

St George's, University of London

Scheme of Assessment

MBBS 5-year stream Year 2 (2021-22)

Overview

1. The assessment of the first and second year of the 5-year programme shall be known as the Clinical Science Examination.
2. This Scheme of Assessment specifically relates to the second year of the 5-year programme.
3. In accordance with the GMC assessment guidelines (2018), assessment in the MBBS programme will be across three domains, namely:
 - Professional Knowledge (PK)
 - Professional Skills (PS)
 - Becoming a Doctor (BD)
4. A student may only have **ONE** discretionary 3rd attempt during the MBBS Programme. Under the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment*, 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 the fast-track criteria, procedure and timescales is published on the Student Conduct and Compliance section of the St George's website (www.sgul.ac.uk)
5. The curriculum will be considered as forming **three curriculum themes**:
 - Basic and Clinical Sciences (BCS)
 - Patients, Populations and Society (PPS)
 - Professional Skills

The curriculum themes map to the assessment domains as shown in the following table:

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| GMC Outcomes | Professional Knowledge | | Professional Skills | Professional Values and Behaviours |
| Assessment Domains | Professional Knowledge (PK) | | Professional Skills (PS) | Becoming a Doctor (BD) |
| Curriculum Themes | BCS | PPS | Professional Skills (PS) | |
| Assessments | Written exams, OSPEs | Written exams | OSCE | Attendance, professional behaviour, SSC/projects, |

6. In Year 2 of the 5-year programme, the Professional Knowledge domain will cover the BCS and PPS curriculum themes, and will be subdivided into two elements that must be passed independently.
7. The Professional Knowledge domain is tested using written examinations and objective structured practical examinations (OSPE) and will assess knowledge and application of knowledge.

The Professional Skills domain is tested using an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) and will assess clinical communication and clinical skills.

The Becoming a Doctor domain will assess whether students are developing the ability to apply knowledge in the clinical workplace as well as the behaviours and skills required by medical professionals. Feedback will be provided across four main elements: attendance, other professional behaviour, the clinical workplace portfolio and student selected component (SSC)/projects.

8. Assessment in Year 2 (at first attempt) will normally comprise the following:
 - For the Professional Knowledge domain, there will be written examinations and an anatomy OSPE at the end of the academic year
 - For the Professional Skills domain, there will be an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) that will normally be held at the end of the year
 - For the Becoming a Doctor domain, assessments will be completed throughout the year across four main elements: attendance, other professional behaviours, clinical workplace portfolio and SSC/projects
9. The written examinations and OSPE will comprise of questions that test the learning objectives from Year 2. Items will be distributed so as to ensure that teaching from all Year 2 modules are appropriately represented in the final mark scheme.
10. The length of the written examinations and the number of OSCE and OSPE stations will be announced in advance of the assessment by the Chief/Responsible Examiner.
11. The content of the assessments in the Becoming a Doctor domain will be announced in advance of the assessment by the Chief/Responsible Examiner and/or Domain Lead.
12. There will be no compensation between the three assessment domains. There will also be no compensation between the two elements of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS and PPS).

Formative assessment

Formative assessments are used to allow students to practise the main assessment methods that will be used summatively in the remainder of the programme. Please note that attendance of all formative exams is mandatory and if for any reason you are unable to attend you will need to complete a mitigating circumstance form which will be reviewed by a panel.

- For the Professional Skills (PS), domain, there will be a formative Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) that will normally be held in December.

13. **Mark Distribution for Professional Knowledge:** At first attempt, marks from the two elements of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS and PPS) will be derived from the end of Year 2 exams, to a maximum of 100 marks for each element.

The BCS element will be weighted as per the table below:

| | | |
|-----|-------------|----|
| BCS | Written BCS | 90 |
| | OSPE | 10 |

14. **Progression:** progression from Year 2 to the Transition Year will be determined by the results of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS and PPS elements), the Professional Skills domain and the Becoming a Doctor domain.

