

Imperial College London

Regulations for the award of undergraduate taught degrees (Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Engineering (BEng), Master in Science (MSci) and Master of Engineering (MEng)) in the Faculties of Natural Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [for students registering in and after October 2008]

[These Regulations do not apply to the intercalated or integrated BSc degree for candidates registered for the MBBS degrees.]

1 General

- 1.1 The degree of Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Engineering (BEng), Master of Engineering (MEng) or Master in Science (MSci) will be awarded to any student who has completed the appropriate programme of study and passed examinations as a student at the College in accordance with the following requirements and in accordance 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 relevant Associateship of either the Royal College of Science (ARCS) (Faculty of Natural Sciences), Royal School of Mines (ARSM) or City and Guilds of London Institute (ACGI) (Faculty of Engineering), or Imperial College School of Medicine (Faculty of Medicine). Both the degree and the Associateship will be awarded to successful students provided they have satisfied the requirements of the College.
- 1.3 The College provides programmes of study for the BSc, BEng, MEng and MSci degrees in main fields of study as determined by the Senate.
- 1.4 To obtain a BSc or BEng degree under these Regulations a student must complete to the satisfaction of the examiners courses/modules valued at a minimum of 180 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), where the programme pass requirements are articulated in credits. Where a BSc or BEng degree programme extends over more than three academic years, additional credits may be awarded.
- 1.5 To obtain an MSci or MEng degree under these Regulations students must complete to the satisfaction of the examiners courses/modules valued at a minimum of 240 ECTS credits, including not less than 60 ECTS credits at Master's level where the programme pass requirements are articulated in credits. Where an MSci or MEng degree programme extends over more than four academic years, additional credits may be awarded.
- 1.7 Students who successfully complete the requirements for their degree programme 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.
- 1.8 In limited circumstances a student failing to achieve a classified degree may be offered a 'Pass' or unclassified degree. In the Faculty of Engineering for all MEng or MSci students, or for BEng/BSc student registered with the College from October 2008, there is no provision for the award of a Pass degree.

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 programme; these requirements are expressed in terms of passes at a recognised General Certificate of Education examination or equivalent. For programmes under the Faculty of Engineering there may also be a requirement for industrial sponsorship.
- 2.3 The admission conditions specified in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 may be waived with the approval of the College, for admission to the first year of a degree programme in the case of a student (Transfer Student) who has completed part of the first year of a full-time first degree programme in science or engineering.
- 2.4 The following categories of students (Transfer Students) may, subject to the approval of the College, be admitted direct to the second year of a degree programme governed by these regulations, with exemption from the admission conditions specified in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2:
- (a) Students who have completed to a satisfactory level as determined by the College at least one year of a first degree programme, or its equivalent as determined by the College, in science or engineering;
 - (b) Holders of an award at the Intermediate level (level 5) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 2.5 The following categories of students (Advanced Students) may, with the approval of the Senate, be admitted to the second year of a degree programme governed by these regulations, with exemption from the admission conditions specified in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2:
- (a) Graduates of another university;
 - (b) Holders of a Diploma in Technology awarded by the National Council for Technological Awards;
 - (c) Holders of a degree awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards;
 - (d) Holders of a Higher National Diploma, or a Higher National Certificate (together with at least one Supplementary Certificate).
 - (e) Students who have passed Parts I and II of the Examinations of the Engineering Council or the Council of Engineering Institutions for relevant programmes in the Faculty of Engineering.

- 2.6 The following categories of students (Transfer and Advanced Students) may, with the approval of the Senate, be admitted direct to the third year of a four-year MSci/MEng degree programme in the College, with exemption from the admission conditions specified in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2:
- (a) Students who have completed to a satisfactory level as determined by the College at least two years of a first degree programme, or its equivalent as determined by the College, in science or engineering;
 - (b) Graduates of another university;
 - (c) Holders of a degree awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards.
- 2.7 Students whose registration is transferred from a degree at another University may, if the College approves, be credited with some ECTS credits/ specified year one courses/modules on account of the work which they have done and the assessment which they have passed in that other degree.
- 2.8 The maximum exemption per year is 60 ECTS credits (or equivalent). In the case of the Faculty of Engineering programmes students that enter the programmes in years one or two may be exempted from all or part of the courses/modules in the those years and the Part I and Part II examinations. Any exemptions will be agreed and communicated prior to registration and enrolment on the degree programme.
- 2.9 Transfer or Advanced Students admitted direct to the second or third year of a programme of study will not normally be exempted from the industrial sponsorship or pre-university entry requirements referred to in paragraph 2.2.

