St George's, University of London

Scheme of Assessment and Grade Criteria -   MSc Translational Medicine

For students entering the programme in 2021

Approved by TPPC (04-Dec-2020)

1   OVERALL

1.1   The Scheme of Assessment is presented to meet the requirements of section 7 of the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study which stipulates that each programme shall have a Scheme of Assessment for each major stage (e.g. year) or module, as defined in its Regulations. This Scheme of Assessment pertains to the:

- MSc in Translational Medicine

- PG Diploma in Translational Medicine

- PG Certificate in Translational Medicine

2   MODULE ASSESSMENTS

2.1   For each module there will be an assessment scheme setting out how many assessments are required for the module and the weighting of each assessment.

2.2   Topics for assessments will be devised by module leaders, in consultation with the course director and the teaching team, which reflect the content and learning outcomes contained in the module descriptor.

2.3   Assessment dates and deadlines for submission will be given on the relevant course pages of the Canvas virtual learning environment.

2.4   Where applicable, word limits will be set in accordance with the type of assessment elements and module credit rating.

2.5   The regulations that apply in the case of candidates who wish to apply for special examination or assessment arrangements on grounds of illness or disability, or who are ill before or during examinations, or who have other extenuating circumstances which might affect their performance, are detailed in the SGUL General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study

2.6   The schemes of assessment for the modules available within the MSc Translational Medicine programme are summarised in the following table. Detailed assessment schemes will be set out in the relevant Canvas pages and will adhere to the validated module descriptors.

Table 1: Overview of assessments

Module Title	Credits & Level	Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment	Weighting %	Examination Date(s)	ACHIEVING A PASS:
MODULE ASSESSMENTS						
Big Data in Biomedicine	30 credits at L7	Data analysis tasks; Online quizzes/questions	Open-book data analysis project	100%	TBD	≥ 50%
Case Studies in Drug Discovery and Development	15 credits at L7	Online quizzes/questions Presentation	Essay	100%	TBD	≥ 50%
Clinical Trials	15 credits at L7	Feedback on discussions and presentations; formative trial protocol assignment	a. Mini trial protocol b. Good clinical practice written exam	a. 80% b. 20%	TBD	≥ 50% in each assessment
Genomic Technologies in Clinical Diagnostics	15 credits at L7	Online quizzes/questions Online data analysis exercises; Online critical evaluation exercises Discussion boards	Online complex data evaluation	100%	TBD	50% pass mark overall
Personalized Medicine	15 credits at L7	TBC	Written exam	100%	TBD	≥50%
Population Health Research	15 credits at L7	Oral presentation and written work	Open-book data analysis project	100%	TBD	≥50%
Research Methods and Management	15 credits at L7	Oral presentation of research proposal	Written research proposal	100%	TBD	≥50%
Research Project	60 credits at L7	Peer and tutor feedback on seminars and drafts	a. Supervisor report b. Poster presentation c. 10,000 word dissertation	a. 15% b. 15% c. 70%	TBD	≥50% in each assessment

MODULE-INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT						
NA	NA	NA	Portfolio	(Pass/Fail)	TBD	Pass

3 COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

3.1 Module-based coursework assignments will be given integer marks out of 100.

3.2 The assessment and feedback portfolio will be marked pass or fail.

3.3 Where plagiarism or other academic dishonesty is demonstrated, marks may be reduced according to the regulation set forth in the SGUL "Procedure for considering allegations of assessment irregularity". Zero marks will be awarded for late submission, non-submission or non-attendance.

3.4 The percentage marks for individual module assessments will be weighted according to the formula given in the module documentation to give a single integer percentage mark (i.e. rounded to zero decimals) for the module. Candidates who receive a mark of at least 50% overall for the module will pass the module.

4 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND MARKING SCHEMES

4.1 Detailed assessment criteria explaining how different levels of achievement by students will be rewarded through the allocation of marks will be developed by the course team and made available to students and (internal and external) examiners.

4.2 Marking schemes explaining how marks are allocated to each piece of assessed work (for a question, a group of questions or a section in an examination paper or presentation) will be developed by the course team and made available to students and (internal and external) examiners.

5 INTERNAL MODERATION

5.1 Arrangements for internal moderation will comply with requirements of General Regulation 11.7 which stipulate that 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, usually the module organiser, having an overview of the work submitted for assessment and moderating the marking.