Marking arrangements and Standard Setting

Professional Knowledge (BCS and PPS)

15. The pass standard for the written examinations and anatomy examination shall be determined using standard setting (e.g. Cohen or Angoff). The pass standard will normally be determined by an internationally recognised standard setting methodology. (see paragraph 16)
16. In regard to the standard setting methods referred to in the above paragraph, it may not be statistically reliable to choose the methods listed, given the variables (e.g. cohort size) of the particular assessment in question. In these cases, an alternative, recognised method would be selected to suit the variables of the assessment.
17. For each examination, candidates' unrounded marks for all components (e.g OSPE, written paper) of each element of the domain (BCS and PPS) will be rounded up or down for each element of the domain to one decimal place e.g. 44.91 = 44.9, 44.96 = 45.0
18. The element (BCS and PPS) pass marks will be calculated from the percentage pass standard and the marks available for the individual examinations. This will be used to derive the pass marks for that domain at the end of Year 2.
19. Candidates **at the end of each End of Year 2 examination** will be graded as one of the following categories for each element (BCS and PPS):
- **A (Acceptable):** competent – the numerical passmark or above
 - **C (Cause for Concern):** not yet competent – up to and including 2 Standard Errors of Measurement below the numerical passmark
 - **U (Unacceptable):** poor – more than 2 Standard Errors of Measurement below the numerical passmark

Professional Skills (OSCE)

20. The Summative OSCE will normally comprise of no less than 10 stations.
21. The pass standard for the OSCE shall be determined using standard setting (using recognised methods). The pass standard will normally (see paragraph 22) be determined by the borderline regression method.
22. In regards to the standard setting methods referred to in the above paragraph, it may not be statistically reliable to choose the method listed, given the variables (e.g.

cohort size) of the particular assessment in question. In these cases, an alternative, recognised, method would be selected to suit the variables of the assessment.

23. The resulting pass mark for each station (out of 100) will be rounded to one decimal place. These marks will be added together and converted to a percentage to give the overall numerical passmark for the OSCE, which is then calculated to one decimal place. (e.g. 51.15 will be rounded up to 51.2 and 51.14 will be rounded down to 51.1).
24. In order to attain the pass standard, candidates are required to achieve the numerical passmark for the examination **as well as** pass 65% of stations (rounded to the nearest whole number). For a 10 station OSCE, students must pass at least 7 (rounded from 6.5) stations. For example, if, after applying the percentage calculation, the resulting number of stations is 6.49 then this will be rounded down to 6, and if the resulting number of stations is 6.50 this will be rounded up to 7.
25. Candidates **at the end of Year 2** will be graded as one of the following categories:
 - **A (Acceptable):** competent – the numerical passmark or above **and** pass at least 65% of stations
 - **C (Cause for Concern):** not yet competent – up to and including 2 Standard Errors of Measurement below the numerical passmark **and/or** fail between 35% and 50% of stations
 - **U (Unacceptable):** poor – more than 2 Standard Errors of Measurement below the numerical passmark **and/or** fail more than 50% of stations

Becoming a Doctor

26. Candidates will be considered across four main elements: attendance, other professional behaviours, clinical workplace portfolio and SSC/projects. These are assessed during the clinical attachments in Year 2, small group teaching and the SSC (namely SSC 1).
27. The assessments in the attendance and other professional behaviours elements, clinical workplace portfolio and the SSC elements will all be assessed on a summative basis.
28. The Becoming a Doctor leads will consider, and meet where necessary, students displaying poor professional behaviour (including attendance) or poor performance in relation to other aspects of the domain such as completion of workplace assessments. The Becoming a Doctor Grading Committee will allocate grades at the end of the academic year for the 'other professional behaviour' element and report to the Board of Examiners any unsatisfactory performance within the domain via the allocation of an overall domain grade for all students. The Becoming a Doctor Grading Committees in all future years, may consider any evidence assimilated from the point of entry to the MBBS programme, including year 1 where assessment is formative.
29. ***The Becoming a Doctor domain*** will be graded as follows
 - **A (Acceptable)**
 - **B (Borderline)**
 - **C (Cause for concern)**
 - **U (Unacceptable)**

