

Medical Sciences Divisional Board**Approved by MSD Divisional Officer in September 2023****Title of Programme**

Master of Science by Coursework in Integrated Immunology

Brief note about nature of change:

Minor amendments to remove details of formative assessments and to clarify requirements for summative assessment and reassessment. Additional minor edits for brevity and clarification/readability.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2021/22*

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=moscbininteimmu&srchYear=2022&srchTerm=1&year=2021&term=1>

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2023 and for first examination from 2023-2024

Detail of change

Eight proposed changes are listed below. The rationale for each is presented in 'Explanatory Notes'.

Change 1. Delete citation reference 1.5 and replace with edited text for brevity as follows:

~~[1.5] (b) attend all organised sessions including lectures, tutorials, class directed learning, problem based learning and continuing professional development sessions which will be compulsory (a record of attendance is kept).~~

Edited text:

[1.5] (b) attend all timetabled sessions, which will be compulsory.

Change 2. Amend citations 1.7 and 1.8 in the same way to remove phrase inconsistent with other assessments as follows:

[1.7] (i) At the end of Michaelmas Term (normally in Week 10), each candidate must pass a computer-based examination on the topics in the Schedule for Term 1. Candidates who fail the examination once will be permitted to take it again on one further occasion, normally in Week 0 of Hilary Term, ~~in order to proceed with the course.~~

[1.8] (ii) At the end of Hilary Term (normally in Week 10), each candidate must pass a computer-based examination on the topics in the Schedule for Term 2. Candidates who fail the examination once will be permitted to take it again on one further occasion, normally in Week 0 of Trinity Term, ~~in order to proceed with the course.~~

Change 3. Delete citation reference 1.9 and replace with edited text that removes unnecessary detail on the essay for brevity, and removes details of formative activities (essay presentation and viva) to clarify requirements of summative assessment, as follows:

~~[1.9] (iii) Each candidate will be required to upload to the University approved online assessment platform a pdf of a typed essay of not more than 4,000 words by noon, Monday of Week 8 of Michaelmas Term. Candidates will propose their own essay titles based on a list of topics provided at the start of Michaelmas Term. Essay titles will be subject to approval by the Organising Committee, and candidates must submit their proposed titles by deadlines determined by the Organising Committee, as detailed in the Course Handbook. Each candidate shall make a public presentation on their essay to the examiners and will be examined viva voce, at the end of Michaelmas Term at a time to be notified by the examiners. Candidates who fail the assessment may will have the opportunity to revise and re-submit their essay by noon, Friday of the week preceding Week 0 of Hilary Term, in the event that they are deemed not to have passed this element of the examination.~~

Edited text:

[1.9] (iii) Each candidate will be required to upload to the University approved online assessment platform a typed essay of not more than 4,000 words by noon on Monday of Week 8 of Michaelmas Term. Candidates will propose their own essay titles based on a list of topics provided at the start of Michaelmas Term. Essay titles will be subject to approval by the Organising Committee. Candidates who fail the assessment may revise and re-submit their essay by noon on the Friday immediately before Week 0 of Hilary Term.

Change 4. Delete citation reference 1.10 and replace with edited text that clarifies requirements of summative assessment by removing details of formative activities as follows:

~~[1.10] (iv) Each candidate will be required to upload to the University approved online assessment platform a pdf of two typed clinical commentaries of not more than 3,000 words each by noon, Monday of Week 8 of Hilary Term. The subjects of the clinical commentaries must have been approved by the Examining Board. Each candidate will be required to make a public presentation of one of their commentaries and will be examined viva voce, at the end of Hilary Term at a time to be notified by the examiners. Candidates will have the opportunity to revise and re-submit their~~

~~clinical commentaries by noon, Friday of the week preceding Week 0 of Trinity Term, in the event that they are deemed not to have passed this element of the examination.~~

Edited text:

[1.10] (iv) Each candidate will be required to upload to the University approved online assessment platform two typed clinical commentaries of not more than 3,000 words each by noon on Monday of Week 8 of Hilary Term. The subjects of the clinical commentaries must have been approved by the Organising Committee. Candidates who fail the assessment may revise and re-submit their clinical commentaries by noon on the Friday immediately before Week 0 of Trinity Term.

