

Medical Sciences Divisional Board**Approved on behalf of Education Committee on 26th February 2024****Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation**

Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine

Brief note about nature of change

Amendments to improve clarity and amendment to general policy and assessment

Location of changeIn *Examination Regulations 2021-22*<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=secobm&srchYear=2021&srchTerm=1&year=2021&term=1>**Effective date**

These changes are for students who started the Second BM in 2022-23 and who entered year 5/Graduate entry year 3 in 2023-24.

Detail of change

1. Amend citation reference 1.1-4 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

1.1. A candidate may be admitted to the Second Examination if ~~his or her~~ their name has been entered on the University Register of Clinical Students and ~~he or she has~~ they have satisfied one of the following conditions:

1.2(a) ~~he or she has~~ they have passed in all the subjects of the First Examination and the Qualifying Examination in the Principles of Clinical Anatomy and has either been admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours or obtained a bachelor's degree at another university; or

^{1.3}(b) ~~he or she has~~ they have passed in all the subjects of the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine and the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine; or

^{1.4}(c) ~~he or she has~~ they have both

2. Insert new clause before existing citation reference 1.9 and to re-number subsequent sections.

4. Parts of the assessment in Years 5 and 6 will comprise the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) which is required by the General Medical Council to test the core knowledge, skills and behaviours of doctors new to medical practice in the UK. The two parts of the MLA are:

- a) Clinical and Professional Skills Assessment (CPSA). The clinical examination in Year 5 and the clinical examination in Year 6 together make up the CPSA.
- b) Applied Knowledge Test (AKT): this is the Applied Knowledge Test in Year 6, which is a nationally-constructed, university-delivered examination, which has a common format, test standard, delivery process and policy framework. The MLA Board acts as the main oversight and governance group responsible for all elements of the UK MLA AKT.

3. Amend citation reference. 1.9-12 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

^{1.9} 5. The subject of the Second Examination shall be clinical medicine in all its aspects.

^{1.10} (a) The Second Examination shall cover three years, the subjects for each year being prescribed by regulation of the Medical Sciences Board.

^{1.11}(b) Each of Years 4 and 5 shall involve a form of assessment prescribed by regulation of the Board which shall be notified to candidates. ~~No candidate shall commence Year 5 or 6 until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year 4 or 5 respectively (except that a candidate shall be permitted to commence Year 5 if he or she has passed in all the assessment units in the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine and has passed all of the assessment units of the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine), unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies, at their discretion and in exceptional circumstances, decide that the candidate may proceed to the next year of study on condition that he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.~~

^{1.12}(c) Year 6 shall involve written and clinical examinations and may involve oral examinations. No candidate shall be deemed to have completed the Year 6 Vocational Skills Course until they have passed the assessments for Years 4 and 5 and the Year 6 General Clinical Studies Course.

4. Amend citation reference 1.15

~~1.15~~ The examiners may award merits in each of the examined subjects in Years 4 and 6.
Years 4, 5 and 6. The examiners may award a merit for overall performance in the
Integrated Summative Assessment in Year 5.

5. Delete citation reference 1.17

~~1.17~~ 9. The provisions of the appropriate regulations, concerning the times of holding examinations and the entry of names, and the special regulation concerning dress shall not, unless otherwise prescribed by regulation of the board, apply to Years 4 and 5, except in the case of a formal examination set by the examiners of these stages, as prescribed by regulation of the Board.

6. Delete citation reference 1.18-28

~~1.18~~ Proposals for the assessment of candidates in Years 4, 5, and 6 of the examination shall be drawn up by the Board's Clinical Education Committee and submitted for approval to the Medical Sciences Board, at such times as the Board shall determine. The form or forms of assessment are chosen from among the following:

~~1.19~~ (a) objective structured clinical examinations;

~~1.20~~ (b) written tests, which may consist in whole or in part of, for example, multiple choice questions;

~~1.21~~ (c) clinical examination including long and short cases;

~~1.22~~ (d) competency check sheets, logbooks, or portfolios;

~~1.23~~ (e) examination and comment (written or viva voce) on specimens;

~~1.24~~ (f) poster presentations;

~~1.25~~ (g) case presentations;

~~1.26~~ (h) case histories and commentaries;

~~1.27~~ (i) prepared essays;

~~1.28~~ (j) other tests individually approved by the Board.

