

ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MRes BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE – SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

For students entering the programme in 2018

1. GENERAL

The degree consists of two elements:

Taught module assessments	75 credits
Research project assessment	105 credits

No accreditation of prior learning is permitted.

2. TAUGHT MODULE ASSESSMENTS

2.1 Written assignments

2.1.1 Written assignments will be set for the following modules:

Research Methods	100%
Research Project Planning & Management	100%
1 specialist module	100%

2.1.2 Guidelines for assignments will be devised by module leaders in consultation with module teams and will be communicated to students in module handbooks. Deadlines for submission will be given in the course handbook and relevant module handbooks.

2.1.3 Marking criteria for each assignment will be set by the module leader in consultation with the Course Director.

2.1.4 A word limit will be set for each assignment, and assessment will take place in line with the policy on word limits set out in the course and module handbooks.

2.1.5 Assignments will be marked out of 100 with the significance given below.

70-100	excellent
65-69	very good
60-64	good
50-59	pass
40-49	fail
0-39	serious fail (to include 0 marks for non-submission without an agreed extension)

2.1.6 Assignments will be marked independently by two examiners who will then compare their marks and arrive at an agreed mark. If for any reason agreement cannot be reached, or if the mark difference is greater than 20, or if the mark is borderline pass/fail, the Course Director or Common Postgraduate Framework

Director will allocate the mark or a new marker and the work will also be sent to a visiting examiner for review.

- 2.1.7 Candidates who receive a mark of $\geq 50\%$ for an assignment will pass that assignment.
- 2.1.8 Candidates who receive a mark of $\leq 49\%$ for an assignment at first attempt will fail that assignment and will be given a deadline for re-submission, normally four weeks after receiving the fail mark. Marks for re-submissions will be capped at 50%. An External Examiner will be asked to review both attempts before marks are confirmed by the Board of Examiners.
- 2.1.9 Candidates must submit all written assignments. Submissions must be a serious attempt in each case and the examiners reserve the right to reject trivial submissions. Candidates who fail to submit work within reasonable time limits may fail the degree and their registration may be terminated at the examiners' discretion.

2.2 Research Methods module (15 credits)

- 2.2.1 This module will be assessed by a research proposal which will be marked using the scale given in 2.1.5 and using the same methods for marking and re-submission as outlined in 2.1.5-2.1.8.
- 2.2.2 Before provisional grades are issued to students marks will be internally moderated by the Common Postgraduate Framework Director to ensure parity with other postgraduate courses.
- 2.2.3 Candidates must pass this module before proceeding to the Research Project module, and therefore the degree overall.

2.3 Specialist modules (30 credits each)

- 2.3.1 Candidates will be required to pass one specialist module from the following list:

- Infection & Immunity
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Global Health Diseases
- Reproduction & Development
- Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer

- 2.3.2 The module will be assessed by two elements:

Written assignment	70%
Presentation	30%

- 2.3.2 Each module will be assessed by a written assignment (assessed as outlined in 2.1.5-2.1.8) and a presentation (assessed as outlined in 2.6.1 – 2.6.8)

- 2.3.3 Guidelines and marking criteria for the written assignment and presentation will be given in the Specialist module handbook.
- 2.3.4 Candidates make their presentations on the day specified in the Course Handbook and will be given a timetabled slot in which to present their research papers and answer questions from staff and students.
- 2.3.5 Presentations will be marked independently by at least two examiners using the criteria given in the Specialist Module handbook and the process outlined in 2.1.6-2.1.8 above. Markers will allocate a mark out of 100 with the significance given in 2.1.5 above. The mark for the presentation will be multiplied by 0.3 for the purposes of assessing its contribution to the Specialist Module mark.
- 2.3.6 Written assignments will be marked independently by two examiners using criteria set by the Course Director and assessed as outlined in 2.1.5-2.1.8. Markers will allocate a mark out of 100 with the significance given in 2.1.5. The mark for the presentation will be multiplied by 0.7 for the purposes of assessing its contribution to the Specialist Module mark.
- 2.3.7 Candidates who achieve a mark of $\geq 49.5\%$ will be deemed to have passed the module.
- 2.3. Candidates who fail the assignment at first attempt will be able to make a second attempt. Candidates who fail the assessment at second attempt will fail the module.

