Evidence-Based Health Care Studies

Effect of change: i) To combine the regulations governing the three awards in EBHC and the two in Health Research into one programme; ii) to implement the Department’s policy on variable intensity part time study; iii) to allow more flexibility to students on the Health Research awards to take relevant modules from other awards.

With effect for new students from MT 2012 and available to existing students

In Examination Regulations 2011

P 704 line 18 insert

“Old regulations for students registered on the MSc EBHC before 1 October 2012”

P 705 after line 25 insert

“Postgraduate Programme in Evidence-Based Health Care Studies (new regulations for students registering on any of the awards listed from 1 October 2012 and available to existing students)

For students entering the Programme from MT 2012 and available to existing students

Postgraduate Programme in Evidence-Based Health Care Studies

A. Definition of the Programme
1. The Continuing Education Board and the Medical Sciences Board shall jointly offer a Programme in Evidence-Based Health Care Studies at postgraduate level.

2. The Continuing Education Board and the Medical Sciences Board shall jointly elect for the supervision of the Programme a Standing Committee which shall have the power to arrange lectures and other instruction.

3. The subject of the Programme shall be Evidence-Based Health Care Studies.

4. The policy of the Continuing Education Board on variable intensity part-time postgraduate study applies to this Programme.

5. The following awards shall be available within the Programme:
   i. MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care
   ii. Postgraduate Diploma in Evidence-Based Health Care
   iii. Postgraduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Health Care
   iv. Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research
   v. Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research

B. Progression

6. Students admitted to the Programme with the intention of studying towards the award of the M.Sc. are required to matriculate, involving admission by a college of the University. Students admitted to the Programme intending to study towards a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma who subsequently apply for admission to the M.Sc. will be required at that point to matriculate and to be admitted by a college.

7. Students who have satisfied the requirements for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate or the Postgraduate Diploma and who do not wish to continue their studies may end their registration at that point and be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma as the case may be.

C. Duration

8. The minimum period of registration on the Programme shall be three terms.

9. The maximum period of registration shall be six terms for each of the Postgraduate Certificates, nine terms for each of the Postgraduate Diplomas and twelve terms for the MSc.

10. 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.

D. Study criteria for eligibility for awards
11. The modules available in the Programme are specified in the Schedule below. Not all modules are available for each award. Every candidate for a given award will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:

i. **M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Health Care**
   
   (i) attendance at both of modules i) and ii);
   
   (ii) attendance at any four of modules iii) to xiii) or xx) of the schedule at H;
   
   (iii) submission of the required assessed work relating to each of the six modules in (i) and (ii) above, which shall be of not more than 4,000 words per module;
   
   (iv) submission of a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words (including tables, appendices and 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.

ii. **Postgraduate Diploma in Evidence-Based Health Care**
   
   (i) attendance at both of modules i) and ii);
   
   (ii) attendance at any four of modules iii) to xiii) or xx) of the schedule at H;
   
   (iii) submission of the required assessed work relating to each of the six modules in (i) and (ii) above, which shall be of not more than 4,000 words per module.

iii. **Postgraduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Health Care**
   
   (i) attendance at both of modules i) and ii);
   
   (ii) attendance at any one of modules iii) to xiii) or xx) of the schedule at H;
   
   (iii) submission of the required assessed work relating to each of the three modules in (i) and (ii) above, which shall be of not more than 4,000 words per module.

iv. **Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research**
   
   (i) attendance at modules i) and ii)
   
   (ii) attendance at any three of modules iii) to xi), or xx) of the schedule at H, or of the modules indicated as available in the regulations for the MSc in Experimental Therapeutics
   
   (iii) attendance at one additional module taken from under ii) above, or xii) of the schedule at H, or from those indicated in the regulations for the MSc in Surgical Science and Practice
   
   (iv) submission of the required assessed work, which shall be of not more than 4,000 words, relating to each of the six modules in (i) and (ii) and (iii) above.
v.  *Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research*

(i) attendance at modules i) and ii)

(ii) attendance at one of modules iii) to x) in the schedule at H, or one of the modules indicated as available from the regulations for the MSc in Experimental Therapeutics

(iii) submission of the required assessed work, which shall be of not more than 4,000 words, relating to each of the three modules taken under (i) and (ii) above

12. Assignments shall be forwarded (usually electronically via a specified online submission system) to the examiners c/o Registry, Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA, for consideration by such dates as the examiners shall determine and of which they shall notify candidates. Dissertations shall be forwarded to the Examiners c/o Examination Schools High Street Oxford OX1 4BG for consideration by such dates as the examiners shall determine and of which they shall notify candidates.

