

**Medical Sciences Divisional Board****Approved at the meeting of Taught Degrees Panel on 15 June 2021****Name of Regulation**

Regulations for Degrees in Medicine and Surgery

**Brief note about nature of change:**

Provisions relating to suspension of study, students taking time away from the course in order to complete a DPhil/PGT programme, and the usual maximum length of time to complete the course.

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2020*

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=rfdimediandsurg>

**Effective date****For students starting from MT 2021****Detail of change**

New text underlined

**Degree of Bachelor of Surgery**

Any person admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine shall ipso facto be admitted also to the Degree of Bachelor of Surgery.

**Regulations relating to time on course**

1. Medical students may be granted permission by their College to suspend study for up to one year (three terms). Exceptionally, permission may be granted for further periods of suspension. In such cases, consultation with the relevant Director of Studies within the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences would be expected.

2. Medical students may be granted permission by their College to repeat a period of study (typically after returning from a period of suspension). In such cases, consultation

with the relevant Director of Studies within the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences would be expected.

3. Students may apply to take time away from the course between their Pre-clinical and Clinical Studies or during their Clinical Studies in order to pursue a postgraduate qualification or other activity. In the case of a student pursuing a doctorate, the student will not usually be allowed to return to the course if more than four years have elapsed since leaving the course. In the case of a student pursuing a Master's degree, the student will not usually be allowed to return to the course if more than two years have elapsed since leaving the course. In all other cases, the student will not usually be allowed to return to the course if more than two years have elapsed since leaving the course.

4. The length of time taken to complete the standard 6-year medical course should normally be no longer than eight years, including any periods of suspension or repeated study. Where a student has been granted permission to take time away from the course in order to pursue a postgraduate qualification under clause 3 above, this does not count towards the eight-year allowance.

5. The length of time taken to complete the accelerated 4-year (Graduate-entry) medical course should normally be no longer than six years, including any periods of suspension or repeated study. Where a student has been granted permission to take time away from the course in order to pursue a postgraduate qualification under clause 3 above, this does not count towards the six-year allowance.

#### **Explanatory Notes**

The new regulations make explicit the existing powers of colleges to approve a period of suspension or repeated period of study. While such approval remains the decision of the college, consultation with the relevant Director of Studies would be expected, particularly in cases where a student has already had a period of suspension. This is in line with the guidance currently contained in the Policy and procedure on medical students causing concern and fitness to study/practise.

The new regulations also include provisions pertaining to the maximum length of time students can take to complete the course. These mirror the general regulations in place for the maximum length of time students can take to complete honours degree programmes. Explicit provision has also been made for students who decide to pursue postgraduate study either between the pre-clinical and clinical parts of the degree or during the clinical part or who otherwise wish to take a break before commencing the clinical part of the degree.