Changes to Examination Regulations 2012

Medical Sciences Board

Approved: 18th September 2013

Examination: Honour School of Medical Sciences

Brief note about nature of change: All students are to be required to undertake laboratory-based research projects: library-based projects are no longer to be made available or to be carried out. Additionally, some minor changes in order to clarify the project allocation process and align the dates with deadlines for the Honour School of Cell & Systems Biology and the Honour School of Neuroscience.

Effective date: With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first examination in 2015)

Location of change: Examination Regulations 2012

Details of change:

1. In Examination Regulations, 2012, p. 343, delete ll. 34-51 and substitute:

   ‘(i) Form, subject and approval of the project

   The project shall consist of original experiments and/or data analysis carried out by the candidate alone or in collaboration with others (where such collaboration is, for instance, needed to produce results in the time available).

   Each project shall be supervised, and the topic and supervisor shall be approved on behalf of the Medical Sciences Board by the Director of Pre-Clinical Studies or his or her deputy. A list of approved project titles and their supervisors shall be published no later than Friday of Week 1 of Hilary Term in the academic year preceding the examination, and allocation of these projects to candidates shall be carried out through the Faculty of Physiological Sciences Undergraduate Studies Office no later than the end of Week 8 of that term.

   As an alternative to the allocation process, a candidate may apply to undertake a project that is not on the approved list. Such application must be made no later than Friday of Week 4 of Hilary Term in the academic year preceding the examination. The candidate must submit the title of their proposed research project, provide a brief outline of the subject matter and supply details of supervision arrangements. The decision on the application shall be made by the Director of’

2. Ibid., p. 344, delete l. 15.
3. Ibid., delete ll. 19-23.

4. Ibid., l. 24, delete ‘In the case of either type of project, each’ and substitute ‘Each’

5. Ibid., l. 29, delete ‘Week 1 of Trinity Term’ and substitute ‘Week 8 of Hilary Term’

6. Ibid., ll. 36-37, delete ‘In the case of laboratory-based projects, the’ and substitute ‘The’

7. Ibid., l. 38, delete ‘In the case of laboratory-based work that’ and substitute ‘Where work’

8. Ibid., ll. 40-42, delete ‘In the case of library-based projects, the certificate shall certify that the supervisor commented on no more than the first draft of the written submission. For both types of project, each’ and substitute ‘Each’

9. Ibid., l. 45, delete ‘In all cases, the’ and substitute ‘The’

10. Ibid., l. 50, delete ‘laboratory-based’ and substitute ‘research’

11. Ibid., p. 344, re-number existing sub-clauses (iii)-(v) as sub-clauses (ii)-(iv) respectively.

12. Ibid., p. 345, l. 5, delete ‘laboratory-based’ and substitute ‘research’

**Explanatory Notes**

Extract from the minutes of the FHS Committee, Trinity Term 2013:

The committee noted that very few library projects had been undertaken over the past 5 years (a total of 10 since 2009). On this basis, and to provide a more homogeneous assessment for students, it was agreed to eliminate the category of ‘library project’ and retain only the category of ‘research project’. However, to accommodate any student who felt that they could not undertake a laboratory-based project, it was agreed to broaden the description of the research project with wording along the lines that it should be comprised of an original piece of work that involves the student gathering and processing their own data.