| Attendance Element | Other Professional Behaviour Element | Clinical Workplace Portfolio Element | SSC and Projects Element (SSC1) | Overall Year 2 MBBS5 BD Grade |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A,C,U | A,C,U | A,C,U | E,A,U | Available grades |
| A | A | A | E | A |
| A | A | A | A | A |
| A | C | A | A | B/A* |
| C (If small Groups) | A | A | A | B/A* |
| C (If Clinical Practice) | A | A | A | C/B/A* |
| A | A | C | A | B/A* |
| A | C | C | A | C/B/A* |
| C (If small Groups) | C | A | A | B/A* |
| C (If Clinical Practice) | C | A | A | C/B/A * |
| C | A | C | A | C/B* |
| A | A | A | U | C |
| A | C | C | U | C/B* |
| C | C | A | U | C |
| C | A | C | U | C |
| A | C | A | U | C |
| C | A | A | U | C |
| A | A | C | U | C |
| C | C | C | A | C/B* |
| C | C | C | U | C |
| Any U in attendance, other professional behaviours or portfolio will result in overall grade of U | | | | |
| U | A/C | A | A | U |
| A | U | A | A | U |
| A | A | U | A | U |

* The final grade for BD will be determined by the grading committee taking into account the circumstances and behaviour of each individual student/group of students

A student may resit the SSC and projects domain if they have remaining submission attempts. All students are entitled to three submission opportunities per year. Students who obtain a C or U at the 3rd or Final attempt will be deemed to have failed the year.

30. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor domain at the end of the year is **Acceptable or Borderline** (at the first attempt only) (see final column in table above) shall have passed MBBS5 Year 2 and may proceed to the Transition Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of **paragraphs 19 and 26**. Candidates may only progress with a **Borderline** grade on one occasion during the MBBS programme. Students receiving a **Borderline** grade on a second occasion, including during a repeat year or on the first occasion during a repeat year, will be required to repeat the year including all components of the BD domain and require an **Acceptable** grade to progress.
31. Students awarded a **Borderline** in Year 2, will be automatically considered at the Grading Committee at the end of Year 2
32. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor domain is **Cause for Concern** at the end of the year (see final column in table above) may choose to repeat Year 2 or may opt to enter the resit assessments during the resit period.

33. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor domain is **Unacceptable** will be required to repeat Year 2; completing all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.
34. The final grade for BD will be determined by the grading committee taking into account the circumstances and behaviour of each individual student/group of students.

The Becoming a Doctor Resit Period

35. The resit period for the Becoming a Doctor domain will normally take place between the July and August Board of Examiners.
36. The requirements for the resit period (e.g. clinical attachment, attendance) will be determined on a case-by-case basis, by the Academic Year Lead and the Becoming a Doctor Domain Lead or their nominee(s).
37. Candidates who are required to re-sit the domain will be reviewed at the Resit Professionalism Grading Committee and may have their grade capped at **Borderline**.
38. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor resit period is **Borderline** shall have passed MBBS5 Year 2 and may proceed to the Transitional Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they have not previously received a grade of **Borderline** and also meet the requirements of **paragraphs 19 and 26**.
39. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor resit period is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable** is deemed to have failed the domain and therefore the programme. Such students may be eligible for a 3rd discretionary attempt, in accordance with the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment* (**see paragraph 4**).
40. Candidates granted a 3rd and final attempt will be required to repeat MBBS5 Year 2 and sit all domains of assessment, achieving a grade of Acceptable in the Becoming a Doctor Domain regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

Progression from Year 2 to the Transition Year

41. At the end of Year 2, candidates will be awarded a grade for each element of the Professional Knowledge domain (BCS, PPS), and a grade for both the Professional Skills and Becoming a Doctor domain. These will be categorised in accordance with **paragraphs 19, 26 and 30** above.
42. A candidate whose grade in both elements of Professional Knowledge (BCS, PPS) **and** Professional Skills and Becoming a Doctor is **Acceptable** shall have passed the year and may proceed to the Transition Year of the MBBS programme.
43. A candidate, whose grade in both elements of Professional Knowledge (BCS, PPS) **and** Professional Skills is **Acceptable**, **and** whose grade in Becoming a Doctor is **Borderline (at first attempt only)** may progress with a Borderline subject to review at the appropriate grading committee.
44. A candidate awarded a **Borderline** grade may progress from Year 2 to the Transition Year, however candidates may only receive one borderline during the MBBS programme.

