

Imperial College London

Regulations for the award of the Degrees of MBBS/BSc

1 General Information

- 1.1 The degrees of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences will be awarded to any student who has completed the appropriate programmes of study and passed examinations as a student at the College in accordance with the following Regulations and with such other Regulations for students of the College as may be applicable.
- 1.2 The programme of study extends over six years and in addition to the MBBS degree all students not already holding a first degree in a biological science will study for a BSc degree.
- 1.3 The same courses and examinations are taken for the degree and for the Associateship of the Imperial College School of Medicine. Both the degree and the Associateship will be awarded to successful students provided that they have satisfied the requirements of the College.

2 Conditions of Admission

- 2.1 Before admission to the MBBS/BSc programme of study, a candidate must satisfy the general entrance requirements of the College, and satisfy any additional requirements prescribed by the College for admission to the MBBS degrees.

3 Programme of Study

The MBBS/BSc programme of study is an integrated programme extending over 6 years.

3.1 Years 1 & 2

Students will follow an integrated course comprising the three main elements of the core course: Scientific Basis of Medicine; Doctor and Patient; and Clinical Experience.

The course over Years 1 & 2 is organised for purposes of planning, timetabling and assessment into the following themes:

Molecules, Cells & Disease includes molecular and cell biology, genetics, blood and blood-forming tissues, metabolism, infection, immunity and cell pathology.

Life Support Systems includes the skin, cardiovascular, respiratory, alimentary and urinary systems, and the anatomy of the thorax, abdomen, pelvis and perineum.

Life Cycle and Regulatory Systems includes reproduction and development, neuroscience and psychology, the endocrine and musculoskeletal systems, the anatomy of the head, neck, spine and limbs, and pharmacology and therapeutics.

Foundations of Clinical Practice includes communication skills, sociology, ethics and law, epidemiology and public health, statistics and information technology. The first-year element of clinical experience (the patient contact course) is also managed as part of this theme.

Science and the Patient is a discrete block of teaching at the end of Year 2 which consolidates and assesses all prior knowledge and core scientific skills taught in Years 1 and 2.

Teaching comprises lectures, clinical demonstrations, tutorials, seminars, computer workshops, laboratory practical and clinical skills classes.

Clinical Experience

Clinical experience in Year 1 is provided by the Patient Contact Course. Working under the supervision of a team of general practitioners students will focus on 3 areas, Illness, health and disease; The experience of health and social care; and Living with a long term condition and the effects of life events.

In Year 2 there is an introductory clinical attachment. The main objective of this firm is to enable students to become much more familiar with taking histories and to become familiar with as many aspects as possible of hospital life and procedures.

3.2 Year 3

Year 3 consists of a series of clinical attachments, which may be at any of the hospitals associated with the School. The emphasis throughout will be on the acquisition of core skills and knowledge in general medicine (including cardiovascular, renal, respiratory and cancer medicine, gastroenterology, endocrinology, medicine for the elderly) general surgery (including gastrointestinal, breast and vascular surgery, urology), anaesthetics and clinical pharmacology and therapeutics. Additional teaching is delivered via a lecture programme, partly in the form of e-learning modules, alongside the clinical attachments, and problem-based learning cases will be studied within attachments, often based on actual current patients.

Core learning is based on:

- Medical or surgical takes.
- GP teaching: basic clinical skills/ methods in general practice.
- Patient clerking: to clerk (take the history and examine) at least 2 patients each week and write up these case histories. Students are assessed on two of these written clerkings each firm, separate from the case project.
- Consultant teaching: key cases relating to the firm - students will be expected to present patients during these sessions and this forms part of the assessment.
- Problem based learning.
- Lecture course: including live lectures plus e-learning modules.

- Other teaching: this will depend on the nature of the clinical programme of the attachment, but could include: outpatient clinic teaching, theatre sessions, endoscopy sessions, anaesthetic sessions.
- Private study.

