

ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Scheme of Assessment for Years Three and Four of the MSci Biomedical Science (Hons)

2021-22

This Scheme of Assessment is made by the Undergraduate Biomedical Science Course Committee under paragraph 9 of the Programme Regulations for the MSci Honours Degree in Biomedical Science.

- 1.1 The Regulations for the MSci (Honours) course and examinations in Biomedical Science for students of St George's, University of London provide for Year Three and Four examinations to assess students' performance in the Third and Fourth (final) year of the course.
- 1.2 This scheme outlines the form of the examinations for Years Three and Four under those regulations. The Board of Examiners for the MSci (Honours) Degree in Biomedical Science (the Board) has ultimate responsibility for the standard of the examinations and for their fair conduct.
- 1.3 A Chief Examiner will be appointed for each Year. The Chief Examiner will: co-ordinate the setting of each examination paper in consultation with the module organisers; obtain approval of these papers from the External Examiners; arrange for the marking of the examinations; oversee the conduct of assessments and report the results to the Board, making an annual report on the conduct and standard of the examination.
- 1.4 Module organisers act as responsible examiners for the module that they coordinate. They have a duty to: help ensure the standard and fair conduct of assessments within that module and to assist the Chief Examiner in the reporting of results to the Board of Examiners .
- 1.5 External Examiners will be appointed in accordance with the constitution of the Board. The External Examiners will moderate the setting of questions in the examinations and moderate the marking of those questions and associated practical examinations.
- 1.6 Presentations given by students may be audio or video recorded for quality assurance purposes. They will remain confidential and will be available only to responsible examiners or their nominees and to External Examiners during the performance of their duties.

2. Progression within the MSci programme

- 2.1 Progression from Year 2 to Year 3 of the MSci Biomedical Science programme is dependent on achieving the pass mark for the year (40%) AND an average weighted mark of 60.0% for Years 1 and 2. Average marks will be calculated by weighting the marks for Year 1 to Year 2 at a ratio of 1:2 (for example, a Y1 mark of 50% and a Y2 mark of 60% would be averaged as $50+(60 \times 2)/3= 56.7$).
- 2.2 Students enrolled on the Biomedical Science MSci programme who do not achieve a weighted average mark of 60.0% at the end of Year 2, but that have achieved the pass mark for Year 2, will be required to transfer to Year 3 of the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science programme.
- 2.3 Progression from Year 3 to Year 4 is dependent on achieving a mark of 50.0% for the year. It is a requirement for progression that all elements of each module must have been passed with a mark of 40.0% or more.
- 2.4 A student who wishes to transfer to Year 3 of the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science programme may indicate this preference at any point until the end of Semester 4. Formal transfer between the MSci and BSc programmes will take place after Year 2 results have been confirmed and is dependent on achieving the pass mark for Year 1 and Year 2.

3. Structure of Year 3 and 4 Examinations

- 3.1 In Year 3 students will be examined by in-course assessment during each semester in the selected, taught modules that form part of that semester. These examinations may include essays, oral presentations, poster presentations, practical tests or critical reviews.
- 3.2 In addition, selected taught modules are examined by final exams in April/May. Each module will set a paper of not more than three hours duration that will concentrate on topics taught during that module as well as looking for evidence of further integration of scientific information, wider reading and critical analysis. The paper may include short-answer questions, long-answer questions and essay questions. External Examiners will moderate the questions.
- 3.3 Overall marks for Year 3 will be assigned according to the following system:

YEAR 3			
Required modules	Biomedical Research Techniques	ICA and final paper	15 credits
	Experimental Design & Data Analysis	ICA and final paper	15 credits
	Structured Research Project	ICA and final paper	15 credits
Selected taught pathway	In-course assessment for selected taught modules on pathway	In-Semester. Format dependent on module	Total of 75 credits
	End of Year examinations	Written examination	

- 3.4 In Year 4 students will be examined by an assignment in the form of a research proposal, by poster presentation, and an in-course (project supervisor) assessment.
- 3.5 In addition, students will submit a dissertation of between 10,000-12,000 words.
- 3.6 Overall marks for Year 4 will be assigned according to the following system:

YEAR 4			
Semester 7	Research Proposal	In-course assessment	15 credits
Semester 7-8	Research Project	Dissertation, Poster Presentation, In-course assessment	105 credits

4. Instructions to Markers

4.1 Marking of Examinations

- 4.1.1 To pass Year 3, a candidate must achieve a final weighted average mark of 40.0 or more from modules totalling 120 credits, all at the final year honours degree level. It is a requirement that all elements of summative assessment within each module shall also be passed (40.0% or more). No compensation between elements of assessment is permitted.
- 4.1.2 To pass Year 4, an overall mark of 50.0% or more must be achieved. A module mark of at least 50.0% must be achieved in each module. It is a requirement that all elements of assessment shall be passed.
- 4.1.3 Written assessments, whether conducted under supervised or unsupervised conditions, shall be marked in detail by one Internal Examiner or Assessor, with at least one other Internal Examiner or Assessor having an overview of the work submitted for assessment.
- 4.1.4 Each component of the examination (ie each question of the written paper and in-course assessment) should be marked on a percentage scale. The table below is a generic description of the criteria used in marking written assignments within examinations and in-course assessments. Specific guidance and descriptions outlining the criteria for marking in-course assessments, assignments and practical work may be provided separately within modules.

