances Panel are deemed to have made an entry to the examinations. These candidates will not be considered for a discretionary third attempt.

### **6. Examinations in Year 3**

- 6.1 Examinations in Year 3 are conducted according to the Scheme of Award for the degree programme undertaken.
- 6.2 The marks awarded in Year 1 and in Year 2 will count towards the classification of the Year 3 Integrated BSc.
- 6.3 The marks awarded for the MBBS in Year 1 and Year 2 will be harmonised with UCL mark schemes in accordance with the Year 1 and Year 2 mark scheme, and will contribute to the final IBSc degree classification in the ratio 1:1:6.
- 6.4 To progress to Year 4, candidates must complete 4 modules in Year 3 and satisfy all course and assessment requirements for each module except in exceptional circumstances approved by the Faculty Tutor (Medical Sciences).
- 6.5 To be awarded an iBSc degree, candidates must pass 3.0 of the 4.0 modules taken in Year 3 including the project. Failed modules contribute to the classification.

### **7. Examinations in Years 4 and 5**

- 7.1 There will be summative examinations at the end of Year 4 and at the end of Year 5.
- 7.2 Reports of concerns over professional behaviour(s) will be considered by the relevant Sub Board of Examiners in determining results.
- 7.3 The written examination will consist of a series of integrated papers, with a variety of formats, covering each clinical placement and associated taught courses.
- 7.4 The clinical assessment will consist of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).
- 7.5 The pass marks for the written and clinical assessments will be determined by criterion-referenced standard setting.
- 7.6 The overall result will indicate a pass or fail designation for each candidate.
- 7.7 Candidates will be required to observe the instructions for conduct of examinations in the Examination Guide for Students.
- 7.8 To progress to the next year of the programme, a candidate must have completed the full prescribed course of study to the satisfaction of the Divisional Tutor and submitted a portfolio containing marks for all required course work, student selected components and clinical placements, and must have satisfied the examiners in all preceding parts.
- 7.9 In Year 4 and in Year 5, candidates are permitted one attempt at the examinations at the end of the academic session and one attempt at the end of the following

academic session after repeating the full programme of study for the year.

- 7.10 Candidates are required to complete all sections of the assessments in one diet and at the times designated by the Medical School except where extenuating circumstances approved in advance by the Divisional Extenuating Circumstances Panel preclude this. In such cases, the candidate will be required to sit all sections at the next possible occasion after following a repeat period of study as determined by the Medical School.
- 7.11 Candidates who fail at the second attempt will be required to leave the School.
- 7.12 Candidates who fail to attend the examinations without prior approval from the Divisional Extenuating Circumstances Panel are deemed to have made an entry to the examinations.
- 7.14 Candidates who have previously repeated 2 years of the MBBS programme will be required to leave the School if they fail Year 4 or Year 5.

## **8. Examinations in Year 6**

- 8.1 There will be a summative final examination and a resit examination in Year 6.
- 8.2 Reports of concerns over professional behaviour(s) will be considered by the Sub Board of Examiners in determining results.
- 8.3 The final MBBS examination will be an integrated written and clinical assessment.
- 8.4 The written examination will comprise integrated case-based questions in a single best answer format, blueprinted against the MBBS course requirements and good medical practice, and covering the following broad headings:
- Pathogenesis and Prevention of Disease – enabling clinical problems to be considered from the perspective of Pathological Sciences, disordered physiology, genetics, public health and epidemiology
  - Data Interpretation – containing illustrated clinical material and integrating elements of Pathological Sciences with a clinical scenario.
  - Acute Clinical Conditions – covering the common presenting emergencies in an A/E Department and in a GP Surgery; their relevant symptoms and signs, and investigations; their management, including the use of medicines, observations and continuing care.
  - Chronic Clinical Conditions – covering presentation and management of chronic clinical conditions in hospital and primary care.
- 8.5 The clinical assessment will consist of Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs).
- 8.6 The pass marks for the written and clinical assessments will be determined by criterion-referenced standard setting.
- 8.8 The overall result will indicate a pass or fail designation for each candidate.
- 8.9 Candidates will be required to observe the instructions for conduct of examinations in

the Examination Guide for Candidates.

