Changes to *Examination Regulations 2016-17*

1617-02-TPT

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by: PVC (Education) on behalf of Education Committee (May 2017)

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Master of Science by Coursework in Pharmacology

Brief note about nature of change:

a) Change to the length of an assessment

b) Change to timing of resits for two assessments

c) Correction to reflect the current timing of an assessment

d) Change to one of course requirements (from mandatory to optional)

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2016-17(http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mosbcourinphar/administratorview/)*

Effective date

1. For students starting from MT 2017

and

2. For first examination from 2017-18

Detail of change

1. Amend clauses 4(i) and 4(ii) as follows:

    1.74. Candidates shall be examined in all of the following ways:

    1.8(i) each candidate must pass a <u>computer-based</u> qualifying examination at the end of Michaelmas Term. The test shall consist of <u>of multiple choice questions</u> ~~one three-hour computer-based examination~~ on the topics covered

by the Pharmacology Introductory Course, as set out in the Schedule, and must be completed in two and a half hours. ~~The Organising Committee shall not later than the end of the Hilary Term preceding the final examination submit to the examiners a list of candidates who have satisfactorily completed the qualifying examination.~~ Candidates who fail the qualifying examination once shall be permitted to take it again ~~in the first week~~ before the end of the Hilary Term of the year of the final examination.

[1.9](ii) each candidate will sit a three-hour data handling and experimental design examination (also known as the quantitative examination) before the end of ~~Trinity~~ Hilary term. Candidates who fail once (<50% of the maximum mark) shall be permitted to sit the examination on one further occasion ~~in the following Hilary term~~ before the end of the Trinity Term of the year of the final examination.

2. Amend the below clause as follows:

[1.38]Candidates will also be required to take courses on experimental design, data interpretation, computing and statistics, approved by the Organising Committee. Candidates ~~will be required~~ have the option to obtain a Home Office licence ~~and will follow the course of study required for modules 1 to 4 of this~~. Those candidates who wish to carry out a research project involving animal work will be required to attend the Home Office Licence course for modules 1 to 4 in due time. Students will not be permitted to carry out a project involving animal work without the licence should they change their mind at a later stage.

Explanatory Notes

1. In the current state, the Examination Regulations require:

- each student to pass one three- hour computer-based qualifying exam at the end of Michaelmas Term. The exam was instated in Michaelmas Term 2016 and sat for the first time by a cohort of MSc students in December 2016. The examiners were able to establish that the exam can be completed in 2.5 hours;

- Examiners have been finding it difficult to release (via e-Vision) the final marks of the computer-based qualifying exam taken at the end of Michaelmas Term in time for the resit to take place in the First week of Hilary term. It will be much more manageable if the resit is scheduled towards the end of Hilary term instead;

- the quantitative examination has always been taken by students in February hence statement 'before the end of Trinity term' is incorrect;

- student to resit the quantitative exam in the following Hilary Term, a year later. It will benefit students to resit this exam sooner, i.e. in the same academic year of their final examination.

2. The MSc Taught Course in Pharmacology places a lot of emphasis on *in vivo* research methodology. However, the range of career aspirations from graduates of this programme include positions beyond research in academia and industry Therefore, the Home License course is no longer mandatory but becomes optional.