

Medical Sciences Divisional Board**Approved by Education Committee in Hilary Term 2019****Title of Programme**

Honour School of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry

Brief note about nature of change: The proposed exam regulations (i) change the dates for carrying out project work and submitting the dissertation, (ii) replace the two options with one piece of course work, (iii) retains the current flexibility on assessment, which includes the ability to set a review article for the assessment as we intend.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018* <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/hsomandcellbioc/>

Effective date**For students starting the Final Honour School in MT 2017 and Part II from MT 2019**

And

For first examination from 2019-20**Detail of change**

Amend from citation reference 3.1, new text underlined, deleted text struck through.

Part II

Part II will consist of project work and ~~assessments based on two options~~ course work. Each candidate may be examined viva voce on the Part II examination.

Candidates will be required to pursue their ~~investigations during~~ studies over a period of twenty-eight weeks including an extended Michaelmas Term which will begin on the fourth Friday before the stated Full Term and extend until the first Saturday following it, provided that the divisional board shall have power to permit candidates to vary the dates of their residence so long as the overall requirement is

met.

Project work: ~~The project will normally be carried out in the extended Michaelmas Term plus the first six weeks in Hilary Term. The project will be carried out over 23 weeks, normally in the extended Michaelmas Term, Hilary Term and the first three weeks of Trinity Term.~~

Candidates will be required to undertake project work under the supervision of a person approved by the Biochemistry Steering Committee provided that such approval shall be applied for not later than Friday in the second week of Trinity Full Term in the year preceding the Part II ~~examination year~~.

Candidates will be required to present an account of such work in the form of a dissertation (not more than 8,000 words excluding tables, figures, reference list and abstract). Dissertations (two copies) must be legibly typed on one side only of A4 paper and must be held in a stiff cover. An electronic copy (ideally on CD or USB memory stick) including this, and only this material, should also be provided.

Each dissertation must begin with an abstract of not more than ~~300~~200 words, which should include a brief statement of the aims of the project and a summary of its important findings. The two typed copies, and the electronic copy, of the dissertation must be submitted by noon on ~~Friday of the first week~~ Thursday of the fifth week of the Trinity Full Term of ~~the examination~~ the Part II year, addressed to the Chair of Examiners in the Final Honour School of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, Part II, c/o the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. Each candidate must submit, together with ~~his or her~~ their project, a statement to the effect that the project is the candidate's own work or indicating where the work of others has been used, save that supervisors should give advice on the choice and scope of the project, provide a reading list, and comment on the first draft. This statement must be submitted at the same time as the project in a sealed envelope addressed to the Chair of Examiners. Each project, and the envelope containing the statement, must be clearly labelled with the candidate's number. The name and college of the candidate must not appear on the project or on the envelope. The examiners may obtain a written report on the work of each candidate from the supervisor concerned.

Candidates will be required to present a brief oral report of their research project in the ~~first half of Trinity Full Term~~ last three weeks of Trinity Full Term, after which the candidate shall be examined viva voce on the project. The form of the presentation to examiners shall be specified in guidelines published by the Department of Biochemistry in Week 8 of Trinity Full Term in the academic year preceding ~~the examination~~ the Part II year.

No dissertation will be accepted if it has already been submitted, either wholly or substantially, for an Honour School other than Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, or for another degree of this University, or for a degree of any other institution.

Options: ~~Each candidate will undertake and be assessed in two areas of Biochemistry, each selected~~

from options approved by the Biochemistry Steering Committee, and published by the Department of Biochemistry. Two lists, each consisting of, at least two options, will be published and one option must be chosen from each list. The lists of options will be posted in the Department of Biochemistry and sent to Senior Tutors of all colleges not later than noon on Friday of the eighth week of Trinity Term in the year preceding that in which the examination is taken.

Course work: Each candidate will study and be assessed on one focused area of Biochemistry, chosen by the candidate from within three broad areas. The list of broad areas will be approved by the Biochemistry Steering Committee, published by the Department of Biochemistry and sent to Senior Tutors of all colleges not later than noon on Friday of the eighth week of Trinity Term in the year preceding the Part II year.

The focussed area chosen by the candidate should be clearly distinct from the subject of their project work but may fall in the same broad area. The proposed title for the project work and a description of the focussed area chosen must be submitted to the Chair of Examiners by noon on Friday of fifth week of Michaelmas Term. If there is too much overlap of the two, the candidate will be informed by noon on Friday of sixth week of Michaelmas Term and asked to re-choose the focussed area for their course work.

The form of assessment for each option will consist of at least one, and at most two, of the following:

_____ A. an unseen written paper.

_____ B. an oral assessment in the second half of Trinity Full Term, involving a presentation and/or questions.

_____ C. a submitted assignment, based on course work undertaken during the option.

_____ D. an essay, selected from a list of titles provided.

Assessment method B will not be used in isolation; it will always be combined with one of assessment methods A, C or D.

Coursework will be assessed by a submitted essay in the form of a review article. The form of assessment for each Part II option offered in an academic year Detailed specifications for the essay will be published not later than noon on Friday of the eighth week of Trinity Term in the year preceding that in which the examination is taken, including the duration of unseen written papers and the required length of submitted work the start of the Part II year. The detailed specifications for each assessment method will be published not later than noon on Friday of the eighth week of Michaelmas Term in the year of the examination. Both the form and ~~the~~ The detailed specifications for the assessment of options the coursework will have been approved by the Biochemistry Steering Committee, prior to publication by the Department of Biochemistry.

~~For assessment methods C and D,~~ Two hard copies and one electronic copy (ideally on CD or USB memory stick) of the work are to be submitted to the Chair of Examiners, Honour School of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, Part II, c/o the Examinations Schools, High Street, Oxford by noon on ~~Friday of the seventh week~~ Thursday of the first week of Trinity Full Term in the year of the examination ~~of the~~

Part II year, together with a statement certifying that the work is the candidate's own work or indicating where the work of others has been used. No work will be accepted if it has already been submitted, either wholly or substantially, for an Honour School other than Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, or for another degree of this University, or for a degree of any other institution.

Explanatory Notes

These changes to the Part II affect students starting Part II in September 2019. They are being made as a result of feedback from both staff and students. Both have asked for more time for the research project. Students have asked to be able to choose an advanced topic to study in depth and to move to course work-based assessments (no timed examinations).

The changes are:

- (i) to change the M.Biochem. Part II to a 23-week project to allow students to spend longer in the laboratory and
- (ii) to move to *one* substantial course work-based assessment (from two options, one usually assessed by timed written exam and one usually assessed by a submission).

Current students have been consulted about the change.