

Medical Sciences Divisional Board**Approved on behalf of Education Committee on 3 July 2019****Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation**

Master of Science by Coursework in Pharmacology

Brief note about nature of change:

Changes to assessment requirements.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018* <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/mosbcourinphar/administratorview/>

Effective date**For students starting from MT 2019****For first examination from 2019-2020****Detail of change**

Amend citation reference 1.9 as follows:

(iii) each candidate will complete a ~~three~~ two part examination.

Amend (remove) citation reference 1.11 as follows:

~~Part B: Each candidate will be required to submit to the examiners two copies of a printed Critical Literature Review of not more than 3,000 words which will be an extended introduction to their approved research project. One practical notebook in which all practical class experiments are recorded will also be submitted. The mark will contribute to the final course mark according to the pre-specified weighting.~~

Amend citation 1.12 as follows:

~~Part C: B:~~ Each candidate will be required to submit to the examiners three copies of a printed dissertation of not more than 10,000 words (excluding bibliography and appendices) on the research

project selected for study as set out in the Schedule. The mark will contribute to the final course mark according to the pre-specified weighting. The arrangements for approval will be notified to candidates not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken.

Amend citation 1.13 as follows:

~~Those who fail shall be permitted to re-sit Part A and submit rewrites of Part B and Part C on one further occasion. These resubmissions will occur with the following year's submissions cycle. Those who fail shall be permitted to re-sit Part A and submit a rewrite of Part B on one further occasion. The resit and resubmission will occur with the following year's examination cycle.~~

Amend (remove) citation 1.14 as follows:

~~(iv) each candidate will be expected to give a public oral presentation on his or her research project, on dates to be determined by the Organising Committee.~~ (iv) each candidate will be required to keep a record of practical work using the designated electronic system for review by the examiners.

Amend citation 1.15 as follows:

5. Each candidate shall be examined ~~viva voce~~: by giving an oral presentation (viva voce) on their research project to the examiners.

Amend citation 1.17 as follows:

~~7. The required written submissions must be sent to the Chair of Examiners, M.Sc. in Pharmacology, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford on the following dates:~~
7. The dissertation must be submitted to the Chair of Examiners, M.Sc. in Pharmacology, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford by dates to be specified by the Organising Committee and which will be published in the *University Gazette* not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken.

Amend (remove) citations 1.18 and 1.19 as follows

~~(a) The dissertation on the research project must be submitted by dates to be specified by the Organising Committee and which will be published in the *University Gazette* not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken.~~

~~(b) The essay and the practical notebook must be submitted by deadlines determined by the Organising Committee and posted in the *Gazette* no later than the end of the term preceding submission.~~

Amend citation 1.20 as follows:

~~Each~~ The submission must be accompanied by a certificate indicating that it is the candidate's own work.

Remove citation 1.22

~~The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in part of or in the whole examination.~~

Explanatory Notes

a) The Organising Committee of the MSc Pharmacology Taught course, in consultation with the Board of Examiners agreed that, in its current state, the course is over-examined. Currently, a 3,000-word Critical Literature Review, which has to be submitted in Trinity Term and contributes 10% of the final mark, serves as an extended introduction of the background knowledge leading to the key questions that the student will address in his or her research project. In the past few years, examiners emphasized that the majority of students tended to replicate substantial sections of the Critical Literature Review into the Introduction of their Dissertation. This was due to the intrinsic similarity of the two assessments and the overlap in scope.

One of the intended purposes of the critical literature review is to assess students in their ability to critical evaluate literature. However, students are already assessed in their ability to appraise literature in the essay exam and dissertation, and they receive training in developing this skill through formative essay writing, Journal Clubs, discussion forums and their laboratory experience as part of a research group. Therefore, the Critical Literature Review is no longer considered an exam requirement and it is now removed from the summative assessment of the course.

b) In the past, students were asked to submit a copy of all their practical classes to ensure they had completed this aspect of their formative assessment. Submission of the practical notebook in which all practical class experiments are recorded is no longer required since the course has adopted LabArchives, a cloud-based electronic platform approved by the University of Oxford, which safely stores laboratory notebooks containing data and reports from all students, who sign up using their Single Sign-On account. The notebooks can be managed and monitored by the Course Director, assessed by tutors and accessed by examiners. This system will be soon replaced by Canvas which will serve the main purpose.

c) Students prepare a poster and give an oral presentation (or viva voce) of their research project at the end of the course in front of three examiners. Clauses 1.14 and 1.15 were combined since they were repetitions.

d) The regulation on distinction will be included in the general University regulations and therefore is the exam regulation of the MSc course.