MSc Experimental Therapeutics

Effect of change: to implement the Department’s policy on variable intensity study; to allow for certain modules to be available to students registered on the EBHC programme; to amend word lengths for the assignments and dissertation to be consistent with the EBHC programme.

With effect from 1 October 2012

In Examination Regulations 2012

P 711
Line 19 after “Therapeutics”
Insert “Old regulations for students registered on the MSc Experimental Therapeutics before 1 October 2012”

P 712 after line 11 insert
“Experimental Therapeutics (new regulations for students registering on the award from 1 October 2012 and available to existing students)”

Insert text below
1. The Medical Sciences Board, in consultation with the Continuing Education Board, shall elect for the supervision of the course a Standing Committee that shall have the power to arrange lectures and other instruction.

2. The course is available on a part time basis only and shall consist of instruction in the theory and practice of Experimental Therapeutics.

3. The policy of the Continuing Education Board on variable intensity part-time postgraduate study shall apply to this award.

4. The minimum period of registration for the M.Sc. course shall be three terms and the maximum period of registration shall be twelve terms.

5. Candidates may be permitted in certain circumstances to suspend status, for a maximum of six terms. Any such period shall not count to the maximum or minimum permitted period of registration and no fee liability will be incurred during such periods.

6. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:

   a) participation, to the satisfaction of the course director, in each of the modules listed below;
   b) six written assignments, each of not more than 4,000 words in length, one from each of the six modules specified;
   c) a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words (including tables, appendices, footnotes but excluding reference list) on a subject selected by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the Standing Committee. Approval must be sought no later than the first day of the ninth term of registration. The dissertation must be submitted within three terms of the date of approval, notwithstanding the maximum permitted period of registration.

The assessed work set out in clause 6(b and c) shall be forwarded to the examiners c/o Registry, Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA, for consideration by such date as the examiners shall determine and shall notify candidates. The assessed work will, in normal circumstances, be submitted through an electronic submission system.

7. Candidates may be required to attend a viva voce examination at the end of the course of studies at the discretion of the examiners.

8. The examiners may award a distinction to candidates for the M.Sc.

9. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in any of the assignments or the dissertation under 6 above may be permitted to resubmit work in respect of the part or parts they have failed on not more than one occasion for each assignment without being required to repeat attendance at the relevant module.
or modules. The resubmission shall normally be within one year of the original failure.

10. Provided the Standing Committee is satisfied that a student on the award has undertaken equivalent study, of an appropriate standard, normally at another institution of higher education, or has appropriate work experience to an equivalent standard, the committee may permit the candidate to be exempted from attendance and the submission of a written assignment in respect of up to three modules. In exercising this discretion the Standing Committee shall take into consideration the length of time that has elapsed since the study or work experience was undertaken.

11. The Standing Committee may deem satisfactory completion of a module (including the associated assessment) undertaken prior to registration for the award as having met the attendance and examination requirements in respect of that module. Such discretion will normally only be exercised if the time elapsed between commencement of the accredited module concerned and registration for the award is not more than two years. The maximum number of modules taken prior to registration for the award that may be counted in this way shall be three.

Module Schedule

1) Structure of clinical trials and experimental therapeutics*
2) Drug development, pharmacokinetics and imaging*
3) Pharmacodynamics, biomarkers and personalised therapy*
4) Adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, and pharmacovigilance*
5) How to do research on therapeutic interventions: protocol preparation*
6) Biological therapeutics*
7) Any other module as defined by the programme director and approved by the Standing Committee.¹

* Also available to students on the PG Certificate and Diploma in Health Research

¹ The Medical Sciences Divisional Board and the Continuing Education Board elect for the supervision of the programme a Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is chaired alternately by the heads of Clinical Pharmacology and Continuing Education and the Programme Director reports to the Standing Committee.