

# St George's, University of London

## Scheme of Assessment

### MBBS Penultimate Year (P Year) 2021-22

#### Overview

1. The fourth year of the MBBS 5-year stream and third year of the MBBS 4-year stream shall be known as the Penultimate Year (P Year). During this year the students on both streams will undertake identical assessments. This Scheme of Assessment specifically relates to the Penultimate Year.
2. In accordance with the GMC assessment guidance, assessment in the MBBS programme will be across three domains, namely:
  - Professional Knowledge (PK)
  - Professional Skills (PS)
  - Becoming a Doctor (BD)
3. A student may only have **ONE** discretionary 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Affairs section of the Portal.

#### Summative Assessment

4. The Professional Knowledge (PK) domain is tested using a written examination will assess knowledge and application of knowledge. The content of the written examination will include teaching and clinical attachments.

The Professional Skills (PS) domain is tested using an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) and will assess clinical communication and clinical skills. The content examined will be synoptic and will include teaching from earlier years and skills acquired during attachments.

The Becoming a Doctor (BD) 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. In P Year, feedback will be provided across four main elements: attendance, other professional behaviour, SSC and projects and the clinical workplace portfolio.

## The Professional Knowledge domain (written examination)

5. The written examination will normally consist of SBAs and will comprise of no less than 120 items. Other question types (e.g SAQs) may be used if deemed appropriate.
6. The length and format of the written examination will be announced in advance of the assessment by the Year/Domain Lead. In addition, the Year/Domain Lead will provide information about computer-marked versus free-text question styles.

## Written Examination Marking Arrangements and Standard Setting

7. The pass standard for the written examination shall be determined using standard setting (using recognised methods) and the percentage value shall be rounded to one decimal place. This will normally be determined by the Angoff method. (see paragraph 8)
8. In regard to the standard setting method referred to in the above paragraph, it may not be statistically reliable to choose the method listed, given the variables (eg 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.
9. Marks for candidates shall be rounded to one decimal place when being compared with the pass mark (e.g. 51.15 will be rounded up to 51.2 and 51.14 will be rounded down to 51.1).

## Written Examination Progression Requirements

10. Candidates **at the end of the written examination** will be graded one of the following categories:
  - **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
11. A candidate, whose grade in the written examination is **Acceptable** shall have passed the Penultimate Year and may proceed to the Final Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 26 and 38.
12. A candidate, whose grade in the written examination is **Cause for Concern** may choose to repeat the Penultimate Year or may opt to enter the re-sit written examination.
13. A candidate, whose grade in the written examination is **Unacceptable** will be required to forego the re-sit examination and repeat the Penultimate Year; completing all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

## Written Re-sit Examination

14. The written re-sit examination will normally take place within one month of publication of results.
15. A candidate, whose grade in the written re-sit examination is **Acceptable** shall have passed the Penultimate Year and may proceed to the Final Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 26 and 38.

16. A candidate whose grade at the written re-sit examination is **Cause for Concern** or **Unacceptable** is deemed to have failed the domain and therefore the programme. Such students may be eligible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> discretionary attempt, in accordance with the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment* (see paragraph 3).
17. Candidates granted a final 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt will be required to repeat the Penultimate Year and sit all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

### **The Professional Skills domain (OSCE)**

18. The OSCE will normally comprise of no less than 14 stations. Each station will be between 5 and 15 minutes in duration but in total will normally summate to no less than 120 minutes testing time.
19. The length and number of stations will be announced in advance of the assessment by the Year/Domain Lead.

### **OSCE marking arrangements and standard setting**

20. The pass mark for the OSCE shall be determined using standard setting (using recognised methods). The pass standard will normally be determined by the borderline regression method (see paragraph 21).
21. In regard to the standard setting method referred to in the above paragraph, it may not be statistically reliable to choose the method listed, given the variables (eg 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.
22. 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.
23. Candidates will be given a mark out of 100 for each station, calculated to one decimal place. These marks will be added together and converted to a percentage to give the overall numerical mark for the OSCE, which is then calculated to one decimal place.
24. In order to attain the pass standard, candidates are required to achieve the numerical passmark for the examination **and** pass at least 65% of stations (rounded to the nearest whole number). For example, for a 14 station OSCE, students must pass at least 9 (rounded from 9.33) stations. Numbers needed to pass will be rounded down to the nearest integer e.g. 9 from a range 9.0-9.49 and up to the nearest integer e.g. 10 from 9.5-9.99.

