

Medical Sciences Division /Continuing Education Board

Approved at the meeting of Education Committee 6 May 2016

Title of Programme

Postgraduate Programme in Evidence-Based Health Care

Brief note about nature of change: Introduction of two new streams within EBHC

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2017

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2015

Delete from line 31 on p 656 to line 16 on p 660 and insert the attached.

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. MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care (Medical Statistics)
 - iii. MSc in Evidence-based Health Care (Systematic Reviews)
 - iv. Postgraduate Diploma in Evidence-Based Health Care
 - v. Postgraduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Health Care
 - vi. Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research
 - vii. Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research

B. Progression

6. Students admitted to the Programme with the intention of studying towards one of the M.Sc. awards 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 one of the MSc. awards 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 each of the MSc awards.
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. Modules available will be published by the end of the Michaelmas Term in the year before registering on the course. 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 selected from iii) to xx) or xxx) 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 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. MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care (Medical Statistics)

- (i) attendance at modules xi) and xvi);
- (ii) attendance at an additional four modules of which up to three may be selected from modules xvii), xviii) and xxi) or xxx) and up to two may be selected from modules ii), vi), or viii) or xxx);
- (iii) Submission of the required assessed work relating to each of the six modules in (iv) a) above which shall be of not more than 4,000 words per module;
- (iv) Submission of a dissertation as set out in *i* (iv) above.

iii. MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care (Systematic Reviews)

- (i) attendance at modules i), ii) viii), xviii), xix) and xx) or xxx);
- (ii) submission of the required assessed work relating to each of the six modules in (i) above which shall be of not more than 4,000 words per module;
- (iii) submission of a dissertation as set out in *i* (iv) above.

iv. Postgraduate Diploma in Evidence-Based Health Care

- (i) attendance at both of modules i) and ii); or xi) and xvi);
- (ii) attendance at any four of modules iii) to xxi) or xxx) 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.

v. Postgraduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Health Care

- (i) attendance at both of modules i) and ii); or xi) and xvi);

- (ii) attendance at any one of modules iii) to xxi) or xxx) 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.

vi. Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research

- (i) attendance at modules i) and ii);
- (ii) attendance at any three of modules iii) to xi), or xiv) to xv) or xxx) 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.

vii. Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research

- (i) attendance at modules i) and ii);
- (ii) attendance at one of modules iii) to x) or xiv) or xv) 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 submitted in hard copy and in electronic format 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 any of the M.Sc awards. 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. in Evidence-Based Health Care or the MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care (Medical Statistics) or the MSc in Evidence-based Health Care (Systematic Reviews) 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 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-vii 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 each of the the MSc awards.

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-vi), 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 any of the M.Sc. awards, 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
- xiv) Clinical Trial Management
- xv) Mixed methods in Health Research
- xvi) Statistics for Clinical Trials
- xvii) Big Data Epidemiology
- xviii) Meta-Analysis
- xix) Complex Reviews
- xx) Realist Reviews and Realist Evaluation
- xxi) Statistical Computing with R and Stata

- xxx) 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