5.2 Moderation shall be carried out in a manner to verify that course work is marked in a consistent and fair manner, and in accordance with documented assessment criteria. Verification shall involve at least a subset of exam scripts covering the full spectrum of marks.

5.3 Where the moderator does not agree with the original mark, they may assign a new mark. In case of disagreements between first and second marks, the first examiner and the moderator agree on a final mark. Both first, second and agreed marks should be recorded. If for any reason agreement cannot be reached, or if the mark difference is ≥10%, or if the mark is borderline pass/fail, the course director or a new marker will allocate the mark.

5.4 Following internal moderation, candidates who receive a rounded mark of at least 50% for a coursework assignment will pass the assignment.

5.5 Candidates who receive a rounded mark of less than 50% for a coursework assignment will fail the assessment and will be given a deadline for resubmission, normally 20 working days after receiving the fail mark.

6   RE-ENTRY TO ASSESSMENTS

6.1 Re-entry to assessments will comply with requirements of General Regulation 10.9 which stipulate that students will, as of right, be permitted one re-entry for all failed assessment components.

6.2 If a student fails an assessment and is eligible to re-take it (because they have not used up all their permitted attempts), they will be given a deadline for resubmission, normally within 20 working days of receiving their mark. For written examinations or presentations a resit will be scheduled at least 20 working days from the date students received their marks.

6.3 Marks for any assessment that involves a resubmission or resit will be capped overall at 50%. External examiners will be asked to review both attempts before marks are confirmed by the board of examiners. When calculating module marks that are based on more than one assessment, the marks for assessments that were passed at first attempt contribute in full, and module-level marks will **not** automatically be capped if one of the component marks is based on a resit or resubmission.

6.4 If a student fails an assessment at second attempt, the highest mark obtained by the two attempts will be used to calculate a module mark.

7   PROGRESSION

7.1 Students must successfully pass the assessment for the Research Methods and Management module in order to progress to Semester 3.

8   RESEARCH PROJECT (60 CREDITS)

8.1 Candidates will be allocated individual supervisors during the autumn term who will help them to develop a suitable project plan and undertake research on the project from April onwards.

8.2 The module will be assessed by three elements:

Report from supervisor	15%
Presentation of a poster	15%
Dissertation (6,000-10,000 words)	70%

8.3 Guidelines and marking criteria for the poster and dissertation will be given in the Research Project module documentation on Canvas.

8.4 SUPERVISOR REPORT

8.4.1 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 an integer mark out of 100.

8.5 POSTER PRESENTATIONS

8.5.1 Candidates will present their posters on the day specified in the course calendar. All posters will be displayed at the same time but candidates will be given a timetabled slot in which to present their posters and answer questions from staff and students.

8.5.2 Posters and presentations will be marked independently by at least one internal examiner. Markers will allocate an integer mark out of 100 using the criteria given in the module documentation. Rules for internal moderation apply as outlined in 5.1 – 5.3 above.

8.6 DISSERTATION

8.6.1 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 an integer mark out of 100. 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 external examiner.

8.6.2 Candidates who achieve a rounded mark of at least 50% will be deemed to have passed the dissertation.

8.6.3 Candidates who are allocated a rounded fail mark of 45-49% for their dissertation (deemed to be a borderline fail of the dissertation) by the internal examiners 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 8.6.3 above).

8.7 The marks of each assessment element of the Research Project module are multiplied by a weighting factor as shown in 8.2; the resulting values are added together and then rounded to zero decimals (0.5 being rounded up) to arrive at a final mark for the module.

8.8 Candidates must pass the poster presentation and dissertation independently and achieve a final rounded module mark of at least 50% as calculated in 8.7 to pass the Research Project module.

8.9 MSc candidates who fail the Research Project module, by failing either the poster presentation or the dissertation (taking into account second attempts) will fail the degree but may be eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma if they have passed other modules worth 120

credits; if they have completed less than 120 credits but a minimum of 60 credits, they may be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate.

9   DETERMINATION OF FINAL MSC DEGREE MARK

9.1   Candidates are allowed two attempts at each assessed element except the supervisor's report.

9.2   The final percentage marks obtained for the seven taught module assessments and the Research Project mark will each be multiplied by the respective number of credits and then each divided by 180; the resulting values will be added together and rounded to one decimal (0.05 being rounded up) to arrive at a final degree mark.

9.3   Candidates who achieve a final rounded degree mark of 49.5-59.4% and pass each of the seven taught modules and the Research Project and achieve a pass for the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio will pass the degree.