3 Period of Study

- 3.1 The minimum period of study for the BSc/BEng degree is three academic years from the point of registration¹, except where the Senate has determined that a main field of study shall have a minimum period of study of four or five years. The minimum period of study for the MSci/MEng degree is four academic years. For students admitted under paragraph 2.3 (Transfer Students) or 2.5 (Advanced Students) the minimum period of study may be reduced by one year. For students admitted to the third year of the MSci/MEng degree under paragraph 2.6 (Transfer and Advanced Students) the minimum period of study may be reduced to two years.
- 3.2 To be eligible for an Associateship students are required to complete the programme of study in full, with exception of year one where this has been exempted under 2.3 and 2.5 of these regulations, or years one and two where a student is admitted to year three of an MSci/MEng degree under paragraph 2.6.
- 3.5 The period of study must be continuous except by special permission. Students are expected to enrol² each academic year.

¹ Registration is the act of confirming that the student has met the conditions of admission and commenced a programme of study. Registration occurs once at the beginning of the relevant programme of study.

² Enrolment is the annual procedure by which it is confirmed that students have progressed adequately, confirmed their mode of study and have made arrangements for the payment of fees for that academic year.

- 3.7 Students may be required to spend a period of study following an academic programme at an approved university abroad, or on approved project work away from the College or a period of industrial placement as an integral part of the degree programme under arrangements approved by the Senate.

4 Programmes of Study

- 4.1 The programme of study in each subject shall be specified on the College's Study webpages; alterations and additions to programmes 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 the programme requirements in a given year of study in order to qualify to proceed to the next year. Within programmes in the Faculty of Engineering the programme is divided into parts, which equate to the year of full time study. Year 1 is Part I, Year 2 is Part II etc.).
- 4.3 Additionally, students registered for the MSci degree in the Faculty of Natural Sciences must normally obtain the minimum aggregate mark as specified in the programme specification in the second year of the programme in order to qualify to proceed to the third year of the programme.
- 4.4 Students will be permitted to take additional modules/credits to the approved programme of study only by special permission.
- 4.5 Students who are registered for a BSc/BEng degree at the College, and who are qualified to proceed to the second or third year of the programme (as appropriate), may apply for transfer of registration to the MSci/MEng degree provided that such a programme is available in the same subject, that their academic performance is of sufficient standard and that they have passed any relevant examinations. Whilst any transfer would normally occur at the start of an academic year and at the latest prior to the beginning of year three, transfers may be possible up to 31 March of the third year of full-time study where respective curricula and the student's personal status (for example visa status) make this practicable.
- 4.6 Students who are registered for the MSci/MEng degree at the College, and who are qualified to proceed to the second or third year of the programme (as appropriate), may apply for transfer of registration to the BSc/BEng degree provided that such a programme is available in the same subject. Whilst any transfer would normally occur at the start of an academic year and at the latest prior to the beginning of year three, transfers may be possible up to 31 March of the third year of full-time study where respective curricula and the student's personal status (for example visa status) make this practicable.
- 4.7 Students registered for the MSci/MEng degree who fail to meet the requirement in paragraph 4.3, will normally be required by the Head of Department to transfer at the end of the second year to the third year of the BSc/BEng degree programme provided that such a programme is available in the same subject.
- 4.8 At the end of the third year of study, a student registered for the MSci degree must have completed to the satisfaction of the examiners courses/modules valued at a minimum of normally 180 ECTS credits, or within the MSci/MEng Engineering programmes to have successfully completed Part III, and have

achieved a sufficient standard to qualify for admission to the final year. Students who do not satisfy these conditions will be expected:

- either (a) to remain registered for the MSci/MEng and re-enter failed courses/modules or where relevant the examination for Part III on not more than one further occasion;
- or (b) to be considered for the award of BSc/BEng, where this is available, if all conditions of the award have been satisfied, passes in any MSci/MEng courses/modules not included in the BSc/BEng programme having been discounted;
- or (c) to transfer to the BSc/BEng, where this is available, and to sit the relevant final year BSc/BEng examinations/assessments on not more than one occasion in an attempt to satisfy the conditions of the award of a BSc/BEng.

