

# Imperial College London

## Regulations for the award of the Degrees of MBBS/BSc

*[These Regulations apply to students registering in and from October 2014.]*

### 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 same programmes of study 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.
- 1.3 Students who have successfully 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.
- 1.4 Students who successfully complete the requirements for a BSc degree will receive an award classified in one of the following ways: First Class Honours, or Second Class Honours (Upper Division), or Second Class Honours (Lower Division), or Third Class Honours.
- 1.5 In order to qualify for the BSc degree students must normally have passed all elements of Years 1, 2, 3 and 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 as a final award.

### 2 Entrance Requirements

- 2.1 All students, before admission to the programme of study must satisfy the general entrance requirements of the College.
- 2.2 In addition to the general entrance requirements, students will normally be required to satisfy certain individual programme requirements, specified by the Senate, for admission to the first year of the programme; these requirements are expressed in terms of passes at a recognised General Certificate of Education examination or equivalent.

### 3 Period of Study

- 3.1 The minimum period of study for the MBBS/BSc degrees is six academic years.

- 3.2 For the Associateship, the minimum period of study at the College is two years including the penultimate and final years of the programme.
- 3.3 Candidates who have completed at least two years of study at the College and have successfully completed the BSc degree as an alternative exit are also eligible for the Associateship.
- 3.4 The period of study must be continuous except by special permission.

#### **4 Programme of Study**

- 4.1 The programme of study shall be specified in the Programme Specification; alterations and additions to the programme of study must be authorised by the Senate or Committee acting on its behalf.
- 4.2 Students must complete to the satisfaction of the examiners all the courses in a given year of study in order to qualify to the next year of the programme, except under the provisions of paragraph 5.7.
- 4.3 Students who fail to meet the requirements in paragraph 4.2 may re-enter the examinations for failed courses in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5.5.
- 4.4 In Year 4, students undertake a modular BSc programme in the fields of study as determined by the Senate. The pathways lead to the award of the BSc degree in Medical Sciences. The specific degree title is determined by the options taken. Those options available can be found in the Programme Specification.
- 4.5 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 Head of the Undergraduate School, who will need to be satisfied that:
  - a similar degree programme is not already offered by the College;
  - the student holds exemplary academic and disciplinary records;
  - the proposed degree programme is of equivalent academic standing to degree programmes offered by the College.

#### **5 Examinations**

- 5.1 The overall responsibility for the conduct of the examinations for the degree and Associateship lies with the Medical Studies Committee. Boards of Examiners are appointed to deal with the examinations in each year of study.
- 5.2 The examination may be conducted by a variety of examining methods including assessment of coursework, project work and written papers (including essay questions, case studies, data interpretation and analysis questions, Short Answer Questions (SAQ), Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ), Single Best Answer Questions (SBA), Assertion Reason Questions (ARQ) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQ); papers may incorporate several question formats) taken at appropriate times during the year, as determined by the examiners, and clinical assessments (including 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]). A student 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.

- 5.3 No books, notes or other material relevant to the examination may be introduced into any examination room by a student unless specifically authorised by the examiners.
- 5.4 Entry to all examinations will normally be conditional upon students having attended the corresponding courses and completed all required 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, subject to the provision of independent verification and/or documentary evidence of the circumstances. In these cases students may be required to follow an extra course of study.
- 5.5 A student who on his/her first entry does not complete successfully the examination may, at the discretion of the examiners, re-enter the failed examination on one further occasion, in accordance with the conditions specified in General Regulation 13.7.
- 5.6 With the exception of Year 4, a student who fails one or more examinations in two separate academic years will normally be required to pass all subsequent examinations at the first sitting. Students who subsequently fail an examination at the first sitting will not normally be permitted to re-enter the failed examinations and will be required to withdraw from the College, except under the provisions in paragraph 1.5 above.
- 5.7 Years 5 and 6 form the 'Finals Phase' of the programme. A student who, on his/her first entry, does not successfully complete the Year 5 examination may, at the discretion of the examiners, progress into Year 6.
- 5.8 A student progressing into Year 6 under the provisions of paragraph 5.7 above is required to successfully complete the Year 5 examination before attempting the Year 6 examinations.
- 5.9 A student is required to pass the BSc before moving into the finals phases of the programme. Students failing the BSc at the second attempt will normally be required to withdraw from the programme. A student who fails the intercalated BSc degree examination at an outside institution may, at the discretion of the College, repeat the year at the external institution, or return to the College and undertake an internal BSc pathway. In either case this would be deemed to be the second attempt.
- 5.10 All examinations must be passed within 24 months of completing the programme of study.

## **6 Award of Associateship and Degree**

- 6.1 The Associateship of the Imperial College School of Medicine will be awarded to successful students who have complied with the requirements of the College. A diploma of Associateship will be sent to

each successful student. Any student who is in tuition fee debt to the College will not normally be issued with a degree diploma until the debt has been paid in full.

6.2 A degree diploma will be sent to each student satisfying the examiners in all parts of the examination.

## **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 programme of study for the degree and must normally 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 4.4 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.