9.4   Candidates who achieve a final rounded degree mark of 59.5-69.4% and pass each of the seven taught modules and the Research Project and achieve a pass for the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio will pass the degree with merit.

9.5   Candidates who achieve a final rounded degree mark of greater than 69.4% and pass each of the seven taught modules and achieve a pass for the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio and achieve a mark of at least 65% in the Research Project at first attempt will pass the degree with distinction.

9.6   MSc candidates who fail the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio or who fail any module at second attempt will fail the degree but may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate if they fulfil the conditions for these awards (see 11 below).

9.7   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.

10   DETERMINATION OF FINAL DIPLOMA MARK

10.1   The final percentage marks obtained for all passed module assessments will each be multiplied by the respective number of credits; the resulting values are added together and the sum is then divided by the corresponding total number of credits. The resulting value is then rounded to one decimal place, 0.05 being rounded up, to arrive at a final Diploma mark.

10.2   Diploma candidates who achieve a final Diploma mark of at least 49.5% and achieve a pass for the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio will pass the Postgraduate Diploma.

10.3   Diploma candidates who achieve a final Diploma mark of at least 69.5% and achieve a pass for the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio will pass the Postgraduate Diploma with distinction.

10.4 Diploma candidates who have achieved a final Diploma mark of less than 49.5% will fail the Diploma but may be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate if they fulfil the conditions for this award (see 11 below).

11 DETERMINATION OF FINAL CERTIFICATE MARK

11.1 The Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded without merit or distinction.

11.2 The final percentage marks obtained for all passed module assessments will each be multiplied by the respective number of credits; the resulting values are added together and the sum is then divided by the corresponding total number of credits. The resulting value is then rounded to one decimal place, 0.05 being rounded up, to arrive at a final Certificate mark.

11.3 Postgraduate Certificate candidates who pass the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio and who achieve a final rounded Certificate mark of at least 49.5% will pass the Postgraduate Certificate.

11.4 Postgraduate Candidates who fail to pass the assessments for taught modules worth at least 60 credits (taking into account second attempts) or who fail the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio will fail the Postgraduate Certificate and will be issued with a transcript detailing the module marks obtained and credits that have been accumulated.

12 EXIT DEGREES

12.1 MSc Candidates who fail one or more modules will be eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma if they have passed other modules worth at least 120 credits and if they passed the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio.

12.2 MSc candidates who fail several modules worth more than 60 credits will be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate if they have passed other modules worth at least 60 credits and if they passed the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio.

12.3 Diploma candidates who fail one or more taught modules will be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate if they have passed other taught modules worth at least 60 credits and if they passed the Assessment and Feedback Portfolio.

13 DETERMINATION OF EXIT DEGREE TITLE

13.1 Three of the taught modules, "Case Studies in Drug Discovery and Development", "Clinical Trials" and "Genomic Technologies in Clinical Diagnostics" are considered as cores modules when deciding on the title of exit awards.

13.2 MSc candidates who meet the criteria in 12.1 and successfully pass the assessments for at least two core modules will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Translational Medicine.

13.3 MSc candidates who meet the criteria in 12.1 but did not successfully pass the assessments for two core modules (taking into account second attempts) will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Bioscience.

13.4 MSc candidates who meet the criteria in 12.2 and successfully pass the assessments for two core modules will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Translational Medicine.

13.5 MSc candidates who meet the criteria in 12.2 but did not successfully pass two core modules (taking into account second attempts) will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Bioscience.

13.6 Diploma candidates who meet the criteria in 12.3 and successfully pass the assessments for at least two core modules will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Translational Medicine.

13.7 Diploma candidates who meet the criteria in 12.3 but did not successfully pass the assessments for two core modules (taking into account second attempts) will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Bioscience.

14 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

14.1 At least one external examiner shall be appointed to the Translational Medicine programme. The external examiner(s) shall be invited to participate in the setting of assessments and shall have the right to inspect any assessment material for the MSc. The detailed duties of external examiners are set out in the Quality Manual.

15 BOARD OF EXAMINERS

15.1 There shall be a Board of Examiners constituted in accordance with the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study.

15.2 All marks are provisional until approved by the Board of Examiners.

16 DATE OF AWARD

16.1 The date of the award of the degree or certificate shall be the date of the Board of Examiners meeting at which the award is conferred

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