- 8.10 For the degrees to be awarded, a candidate must have completed the full prescribed course of study to the satisfaction of the Divisional Tutor and submitted a portfolio containing marks all required course work, student selected components and clinical placements, and must have satisfied the examiners in all preceding parts.
- 8.11 In Year 6, candidates are permitted two attempts at the examinations in the same academic session.
- 8.12 Candidates are required to complete all sections of the assessments in one diet and at the times designated by the Medical School. The designated time for the first attempt is March and the designated time for the second attempt is June except where extenuating circumstances approved in advance by the Divisional Extenuating Circumstances Panel preclude an attempt. In such cases, the candidate will be required to sit all sections of the assessments at the next possible occasion after a repeat period of study determined by the Medical School.
- 8.13 In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Examiners may recommend to the Vice Provost (Education) that a third and final discretionary attempt be granted. Where a discretionary attempt is granted by the Vice Provost, candidates will be required to sit all sections of the assessments at the next possible occasion after completing a minimum additional period of 6 months' full time clinical study for examinations in March and after completing a minimum additional period of 3 months' clinical study for examinations in June. Representations for a discretionary attempt made after the Examination Board has concluded cannot be considered as any such recommendation must have the support of the full Examination Board including external examiners.
- 8.14 Candidates who fail to attend examinations without prior approval from the Divisional Extenuating Circumstances Panel are deemed to have made an entry to the examinations. These candidates will not be considered for a discretionary third attempt.

### **9. Amendments to MBBS regulations**

- 9.1 The MBBS programme and degrees are subject to the external requirements of the Medical School's licensing body, the General Medical Council (GMC). In order to ensure that the programme remains compliant with GMC requirements for provisional registration, and because of the 5/6 year duration of the course, the MBBS regulations may be amended one year prior to the start date of each course component providing the following criteria are satisfied:
- prior notice is given at the outset of the course of the possibility of change
  - changes are made in consultation with candidate representatives
  - changes are structural and reflect changes in the requirements of the GMC, changes in NHS service provision, greater integration of non-clinical/clinical teaching, or current best practice in medical education
  - changes do not affect the overall curriculum requirements or academic standards

- transitional arrangements are put in place, where necessary, to ensure that all candidates are able to fulfil all course requirements within the normal duration of the programme and that no candidate is disadvantaged.

## **10. Award of the Degrees of MBBS**

- 10.1 To be awarded the degrees of MBBS a candidate must have satisfactorily completed and passed all years of the programme including an integrated degree programme (unless exempted), and must have submitted all required in-course assessments within 9 years of commencing the programme (8 years where exempted from the integrated degree).
- 10.2 A candidate who has been deemed unfit to practise by Fitness to Practise procedures may not be awarded the degrees of MBBS.

## **11. Notification of Results**

- 11.1 After each Sub Board of Examiners meeting, unofficial provisional results will be communicated to candidates by the Medical School.
- 11.2 Confirmed results will be communicated to candidates by UCL.

## **12. Pass Lists**

- 12.1 The official pass list for the MBBS degrees will be published not later than 14th July.
- 12.2 The date of the award of the degrees will be 15th July.
- 12.3 The official pass list shall show the names of successful candidates and include the awards of distinction.

## **13. Marks of Distinction**

- 13.1 Marks of distinction may be awarded in Medical Sciences, in Clinical Science, and in Clinical Practice.
- 13.2 Marks of distinction in Medical Sciences will be awarded on the basis of examination performance in Years 1 and 2 of the MBBS course.
- 13.3 Marks of distinction in Clinical Science will be awarded on the basis of examination performance awarded in Year 4 and Year 5.
- 13.4 Marks of distinction in Clinical Practice will be awarded on the basis of examination performance in Year 6 of the MBBS course.
- 13.5 Candidates who are re-sitting examinations are not eligible for the award of a mark of distinction.

## **14. Registration with General Medical Council**

- 14.1 A candidate (other than a fully registered medical practitioner) on whom University College London Senate confers the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) will be entitled to provisional registration with the GMC.

## **15. Issue of Diploma for MBBS**

- 15.1 A diploma for the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, under the seal of University College London, will be delivered to each successful candidate who is awarded the degrees.

*July 2016*