4.9 Students who at the end of the programme of study for the MSci/MEng fail to satisfy the examiners in the minimum number of requirements within the degree programme may take one of the following options, depending on their area of study.

Faculty of Natural Sciences

- either (a) to re-enter failed elements on not more than two further occasions;
- or (b) to be considered for the award of BSc, where this is available, if all the conditions of the award have been satisfied, passes in any MSci courses/modules not included in the BSc programme having been discounted;
- or (c) to transfer to the BSc, where this is available, and to sit the final year BSc examinations on not more than one occasion in an attempt to satisfy the conditions of the award of a BSc.

Faculty of Engineering

A student who by the end of the programme of study for the MEng/MSci fails to satisfy the examiners in the Part IV examination may opt:

- Either (a) to resit the Part IV examination for MEng/MSci on one further occasion;
- or (b) to be considered for the award of BEng/BSc, where this is available, if all the conditions of the award have been satisfied, passes in any MEng/MSci course/module not included in the BEng/BSc programmes having been discounted;
- or (c) to transfer to the BEng/BSc, where this is available, and to sit the BEng/BSc Part III examination on not more than two occasions (a first and resit opportunity) in an attempt to satisfy the conditions of the award of a BEng/BSc.

4.10 Students opting for 4.8 (a) or 4.9 (a) above, who fail to satisfy the MSci/MEng examiners after the repeat of failed courses/modules may be considered for the award of the BSc/BEng degree under 4.8 (b) and

(c) and 4.9 (b) and (c) above, although in the case of 4.8 (c) and 4.9 (c) only one further attempt to satisfy the BSc/BEng examiners will be allowed.

5 Examinations

- 5.1 The overall responsibility for the conduct of the examinations for the degree and the Associateship lies with the relevant Faculty Education Committee. Boards of Examiners are appointed, and joint Boards as appropriate may be appointed, to deal with the examinations in each main field of study specified in paragraph 1.3.
- 5.2 Each course/module will be examined. The examination may be conducted by a variety of examining methods including one or more of the following: written examination(s) taken at appropriate times during the year; assessment(s) of coursework; project work; practical examination(s); assessment(s) of field work; multiple-choice question examination(s); and oral assessment(s), taken at appropriate times of the year as determined by the examiners. A course/module will not normally be examined for more than one year after it ceases to be taught.
- 5.3 Students must attempt all parts of the relevant assessment/ examination for which they are registered, unless prevented by illness or other adequate cause for which certification must be provided. Students who have passed a course/module examination may not repeat the examination except where agreed by the relevant Board of Examiners, nor enter an examination which is deemed to overlap with one already taken and passed.
- 5.4 The pass mark for a course/module for a BSc/BEng degree and for a course/module at Honours level for an MSci degree is normally 40%. The pass mark for a course/module at Master's level for an MSci degree is normally 50%. For MSci/MEng programmes in the Faculty of Engineering pass mark at all levels is normally 40%. The relevant pass mark will be clearly articulated in the instructions to students.
- 5.5 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. Reports and records of laboratory or field work submitted by a student as part of the examination assessment may be returned to the student at the discretion of the examiners.
- 5.6 Examiners may set comprehensive papers intended to test a student's knowledge of the whole or part of his/her field of study. Such papers will cover fields appreciably wider than the examinations on individual courses/modules. Examiners may also test any candidate by means of an oral or viva voce assessment which may cover the candidate's entire field of study.
- 5.7 When students are credited in any part of the programme under the provisions of paragraphs 2.3, 2.5 and 2.6, the examiners will assess their class of Honours entirely upon their performance in the course/module examinations in which they are required to be examined at Imperial.
- 5.8 Students who are prevented from attending any course/module examination in any year other than the final year of their programme through illness, or other cause judged sufficient by the Board of Examiners, may apply to the Academic Registrar to be alternatively assessed for the examinations missed by any of the examination methods indicated in paragraph 5.2, and selected at the discretion of the examiners. Any such alternative assessment shall take place at a time to be determined by the

examiners concerned but not later than six months from the date of the examination missed. No students shall be credited during the whole period of their programme with more than 30 ECTS credits (or equivalent) on the basis of alternative assessment. Where a course/module is alternatively assessed the total marks obtained for the course/module may be credited to the student.