### **OSCE Progression Requirements**

25. Candidates **at the end of the OSCE** will be graded 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 **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
26. A candidate, whose grade in the OSCE is **Acceptable** shall have passed the Penultimate Year and may proceed to the Final Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 11 and 38.
  27. A candidate, whose grade in the OSCE is **Cause for Concern** may choose to repeat the Penultimate Year or may opt to enter the OSCE re-sit examination.
  28. A candidate, whose grade in the OSCE is **Unacceptable** will be required to forego the re-sit examination and repeat the Penultimate Year; completing all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

### **OSCE Re-sit Examination**

29. The re-sit examination for the OSCE will normally take place within one month of publication of results.
30. A candidate, whose grade in the OSCE re-sit is **Acceptable** shall have passed the Penultimate Year and may proceed to the Final Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 11 and 38.
31. A candidate, whose grade at the OSCE re-sit is **Cause for Concern** or **Unacceptable** is deemed to have failed the domain and therefore the programme. Such students may be eligible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> discretionary attempt, in accordance with the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment* (see paragraph 3).
32. Candidates granted a final 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt will be required to repeat the Penultimate Year and complete all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

### **Becoming a Doctor (BD)**

33. Candidates will be considered across four main elements: SSC and projects in the form of SSC-T, attendance, other professional behaviour and the clinical workplace portfolio. Attendance, including mandatory personal tutor meetings, other professional behaviour and the clinical workplace portfolio are assessed during the attachments in P Year.
34. Individual requirements for each element will be published in advance by the Year/Domain Lead.

### **Becoming a Doctor (BD) Marking Arrangements and Standard Setting**

35. The assessments within this domain will be assessed by the relevant Educational Supervisor.
36. Students will have 3 submissions at 1<sup>st</sup> attempt for the SSC-T. Students who fail the SSC-T at 1<sup>st</sup> attempt will undertake the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt during P-Year, before the P-Year re-sit board of examiners. Non-submissions are awarded a mark of zero and constitute a submission attempt.
37. The Becoming a Doctor Progress Meeting will meet twice yearly to discuss 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 report to the Board of Examiners any unsatisfactory performance within the domain via the allocation of a grade for 'other professional behaviour', and subsequently an overall grade for the domain, for all students. The Becoming a Doctor Grading Committee will automatically consider all students progressing to P year with an overall grade of Borderline from T year. The Becoming a Doctor Progress Meeting may consider any evidence assimilated from the point of entry to the MBBS programme.

### Becoming a Doctor (BD) Progression Requirements

38. Candidates **at the end of the Becoming a Doctor (BD)** domain will be graded as one of the following:

- **A (Acceptable)**
- **B (Borderline)**
- **C (Cause for concern)**
- **U (Unacceptable)**

Attendance Element	Other Professional Behaviours Element	Clinical Workplace Portfolio Element	SSC and Projects Element	Overall P Year BD Grade
<b>A C U</b>	<b>A C U</b>	<b>A C U</b>	<b>E A U</b>	← <b>Available grades</b>
A	A	A	E	A
A	A	A	A	A
A	C	A	A	B/A *
C	A	A	A	C
A	A	C	A	C
A	C	C	A	C
C	C	A	A	C
C	A	C	A	C
A	A	A	U	C
A	C	C	U	C
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
Any U in attendance, other professional behaviours or clinical workplace portfolio will result in an overall grade of U				
U	A	A	A	<b>U</b>
A	U	A	A	<b>U</b>
A	A	U	A	<b>U</b>

\*Final grade to be determined by the Professionalism grading committee.

39. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor domain is **Acceptable or Borderline** (at the first attempt only) at the end of the year (see final column in table above) shall have passed the Penultimate Year and may proceed to the Final Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 11 and 26 and have not previously received a grade of **Borderline**. Candidates may only receive one Borderline grade during the MBBS programme.

40. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor domain is **Borderline** at the end of the year (see final column in table above) will be automatically considered at the Grading Committee at the end of F year.

