

Imperial College London

Regulations for the award of the Degrees of MBBS/BSc, Intercolated BSc, MBBS (Graduate Entry), MBBS (Graduate Medicine), MBBS (Oxbridge Advanced Entry), MBBS (Advanced Entry)

[These Regulations apply to students registering in and before October 2018; where specific regulations apply to students entering in specific years, these are highlighted]

1 General Information

- 1.1 The degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) 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 Students who have successfully completed the requirements for the award of the MBBS degrees, 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.
- 1.3 The degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences 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 Regulations and with such other Regulations for students of the College as may be applicable.
- 1.4 Students who complete the requirements for the award of a degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences and who achieve a sufficient standard will be awarded Honours for the degree. A successful student will therefore 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. The separate School of Medicine Scheme for the Award of Honours sets out the classification of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences¹. Students achieving an award for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences via Aegrotat will received an unclassified award; see section 6 for further information.
- 1.5 The same programmes of study and examinations are taken for the MBBS and the BSc degree and for the Associateship of the Imperial College School of Medicine. The Associateship of the Imperial College School of Medicine will be awarded to successful students who have complied with the requirements of the College, subject to completing a minimum period of study at the College of two years including the penultimate and final years of the MBBS programme or at least two years prior to being awarded the intercalated BSc. 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 or a diploma of Associateship until the debt has been paid in full.

¹ <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/>

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. These requirements are as follows:
- For those seeking entrance to the MBBS/BSc degrees, passes at a recognised General Certificate of Education examination or equivalent;
 - For those seeking entry to the MBBS (Graduate Medicine), the normal minimum entry requirement is an Upper Second Class Honours degree in a biological subject;
 - For those seeking entry to the MBBS (Oxbridge Advanced Entry), successful completion of elements of the programme at the universities of Oxford or Cambridge that are required to commence clinical studies;
 - For those seeking entry to the MBBS (Advanced Entry), successful completion of elements of the programme at partner UK universities, approved by Senate, that are required to commence clinical studies.
- 2.3 The College may accept for the BSc in Medical Sciences degree:
- (a) a student who has successfully completed the first two years of the MBBS (or equivalent) degrees at another university in the United Kingdom provided there is no break in studies between the programme of study at the other university and the beginning of the programme for the BSc degree;
 - (b) a student who has successfully completed the pre-clinical element of the MBBS (or equivalent) degrees at a university or institution of equivalent standing in another European Economic Area (EEA) country provided
 - (i) there is no break in studies between the programme of study at the other institution, of which a minimum of two years must have been completed, and the programme for the BSc degree; and
 - (ii) the College is satisfied that the medical programme followed prior to registration for the BSc degree is of equivalent standing in content and level of achievement to that of the comparable programme offered by the School; and
 - (iii) the other institution has appropriate mechanisms in place to monitor the quality of its awards.
 - (c) a student who has successfully completed the first two years of the MBBS/BSc at Imperial College London and wishes to take the BSc in Medical Sciences as a final award.
 - (d) a student who has successfully completed the first two years of the MBBS/BSc at Imperial College London and failed year 3, and wishes to take the BSc in Medical Sciences as a final award.

3 Period of Study

3.1 The minimum period of study from the point of registration² is as follows:

Qualification	Minimum Period of Study
MBBS/BSc	Six academic years
Intercalated BSc	One academic year
MBBS degree (Graduate Entry) – for students registered in or before October 2014	Four academic years
MBBS degree (Graduate Medicine) – for students registered in or from October 2015	Five academic years
MBBS degree (Oxbridge Advanced Entry)	Three academic years
MBBS degree (Advanced Entry)	Three academic years

3.2 The period of study must be continuous except by special permission. Students are expected to enrol³ each academic year.

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 modules in a given year of study in order to qualify for the next year of the programme except under the provisions of paragraph 5.5.

4.3 Students who fail to meet the requirements in paragraph 4.2 may re-enter the examinations for failed modules in accordance with the relevant provisions of paragraphs 5.4 to 5.8.

4.4 In Year 4, students on the MBBS/BSc undertake a modular BSc programme. The programme leads to the award of the BSc degree in Medical Sciences with the appropriate subject. The degree title is determined by the options taken; those available can be found in the Programme Specification.

4.5 Exceptionally students on the MBBS/BSc 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 Undergraduate Medicine, who will consider applications individually and will need at a minimum 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;
- there are no other considerations which may impact on the student undertaking studies elsewhere.

² 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.

³ 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.

5 Examinations

- 5.1 The overall responsibility for the conduct of the examinations for the degree and the Associateship lies with the Faculty of Medicine Education 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 and Very Short Answer Questions (SAQ; VSAQ), 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 and Practical Examinations (OSCE; OSPE), 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 (Clinical Evaluation Exercise), case-based discussions, directly observed procedures]). Oral examinations may include an assessment of the candidate's practical notebooks or logbooks.
- 5.3 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 mitigating 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 which satisfies the Board of Examiners. In these cases students may be required to follow an extra course of study.
- 5.4 MBBS students who on their first entry do not complete successfully the examination each year prior to the Finals Phase⁴ of the programme 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.
- 5.5 MBBS students who on their first entry do not complete an examination successfully may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, progress into the subsequent year. Progression under this regulation will be permitted only where a standard resit opportunity is provided within the first eight weeks of the subsequent year, at which point students must redeem any failure carried forward. If a standard resit opportunity is not available within the first eight weeks of the subsequent year, students will be required to undertake and pass the resit(s) prior to progressing to the subsequent year.
- 5.6 MBBS/BSc students registered in or before October 2013 who on their first entry do not complete successfully the examination in the Finals Phase of the programme may, at the discretion of the

⁴ The Finals Phase refers to the penultimate and final year of the MBBS programme

examiners, re-enter the failed examination on two further occasions, in accordance with the conditions specified in General Regulation 13.7.

- 5.7 MBBS students registered in or after October 2014 who on their first entry do not complete successfully the examination in the Finals Phase of the programme 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.
- 5.8 A student on the MBBS/BSc is required to pass the BSc 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. 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.

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.