3.3 Year 4

3.3.1 Modular BSc

The courses lead to the following award - BSc Medical Sciences with:

Cardiovascular Sciences
Endocrinology
Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Global Health
Haematology
Immunity and Infection
Management
Neuroscience and Mental Health
Reproductive and Developmental Sciences
Respiratory Science
Surgery and Anaesthesia

3.3.2 Exceptionally students may be permitted to undertake a one-year intercalated BSc degree at another university, which will exempt them from completing Year 4 of the MBBS/BSc programme at the College. Applications are subject to the approval of the Director of Education, who will need to be satisfied that:

- a similar degree programme is not already offered by the College;
- the student holds an exemplary academic record;
- the proposed degree programme is of equivalent academic standing to degree programmes offered by the College;
- the student holds an exemplary disciplinary record.

3.4 Finals Phase 1

Consists of clinical attachments in Critical Care, Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Paediatrics; Psychiatry; Oncology; Neurology; General Practice; Infectious Diseases; Dermatology, Rheumatology and Orthopaedics. The clinical attachments are based on wards, out-patient clinics and in general practices. There is also a dedicated pathology course in this year.

3.5 Finals Phase 2

Consists of clinical attachments in Emergency Medicine; General Practice; Cardiology; Radiology; ENT; Ophthalmology; two professional work experience attachments (one in medicine and one in surgery); one specialty choice module; an elective period which may be spent in the UK or overseas; private study; the Practical Medicine course, which provides specific sessions on preparing for the

Foundation School years and the Revision course which consolidates clinical knowledge preparatory to the final examinations which are held in June.

4 Examinations

4.1 Entry to all examinations will normally be conditional upon students having attended the corresponding courses and completed any in-course assessment to the satisfaction of the College. In the case of illness, or other exceptional circumstances, students may be permitted to defer entry to the examinations. In these cases students may be required to follow an extra course of study.

If a candidate is prevented by illness or other adequate cause from entering an examination, independent verification and/or documentary evidence must be provided.

Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in any of the examinations at the first attempt may be required to resit all or part of the examination.

Candidates' work during the programme may be taken into account and marks given for coursework may be included in one or more components of the examinations.

Written papers may include essay questions, case studies, Short Answer Questions (SAQ), Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ), Single Best Answer Questions (SBA) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQ). Papers may incorporate several question formats.

Clinical assessments may include Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE), Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills (PACES), short cases and long cases, an assessment of candidates' practical notebooks or logbooks, oral assessments and observed consultations (e.g. mini-CEXs, case-based discussions, directly observed procedures).

Candidates will be credited with any paper or papers in which they have satisfied the examiners.

Oral examinations may include an assessment of the candidate's practical notebooks or logbooks.

4.2 The examinations will be as follows:

4.2.1 **Year 1** examinations will be held twice each year and will include:

Year 1 Paper 1: Life Support Systems (sections 1 and 2)

Year 1 Paper 2: Molecules, Cells and Disease I

Year 1 Paper 3: Life Cycle and Regulatory Systems I

Year 1 Paper 4: Foundations of Clinical Practice Ia

Year 1 Paper 5: Foundations of Clinical Practice Ib

Candidates will be required to pass all papers in Year 1 before proceeding to Year 2.

A candidate who fails at the second attempt will normally be required to withdraw from the programme.

4.2.2 **Year 2** examinations will be held twice each year and will include:

Year 2 Paper 1: Science and the Patient

Year 2 Paper 2: Molecules, Cells and Disease II

Year 2 Paper 3: Life Cycle and Regulatory Systems II (sections 1 and 2)

Candidates will be required to pass all papers in Year 2 before proceeding to Year 3. Performance in Paper 1 will contribute to the final mark to the BSc in Medical Sciences with... taken in Year 4.

At the discretion of the College, students who have successfully passed all papers in Year 2 may be permitted to transfer to the intercalated degree option and take a BSc in Medical Sciences with... as a final award.

