

## **MASTERS IN PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES (MPAS)**

### **REGULATIONS FOR PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

1. The programme of study shall lead to the award of the Masters in Physician Associate Studies awarded by St George's Hospital Medical School. The programme will be delivered by St George's, University of London.
2. Course management
  - 2.1 The Masters in Physician Associate Studies Course Committee is responsible for the programme of study. Quality monitoring of the programme is the responsibility of the Taught Postgraduate Courses Committee (TPCC).
  - 2.2 The Course Committee will be chaired by the Course Director. Membership will include all module leads and at least five other staff with an interest in the course and Head of Postgraduate Administration. Two representatives from each year of the course will be nominated by the students and are entitled to attend sessions of unreserved business. The Course Committee will meet at least twice annually. Minutes will be forwarded to TPCC.
3. Entry requirements
  - 3.1 Before admission, an applicant must satisfy the following criteria:
    - Obtain a first degree in a life science or health-related subject with at least second class honours from a UK university or an equivalent overseas qualification;
    - For applicants whose first language is not English, and are not exempt as per SGUL English Language Requirements, they must demonstrate proficiency in the English language via IELTS with a score of at 7.5 with at least 7.5 in writing and 7.0 in other three components
    - If applicants have completed English language tests or qualifications more than two years ago they will need to demonstrate that they have maintained or improved their English in that time by studying in the UK (or majority English-speaking country). If they are unable to do so they may need to take a suitable English language test.
    - Demonstrate experience of paid or voluntary work, preferably in a health or social care context;
    - Demonstrate appropriate personal qualities, motivation, communication skills and understanding of the PA role in the selection process.
  - 3.2 Applicants with non-standard entry qualifications which do not meet all the above criteria may be considered for entry at the discretion of the Course Director in consultation with the Course Team and the Admissions Manager.
4. Admissions

- 4.1 The Course Committee shall agree, and from time to time prescribe changes to, the admissions policy. The admissions policy shall be made in accordance with St George's Single Equality Scheme.
- 4.2 Course applications are assessed by academic admissions tutors and successful applicants are invited to attend Selection Day Multiple-Mini Interviews. These are usually face to face. However, where this is not possible due to circumstances beyond the University's control these may be modified and applicants invited to answer online interview questions.
5. Exemptions  
There will be no exemptions for prior certificated or experiential learning on this programme.
6. Period of study  
The minimum period of registration shall be 24 months full-time. The maximum period of registration shall be 48 months, to allow for unexpected interruption. A student who wishes to request an extension to the maximum period of study shall do so in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Senate (see 4.14 *General Regulations*).
7. Course structure  
7.1 The 11 programme modules are as follows:

Y1 modules:

Applied Pharmacology	15 credits
Evidence-Based Practice	15 credits
Foundations of Clinical Medicine A	30 credits
Personal and Professional Development A	30 credits
PA Applied Knowledge and Skills A	15 credits
PA as a Professional Evaluation Report (PAPER A)	0 credits
<i>Investigations in Clinical Medicine (assessed in Year 2)</i>	

Y2 modules:

Foundations of Clinical Medicine B	15 credits
Investigations in Clinical Medicine	15 credits
Personal and Professional Development B	15 credits
PA Applied Clinical Knowledge and Skills B	30 credits
PA as a Professional Evaluation Report (PAPER B)	0 credits

- 7.2 The structure of the course is as follows:

7.2.1

Year 1

Applied Pharmacology (AP)	15 Credits
Foundations of Clinical Medicine A (FCM-A)	30 Credits
Evidence Based Practice (EBP)	15 Credits
Investigations in Clinical Medicine (ICM)	Assessed Y2
Personal & Professional Development A (PPD-A)	30 Credits

PA Applied Knowledge and Skills A	15Credits
PA Professional Evaluation Report A	0 Credits

Year 2

Foundations of Clinical Medicine B (FCM-B)	15 Credits
Personal & Professional Development B (PPD-B)	15 Credits
PA Applied Clinical Knowledge & Skills (PAACKS B)	30 Credits
Investigations in Clinical Medicine (ICM)	15 Credits
PA Professional Evaluation Report B	0 Credits

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7.3 Students must pass all modules to earn the Masters in PA Studies. Students who fail other modules may continue on the programme until the end of the academic year in order to be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Studies (60 credits) or a Postgraduate Diploma in Healthcare Studies (120 credits) or a Masters in Healthcare Studies (180 credits).

8. Assessment

8.1 Methods of assessment include 1) In-course Assessment; 2) Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs); 3) Knowledge Based Written Examinations; 4) Practice-based Assessments.

8.2 Course work assignments will be prescribed for some modules. Submission deadlines will be specified on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Module leaders will prescribe the topics and guidelines for each assignment and communicate these to students.