Mark (%)	Degree Equivalent	Notes to examiners marking individual pieces of work
90 - 100	1st	Well organised and well-expressed answer which is outstanding in all criteria. Demonstrates clear understanding, evidence of independent study and critical evaluation. Covers all aspects of the subject that could reasonably be expected, accurately and in sufficient detail.
80 - 89	1st	Well organised and well-expressed answer which shows excellent understanding, evidence of independent study and critical evaluation. Covers all aspects of the subject that could reasonably be expected, accurately and in sufficient detail.
70 - 79	1st	Well organised and well-expressed answer which shows very good understanding, and evidence of independent study or critical evaluation. Covers all major aspects of the subject that could reasonably be expected, accurately and in sufficient detail.
60 - 69	2i	Generally well organised and well expressed answer which shows good understanding. Covers all, or almost all, major aspects of the subject accurately and in sufficient detail.
50 - 59	2ii	Broadly accurate answer covering most of the major aspects of the subject. Lacks some details or contains some errors or is not sufficiently well constructed or argued for a 2i.
40 - 49	3rd	Incomplete coverage of the subject. Important errors or omissions, or poor presentation.
35 - 39	Borderline fail	Very limited answer. Small amount of correct relevant material presented adequately, or more relevant points but presented poorly.
21 - 34	Fail	Very poor attempt to answer the question, or insufficient correct material, or very poor expression of material. The higher marks in the range should reflect either more relevant points or better presentation.
0 - 20	Fail	No, or almost no, relevant material. If no answer or totally irrelevant, give 0; if one or two points related in any way to the question, give up to 10; if one or two relevant points, give 10-20.

4.2 Late submission of in-course work (without prior agreed special arrangement)

- (a) For any in-course element **except for the research project report**, where a candidate is absent or fails to submit assessed work by the stipulated date the examiners shall award zero marks. In-course assessments that have been submitted after the deadline will be marked as normal, whenever this is possible. Marks and feedback should be returned to the student and any mark deduction will normally be carried out by the Chair of the Board at the time of final assembly of marks.
- (b) **For research project reports** submitted late, 5% of the total marks available will be deducted for each day (or part of 24 hours) that the deadline is exceeded up to a maximum of 25% per week; there is no limit to this penalty and the mark remaining may reach zero. This deduction will normally be carried out by the Chair of the Board at the time of final assembly of marks.

4.3 Word limit policy

- (a) Students who exceed the prescribed word limit will have their work marked but markers **will stop marking when the word count exceeds the maximum word count set** for that assignment. Markers will indicate on the text the point at which the limit is reached which is, by definition, where they have stopped marking. Hence, any words written beyond the stipulated limit will not be read by the examiners; no marks will be awarded and no feedback provided for any text beyond the prescribed limit. Although a formal penalty is not applied, a mark will be awarded only for the content up to this point.
- (b) Assignments which are below the word limit set for an assignment will not attract a specific penalty.

5. Instructions to Board of Examiners: Calculation of Marks in Years 3 and 4

5.1 Averaging the course module marks for each candidate

The Chair of the Board of Examiners will average course module marks, calculated to one decimal place. Modules are weighted according to credits. In Year 3, three MSci-specific modules are awarded 15 credits each, and a further 75 credits are made up from a combination of 15-credit and 30-credit selected, taught modules.

Year 3 mark

Mark for each 15-credit taught module x 15, divided by 120

+

Mark for each 30-credit taught module x 30, divided by 120

The weighted Year 3 mark will be calculated to the nearest integer, rounding up or down as appropriate.

Year 4 mark

Mark for Research Methods module x 15, divided by 120

+

Mark for Research Project dissertation x 105, divided by 120

5.2 Overall class of Honours

To calculate an overall degree result and classification, the Year 4 mark is weighted by multiplying by 0.4 and then added to the weighted Year 3 mark (multiplied by 0.3), the weighted Year 2 mark (multiplied by 0.2) and the weighted Year 1 mark (multiplied by 0.1). The final weighted average is calculated to the nearest integer, rounding up or down as appropriate.

To be awarded a MSci (Hons) Biomedical Science degree, a candidate must achieve a final weighted average mark of 50 or more from modules totalling 120 credits (all at the Year 4 level), and have no module mark less than 50.00.

Final Weighted Average	Class of Honours
70-100	1st
60-69	2i
50-59	2ii
0-49	Fail

Candidates shall normally stay in the class indicated by their final weighted average. They can only be moved up if they fall into the borderline category defined below.

5.3 Definition of borderline category:

Criteria for automatic promotion of degree classification

Students who achieve BOTH of the following two requirements will automatically be promoted to the next highest degree classification. Students will be identified by the Chair of the Board of Examiners and approved by the exam board.

