

ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Regulations for the BSc Honours Degree in Clinical Pharmacology

1. Degree Title

The degree shall be known as the BSc Honours Degree in Clinical Pharmacology of St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent College of the University of London.

2. Responsible Committee

The Undergraduate Course Committee for Clinical Pharmacology shall be responsible to the Undergraduate Medicine and Bioscience Education Committee for the structure, content and delivery of the degree programme.

3. Entrance Requirements

3.1 Before admission to the programme a candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

- (a) satisfy the general entrance requirements of SGUL, as published by the Admissions department;
- (b) satisfy the specific requirements for admission to the programme as approved by UMBEC.

3.2 Applications to the programme shall be made through the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

3.3 Mature candidates

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3.1 above, consideration will be given to mature candidates on the evidence of their individual merit. They will be required to demonstrate both achievement in the basic sciences and evidence of recent academic study at an appropriate level.

3.4 Graduates

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3.1 above, graduate candidates will normally be required to have obtained a non-science Upper Second Class Honours Degree *and* a GCE Advanced Level pass in Chemistry, Biology or its equivalent.

4. Admissions Policy

The Undergraduate Medicine and Bioscience Education Committee shall prescribe a detailed Admissions Policy for the programme which complies with the General Regulations provisions for admissions. This Admissions Policy shall be made in accordance with St George's Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement on Students with Disabilities.

5. Advanced Standing and Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme

No exemptions will be applicable to students who transfer from another course.

6. Minimum Period of Study

The minimum period of study required for the award of the degree shall be three academic years and the maximum period allowed to qualify for the award of the degree shall be five years.

7. Course Design and Content

7.1 The Academic Year

Each academic year shall comprise two semesters.

7.2 Thematic structure

The course is constructed around 6 main themes that run throughout the course with students learning synoptically as they move through the course. Each week will contain components of these themes although the relative contribution of each theme will vary. The main themes are:

Fundamentals of science – the human biology needed to understand and learn pharmacology

Pharmacokinetics – how the body handles drugs

Pharmacodynamics – how drugs exert their effects on the body

Drug development and clinical trials – how drugs are discovered and developed as medicines

Drugs in healthcare – how information from clinical trials and drug development is used to guide the use of medicines for patients in clinical practice

Data and statistics – how to generate, handle, analyse and interpret research data relating to drugs

The course is not modular and all components are mandatory. In addition, completion of a Skills Portfolio is required.

7.3 Course Content

7.3.1 Year One (120 credits at Level 4)

All material is compulsory. Weekly assignments will allow student reflection and provide a mechanism for feedback.

7.3.2 Year Two (120 credits at Level 5)

Semester 1.

Course material will be delivered synoptically around a learning week featuring each of the 6 themes plus the Portfolio.

Semester 2.

Students will undertake a research project involving generation of data, analysis, and interpretation worth 45 credits. Students will also undertake work experience at designated companies. This will be a zero credit component but must be undertaken to progress.

7.3.3 Year 3

In Year 3, students will study modules to the value of 120 credits. This will include a research project worth 15 credits; a compulsory 30 credit module on Hot Topics in Pharmacology; and a 15 credit Advanced Skills Portfolio. In addition students will select three 20 credits modules from the list below:

20 credit modules:

Drug/Disease Target A

Drug/Disease Target B

Advanced Pharmacokinetics

Advanced Drug Development

Advanced Drugs in Healthcare

Advanced Data and Statistics

8. **Assessment**

8.1 Forms of Assessment

Assessment may take various forms. Written examinations may include essay, short answer questions, long answer questions, multiple choice, data analysis, extended matching item and problem-solving questions and the production of Project and Research Reports. Practical and *viva voce* examinations may be associated with assessments at any stage.

8.2 Timing of Assessments

There will be end of year exams in year One. There will be weekly assignments that will contribute to an in-course assessment mark.