41. 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 the Penultimate Year or may opt to enter the re-sit period.
42. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor domain is **Unacceptable or Borderline**, having previously been awarded a Borderline in T year will be required to repeat the Penultimate Year; completing all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

### **The Becoming a Doctor Re-sit Period**

43. The re-sit period for the Becoming a Doctor domain will normally take place within one month of publication of results (see paragraph 56).
44. The requirements for the re-sit 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).
45. Candidates who are required to re-sit the domain will have their grade capped at **Borderline**.
46. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor re-sit period is **Borderline** shall have passed the Penultimate Year and may proceed to the Final Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 11 and 26 and have not previously received a grade of Borderline.
47. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor re-sit 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 3<sup>rd</sup> discretionary attempt, in accordance with the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment* (see paragraph 3).
48. Candidates granted a final 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt by the Discretionary Panel will be required to repeat the Penultimate Year and sit all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

### **Transition from a previous Scheme of Assessment**

49. Students who first registered for the MBBS before October 2007 (for 5-year stream) and September 2008 (for the 4-year stream) but who took an Interruption of Study will be required to resume their studies by joining the new MBBS Programme, including its assessment and progression regulations.

### **Merits and Distinctions**

50. 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 year/s)
  - 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.

51. For the sole purpose of calculating Merits and Distinctions, a final mark for the Penultimate Year shall be determined, using the weightings specified in the table below:

	<b>P Year (Clinical Specialties)</b>
Written examination percentage mark	50
OSCE percentage mark	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

52. A Distinction in Clinical Specialties will be awarded to candidates in the top 10%, ie. the 1<sup>st</sup> decile, of the cohort in the Penultimate Year. This will be based on the final weighted percentage mark, rounded to one decimal place (see paragraph 51. Candidates must pass at 1<sup>st</sup> attempt in order to be eligible for a distinction. Candidates must also achieve a grade of Acceptable in the Becoming a Doctor (BD) domain at first attempt.
53. A Merit in Clinical Specialties will be awarded to candidates in the 2<sup>nd</sup> decile of the cohort in the Penultimate Year. This will be based on the final weighted percentage mark rounded to one decimal place (see paragraph 51.) Candidates must pass at 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
54. 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 Merit or Distinction according to where they rank with the main cohort (ie 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> decile). A candidate who defers entry to an examination more than once, will be ranked alongside the most recent main cohort.

#### **Deferred Entry Candidates**

55. Candidates who defer entry to one or more examinations due to approved mitigating circumstances will have their future examination arrangements considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Progression from the Penultimate Year to the Final Year following a repeat of the Penultimate Year**

56. A candidate repeating the year will be required to complete all assessment domains, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.
57. Candidates repeating the Penultimate Year will be required to achieve a grade of **Acceptable** for the Becoming a Doctor domain.

#### **58. Repeating the Penultimate Year as a 2nd Attempt**

58.1 A candidate, whose performance in all domains is **Acceptable** (refer to domain specific progression requirements) shall have passed the Penultimate Year and may proceed to the Final Year of the MBBS programme.

58.2 A candidate, whose performance in any one or more domains is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable, or Borderline** in Becoming a Doctor (see domain specific

progression requirements) is 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 (see paragraph 3).

#### 59. **Repeating the Penultimate Year as a 3rd Discretionary Attempt**

- 59.1 A candidate, whose performance in all domains is **Acceptable** (refer to domain specific progression requirements) shall have passed the Penultimate Year and may proceed to the Final Year of the MBBS programme.
- 59.2 A candidate, whose performance in any one or more domains is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable or Borderline** in Becoming a Doctor (see domain specific progression requirements) is deemed to have failed the programme and will have their registration terminated.

#### **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**

60. 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.
61. 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.
62. Procedural workplace based assessments (DOPs) will have a valid life-span of 2 academic years from the Board of Examiner at which they were ratified (regardless of reason for interruption of studies) to protect against skill fade and changes to clinical practice – students who return from an approved period of absence where their most recent procedural assessments are more than 2 academic years from when they re-join will be required to repeat all mandatory DOPs for the year of study in which they return.
63. 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 by the academic decision of the Interruption of Studies panel – see sections 61 regarding DOPs.

#### **Board of Examiners**

64. There shall be an MBBS Board of Examiners constituted in accordance with the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study and the MBBS Programme Regulations.
65. The Board of Examiners has ultimate responsibility for the standard of the examinations and their fair and proper conduct.
66. A Sub-Board of Examiners will determine progression from the Penultimate to Final Year.



### External Examiners

67. There is a detailed job description for External Examiners, available separately.
68. External Examiners will be invited to attend the meeting of the Board of Examiners and if required, the OSCE and the Becoming a Doctor Grading Committee.

### Annual Report

69. 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.