Changes to Examination Regulations 2018

Education Committee; Medical Sciences Board

Approved: Jane Dale – Senior Assistant Registrar (Education)

Title of Examination: MSc in Radiation Biology

Brief note about nature of change: Minor change

Effective date: With effect from 1 October 2018

Location of change: https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs2017-18/msc

Details of change:

Master of Science by Coursework in Radiation Biology

1. The Medical Sciences Board shall elect for the supervision of the course an Organising Committee, which shall have the power to arrange lectures and other instruction.

2. The Organising Committee shall assign a project supervisor for each candidate.

3. Each candidate shall follow a course of study in Radiation Biology for at least three terms and for a substantial part of the three subsequent vacations, as determined by the course timetable.

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

   (i) Each candidate must pass a qualifying examination at the end of Michaelmas Term. The examination shall be on modules 1-6 in the Schedule. Candidates who fail the qualifying examination once shall be permitted to re-take it on one further occasion only in Week 0 of Hilary Term.

   (ii) Each candidate will be required to submit to the examiners an assignment of 3,000 words (excluding figures and figure legends, tables and bibliography) by uploading it to the Assignments Section of the MSc in Radiation Biology WebLearn site by noon, Monday-Friday of Week 7 of Hilary Term. A choice of assignment titles will be provided to students by Week 8 of Michaelmas Term. Candidates must pass this assignment in order to proceed with the course. Those who fail the assignment
shall be permitted to re-take it on one further occasion only. The assignment should be re-submitted by noon, Friday of Week 8 of Trinity Term. The assignment will account for 15 per cent of the final marks.

(iii) Each candidate must pass a three-hour written examination at the end of Hilary Term (normally in Week 9). The examination shall be on the modules set out in the Schedule. In order to proceed with the course, candidates who fail the examination shall be permitted to re-take it on one further occasion only in Week 0 of Trinity Term. The examination will account for 25 per cent of the final marks.

(iv) Each candidate shall undertake an original laboratory research project of approximately six months. Candidates will be examined on their project in three ways:

   a. Each candidate will be required to submit to the examiners three copies of a typewritten or printed research dissertation of not more than 10,000 words (excluding figures and figure legends, tables, bibliography and appendices) based on the research project. The dissertation must be submitted by a date to be specified by the Organising Committee and which will be outlined on the MSc Radiation Biology WebLearn site not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken.

   b. Each candidate will be expected to give a presentation to the examiners and assessors on his or her research project after submission of the dissertation.

   c. Each candidate will be examined viva voce by the examiners. The dissertation, presentation and viva voce will be given a single grade and account for 60 per cent of the final marks. Candidates must pass this component and those who fail this component once shall be permitted to re-take it on one further occasion with submission, presentation and viva voce only at the times these elements are examined during the following academic year.

5. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

56. The required written submissions must be sent to the Chair of Examiners, M.Sc. in Radiation Biology, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford.

67. The examiners shall retain one copy of each dissertation of each successful candidate for deposit in the Radcliffe Science Library.

**Schedule**

The modules for study will be:

Physics and Chemistry of Radiation Action

Molecular Radiation Biology
Explanatory Notes:

The changes are for clarification and consistency with conventions and guidance and include: changes to the name of one module (although the course content remains the same), swapping the position of two other modules and some small changes to text.

Overall the content of the course remains the same. The words “and tissue” has been deleted due because the lectures on the tissue effects are covered in the “Normal tissue and applied radiation biology” module in the context of radiotherapy and in the “Whole body exposure and carcinogenesis” module in the context of accident exposure.