2.4 Statistics module (15 credits)

- 2.4.1 The module will be assessed by a one-hour ten minute unseen written examination held in the spring term. This will consist of one question made up of a data interpretation exercise with a number of constituent parts. An External Examiner will review the draft examination paper before the examination is held.
- 2.4.2 The paper will be marked out of 100 with the significance given in 2.1.5 above.
- 2.4.3 The paper will be marked by two examiners who will then compare their marks and arrive at an agreed mark. If for any reason agreement cannot be reached a third marker with relevant expertise will be asked to allocate the mark.
- 2.4.4 Marks for parts of the question will be added together and transformed to give a mark out of 100. Figures will be adjusted to a whole number, 0.5 being adjusted upwards.
- 2.4.5 Candidates who achieve a mark of $\geq 50\%$ will pass the examination and the module.
- 2.4.6 Candidates who achieve $\leq 49\%$ at first attempt will be able to re-sit on the next occasion when the examination is held, normally in May. Marks for re-sit attempts will be capped at 50%.

2.5 Presentations

Presentations will be set for the following modules:

Specialist module
Research project

- 2.5.1 Presentations will be assessed for the Specialist Module in relation to a critical analysis of a research paper. Students will be asked to provide a copy of slides used for subsequent review by examiners and examiners will be invited to attend the presentations
- 2.5.2 Guidelines for the Specialist Module presentation will be prepared by the Course Director. These will be communicated to students in the e handbook.
- 2.5.3 Presentations will be assessed for the Research Project module in relation to the poster. Students will be asked to provide a copy of slides used for subsequent review by examiners and examiners will be invited to attend the presentations.
- 2.5.4 Guidelines for the Research Project presentation will be prepared by the Course Director. These will be communicated to students in the module handbook.
- 2.5.5 The presentations will be assessed using the criteria given in the relevant module handbook.
- 2.5.6 The presentation will be marked independently by at least two examiners who will confer to agree a final mark. The object of the examiners shall be to award a percentage mark with the significance given in 2.1.5.
- 2.5.7 Candidates who achieve $\geq 50\%$ will pass the presentation.
- 2.5.8 Candidates who achieve $\leq 49\%$ at first attempt will be able to make a second attempt. This may be a paper submission if the presentation element has been deemed satisfactory at first attempt. This would normally be expected within 4 weeks of notification of the fail. If the presentation overall is unsatisfactory, a re-sit presentation session will be arranged with a small audience of staff at a convenient time. Marks for second attempts will be capped at 50%.

3. RESEARCH PROJECT (105 credits)

- 3.1 Candidates will be allocated individual supervisors during the autumn term who will help them to develop a suitable protocol and undertake work on the project from January onwards.
- 3.2 The module will be assessed by three elements:

Presentation of a poster	20%
Report from supervisor	10%
Dissertation (15,000-25,000 words)	70%

- 3.3 Guidelines and marking criteria for the poster and dissertation will be given in the Research Project handbook.
- 3.4 Candidates will present their posters on the day specified in the Research Project handbook. All posters will be displayed at the beginning of the day but candidates will be given a timetabled slot in which to present their posters and answer questions from staff and students.
- 3.5 Posters and presentations will be marked independently by at least two examiners using the criteria given in the Research Project handbook and the process outlined in 2.1.6-2.1.8 above. Markers will allocate a mark out of 100 with the significance given in 2.1.5 above. The mark for the poster presentation will be multiplied by 0.2 for the purposes of assessing its contribution to the Research Project mark.
- 3.6 Dissertations will be marked independently by two examiners using criteria set by the Course Director. Markers will then confer to agree on a final mark for the dissertation. This will be a mark out of 100 with the significance given in 2.1.5. If, for any reason, markers cannot agree on a final mark, a third marker with relevant experience will be identified and asked to review the work. The final mark will then be allocated by the Board of Examiners after the dissertation has been reviewed by at least one visiting examiner.
- 3.7 Candidates who achieve a mark of $\geq 49.5\%$ will be deemed to have passed the dissertation.
- 3.8 Where minor errors are identified (for example, in references, typographical errors or errors in one or two tables or figures), this pass may be agreed as subject to specific amendments (Sp.Am). In this case, candidates will normally be given four weeks in which to submit a corrected version of the dissertation before any pass mark is confirmed.
- 3.9 Candidates who are allocated a fail mark of 44.5-49.4% (deemed to be a borderline fail of the project) by the internal examiners, or where one marker has allocated a fail mark and/or no agreed mark has been determined will normally be expected to attend an oral examination. The oral examination will be conducted by one internal examiner (not the supervisor or either of the two internal markers) and one external examiner. The oral examiners may recommend that a borderline fail mark be confirmed, or that the mark may be raised to 50%, or determine a final dissertation mark in cases of dispute. Specific amendments may be required in order for any pass mark to be confirmed (see 3.8 above).
- 3.10 Candidates who achieve a mark of $< 44.5\%$ (or 44.5-49.4% after an oral examination) at the first attempt will fail the dissertation and will normally be required to re-submit the following year. The Board of Examiners shall determine whether the dissertation may be re-written to address any shortcomings or whether a new project is required for the re-submission. The Board of Examiners may also determine who should act as supervisor for the re-submission. Marks for resubmissions will be capped and will be marked as outlined in 3.6-3.9 above.