Assignments and dissertations must be accompanied by a statement that they are the candidate's work except where otherwise indicated.

13. Provided the Standing Committee is satisfied that a student on the Programme 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 shall have the discretion to permit the candidate to be exempted from attendance and the submission of a written assignment in respect of one module for a Postgraduate Certificate, two modules for a Postgraduate Diploma and three modules for the MSc. In exercising this discretion the Standing Committee shall have consideration to the length of time that has elapsed since the study or work experience was undertaken.

E. The Examinations

14. Students on the Register shall enter for the examination for the award of the M.Sc. or the Postgraduate Diploma or the Postgraduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Health Care or the award of the Postgraduate Diploma or the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research.

15. Candidates are required to attend a viva voce examination at the end of the course of studies leading to each award unless dispensed by the examiners.

16. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the overall examination for each award.

17. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in any of the assignments or the
A dissertation under 11 above may be permitted, normally within one year of the original failure, 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.

F. Prior Undertaking of modules for credit

18. The Standing Committee shall have the discretion to deem satisfactory completion of a module including the associated assessment prior to registration for an award listed under 5 i-v above as having met the attendance and examination requirements in respect of that module under 11 above. 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.

19. The maximum number of modules taken prior to registration for an award that can contribute to the achievement of the award shall be one for the Postgraduate Certificate, three for either of the Postgraduate Diplomas and three for the MSc.

G Subsuming of previous modules and awards under the Programme

20. If any student who has previously successfully completed the Postgraduate Certificate and ended their registration on the Programme subsequently is re-admitted to another award listed under 5(i-iv), the Standing Committee shall have the discretion to deem satisfactory completion of modules within the Postgraduate Certificate as having met the attendance and examination requirements in respect of the modules under 11 above. Such discretion will normally only be exercised if the time elapsed between first registration on a module contributing to the Postgraduate Certificate and registration for the higher award is not more than two years.

21. If any student who has previously successfully completed the Postgraduate Diploma and ended their registration on the Programme subsequently is re-admitted to the M.Sc., the Standing Committee shall have the discretion to deem satisfactory completion of modules within the Postgraduate Diploma as having met the attendance and examination requirements in respect of the modules under 11 above. Such discretion will normally only be exercised if the time elapsed between first registration on a module contributing to the Postgraduate Diploma and registering for the MSc is not more than two years.

22. If a student who has been awarded a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate is subsequently awarded a higher award then the MSc or Postgraduate Diploma will subsume the lower award.

H. Schedule of Modules

   i) Practice of Evidence-Based Health Care
   ii) Introduction to Study Design and Research Methods
   iii) Ethics for Biosciences
   iv) Knowledge into Action
   v) Clinical Epidemiology
vi) Evidence-Based Diagnosis and Screening
vii) Introduction to Statistics for Health Care Research
viii) Systematic Reviews
ix) Randomized Control Trials
x) Qualitative Research Methods
xi) Essential Medical Statistics
xii) Teaching Evidence-Based Practice
xiii) The History and Philosophy of Evidence-Based Health Care
xx) Any other module as defined by the Programme Director and approved by the Standing Committee.

Additional modules available (as specified above) from the regulations for the MSc in Experimental Therapeutics

Structure of clinical trials and experimental therapeutics
Drug development, pharmacokinetics and imaging
Pharmacodynamics, biomarkers and personalised therapy
Adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, and pharmacovigilance
How to do research on therapeutic interventions: protocol preparation
Biological therapeutics

Additional modules available (as specified above) from the regulations for the MSc in Surgical Science and Practice

Human factors, teamwork and communication
Becoming a medical educator
Quality improvement science and systems analysis

June 2012