

Medical Sciences Board

Approved: MSD Graduate School Committee 31st May 2016

Title of Examination: MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences

Brief note about nature of change: To update the regulations for accuracy, and specify more detailed timing of examinations. To make both specialist subjects core components of the course.

Effective date:

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

Location of change:

Examination Regulations 2015-16 <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/mosbcinmuscsce/studentview/> MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences

Details of change:

In *Examination Regulations, 2015-16* <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/mosbcinmuscsce/studentview/> MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences, citation references 1.2-1.29, amend the clauses as follows:

^{1.2}2. The Organising Committee shall appoint for each candidate ~~an academic supervisor~~
two academic supervisors.

^{1.3}3. Candidates will hold ~~a first degree in medicine, or exceptionally a biomedical science degree~~ a first-class or strong upper second-class undergraduate degree with honours (or equivalent international qualifications), in biological sciences and/or related topics or will be medically qualified. In special circumstances, candidates from other medically related subjects (e.g. nurses and/or allied health professionals) will be considered.

^{1.4}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~~ and runs for two years.

^{1.5} 5. Candidates shall be examined in all of the following ways:

^{1.6} (i) Year 1 (~~January to December~~)

^{1.7} (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 June on a date to be specified by the Organising Committee and published in the course handbook not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken.

^{1.8} (b) Each candidate must pass an examination ~~in Michaelmas Term in September~~ on a date to be specified by the Organising Committee which will be published in the student handbook not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken. 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.~~

^{1.9} (ii) Year 2 (~~January to December~~)

^{1.10} (a) Each candidate must submit, for assessment of their progress, an outline research proposal. The outline must be submitted in ~~Hilary Term~~ January on a date to be specified ~~in the course handbook by the Organising Committee and published in the course handbook not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken.~~

^{1.11} (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~~ in March on a date to be specified ~~in the course handbook by the Organising Committee and published in the course handbook not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken.~~

^{1.12} (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 Term~~ in July on a date to be specified ~~in the course handbook by the Organising Committee and published in the course handbook not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the~~

academic year in which the examination is taken.

^{1.13}(d) Each candidate must pass an examination in ~~Michaelmas Term~~ in September on the date to be specified by the Organising Committee and published in the course handbook not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken. 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.~~

^{1.14}6. Candidates may be examined viva voce on their research proposal. The viva voce examination will normally be conducted at the end of the course.

^{1.15}7. Candidates must pass each examination or written assignment in order to pass overall.

^{1.16}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.

^{1.17}9. The required written submissions must be sent to the Chair of Examiners, MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. Submissions must be accompanied by a declaration of authorship and originality.

^{1.18}10. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in part of or in the whole examination.

^{1.19}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)~~ 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.

SCHEDULE

^{1.20}~~The syllabus for study will include the following components:~~

^{1.21}~~Core Subjects~~

^{1.22}Candidates are required to complete all of the following modules:

^{1.23}1. Principles of Musculoskeletal Diseases

^{1.24}2. Research, Statistics and Epidemiology

^{1.25}3. Scientific Aspects of Common Musculoskeletal Diseases

^{1.26}~~Specialist Subjects~~

^{1.27}~~Candidates are required to complete one both of the following modules:~~

^{1.28}~~4. 4. Advanced Rheumatology~~

^{1.29}~~5. 5. Advanced Orthopaedics~~

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. The separate postgraduate diploma regulations have already been removed because they duplicate the existing MSc regulations.
5. All components listed in the Schedule are now obligatory.