45. A candidate, whose grade in any one or more assessment domains at first attempt (including **either or both** elements of Professional Knowledge) is **Cause for Concern**, will be given the option to enter the re-sit examination(s)/assessment(s) in each such assessment domain (or element of the domain). Alternatively, a student may choose to repeat the year (MBBS5 Year 2). Candidates repeating the year will be required to sit all domains of assessments, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or element of the domain) in a previous academic year (see paragraphs 53-56).
46. A candidate, whose grade in any one or more assessment domain (or element of the domain) is **Unacceptable** will be required to forego the re-sit examination(s) / assessment(s) and repeat the year (MBBS5 Year 2). Candidates repeating the year will be required to sit all domains of assessments from Year 2, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or element of the domain) in a previous academic year (see paragraphs 53-56).

Re-sit Examinations/Assessments

For candidates entering the re-sit period at 2nd attempt in the same academic year as the 1st attempt

47. The re-sit period for the Becoming a Doctor domain (clinical workplace portfolio and/or SSC/projects) will normally take place between the July and August Board of Examiners.
48. For the Becoming a Doctor domain, candidates will be required to re-submit the assessment(s) they failed. Candidates will be required to achieve a grade of **Acceptable** for the failed assessment(s). Candidates who are required to re-sit the domain will be reviewed at the Resit Professionalism Grading Committee and may have their grade capped at **Borderline**.
49. The re-sit period for the Professional Knowledge and the Professional Skills domains will normally take place between the July and August Board of Examiners.
50. For the Professional Knowledge domain, candidates who elect to enter the re-sit will be required to re-sit only the element(s) they failed (e.g. BCS and/or PPS).
51. The re-sit written examinations shall be set for each element (BCS and PPS) and shall cover the content of Year 2 using similar methods of assessment as those used in the first sit examinations.
52. A candidate whose grade at each re-sit examination(s)/assessment(s) entered is **Acceptable** shall have passed the year and may proceed to the Transition Year of the MBBS programme.
53. A candidate whose grade at each re-sit examination(s)/assessment(s) entered is **Acceptable or Borderline** for the Becoming a Doctor Domain shall have passed the year and may proceed to the Transition Year of the MBBS programme.
54. A candidate whose grade at any re-sit examination(s)/assessment(s) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable** will be deemed to have failed the examination and therefore the programme. Such students may be eligible for a 3rd discretionary attempt, in accordance with the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment* (see paragraph 4).

55. Candidates offered a final, 3rd attempt will be required to repeat the year and sit all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or component of) in a previous academic year.

Progression from Year 2 to the Transition Year following a repeat of second year course at 2nd attempt

56. A candidate who is repeating the year at second attempt will be entered into all domains of assessment, including all elements of Becoming a Doctor, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or component of) in a previous academic year.
57. A candidate, whose grade in both elements of Professional Knowledge (BCS, PPS) and Professional Skills and Becoming a Doctor is **Acceptable** shall have passed the year and may proceed to the Transition Year of the MBBS programme.
58. A candidate, whose grade in any one or more assessment domains (including either or both elements of Professional Knowledge) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable**, on the second attempt, will be deemed to have failed the examination and therefore the programme. Such students shall be considered by the Discretionary Panel for a final attempt in accordance with the provisions of the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study. Candidates offered a final attempt by the Discretionary Panel at the year will be required to sit all domains of assessments in Year 2, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or element of) in a previous academic year.
59. A candidate, whose grade in any one or more assessment domains (including either or both elements of Professional Knowledge) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable**, or **Borderline for BD** on the second attempt, shall be deemed to have failed the programme and will have their registration terminated.

Progression from Year 2 to the Transition Year following a repeat of second year course at 3rd Discretionary Attempt

60. Candidates offered a third and final attempt will be required to repeat the year and sit all domains of assessment, including all elements of Becoming a Doctor, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or component of) in a previous academic year.
61. A candidate, whose grade in both elements of Professional Knowledge (BCS, PPS) **and** Professional Skills and Becoming a Doctor is **Acceptable**, shall have passed the year and may proceed to the Transition Year of the MBBS programme.
62. A candidate, whose grade in any one or more assessment domains (including either or both elements of Professional Knowledge) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable**, or **Borderline for BD** on the third attempt, shall be deemed to have failed the programme and will have their registration terminated.