8.3 Written examinations OSCEs will be set for some modules. Dates and requirements for each examination will set out on the VLE.

8.4 Other assessments will include practice-based assessments and an assessed presentation. Guidelines and deadlines for these assessments will be given on the VLE.

8.5 An attendance requirement for university sessions will be specified on the VLE. Not meeting the minimum attendance requirement may result in students taking an Interruption of Study, repeating part or all of the academic year or having their studies terminated.

8.6 An attendance requirement for clinical placements and a minimum placement hours will be specified on the VLE. Not meeting the minimum placement attendance or hours requirements may result in students taking an Interruption of Study and/or repeating placements or having their studies terminated.

8.7 Candidates will be required to achieve satisfactory reports on clinical work from their clinical supervisors in both years of the course.

8.8 Candidates will be required to pass all modules in year one before proceeding to year two of the course.

8.9 Candidates will be required to pass all Year 2 modules.

9. Scheme of Assessment

The Course Committee shall agree, and from time to time make changes to, a scheme of assessment for the course. This will be published prior to the start of each academic year and is subject to approval by the Taught Postgraduate Course Committee.

10. Interruption of Study (IOS)

If a student requests an interruption of study, university process and policy will be followed. No student will be permitted to take an IOS between a first sit and a resit of an examination unless there are exceptional circumstances and evidence of these. Students who request an IOS between a first sit and a resit where exceptional

circumstances have been considered and declined, may be able to submit a form for mitigating circumstances.

- 10.1 The only exception, may be where a second attempt at a written examination or OSCE is held in the following academic year. This may require the student to take an interruption of study (see 12.3)
- 10.2 If a student is deemed to have exceptional circumstances and is permitted an Interruption of Study then they may return on the Scheme of Assessment that is in situ for the academic year of their return. A student would normally return at the point that they interrupted, however if there are changes to the Scheme of Assessment during this period of interruption, rendering the student unable to complete the year or module, the student may be unable to return at the point of interruption and may have to repeat the year in full.

#### 11. Board of Examiners

All marks are provisional until ratified by the Board of Examiners at the end of each academic year. The Board of Examiners will determine whether a student's progress in the assessments is sufficient to permit progression to the next year of the course or to qualify from the course.

#### 12. Re-entry to assessments

- 12.1 Students are entitled to two attempts at each assessment.
- 12.2 Course work assignments must normally be re-submitted within four weeks of receiving an initial fail grade. Marks for re-submitted course work are limited to bare pass (50%).
- 12.3 Students who fail a formal written examination or OSCE on first attempt will be eligible for a second attempt on the next occasion when the examination is held. This second attempt may occur in the following academic year, requiring an Interruption of Study. Marks for re-sit examinations will be limited to bare pass (50%).
- 12.4 Students who fail a practice-based assessment or presentation will be given individual guidance on what is required for the second attempt and on the deadline for the second attempt.
- 12.5 By entering assessments, students agree that they are fit to sit the assessment. Students with mitigating circumstances must submit the relevant documentation prior to the assessment.

#### 13. Award

- 13.1 Candidates for the award of the **MPAS** must:

- Obtain a pass mark in each of the 11 modules;

#### 14. Distinctions

- 14.1 Criteria for the award of **MPAS with Distinction** will be specified in the scheme of assessment.

Distinction will normally be awarded to candidates who:

- Achieve an overall standard-set mark of 70% or greater;

- Pass all 11 modules on the first attempt.

14.2 Criteria for the award of **MPAS with Merit** will be specified in the scheme of assessment.

Merit will normally be awarded to candidates who:

- Achieve an overall standard-set mark of at least 60% but less than 70%;
- Pass all 11 modules.

15. Award Date

The date of award of the qualification for successful students will be the date of the Board of Examiners meeting at which their final results are determined. Students will be invited to attend the next graduation ceremony, which is usually the following summer.

16. Course Plan

The detailed arrangements for the course and overall course plan will be published each year on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Detailed module information will be published on the VLE.

17. Board of Examiners

17.1 A Board of Examiners shall be appointed annually to serve from 1 September – 31 August with membership agreed by the Course Committee and approved by Senate. This membership shall include the Course Director, Chair of the Board (who shall not be the Course Director) and at least three other internal examiners (as defined in General regulations 8.2.) deemed appropriate. At least one external examiner will be appointed each year as a member of the Board. Assessors may be invited to attend the Board where appropriate. The responsible person for MPAS from the central university exams teams shall act as secretary to the Board.

17.2 The Board of Examiners shall have the power to determine all final marks awarded to students, to decide on students' progression within the course, to decide on the award of degrees and distinctions, and to make recommendations concerning changes to the scheme of assessment where necessary. The Board of Examiners shall meet at least once per year to fulfil these purposes.

18. SGUL General Regulations

Students enrolled on this programme are bound by the SGUL General Regulations in force at the time.