

[your ref # - optional]

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of 23rd January 2017 - MSc in Clinical Embryology Local Organising Committee meeting. Also approved by the Medical Sciences Division Graduate School Committee on 24th May 2018.

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Master In Clinical Embryology

Brief note about nature of change:

'Minor amendment to assessment of the research project'

'Minor amendment to final weighting of marks'

'Minor amendment to extended essay categories'

'Minor amendment to the written examination categories'

'Department name change'

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2017* [<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/mosbcinclinembr/studentview/>] [include reference to any relevant *Gazette* by stating 'as amended by *Gazette* of date' etc.]

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas Term 2018

For first examination from 2018-19

Detail of change

Amend citation reference 4. i. as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

- (i) Each candidate must pass a ~~qualifying~~ Multiple Choice Question (MCQ)

examination at the end of Michaelmas Term. The examination shall normally consist of a two-hour computer-based assessment on the topics covered in modules I–V, as set out in the Schedule. Candidates who fail the ~~qualifying~~ examination shall be permitted to take it on one further occasion in Week 0 of Hilary Term. Candidates must pass this ~~qualifying~~ examination in order to proceed with the remainder of the course.

~~In the event that a candidate fails the re-sit examination, the candidate shall be withdrawn from the course. The Organising Committee shall submit to the examiners a list of candidates who have satisfactorily completed the qualifying examination not later than the end of the Hilary Term preceding the examination.~~

Amend citation reference. 4. ii. as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

(ii) Each candidate must submit a typewritten or printed essay of not more than 4,000 words (Appendices, bibliography, tables, and figure legends should not be included in the final word count; in-text reference citations are to be included in the final word count) on a topic approved by the Organising Committee. The arrangements for approval will be notified to candidates not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken. The essay must be submitted by noon, Thursday of Week 9 of Hilary Term. In the event that they are deemed not to have achieved the required standard in this element of the examination, candidates will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit their essay by noon, Friday of Week 3 of Trinity Term.

Amend citation reference. 4. iv. as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

(iv) Each candidate must submit a typewritten or printed dissertation of not more than 10,000 words ~~(excluding bibliography and appendices)~~ (Appendices, bibliography, tables, and figure legends should not be included in the final word count; in-text reference citations are to be included in the final word count) on the research project as set out in the Schedule below. The research project and the subject of the dissertation must have been approved by the Organising Committee. The arrangements for approval will be notified to candidates not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken. In the event that they are deemed not to have achieved the required standard in this element of the examination, candidates will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit their dissertation, date to be determined by the examiners.

~~Candidates shall be examined viva voce on their dissertation, or on any other element of the examination, and shall also give poster and oral presentations on their research project. The viva voce examination will normally be conducted in September of the year in which the candidate is examined on dates to be determined by the examiners~~

Add citation 4. V as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

(v) Each Candidate shall be examined viva voce on their dissertation, and shall give a

short oral presentation on their research project. The presentation will be composed of 5 slides, take no more than 5 minutes and will be assessed as part of the viva. The viva voce examination will normally be conducted in September of the year in which the candidate is examined on dates to be determined by the examiners. In the event that they are deemed not to have achieved the required standard in this element of the examination, candidates will have the opportunity to have another viva voce, date to be determined by the examiners.

Explanatory Notes

Minor amendment to assessment of the research project

The Chair of Examiner's has suggested that the dissertation and viva voce marks (40% of the final mark) is split into two separate assessments/marks rather than one combined mark: 30% the dissertation & 10% for the viva voce. The Chair of Examiners believes that by splitting the marks this enables students to be assessed across the entire syllabus. The course's local organising committee approved this change on 23rd January 2017. These changes were put on hold in May 2017 due to the course relocating and a number of changes in teaching staff for the academic year 2017/18. The Course Committee agreed via email correspondence in April 2018 to start the process of amending the regulations as agreed back in January 2017.

If the above is authorised, the resit protocol will require amendment as follows:

If a candidate fails the dissertation, they will be told after the viva to ensure this does not affect their performance. Candidates will then have the option to resubmit their dissertation two weeks after being informed of failure to enable rewriting (two weeks is the time allocated for the writing of the original dissertation) or alternatively they can re-submit their dissertation in the following academic year with the next cohort of students. Candidates who fail the dissertation do not need to re-sit the viva, they simply re-submit the corrected dissertation. If the candidate fails the viva and requires a second viva, this will be arranged for six weeks later or at the first available opportunity. To reconvene the examination board, our external examiner has advised a time scale of six weeks minimum.

Each candidate currently prepares an electronic poster to display in their viva. The poster is not always well utilised by the candidate and to demonstrate a more thorough understanding of the work, we propose the poster is replaced with a short presentation.

The electronic poster will be replaced in the viva by a five slide presentation which will take no more than five minutes and will be assessed as part of the viva.

Minor amendment to the final Weighting of Marks

The new marking allocation is described below in Table 1.

Table 1

Summative assessment component	Current Split (%)	Proposed Split (%)
MCQ	0%	5%
Extended Essay	20%	15%
Written Exam	40%	40%
Dissertation	Combined mark with viva 40%	30%
Viva	0%	10%

The MCQ examination should count toward the final grade. As the MCQ exam will no longer be a qualifying examination, as with all other summative assessments for the course, students are permitted one re-sit for the MCQ and must pass the assessment to continue with the remainder of the course. This is in response to student feedback/requests and furthermore, so that it is taken more seriously. The extended essay has declined to 15% to enable the MCQ to be awarded 5%. The mark for the dissertation and viva are to be split to enable students to be assessed across the entire syllabus.

Minor amendment to extended essay categories

To enable assessment of all core aspects of the course in the written exam, we propose to limit the extended essay subjects to the sociological, legal and ethical aspects of the course. Technological & scientific advances/developments in the field may also be covered in the extended essays.

Minor amendment to the written examination categories

Removal of the sociological, legal and ethical aspects from the written exam to the extended essay will change the structure of written exam.

The written exam will have three sections entitled: Basic science; ART/genetics; Clinical.

Departmental Name Change

In January 2018, the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology updated the departmental name to the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health. Documentation relating to the course including examination regulations, examination conventions, student handbook & all other relevant documentation will be updated to reflect the new department name for the academic year 2018/19.

[Include here any rationale etc that is felt will assist the reader/user in interpreting the revision. This portion of text will be published in full. It will also be used in the version log of

the regulation.]