Boundary	Final Weighted Average	Year 4 project module with the following marks:
1st/2i	69	≥ 69.00
2i/2ii	59	≥ 59.00

5.4 Degree Title

The title of the degree shall be **MSci in Biomedical Science**.

5.5 Re-entry to Assessment (re-sit)

5.5.1 Candidates who fail to meet the criteria for passing Year 3 will be permitted to re-enter for the relevant assessment(s) on one further occasion, usually at the next available opportunity, although the Board of Examiners may require that a student defer such re-entry. All examination periods are subject to change. A candidate who resits elements of assessment is required to achieve a final mark of at least 40.0 in each element. The final resit mark for an element of assessment will be capped at 40.0 and combined with marks from elements that were passed at first attempt to determine the candidate's overall mark for the year.

5.5.2 Candidates who fail to meet the criteria for achieving a degree classification will be permitted to re-enter for the relevant assessment(s) on one further occasion, usually at the next available opportunity,

although the Board of Examiners may require that a student defer such re-entry. All examination periods are subject to change. A candidate resitting modules is required to achieve a final mark of at least 50.0 in each module. The final resit mark for a module will be capped at the pass mark (50.0%) and combined with marks from modules that were passed at first attempt to determine the candidate's overall class of honours as described in Section 5.1 and 5.2

- 5.5.3 A candidate who has not passed all required assessments following one re-sit attempt, will be eligible to be considered for a discretionary third attempt at failed assessments, in accordance with 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 Website.
- 5.5.4 To be considered for a discretionary, third attempt at Year 3 assessments by the fast-track process, students must have no more than TWO modules with an overall mark below 40.0%.
- 5.5.5 The offer of a discretionary, third attempt at an assessment by the fast-track process shall be conditional upon evidence of engagement by the student. Specifically, the student must confirm acceptance of the offer (in writing) within 5 working days of notification.
- 5.5.6 For Year 4 MSci students, 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.
- 5.5.7 A student will be permitted to undertake a discretionary third attempt at assessments on only ONE occasion during the Biomedical Science programme.
- 5.5.8 A student who has failed an assessment shall be permitted to have that attempt discounted where the Board of Examiners are satisfied that one or more of the following conditions have been met:
- I. The result was affected by an administrative error
 - II. The assessment was not conducted in accordance with the Scheme, Regulations and approved procedures of St George's
 - III. The student's performance had been adversely affected by illness or other relevant factors which either the student had, for good reason, been unable to make known to the Mitigating Circumstances Panel at the appropriate time in accordance with General Regulation 10.4, or which the Mitigating Circumstances Panel had failed properly to take into account

6. Alternative exit awards

- 6.1 An intermediate award shall only be given to students who cease to be registered on the Biomedical Science MSci or BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science programmes (that is to say, it is an exit qualification, not a qualification that students will obtain en route to the MSci (Hons) Biomedical Science, BSc (Hons) Science of Biomedicine or BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science award).
- 6.2 Students who have successfully completed Year One of the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science programme shall be eligible for the SGUL award of Undergraduate Certificate in Biomedical Science.
- 6.3 Students who have successfully completed Years One and Two of the BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science programme shall be eligible for the SGUL award of Undergraduate Diploma in Biomedical Science.
- 6.4 Students who have successfully completed Years 1, 2 and 3 of the MSci Biomedical Science programme shall be eligible for the SGUL award of BSc (Hons) Science of Biomedicine. The IBMS will not accredit this degree.
- 6.4.1 Calculation of Year 3 mark: BSc Hons "Exit Velocity" Enhancement
BSc degree awards are to be calculated using a 15-credit enhancement for each student's highest, overall module mark at Level 6.

Mark for each 15-credit taught modules x 15, divided by 135
+

Mark for each 30-credit taught modules x 30, divided by 135
 +
 MAX Marks from 30- or 15-credit taught module x 15, divided by 135

The exit velocity enhancement will be applied before calculating the final weighted average for Year 3. To calculate an overall degree result and classification, the final year mark is weighted by multiplying by 0.7 and then added to the weighted year 2 mark (multiplied by 0.2) and weighted year 1 mark (multiplied by 0.1).

6.4.2 Overall class of Honours: BSc Science of Biomedicine

To be awarded the Degree, a candidate must achieve a final weighted average mark of 40 or more from modules totalling 120 credits (all at the Year 3 level), and have no required module mark less than 40.0.

Final Weighted Average	Class of Honours
70-100	1st
60-69	2i
50-59	2ii
40-49	3rd
0-39	Fail

Candidates shall normally stay in the class indicated by their final weighted average. They can only be moved up if they fall into the borderline category defined below.

6.4.3 Definition of borderline category:

Criteria for automatic promotion of degree classification

Students who achieve BOTH of the following two requirements will automatically be promoted to the next highest degree classification. Students will be identified by the Chair of the Board of Examiners and approved by the exam board.

Boundary	Final Weighted Average	Year 3 modules totalling at least 60 credits with the following marks:
1st/2i	69	≥ 69
2i/2ii	59	≥ 59
2ii/3rd	49	≥ 49

Last revision: September 2021