

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of MSD Educational Policy and Standards Committee in Sept 2022

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Master of Science by Coursework in Clinical and Therapeutic Neuroscience

Brief note about nature of change: Minor amendment to course structure and delivery of modules 1 & 2

Location of change

In the Exam Regs 2022-23

[2020-21, Master of Science by Coursework in Clinical and Therapeutic Neuroscience \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2022 and first examination from 2022-2023

Detail of change

Amend citation reference 4 (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.~~

Amend citation reference 4 (iii): each candidate will be required to submit to the examiners online via the approved submission system a pdf 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

Amend citation reference 4 (v): each candidate will be required to participate in the compulsory Journal Club where papers are critically analysed and give a presentation. Journal club analyses will not contribute to the final marks. ~~Journal Club presentations will not contribute to final marks.~~

Amend: 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: *Clinical features, pathophysiology and treatments of psychiatric disorders.* ~~*The Psychopathology, pathophysiology and molecular neuropathology of brain disorders.*~~
- Module 2: *Clinical features, pathophysiology and treatments of neurological disorders.* ~~*Pharmacological, neurological and psychological treatments.*~~

Explanatory Notes

Feedback from previous cohorts was that students preferred all psychiatry lectures to be in module 1 and neurological lectures to be in module 2 rather than psychiatry and neurological disorders followed by their treatments.

The removal of deadlines for submission of essay titles and the restructure of journal clubs was a natural progression that the course has taken.

In response to student feedback from previous years, there is no longer a requirement for students to attend the Michaelmas Term lectures on basic neuroanatomy, pharmacokinetics and neuropharmacology which are delivered as part of the MSc Pharmacology course. MSc CTN students felt that the neuroanatomy overview was too fundamental, and they learnt in greater detail human brain anatomy over the Hilary and Trinity Terms. The pharmacokinetics lectures were also deemed too basic as the subject is covered with more clinical relevance in the MSc Pharmacology lectures in Hilary Term, which MSc CTN students are required to attend. In contrast, the neuropharmacology lectures were too detailed. Students felt that the neuropharmacology they learn throughout the MSc CTN course was more relevant to the treatment of brain disorders, which was their main learning objective.

