

**Medical Sciences Divisional Board****Approved by the Chair of Education Committee on 22 August 2019****Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation [if general]**

Master of Science by Coursework in Clinical and Therapeutic Neuroscience

**Brief note about nature of change:**

1. Students can decide their essay topics which are then approved by the Organising Committee rather than all essay topics set by the Organising Committee
2. Submission deadlines removed, as they will be published in Regulation Conventions
3. Removing the explicit provision to permit students to resubmit previously submitted work.

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2018* [<https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/mosbcicandtherneur/studentview/>]

as amended by *Gazette* of 27 June 2019 and 26 September 2019

**Effective date****For students starting from MT 2019****For first examination from 2019-2020****Detail of change**

### Master of Science by Coursework in Clinical and Therapeutic Neuroscience

- 1) The Divisional Board of Medical Sciences shall elect for the supervision of the course an Organising Committee which shall have power to arrange lectures and other instruction.
- 2) The Organising Committee shall appoint for each candidate an academic advisor.

- 3) Each candidate shall follow a course of study in Clinical and Therapeutic Neuroscience for at least three terms and for a substantial part of the three subsequent vacations, as determined by the course timetable, and will, when entering for the examination, be required to produce a certificate from the Organising Committee to this effect.
- 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. This will consist of one three-hour computer-based 'Best Answer Question' paper on the topics covered in Modules 1 and 2, as set out in the Schedule. Candidates who fail the qualifying examination once shall be permitted to take it again in the first week of Hilary term.
  - (ii) each candidate will be required to submit to the examiners online via the approved submission system a pdf of a typed essay of not more than 3,000 words on a topic ~~chosen by the student and approved by the Organising Committee for each of the two modules in Hilary and Trinity terms (4 essays in total), as set out in the Schedule. Candidates must submit their essay titles for approval by the Organising Committee by deadlines determined by the Organising Committee and provided to students in the Examination Conventions. set by the Organising Committee in each of the four modules in Hilary and Trinity terms, as set out in the Schedule;~~
  - (iii) each candidate will be required to submit to the examiners three copies of a printed dissertation of not more than 6,000 words (excluding bibliography and appendices) on each of the two research projects chosen for study, as set out in the Schedule;
  - (iv) each candidate will be required to give a public poster presentation on each of their research projects, on dates to be determined by the Organising Committee.
  - (v) each candidate will be examined viva voce at their poster presentation of their second research project.
  - (vi) each candidate will be required to participate in the compulsory Journal Club and give a presentation.
- 5) The dissertations on the first and second research projects must be submitted to the Chair of Examiners, M.Sc. in Clinical and Therapeutic Neuroscience, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford by dates to be specified by the Organising Committee and which will be ~~provided to students in the Examination Conventions published in the University Gazette not later than the start of Michaelmas term of the year of entry.~~
- 6) The essays for each module must be submitted online via the approved submission system

by deadlines determined by the Organising Committee and ~~provided to students in the Examination Conventions. posted in the Gazette no later than the end of the preceding term.~~

- 7) Each submission must be accompanied by a certificate indicating that it is the candidate's own work.
- 8) The viva voce examinations will be conducted in September of the third term of the course on dates to be determined by the examiners.
- 9) A candidate who fails any of the assessments for the award is permitted to retake only those assessments that have been failed. ~~Assessments that have been previously submitted may be resubmitted.~~
- 10) The examiners shall retain one copy of each dissertation of each successful candidate for deposit in the most appropriate departmental library.

## **SCHEDULE**

The syllabus for study will include three principal components:

### *(a) Introduction to brain disorders and treatments*

Two modules consisting of lectures on psychiatric and neurological disorders, their current treatments and unmet needs. Candidates will attend lectures on basic neuroanatomy, pharmacokinetics and neuropharmacology which are provided by the taught MSc in Pharmacology course. Candidates will be required to attend a seminar and practical class on statistics, and instruction on essay writing and journal clubs, approved by the Organising Committee.

- Module 1: *The Psychopathology, Clinical features, and Molecular Neuropathology of Brain Disorders*
- Module 2: *Pharmacological, Neurological and Psychological Treatments*

### *(b) Therapeutic neuroscience courses*

This will consist of four taught courses consisting of lectures, seminars, practical classes, and journal clubs, approved by the Organising Committee. Candidates will be required to attend drug discovery lectures provided by the taught MSc in Pharmacology course, and will receive instruction on poster design and presentation, and dissertation reports.

- Module 3: *Medicinal Chemistry and Computational Modelling*
- Module 4: *Experimental Models*

- Module 5: *Bioassays and Biomarkers*
- Module 6: *Clinical Trials, Mobile Technology and Digital Health*

*(c) Laboratory research projects*

Two research projects based on the candidate's laboratory placements, each under the supervision of a research supervisor, on subjects selected in consultation with the Organising Committee. The research projects shall be in separate areas of clinical and therapeutic neuroscience.

**Explanatory Notes**

1. It had initially been intended that the Organising Committee would set the extended essay titles, but following practice on similar courses elsewhere in the division, the course team now proposes that students will choose their own essay titles. To ensure these titles are sensible and on-topic, the titles will be approved by the Organising Committee in advance of students writing the essays.
2. The original version of the Regulations was a bit unclear about whether students would complete 2, 4 or 8 extended essays in total, so this sentence has been rephrased for clarity.
3. A reference to students resubmitting the same assignment, if they failed at the first attempt and had to do a resit, has been removed. We have a divisional policy that for assessments other than research project dissertations, a new exam/coursework title needs to be set for any resit.