- 5.9 Students may, at the discretion of the examiners, be permitted to resit examinations in which they have failed on no more than one occasion in the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine, or no more than two occasions in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Resit examinations will be taken at the next occasion(s). These may be in September or at the prescribed time during the session(s) immediately following the first failure. Students cannot proceed to the next year of a degree programme until they have passed all the examination requirements of their current year. Students may only be permitted to resit final year examinations in which they have failed where they have not qualified for the award of a degree.
- 5.10 Where a student has failed to complete the requirements for the year, the Board of Examiners may, subject to any specific programme or department requirements:
- Offer the student a repeat of part of the module, without requiring the remaining assessment that has been passed to be repeated.
 - Offer a Supplementary Qualifying Test (SQT) to redeem a module(s).
 - Offer a Supplementary Qualifying Test to permit progression (with no change to marks previously achieved).
 - Offer a re-take of the full year (with or without attendance).
 - Offer a re-take of part of the year (with or without attendance).
- 5.11 Before students may proceed to the next year of their programme of study they must have complied with all requirements of the College, and must have satisfied the examiners at the appropriate course/module examinations.

6 Field of Study

- 6.1 The examiners shall determine the field of study in accordance with the guidelines laid down in paragraph 6.2 below.
- 6.2 Except where a single subject is appropriate, the subjects named in the field shall be determined as follows:
- (a) where appropriate, comprehensive titles will be used, for example, Biological Sciences;
 - (b) where two subjects studied have approximately equal importance and the subject mentioned second has a minimum value of one-third of the curriculum the conjunction 'and' will be used;
 - (c) where a subject has been taken with an essential supporting subject, 'with' will be used; the supporting subject will be expected to have a minimum value of one-quarter of the curriculum, the main subject in this case will have a minimum value of one-half of the curriculum;
 - (d) where it is inappropriate to describe a curriculum in terms of one or two subjects or by a comprehensive title as in (a) above, the degree will be awarded without reference to a field.

7 Award of Associateship and Degree

- 7.1 An Associateship as described in paragraph 1.2 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.
- 7.2 A degree diploma will be sent to each successful student who is awarded the degree, together with a transcript stating the courses/modules successfully completed and the value in ECTS credits and the main field of study where relevant.

8 Aegrotat and Posthumous Award Provisions

These regulations apply to students on undergraduate degrees apart from candidates for the award of the MBBS degrees who are not eligible to be recommended for the award of an Aegrotat degree.

Definition

- 8.1 An Aegrotat Award is made without classification and can be awarded at the discretion of a Board of Examiners to a student who has completed the full period of study but is unable to complete the requirements of any deferred assessments due to serious illness or other incapacity to complete the requirements of the award.

Aegrotat Award

- 8.2 An Aegrotat award may only be conferred following application by the student or the student's representatives. An application, together with supporting evidence, must be submitted to the Board of Examiners within 12 months of the student's last date of attendance.
- 8.3 If a student has satisfied the requirements for an award as laid down in Part 5, the examiners shall recommend the award of a degree with a classification and shall not consider the candidate for the award of an Aegrotat degree.
- 8.4 Where a Student has not met the requirements for an award as laid down in part 5 and has not met the requirements for an Aegrotat Award, the Board of Examiners may agree to confer an Exit Award where the student has met the requirements of that Exit Award approved in the programme specification.
- 8.5 Once the award of an Aegrotat degree is conferred, a student will not be eligible to re-enrol onto the classified degree.
- 8.6 Students who have been awarded an Aegrotat degree after complying with the relevant Regulations will also be awarded the relevant Aegrotat Associateship. The procedures, described in paragraphs 13.29 to 13.36, will apply, as appropriate, to students who are candidates for the award of the Associateship only.

Posthumous Award Provisions for all Taught Programmes

- 8.7 A Posthumous Award may be made to a student who has died before completing the full period of study or the requirements for an award. A Posthumous Award may be conferred at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.
- 8.8 Where the College has been notified of the death of a student, the Board of Examiners will be informed in order to consider conferring a Posthumous Award in recognition of the study undertaken.

Reporting

- 8.9 The Board of Examination Minutes should fully record the basis on which an Aegrotat or Posthumous Award has been made.