8.2.1 Year One

Year one assessments will comprise an in course component and an end of year exam paper. Both components need to be passed to progress into year 2. The in-course assessment will comprise

weekly quizzes on the previous week's material to encourage students to constantly reflect upon their learning. Each quiz will contain questions for each of the 6 themes that traverse the course. At the end of learning blocks there will be a longer quiz (termed the BIG QUIZ) that will contain questions on that block of learning. In addition, students will have presentations, critical appraisals and other in course assessments to undertake. The pass mark is 40 % for all in course assessments and at least 80% of the assignments must be attempted. The exam paper will involve single best answers and short answer questions covering all themes of the course.

8.2.2 Year Two

Examinations in Year Two comprise in-course assessments and written papers taken at the end of Semester 3. The written papers at the end of the semester will examine the course material taught in year two only. The Research Project will be assessed by the production of a short research paper in the style of the British Journal of Pharmacology and a 10 minute oral presentation. This will constitute the in course assessment mark. There is a 50:50 weighting of the exam and in course assessment. Similar to year 1 there will be weekly quizzes that do not contribute to the degree mark but are a progression step with 80% of the quizzes have to be passed at 40%.

8.2.3 Year Three

Year 3 taught modules will normally be assessed by written examination. Module co-ordinators will prescribe the topics, guidelines and submission deadlines for in-course assessments and will communicate these to students. The Hot Topics examination will normally be at the end of Semester 5 and the optional module examinations will normally be at the end of Semester 6.

The Written Research Project will be assessed by submission of a project.

9. **Scheme of Assessment**

The Undergraduate Medicine and Bioscience Education Committee shall prescribe a Scheme of Assessment for each component part of the degree course in accordance with Regulation 7 of the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study.

10. **Rules for Progression**

Students must obtain an overall mark of at least 40% in 80% of the in course assignments and pass the end of year exam to progress from Year 1 to Year 2. To progress from year 2 to 3 students must pass both the in course assessment and the exam. The pass mark for the in course assessment will be 40% and the pass marks for examinations also 40%.

11. **Re-entry to Assessments**

- 11.1 Students may normally re-sit examinations and/or resubmit work on one occasion only. The reassessment will be by the same methods as at the first attempt. Marks for resubmitted in-course assessments or resit examinations shall be capped at 40%, as detailed in the relevant Scheme of Assessment.
- 11.2 A student who fails at first re-entry to examinations will normally have their registration on the course terminated but will be eligible to be considered for a discretionary third attempt at failed assessments, in accordance with the relevant Scheme of Assessment and the *Procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment*, as approved by Senate. Under this procedure, Boards of Examiners will have the authority to approve a discretionary third attempt if a candidate meets programme-specific fast-track criteria. For candidates who do not satisfy the programme-specific fast-track criteria, a Discretionary Panel of Senate will consider the student's application for a discretionary third attempt. Detailed information about process and timescales is published on the Student Affairs section of the Portal
- 11.3 A student will be permitted to undertake a discretionary third attempt at assessments on only ONE occasion for Years 1 or 2 of the programme
- 11.4 A student will be permitted to undertake a discretionary third attempt at assessments on only ONE occasion for Year 3 of the programme.

12. Award of Degree

To qualify for the award of the degree, students must complete all the course requirements. The marks from Year 2 and Year 3 assessments only will contribute to the final classification of the degree in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment.

13. Classification of Honours

The degrees of BSc Clinical Pharmacology may be awarded with First, Upper Second, Lower Second or Third Class Honours in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment.

14. Award of Aegrotat Degree

The aegrotat provisions of the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study shall apply to the programme.

15. Certificate and Diploma qualifications

15.1 Qualifications at certificate and diploma level shall be available to students who have successfully completed some parts of the programme of study, as set out in the paragraphs below, but who are not continuing registration for the BSc (Hons) Clinical Pharmacology or any other degree award at St George's. The award of these qualifications shall be considered by the Board of Examiners on the recommendation of the Course Director.

15.2 An Undergraduate Certificate in Clinical Pharmacology may be awarded to students who have successfully completed Year One of the Clinical Pharmacology degree programme (120 credits at Level 4).