Change 5. Delete citation reference 1.11 and replace with edited text to clarify assessment arrangements and to add in missing detail of reassessment arrangements as follows:

~~[1.11] (v) Each candidate will be required to upload to the University approved online assessment platform a pdf of a typed research dissertation of not more than 10,000 words (excluding bibliography and appendices) on the research project selected for study as set out in the Schedule. The dissertation must be submitted by a date in late July to be specified by the Organising Committee and published in the University Gazette not later than the start of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the examination is taken.~~

Edited text:

[1.11] (v) Each candidate will be required to upload to the University approved online assessment platform a typed research dissertation of not more than 10,000 words on a research project as set out in the Schedule. The dissertation must be submitted by the Monday of the 14th week from the start of Trinity Term, or week 6 of the long vacation. Candidates who fail the assessment may resubmit the research dissertation at one of three opportunities in the following academic year, normally in week 6 of either Michaelmas, Hilary or Trinity Term. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may be permitted to redo the research project and resubmit the research dissertation, usually in Trinity Term of the following year.

Change 6. Delete citation reference 1.12 and replace with edited text to remove formative activity (presentation) and to clarify reassessment arrangements as follows:

~~[1.12] (vi) Each candidate shall make a presentation of their research project and will be examined viva voce, normally in the first week of September in the year of examination on a date to be determined by the examiners. Candidates will have the opportunity to resubmit the research dissertation to an Examining Board sitting in Michaelmas, Hilary or Trinity Term of the following year (and which will be according to the Examiners' discretion in each case), in the event they are deemed not to have reached the required standard. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may be permitted to redo the research project and resubmit the research dissertation, usually in Trinity Term of the following year.~~

Edited text:

[1.12] (vi) Each candidate shall be examined viva voce, normally in the first week of September in the year of examination, on a date determined by the Examiners. Candidates who fail this assessment may retake it at an Examination Board sitting in Michaelmas, Hilary or Trinity Term of the following academic year, at the Examiners' discretion.

Change 7. Amend citation reference 1.16 for brevity as follows:

~~[1.16] 8. Candidates will be allowed one opportunity to retake or resubmit each of the required elements should they fail to reach the necessary standard. Students failing to pass any element on the second attempt will normally be judged to have failed to reach the necessary standard for the award.~~

Edited text:

[1.16] 8. Candidates who fail any assessment on the second attempt will normally have failed to reach the necessary standard for the award.

Change 8. Amend citation references 1.19, 1.20, 1.23 and 1.31 to update syllabus topics as follows:

[1.19] ~~The dynamic anatomy of immunity~~ Fundamentals in immunology

[1.20] ~~Innate immunity and inflammation~~

[1.23] ~~Phylogenetically ancient systems~~ Evolution of human immunity

[1.31] The project will be chosen in consultation with the Organising Committee. A research supervisor will be assigned who will provide regular supervision and guidance during the course of the 14-week ~~laboratory-based~~ research project in Oxford.

Explanatory Notes

Change 1: Text modified to make it clear that timetabled sessions are compulsory. Detail on what these sessions might be is not relevant to Regulations and should be deleted

Change 2: Text modified to remove the phrase '*in order to proceed with the course*' from citation points 1.7 and 1.8. This text only appears with reference to the computer-based exams and not to any of the other assessments in the Regulations (which are of equal importance). The text is therefore deleted from citation points 1.7 and 1.8 for equity across assessment tasks.

Change 3: Text modified to concisely clarify requirements of the essay assessment. Unnecessary operational detail on essay titles is removed – this information appears in the Conventions and/or Handbook. Text is deleted to remove reference to a public presentation and viva voce on the essay. Students may undertake such activities as formative assessments - they do not contribute to the award of MSc and should therefore be removed from the Examination Regulations. The information on reassessment is reworded for brevity.

Change 4: Text modified to concisely clarify requirements of the clinical case commentaries assessment. Text is deleted to remove reference to a public presentation and viva voce on one of the commentaries. Students will undertake these activities as formative assessments, so they do not contribute to the award of MSc and should be removed from the Examination Regulations. The information on reassessment is reworded for brevity.

Change 5: Text on the written dissertation reassessment is moved from citation point 1.12 to 1.11 and modified for brevity. Information pertaining to the written dissertation reassessment should not be present in citation point 1.12 because point 1.12 covers the viva, not the written submission.

Change 6: Reassessment information is modified as stated in the above Change 5 to incorporate reassessment information for the viva. Text is deleted from citation point 1.12 to remove reference to a research presentation, which is a formative assessment. This does not contribute to the award of MSc and should not appear in the Examination Regulations.

Change 7: Text is modified for brevity.

Change 8: Text describing broad syllabus topics is amended to reflect updates and to align with the planned part-time online variant of the MSc Integrated Immunology program. There is no material change to the curriculum. The term 'laboratory-based project' is removed from citation point 1.31 because some of our projects are bioinformatic, computational or data-based therefore students may complete a research project outside of a conventional laboratory setting.

Note: The changes requested within this document would bring the course's Regulations into line with the draft Examination Regulations for the proposed new part-time online MSc Integrated Immunology course. The courses will run in parallel as variants, thus we wish to have the Regulations aligned for the two programs.