- 3.11 The mark for the dissertation will be multiplied by 0.7 for the purposes of assessing its contribution to the Research Project mark.
- 3.12 The candidate's research project supervisor will be asked to complete a structured report on the candidate's research work during the course and to allocate a mark out of 100 with the significance given in 2.1.5 above. The mark for the supervisor's report will be multiplied by 0.1 for the purposes of assessing its contribution to the Research Project mark.
- 3.13 The weighted marks for the poster presentation, dissertation and supervisor's report (as outlined in 3.5, 3.11 and 3.12) will be added together to give the final mark for the Research Project module. Marks will be calculated to one decimal place, 0.05 being rounded up.
- 3.14. Candidates must pass the poster presentation and dissertation independently and achieve a mark of $\geq 49.5\%$ as calculated in 3.13 to pass the Research Project module.
- 3.15 Candidates who fail either the poster presentation or the dissertation (taking into account second attempts) will fail the module and the degree but may be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate if they have passed the Specialist module and other modules worth at least 60 credits.
- 3.16 The mark for the Research Project module will be multiplied by 7 for the purposes of determining its contribution to the final degree mark. Figures will be calculated to one decimal place, 0.05 being rounded up.

4. DETERMINATION OF FINAL DEGREE MARK

- 4.1 Candidates are allowed two attempts at each assessed element except the supervisor's report.
- 4.2 The final percentage marks obtained for the 5 taught module assessments and the weighted Research Project mark (see 3.16 above) will be added together and divided by 12 to arrive at a Final Degree Mark. Marks will be calculated to one decimal place, 0.05 being rounded up.
- 4.3 Candidates who achieve a Final Degree Mark of 49.5-59.4% and pass the 5 taught modules (with an overall average mark of 49.5%, taking into consideration 2.1.10) and the Research Project will pass the degree.
- 4.4 Candidates who achieve a Final Degree Mark of 59.5-69.4% and pass the 5 taught modules (with an overall average mark of 49.5%, taking into consideration 2.1.10) and the Research Project will pass the degree with merit.
- 4.5 Candidates who achieve a Final Degree Mark of $\geq 69.5\%$ and pass each of the 5 taught modules at first attempt and achieve a mark of at least 65% in the Research Project at first attempt will pass the degree with distinction.

- 4.6 Candidates who fail any module at second attempt with a mark less than ≤ 49 will fail the degree. A Postgraduate Certificate in Biomedical Science may be offered to candidates if they have successfully completed modules worth at least 60 credits including a specialist module.
- 4.7 The Examiners may award a course prize to the candidate passing with the highest overall mark in that year. If more than one candidate has a similar overall average mark, the Examiners may determine that the prize is shared between two or more candidates.

5. REPORTING OF RESULTS

- 5.1 Candidates will be given provisional grades for taught module assessments during the year as follows:

70-100	A
65-69	B+
60-64	B
50-59	C
40-49	D
0-39	E

Confirmed percentage marks for each module assessment will be given to candidates after the Board of Examiners' meeting.

- 5.2 No provisional dissertation marks or grades will be issued but candidates will be given confirmed percentage marks after the Board of Examiners' meeting.