A candidate who fails one or more papers at the second attempt will normally be required to withdraw from the programme.

4.2.3 **Year 3** examinations will be held twice a year, and will include:

Year 3 Paper 1: A written examination covering the learning objectives for the clinical attachments and the lecture/e-learning programme.

Year 3 Paper 2: Foundations of Clinical Practice II¹

Year 3 Clinical Examination: An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

Candidates failing to fulfil the requirements of one or more firms may not be permitted to enter the examinations until they have undertaken satisfactory remediation.

Candidates will be required to pass the Year 3 examinations before proceeding to Year 4. A candidate who fails one or more examinations at the second attempt will normally be required to withdraw from the MBBS/BSc, although, at the discretion of the College, failing students may be permitted to transfer to the intercalated degree option and take a BSc in Medical Sciences with... as a final award.

4.2.4 **Year 4 BSc Taught Modules:** Examinations will be held once a year and will consist of up to three written papers and up to six pieces of coursework. All written papers must be passed and all coursework submitted to complete this element of the programme.

Year 4 Specialist Modules: Consists of either written and oral assessments of a BSc project or coursework assignments including a mini project on the specialist courses taken in place of the project.

Marks from Taught and Specialist Modules in Year 4 and Paper 1 from Year 2 will contribute to the BSc classification. Candidates may be invited to attend for additional oral assessment at the discretion of the examiners.

¹ In December 2010 the Senate approved the move of this paper from Year 2 to Year 3 of the MBBS/BSc, with effect from the 2010/11 academic session. The paper will not however be taken by Year 3 students in 2010/11 as this cohort sat the paper in Year 2 in 2009/10.

Candidates will be required to pass all Taught and Specialist Modules of Year 4 before proceeding to the Finals Phase of the MBBS/BSc programme.

A candidate who fails any module at the second attempt will normally be required to withdraw from the programme.

In order to qualify for the award of the BSc degree from the MBBS/BSc degree, students must have passed all of the examinations within Years 1, 2, 3 and 4

The examiners shall determine the field of study to be shown on the diploma which will be issued to each successful candidate awarded the degree.

A student who fails the Intercalated BSc degree examination at an outside institution may, at the discretion of the College, complete the MBBS degree but is excluded from the BSc degree. Students taking an Imperial College Integrated BSc are required to pass before moving into the Finals Phase of the programme. Students failing the BSc at the second attempt will normally be required to withdraw from the programme.

4.2.5 **Finals Phase 1** examinations will take place twice a year:

Finals Phase 1: Paper 1 is a written examination in Paediatrics, Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the related areas of primary care of each.

Finals Phase 1: Paper 2 is a written paper in Pathology.

Finals Phase 1: clinical examination (PACES) in Paediatrics, Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the related primary care elements of each.

Candidates failing to fulfil the requirements of one or more firms may not be permitted to enter the examinations until they have undertaken satisfactory remediation.

Candidates who fail any examination at the third attempt will normally be required to withdraw from the programme.

4.2.6 **Finals Phase 2** examinations will take place twice a year:

Finals Phase 2: Paper 1 (Sections 1 and 2) is a written paper including Medicine, Surgery and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and the areas covered in Finals Phase 1 not assessed at the end of Finals Phase 1.

Finals Phase 2: An assessment in Practical Prescribing

Finals Phase 2: Clinical Examinations: Surgery and Medicine Clinical Examinations

Candidates failing to fulfil the requirements of one or more firms may not be permitted to enter the examinations until they have undertaken satisfactory remediation.

Candidates who fail any examination at the third attempt will normally be required to withdraw from the programme. Candidates must pass all the examinations in Finals Phase 1 and 2 in order to qualify for the award of the MBBS degree.

A candidate who fails the above examinations in Finals Phase 1 and 2 at the first attempt will normally be permitted to re-enter the examination at the next available time and may be required to attend for additional tuition.

