

Medical Sciences Board

Approved: 11th September 2015 by the Medical Sciences Division Audit Sub-Committee

Title of Examination: MSc in Clinical Embryology

Brief note about nature of change:

- to remove regulations relating to the Practical Skills Test

Effective date:

- **For all students on course from Michaelmas Term 2015**
- **For first examination from 2015-16**

Location of change:

Examination Regulations 2015-16:

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/mosbcinclinembr/studentview/>
MSc in Clinical Embryology

Details of change:

1. In Examination Regulations, 2015-16,
<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/mosbcinclinembr/studentview/>
MSc in Clinical Embryology, delete clause 4 (i) and amend the numbering of remaining clauses as follows:

'4. Candidates shall be examined in all of the following ways:

~~(i) Each candidate must submit to the Course Director by Monday of Week 8 of Michaelmas Term a skills checklist, initialled by the practical skills tutor, to verify that they have acquired the practical skills associated with the course. This checklist will be made available to the examiners. A candidate who submits an incomplete checklist will be required to undertake remedial training, and to resubmit the checklist by a specified date.~~

~~(ii)~~ (i) Each candidate must pass a qualifying 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. 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.

~~(iii)~~ (ii) Each candidate must submit a typewritten or printed essay of between 3,000 and

4,000 words 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.

~~(iv)~~ (iii) Each candidate must pass a written examination in Week 0 of Trinity Term. The examination shall consist of a three-hour written paper on the topics covered in modules VI-X, as set out in the Schedule. Candidates who fail the examination shall be permitted to take it on one further occasion, no sooner than three weeks after the first occasion. Candidates must pass this examination in order to proceed with their research project.

~~(iv)~~ (iv) Each candidate must submit a typewritten or printed dissertation of not more than 10,000 words (excluding bibliography and appendices) 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.

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.'

Explanatory Notes

During Michaelmas term each student on the MSc in Clinical Embryology programme is required to complete a 'practical skills checklist' (a list of basic tasks, e.g. IT induction, safety induction, liquid handling workshop, microscopy workshop, etc.) before entry into the qualifying MCQ at the end of term. The forms are dated and signed by the Course Director. This is neither a formative or summative assessment and the requirement to complete it was included in the examination regulations only to encourage students to pay strict attention to these basic tasks early in the course. It was however brought to the attention of the Review Panel during the recent Divisional Course Review that the checklist represents a source for confusion amongst students. As a result of discussions following the review the Course Committee concluded that the most appropriate course of action was to remove the requirement to complete the checklist from the Examination Regulations. All components listed on the checklist remain a part of the timetabled curriculum and therefore attendance is monitored.