

**Medical Sciences Board**

**Approved:** 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Title of Examination:** MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences

**Brief note about nature of change:** To update the regulations for accuracy, and to change the timing of the course to a standard academic year (October – September) instead of a calendar year (January – December).

**Effective date:**

- For students starting from Michaelmas Term 2016
- For first examination from 2016-17

**Location of change:**

*Examination Regulations 2014-15*

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2014-15/mosbcinmuscscie/administratorview/>

MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences

**Details of change:**

1. In *Examination Regulations*, 2014-15, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2014-15/mosbcinmuscscie/administratorview/> MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences, citation references 1.2-1.4, amend the clauses as follows:
  - '2. The Organising Committee shall appoint for each candidate ~~an~~two academic ~~supervisors~~supervisors.
  3. Candidates will hold a first degree in medicine, or exceptionally a biomedical science degree or equivalent.
  4. Candidates shall follow a course of study in Musculoskeletal Sciences on a part-time basis for at least six terms, and including vacations, as determined by the course timetable. The course commences every two years ~~in January and runs until December of the following year.~~
2. Ibid., citation references 1.6-1.13, amend the clauses as follows:

'(i) Year 1 (~~January to December~~)

(a) Each candidate shall submit a literature review of no more than 4,000 words on a topic selected by the candidate and approved by the Organising Committee. The review must be submitted ~~during Week 2 of Michaelmas term~~ in Week 4 of Trinity Term on a date to be specified in the course handbook.

(b) Each candidate must pass an examination during the Long Vacation (normally in September)~~in Michaelmas Term~~. The examination will comprise two elements: the first of these will consist of a one-hour computer-based assessment comprising multiple-choice questions; the second of these will constitute a two-hour written paper. The dates of the examination will be specified in the course handbook.

(ii) Year 2 (~~January to December~~)

(a) Each candidate must submit, for assessment of their progress, an outline research proposal. The outline must be submitted in ~~Hilary~~ Michaelmas Term on a date to be specified in the course handbook.

(b) Each candidate will be assessed on their presentation skills by means of a public oral presentation on his or her research topic. The presentation must take place in ~~Trinity~~ Hilary Term on a date to be specified in the course handbook.

(c) Each candidate must submit a written research proposal of no more than 10,000 words on a topic selected by the candidate and approved by the Organising Committee. The proposal must be submitted in ~~Michaelmas~~ Trinity Term on a date to be specified in the course handbook.

(d) Each candidate must pass an examination during the Long Vacation (normally in September)~~in Michaelmas Term~~. The examination will comprise two elements: the first of these will consist of a one-hour computer-based assessment comprising multiple-choice questions; the second of these will constitute a two-hour written paper. The dates of the examination will be specified in the course handbook.'

3. Ibid., citation reference 1.16, amend the clause as follows:

'8. Candidates will be allowed one opportunity to retake or resubmit each of the required elements, normally within ~~six~~ two months of the original failure, should they fail to reach the necessary standard. Candidates failing to pass any element at the second attempt will normally be judged to have failed to reach the necessary standard for the award and will not be permitted to continue.'

4. Ibid., citation reference 1.19, amend the clause as follows:

'11. The examiners may award a ~~postgraduate diploma~~ Postgraduate Diploma to candidates who have satisfied the requirements for ~~the award of the Postgraduate~~

Diploma (comprising all assessments with the exception of the written research proposal), and who do not wish to continue their studies, or who fail to meet the required standard for the written research proposal.'

### **Explanatory Notes**

1. Since its inception, the course has appointed two academic supervisors for each candidate; this amendment improves the accuracy of the regulations. The other amendments constitute a minor adjustment for clarity, and removal of a reference to the course taking place over a calendar rather than an academic year.
2. These amendments adjust deadlines so that they correspond with an academic year rather than a calendar year.
3. It is preferable for candidates who need to re-take assessments to do so at the earliest opportunity, instead of waiting six months to do so.
4. Since the introduction of the programme, the Postgraduate Diploma has only been intended for use as an exit award from the Master's, rather than as a stand-alone award. The MSc regulations are being clarified to reflect this, and the separate postgraduate diploma regulations are being removed (see regulation change 1415-10-TPT) because they duplicate the existing MSc regulations.