**MBBS Academic Support Programme:**

**Summary of support offered**

**For any student encountering academic challenges**

Please direct any tutee encountering challenges with academic study to the [Navigating Challenges Canvas page](https://canvas.sgul.ac.uk/courses/4919/pages/navigating-challenges-resources-supporting-mbbs-students) to consider a variety of university resources. Students repeating the year or returning from IOS in T, P or F year should fill in this [form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=a7xs9vfNYUK9c0PbO57iqghczSZtaalNjCmcTp3YG39UQ0M1MTlHOTVGNTk0N0ZXM0NGRk5RM0pSSS4u) indicating their preferences for the academic support options available to them. Any student can access [**Study+**](https://canvas.sgul.ac.uk/courses/113) resources and general support options which are available to all. One-to-one academic success appointments (online or in person) are available to book via the Academic Success Centre: Study+ (sgul.ac.uk). Students may also benefit from discussing any struggles with their personal tutors. Below are some guidelines to consider during your discussions with students who are retaking the year or returning from IOS.

**Clinical Sciences years (M4Y1 & M5Y2):**

Students who must repeat the year having failed the CS exams will be offered the following:

One of the Responsible Examiners will offer a 1:1 meeting for those who have failed CCA, to reflect on the feedback offered, and consider strategies or options. Students who fail written exams will meet 1:1 with another senior academic.

We recommend that personal tutors encourage students to attend the meetings offered and discuss CCA and written results. The aim of the tutor-tutee conversation in this context is to support students in identifying what happened in the exam, what they take away from the feedback and group reflection session and consider what changes they would like to make during their repeat or return from IOS year. No additional specific academic support is offered in years 1 and 2, because there are many clinical and communication skills sessions in which to practice, and lectures to learn from (whereas T, P and F year students are more wards based). We recommend that students regularly prepare ahead of sessions using CANVAS materials, volunteer for role-plays in the clinical communication sessions, attend and engage in all sessions and form study and practice groups with peers.

**T-year:**

Students who are repeating T-year after failing the CCA or returning from IOS will be offered the following:

Please stress the importance of filling in this [form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=a7xs9vfNYUK9c0PbO57iqghczSZtaalNjCmcTp3YG39UQ0M1MTlHOTVGNTk0N0ZXM0NGRk5RM0pSSS4u), where senior students can opt in or out of academic support options in a self-directed manner.

1. A group session during the first term. The session, usually with the lead(s) for academic support, aims to help students reflect on their learning and development of effective clinical and communication skills and to help them prepare for the T-year CCA. By the end of the session, the students will have:

* a better understanding of why they failed the CCA
* a clear plan of how to learn and practice their clinical and communication skills on the wards and in self-directed learning
* a clear plan how to prepare for the forthcoming CCA in T, P and F-year

2. Invitation to a Peer Mentoring scheme in which students can connect on a 1:2 ratio with trained senior medical students to support their learning. This initiative has been piloted by the Communication Skills team in 2022/23 and received positive student feedback. All students who have participated in the peer-support programme have gone on to pass their exams.

**P-year:**

Students who are repeating P-year after failing the CCA will be offered the following:

Please stress the importance of filling in this [form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=a7xs9vfNYUK9c0PbO57iqghczSZtaalNjCmcTp3YG39UQ0M1MTlHOTVGNTk0N0ZXM0NGRk5RM0pSSS4u), where senior students can opt in or out of academic support options in a self-directed manner.

1. Attendance at a group session in the first term. This will have similar aims and objectives as the T-year session (see above), taking into account the more advanced level of the student. This session will be led by a member of the Clinical Communication Skills team and Clinical teachers will also be invited. There are 5 sessions at intervals offered remotely or on site at SGUL through the academic year, and opportunities to learn collaboratively, practice CCA scenarios and discuss learning strategies. Information about the sessions is available on the [Navigating Challenges Canvas page.](https://canvas.sgul.ac.uk/courses/4919/pages/navigating-challenges-resources-supporting-mbbs-students)

2. The opportunity to attend an ‘On the Ward’ session, where students go on the wards as pairs, with a Clinical Communications tutor and receive individualised feedback on their communication skills. This session is offered on-site at SGUL to P and F year students returning from an interruption in study or repeating the year. Please encourage any repeating students to attend this.

3. An additional reflective one-to-one session will be offered with a Clinical Communications tutor.

**F-year:**

Students who fail the ‘main sit’ CCA are eligible to take part in the re-sit CCA, which takes place approximately six weeks after the ‘main sit’. Students who repeat F year are offered:

1. Attendance at a group session in the first term. This will have similar aims and objectives as the T-year session (see above), taking into account the more advanced level of the student. This session will be led by a member of the Clinical Communication Skills team and Clinical teachers will also be invited. There are 5 sessions at intervals offered remotely or on site at SGUL through the academic year, and opportunities to learn collaboratively, practice CCA scenarios and discuss learning strategies.

2. The opportunity to attend an ‘On the Ward’ session, where students go on the wards as pairs, with a Clinical Communications tutor and receive individualized feedback on their communication skills. This session is offered on-site at SGUL to P and F year students returning from an interruption in study or repeating the year. Please encourage any repeating students to attend this.

3. An additional one-to-one session to assess any remaining learning needs will be offered with a Clinical Communications tutor.

4. Support from a Clinical Teaching Fellows (CTF) mentor who may meet with the students once a month throughout the year, perhaps sometimes in person, and at other times online.

Dr Katherine Joekes, 2019

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