

St George's, University of London

Scheme of Assessment

MBBS Transition Year (T Year) 2021-22

Overview

1. The third year of the MBBS 5-year stream and second year of the MBBS 4-year stream shall be known as the Transition Year (T Year). During this year the students on both streams will undertake identical assessments. This Scheme of Assessment specifically relates to the Transition 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 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 Affairs section of the Portal.

Summative Assessment

4. The Professional Knowledge (PK) domain is tested using a written examination and will assess knowledge and application of knowledge. The content examined will include teaching from PBL blocks, 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, T Year 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. Feedback will be provided across four main elements: attendance, other professional behaviour, the clinical workplace portfolio and student selected component (SSC)/projects.

The Professional Knowledge (PK) (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 an internationally recognised standard setting method 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 methods 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

Standard Errors of Measurement will be used unless it is not statistically reliable to use this method given the variables (e.g cohort size) of a particular assessment in question. In these cases an alternative, recognised, method would be selected to suit the variables of the assessment.

11. A candidate, whose grade in the written examination is **Acceptable** shall have passed the Transition Year and may proceed to the Penultimate Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 25 and 37.
12. A candidate, whose grade in the written examination is **Cause for Concern at first attempt** may choose to repeat the Transition Year or may opt to enter the re-sit written examination in the re-sit period.
13. A candidate, whose grade in the written examination is **Unacceptable** will be required to forego the re-sit examination and repeat the Transition Year; completing all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

Written Resit 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 Transition Year and may proceed to the Penultimate Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 25 and 37.

16. A candidate whose grade at the written resit 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 3rd 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 3rd attempt will be required to repeat the Transition Year and sit all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

The Professional Skills (PS) (OSCE)

18. The OSCE will normally comprise of no fewer than 12 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 an internationally recognised standard setting method. The pass standard will normally (see paragraph 21) be determined by the borderline regression method.
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 a 12 station OSCE, students must pass at least 8 (rounded from 7.8) stations. For example, if, after applying the percentage calculation, the resulting number of stations is 7.49 then this will be rounded down to 7, and if the resulting number of stations is 7.50 this will be rounded up to 8.

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

Standard Errors of Measurement will be used unless it is not statistically reliable to use this method given the variables (e.g cohort size) of a particular assessment in question. In these cases an alternative, recognised, method would be selected to suit the variables of the assessment.

26. A candidate, whose grade in the OSCE is **Acceptable** shall have passed the Transition Year and may proceed to the Penultimate Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 10 and 37.
27. A candidate, whose grade in the OSCE is **Cause for Concern at first attempt** may choose to repeat the Transition Year or may opt to enter the re-sit OSCE in the re-sit period.
28. A candidate, whose grade in the OSCE is **Unacceptable** will be required to forego the re-sit examination and repeat the Transition 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 (see paragraph 52).
30. A candidate, whose grade in the OSCE re-sit is **Acceptable** shall have passed the Transition Year and may proceed to the Penultimate Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 10 and 37.
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 3rd 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 3rd attempt will be required to repeat the Transition Year and complete all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

The Becoming a Doctor (BD)

33. Candidates will be considered across four main elements: attendance, other professional behaviour, the clinical workplace portfolio and SSC/projects. These are assessed during the attachments in T Year, the PBL blocks and the SSC and project (namely Case Analysis Project).
34. Individual requirements for each element will be published in advance by the Year/Domain Lead.

The Becoming a Doctor (BD) Marking Arrangements and Standard Setting

35. The assessments within this domain will be assessed by the relevant Educational Supervisor.
36. The Becoming a Doctor (BD) Progress Meeting will meet twice yearly to discuss students displaying poor professional behaviour (including attendance). The Becoming a Doctor (BD) Grading Committee will allocate grades 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 (BD) Progress Meeting may consider any evidence regarding professional behaviour (including attendance) in T year in the context of previous grades for Professional Behaviour as assessed assimilated from the point of entry to the MBBS programme.

The Becoming a Doctor (BD) Progression Requirements

37. 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 Behaviour Element	Clinical Workplace Portfolio Element	SSC and Projects Element	Overall T Year 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
A	A	C	A	C
A	C	C	A	C
C(If small Groups)	C	A	A	B/A *
C(If Clinical Practice)	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
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

* A grade of C in attendance relating to small group teaching only will usually result in a B overall. Final grade to be determined by the Becoming a Doctor grading committee.

38. The SSC T-Year will be undertaken during T-Year but will be assessed within the P Year Becoming a Doctor (BD) domain, under the P-Year Scheme of Assessment for that year.

39. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor (BD) 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 the Transition Year and may proceed to the Penultimate Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they also meet the requirements of paragraphs 10 and 27. Candidates may only receive one Borderline grade during the MBBS programme.
40. Students awarded a **Borderline** in T Year, will be automatically considered at the Grading Committee at the end of P-yr.
41. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor (BD) domain is **Cause for Concern** at the end of the year at first attempt (see final column in table above) may choose to repeat the Transition Year or may opt to enter the resit assessments during the resit period.
42. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor (BD) domain is **Unacceptable** will be required to repeat the Transition Year; completing all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

The Becoming a Doctor (BD) Resit Period

43. The resit period for the Becoming a Doctor (BD) domain will normally take place within one month of publication of results.
44. 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 (BD) Domain Lead or their nominee(s).
45. 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**.
46. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor (BD) resit period is **Borderline** shall have passed the Transition Year and may proceed to the Penultimate Year of the MBBS programme, provided that they have not previously received a grade of **Borderline** and also meet the requirements of paragraphs 10 and 27.
47. A candidate, whose grade in the Becoming a Doctor (BD) 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 3).
48. Candidates granted a 3rd final attempt will be required to repeat the Transition Year and sit all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain in a previous academic year.

Merits and Distinctions

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

	T Year (Clinical Science)
Written examination percentage mark	50
OSCE percentage mark	50
TOTAL	100

50. A Distinction in Clinical Science will be awarded to candidates in the top 10%, ie. the 1st decile, of the cohort in the Transition Year. This will be based on the final accumulated weighted percentage mark, rounded to one decimal place (see paragraph 49. Candidates must pass at 1st 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.
51. A Merit in Clinical Science will be awarded to candidates in the 2nd decile of the cohort in the Transition Year. This will be based on the final accumulated weighted percentage mark rounded to one decimal place (see paragraph 49) 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 (BD) domain at first attempt.
52. Candidates who defer entry to an examination and sit their first attempt with the resit 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 1st or 2nd decile). A candidate who defers entry to an examination more than once, will be ranked alongside the most recent main cohort.

Deferred Entry Candidates

53. 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.

Requirements for a Repeat of the Transition Year

54. When repeating the Transition Year, candidates will be required to select a new topic for the SSC.

Progression from the Transition Year to the Penultimate Year following a repeat of the Transition Year

55. 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.
56. Candidates repeating the Transition Year will be required to achieve a grade of **Acceptable** for the Becoming a Doctor (BD) domain.
57. **Repeating the Transition Year as a 2nd Attempt**

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

57.2 A candidate, whose performance in any one or more domains is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable or Borderline for Becoming a Doctor (BD)** (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).

58. **Repeating the Transition Year as a 3rd Discretionary Attempt**

58.1 A candidate, whose performance in all domains is **Acceptable** (refer to domain specific progression requirements) shall have passed the Transition Year and may proceed to the Penultimate 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 for Becoming a Doctor (BD)** (see domain specific progression requirements) is deemed to have failed the programme and will have their registration terminated.

59. **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 section 60 regarding workplace based assessments.

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 Transition to Penultimate 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 (BD) Grading Committee.

Annual Reports

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.