Merits and Distinctions

63. Candidates who *pass* the Final Year and are awarded the MBBS degree will be eligible to be considered for the award of a St George's Mark of Merit or a University Distinction, in the following four disciplines:
- Medical Sciences (on the basis of performance in the Clinical Science years)
 - Clinical Science (on the basis of performance in the Transition Year)

- Clinical Specialties (on the basis of performance in the Penultimate Year)
- Clinical Practice (on the basis of performance in the Final Year)

A candidate awarded a Distinction in a discipline cannot also be awarded a Merit in that discipline. Merits and Distinctions are only awarded to those completing the degree.

64. For the sole purpose of calculating Merits and Distinctions, a final mark for the Clinical Science Examination shall be determined, using the weightings specified in the table below:

| Accumulated mark | MBBS5 Year 2 (Medical Sciences) |
|------------------------------|--|
| Professional Knowledge (BCS) | 70 |
| Professional Knowledge (PPS) | 15 |
| Professional Skills (OSCE) | 15 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

65. A Distinction in Medical Sciences will be awarded to candidates in the top 10%, i.e. the 1st decile, of the cohort in the Clinical Sciences Years. This will be based on the final accumulated weighted percentage mark, rounded to one decimal place (see paragraph 61). Candidates must pass all assessments in the Professional Knowledge Domain, plus Professional Skills Domains at 1st attempt in order to be eligible for a distinction. Candidates must also achieve a grade of Acceptable in the Becoming a Doctor domain at first attempt.
66. A Merit in Medical Sciences will be awarded to candidates in the 2nd decile of the cohort in the Clinical Sciences Years. This will be based on the final accumulated weighted percentage mark rounded to one decimal place (see paragraph 61). Candidates must pass at 1st attempt in order to be eligible for a merit. Candidates must also achieve a grade of Acceptable in the Becoming a Doctor domain at first attempt.
67. Candidates who defer entry to an examination and sit their first attempt with the re-sit cohort will be ranked alongside first attempt candidates from the main cohort and then awarded a Distinction or Merit according to where they rank with the main cohort (i.e. 1st or 2nd decile respectively). A candidate who defers entry to an examination more than once, will be ranked alongside the most recent main cohort.

Students re-enrolling/re-joining a year of a programme following an approved period of absence OR students who are required/have elected to repeat a year

68. Any candidate re-enrolling/re-joining a year of a programme following an approved absence (e.g. interruption of studies), will be examined in accordance with the scheme of assessment in place in the academic year in which the re-enrolment/re-joining takes place.
69. Any candidate required to repeat a year or any candidate who elected to repeat a year, will be examined in accordance with the scheme of assessment in place in the academic year in which the repeat year takes place.
70. Any candidate returning from an approved absence (e.g. interruption of studies) part way through an academic year will have their assessment requirements (i.e. the assessments in which they will be formatively and summatively examined) determined on a case-by-case basis.

Board of Examiners and Management Arrangements

Board of Examiners

71. There shall be an MBBS Board of Examiners constituted in accordance with the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study.
72. The Board of Examiners has ultimate responsibility for the standard of the examinations and their fair and proper conduct.
73. The Sub-Board of Examiners will determine progression from Year 2 to the Transition Year.

External Examiners

74. There is a detailed job description for External Examiners, available separately.
75. External Examiners will be invited to attend the meeting of the Board of Examiners and OSCEs.

Chief Examiners

76. There will be a Chief Examiner for Year 2. It shall be the shared responsibility of the Chief Examiner and Year Lead to ensure alignment of the curriculum with the assessment blueprint.
77. The Chief Examiner shall oversee the activities of the Responsible Examiners; including blueprinting, standard-setting and quality assurance meetings; They will also correspond with external examiners for any academic issues in relation to assessment quality and delivery.

Annual Report

78. The Chief Examiner shall co-ordinate production of an annual report on the conduct and standard of the examinations to the Chair of the Board of Examiners and the Course Committees.