Candidates are permitted three attempts at Finals Phase examinations. All examinations must be passed within 24 months of completing the course.

- 4.3 Candidates who have completed the requirements for a BSc degree and who have achieved a sufficient standard will, on the recommendation of the relevant board of examiners, be awarded (a) First Class Honours, or (b) Second Class Honours, or (c) Third Class Honours. The Second Class of Honours will be divided into an Upper and Lower Division.
- 4.4 Candidates who have completed the requirements for the award of an MBBS degree, and who have achieved a sufficient standard throughout the programme of study, (including passing all examinations at the first attempt), may be entered for additional examinations and may be awarded marks of distinction.

5 Exemptions

- 5.1 A student who has previously successfully completed a relevant programme of study in another university or institution of similar standing may be exempted from part of the examinations and/or programme of study. All applications will be considered individually on their merits.
- 5.2 The College may approve a shortened programme of study for a student for whom exemption from part of the programme or examinations has been approved under paragraph 5.1 above. The length of the programme of study subsequent to registration for the MBBS degree only shall be not less than 32 months, or not less than 44 months for the MBBS/BSc.

6 Award of the Associateship of the Imperial College School of Medicine

- 6.1 For the Associateship, the minimum period of study at the College is two years including the penultimate and final years of the programme.
- 6.2 Candidates who have completed at least two years of study at the College but have failed to complete satisfactorily the examinations at the end of the third year of the MBBS/BSc programme and have successfully completed the BSc degree as an alternative exit are also eligible for the Associateship.
- 6.3 The Associateship of the Imperial College School of Medicine will be awarded to successful students who have complied with the requirements of the College, including the payment of all due sessional fees. A diploma of Associateship will be sent to each successful student.

7 Aegrotat Provisions

These Provisions apply to the award of a BSc degree. Candidates for the award of an MBBS degree are not eligible to be recommended for the award of an Aegrotat degree.

- 7.1 A student may be considered for the award of an Aegrotat or classified degree under the following Provisions if:
- (i) through his/her illness or the death of a near relative or other cause judged sufficient by Senate, he/she has been absent from examinations.
- OR
- (ii) though present at the whole of the examination he/she considers that his/her performance has been adversely affected by any of the causes referred to in subclause (i).
- 7.2 The student must have completed his/her course of study for the degree and have paid all sessional fees due.
- 7.3 An application for consideration to determine eligibility for the award of a degree under the Aegrotat provisions must be made to the Academic Registrar within six weeks from the last day of the final examinations and must be accompanied by a medical certificate or other statement of the grounds on which the application is made.
- 7.4 If a candidate has satisfied the requirements for the award of a degree as laid down in paragraph 4.3 of the Regulations for the Award of the Degrees of MBBS/BSc the examiners shall recommend the award of a degree with an Honours classification and shall not consider the candidate for the award of an Aegrotat degree.
- 7.5 In the case of a student not deemed eligible to be recommended for a classified degree under paragraph 7.4 the Medical Studies Committee, having considered a report from the examiners on the work submitted for such examinations as he/she attended (if any), together with records of the student's performance during the programme and assessments provided by the student's teachers, will determine whether evidence has been shown to their satisfaction that, had he/she completed the examination in normal circumstances, the student would clearly have reached a standard qualifying him/her for the award of the degree. If so, the student will be notified accordingly and asked whether he/she wishes to proceed formally with the Aegrotat degree application or to re-take the examination(s) at the next normal time.
- 7.6 If the award of an Aegrotat degree is conferred on a student he/she will not be eligible thereafter to re-enter for the examination for the classified degree.
- 7.7 A student who re-enters for the examination for the classified degree, having previously been informed under paragraph 7.5 that he/she is eligible to apply for the award of an Aegrotat degree, ceases to be eligible so to apply.
- 7.8 An Aegrotat degree will be awarded without distinction or class.

NOTE

Pass degrees are not available in the BSc for students registered in and after October 2008.