7. Amend citation reference 1.30

~~1.30~~ Candidates will be required to satisfy the Director of Clinical Studies and the relevant Associate Director of Clinical Studies regarding their professional behaviour by having both satisfactorily attended and completed required coursework.

8. Amend citation reference 1.32

~~1.32~~ No candidate may offer any assessment on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment in Years 4, 5 or 6 shall require application A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment in Years 4, 5 / Graduate-year entry Year 3 or 6 / Graduate-year entry Year 4 shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the published 'Procedure for Exceptional Attempts at the Second BM Examination'.

9. Amend citation reference 1.49

^{1.49}No candidate may sit the Integrated Summative Assessment if they have not satisfactorily attended and fulfilled all of the individual course requirements in at least five of the six subjects specified in (a) to (f) below, except in exceptional circumstances with the permission of the Director and one Associate Director of Clinical Studies.

10. Delete 1.58

~~^{1.58}No candidate shall commence Year 6 until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year 5, unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies at their discretion should, in exceptional circumstances, decide that the candidate may proceed to Year 6 on condition that he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.~~

11. Insert new section after citation reference 1.59-60 'Assessment'

Progression from Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3 to Year 6 / Graduate-entry Year 4

If a candidate has failed one or more of the Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3 examinations after two attempts, they shall not be allowed to continue as a student enrolled on Year 6 of the Clinical Medicine course / Year 4 of the Graduate-entry Medicine course, even if they are awaiting the outcome of an academic appeal or an application for an exceptional third attempt.

If a candidate has failed one or more of the Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3 examinations after one attempt but has not had the opportunity to make a second attempt at that examination / those examinations by the normal time of the second sitting of the examinations, they shall not be allowed to continue as a student enrolled on Year 6 of the Clinical Medicine course / Year 4 of the Graduate-entry Medicine course until they have passed the outstanding examinations.

If a candidate has passed all of the Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3 examinations but has failed to meet the requirements in one or more of the other course components due to circumstances beyond their control, they will normally be allowed, at the discretion of the Director of Clinical Studies and one Associate Director of Clinical Studies, to continue as a student enrolled on Year 6 of the Clinical Medicine course / Year 4 of the Graduate-entry Medicine course, subject to the condition that they complete the outstanding course components by a specified date.

If a candidate has passed all of the Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3 examinations but has failed to meet the requirements in one or more of the other course components, they may be allowed, at the discretion of the Director of Clinical Studies and one Associate Director of Clinical Studies, to continue as a student enrolled on Year 6 of the Clinical Medicine course / Year 4 of the Graduate-entry Medicine course, subject to the condition that they complete the outstanding course components by a specified date.

12. Add new text after citation reference 1.70

^{1.70}(d) A Course to prepare students for work as a Foundation 1 doctor.

(e) Practical Skills.

13. Amend citation reference 1.77-8

^{1.77}Candidates shall be required to submit to the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies in Vocational Skills such evidence as they require of the successful completion of their work.

^{1.78}In considering whether candidates shall have passed the assessment, the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies in Vocational Skills may fail a candidate who has provided either none or insufficient evidence of satisfactory completion of one part of the course, even if he or she has satisfied them in other parts of the course.

Explanatory Notes

The changes relate to:

- Amendment to pronouns.
- The amendments in Year 5 regarding course module requirements to sit the end of year exams and the removal of merits awarded for individual course modules.
- A new progression section added for information to the Year 4 and Year 5 regulations.
- Practical skills added to the requirements for completion of the Vocational Skills part of the course.