15.3 An Undergraduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacology may be awarded to students who have successfully completed Years One and Two of the Clinical Pharmacology degree programme (120 credits at Level 4, and 120 credits at Level 5).

15.4 The awards referred to in this section shall be made by St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent college of the University of London, and shall not be classified.

16. Date of Award

The date of the Board of Examiners meeting will be the date the award is conferred.

17. Course Syllabus

A detailed syllabus for each component part of the degree course shall be prescribed by the Undergraduate Course Committee for Clinical Pharmacology and shall be published in the Course Handbook.

18. Constitution of the Board of Examiners

Appointment and Accountability

18.1 The Board of Examiners for the BSc (Honours) Degree in Clinical Pharmacology is appointed by the Senate for each academic year (starting 1 October) to conduct examinations for that degree at St George's in accordance with the Regulations and the Schemes of Assessment for that course.

18.2 The Board of Examiners shall make reports to SGUL's Senate, through the Academic Registrar, after the conclusion of examinations for each stage of the degree course.

Membership

The Board shall consist of:

- (a) The Principal and the Deputy Principal for Education *(ex officio)*.
- (b) A Chair and a Deputy Chair who shall each be an Internal Examiner.
- (c) A Responsible Examiner, who shall be an Internal Examiner, for each module or half module examined within the curriculum.

- (d) An External Examiner for each subject area included within the curriculum; at least one External Examiner shall be external to the University of London.
- (e) A Senior External Examiner will also be appointed to take an overview of the degree.

18.4 Appointment of the Board

In October of each year the Principal, acting on the advice of the Undergraduate Course Committee for Clinical Pharmacology, shall nominate the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board. To be eligible for nomination, a person must be a member of the academic staff of SGUL or hold an honorary academic appointment and have at least three years' experience of examining. These nominations shall be confirmed by the Senate in April.

18.5 In October of each year the Academic Registrar shall invite the Undergraduate Course Committee for Clinical Pharmacology to nominate Internal Examiners and External Examiners for the coming academic year.

18.6 To be eligible for nomination as an Internal Examiner, a person must be a member of the academic staff of SGUL or hold an honorary academic appointment.

18.7 To be eligible for nomination as an External Examiner, a person must be a member of the academic staff of another college of the University of London, another university or equivalent institution, or hold an honorary teaching appointment with that university or institution, and must have at least three years' experience of examining within their own institution. Nominations as External Examiners should not be made unless it has first been ascertained that they are in principle willing and able to serve. An External Examiner may not serve on the Board for more than four consecutive years and after retiring from membership shall not be eligible to serve again until a period of two years shall have elapsed.

18.8 The complete list of the nominated Board shall be forwarded by the Academic Registrar to the Senate in the Autumn term for appointment.

18.9 Following confirmation by the Senate, letters of appointment shall be sent by the Academic Registrar to all members of the Board, with the relevant Scheme(s) of Assessment, Instructions for Marking, dates of examinations, and advice as to the duties of examiners.

18.10 Duties of examiners and conduct of examinations

The General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study of SGUL, and the Schemes of Assessment for each stage of the degree, detail the duties of examiners and the rules for the conduct of the examinations.

Assessors may be appointed by the Chair of the Board to assist with the setting of examinations or the marking of candidates' work. Assessors need not be members of the Board but shall be invited to meetings of the Board where they may speak but not vote.

18.11 Meetings of the Board

Where a Scheme of Assessment provides for provisional results and the determination of borderline oral examinations, a meeting of the Board shall be held for this purpose. At the conclusion of examinations for each stage, the Board shall meet to determine the results for that stage. These meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Board or, in their unavoidable absence, by the nominee of the Principal.

Except in the most extreme situations (e.g. in an emergency where the results of an examination are likely to be seriously prejudiced) the Board is not empowered to alter examination protocols including Schemes of Assessment but only to recommend amendment to the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science and Senate.

Any emergency amendments to procedures will be reported to the Senate.