

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, an amendment to general policy and assessment and removal of repetition.

Location of change

[2023-24, Second BM \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

These changes are for students who started the Second BM in 2023-24 and who entered year 4 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. Amend clause 3, citation reference 1.8.

3. The Second Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine shall be under the supervision of the Medical Sciences Board. ~~The Board shall have power to require candidates for admission to any part of the Second Examination to produce certificates of attendance at courses of practical instruction, and such other certificates as the Board may from time to time determine, and to define the form of such certificates. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to see that these conditions are observed.~~

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

4. Parts of the assessment in Year 5/Graduate-entry Year 3 and Year 6/Graduate-entry Year 4 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/Graduate-entry Year 3 and the clinical examination in Year 6/Graduate-entry Year 4 together make up the CPSA.
- b) Applied Knowledge Test (AKT): this is the Applied Knowledge Test in Year 6/Graduate-entry Year 4, 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. 1.9-14 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through); 1.9 and 1.10 sentences to be combined into a single paragraph:

^{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/Graduate entry Year 3 or Year 6/Graduate entry Year 4 until he or she has they have satisfactorily completed Year 4 or 5 respectively (except that a candidate shall be permitted to commence Year 5/Graduate entry Year 3 if he or she has they have passed in all the assessment units in the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine and has have passed all of the assessment units of the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine), unless the Director of Clinical Studies and the relevant 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 they 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. Delete citation reference 1.13

~~1.135. A candidate who has passed in all the assessment units of the Preliminary Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine and has passed all of the assessment units of the Year 2 Examination in Graduate-entry Medicine shall be permitted to proceed directly to commence Year 5.~~

5. Amend citation reference 1.14

~~1.156. The examiners may award a Distinction for outstanding performance over the three years. Criteria for Distinctions will be determined by the Medical Sciences Board. set out in the Examination Conventions.~~

6. Amend citation reference 1.15

~~1.157. The examiners may award merits in each of the examined subjects in Years 4, 5 and 6. Year 4 and Year 6 / Graduate-entry Year 4. The examiners may award a merit for overall performance in the Integrated Summative Assessment in Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3.~~

7. Amend citation reference 1.16

~~1.158. Breach of the Code of Conduct for Medical Students, as approved and from time to time amended by Council's General Purposes Committee on the recommendation of the Medical Sciences Board, may be deemed to be a ground for removal of a student's name from the University Register of Clinical Students according to procedures which shall always be subject to approval by Council's General Purposes Committee on the recommendation of the Medical Sciences Board.~~

8. Delete citation reference 1.17

~~1.179. 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.~~

9. Delete citation reference 1.18-31

~~Regulations for Assessment in Years 4, 5, and 6~~

~~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.~~

1.29 ~~In clinical subjects, all assessments shall include a test of clinical competence. In addition, reports on candidates' attendance and general aptitude shown during the course of instruction shall be made by those responsible for the course and taken into consideration in association with the performance of candidates in the assessment.~~

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

1.31 ~~A candidate shall be warned (in a timely fashion and in writing with a copy to the Director of Clinical Studies) by those responsible for the course in question, if their attendance and general aptitude are such as seems likely to jeopardise the candidate's chances of passing the assessment (either work-based on course assessment or the end of year assessment).~~

10. Amend citation reference 1.32

1.32 No candidate may offer any assessment unit on more than two occasions, save except in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit in Years 4, 5/Graduate-entry Year 3 or Year 6/Graduate-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'. If granted, this exceptional resit attempt shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be deferred once, i.e. it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at the second attempt, and any application that may have been made for an exceptional further attempt is unsuccessful, then their name shall be removed from the Register of Clinical Students.

11. Delete citation reference 1.33

1.33 ~~It shall be the responsibility of the staff concerned, under the supervision of the Medical Sciences Board, to give the candidates and the relevant examiners and/or assessors, reasonable notice of the dates on which the assessments will take place, to decide on the outcome of each assessment, and to keep departmental records of each assessment. A candidate should not normally be assessed exclusively by staff members who have been responsible for his or her instruction.~~

12. Delete sub-heading

Year 4

Syllabus and Examination

13. Amend citation reference 1.34-7

1.34 In Year 4, students are required to satisfy the examiners in the:

1.35 (a) Laboratory Medicine course (concerning the application to human disease of the principles of Laboratory Medicine, including Histopathology, Microbiology and Infection, Clinical Biochemistry, Immunology, and Haematology);

1.36(b) Integrated Clinical Course: Medicine and Surgery.

There will be three examinations:

- a) Paper A (Laboratory Medicine). This will be an Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) consisting of multiple choice questions.
- b) Paper B (Integrated paper in Medicine, Surgery and Applied Pathology). This will be an Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) consisting of multiple choice questions.
- c) An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

~~1.37 Each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction.~~

14. Amend citation reference 1.41

1.41 (b) Clinical Communication Skills;

15. Amend citation reference 1.44

1.44 (e) Population Health; Special Study approved on behalf of the Medical Sciences Board
(f) Special Study.

16. Delete citation reference 1.45

~~1.45 No candidate shall commence Year 5 until he or she has satisfactorily completed Year 4, 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 5 on condition that he or she should undertake remedial work and if necessary be reassessed at a later date.~~

17. Delete sub-heading

Assessment

18. Amend citation reference 1.46-7

1.46 A candidate in Year 4 who has been deemed to have failed in any part of the unit of assessment at the first attempt will be permitted one further attempt and will only be required to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment unit they have failed.

~~1.47 No candidate may offer any assessment unit for Year 4 on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit in 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 'Procedure for Exceptional Attempts at the Second BM Examination'. If granted, the exceptional resit attempt will only be in the assessment component which the candidate has failed and shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be~~

~~deferred once, ie it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this second attempt, and any application that may have been made for an exceptional attempt is unsuccessful, then their name shall be removed from the Register of Clinical Students.~~

19. Insert new section, after citation reference 1.47

Progression from Year 4 to Year 5

If a candidate has passed all of the Year 4 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 the relevant Associate Director of Clinical Studies, to continue as a student enrolled on Year 5 of the Clinical 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 4 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 the relevant Associate Director of Clinical Studies, to continue as a student enrolled on Year 5 of the Clinical Medicine course, subject to the condition that they complete the outstanding course components by a specified date.

If a candidate has failed one or more of the Year 4 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 5 of the Clinical Medicine course until they have passed the outstanding examinations.

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

20. Amend heading and sub-heading

Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3

Syllabus and Examination

21. Amend citation reference 1.48-58 and remove italicisation from list 1.50-5

^{1.48}In order to pass Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3, candidates are required to have satisfactorily attended all courses and fulfilled individual course requirements, including completing all relevant formative assessments, for all the subjects specified in (a) to (f) below; and to have satisfied the examiners in the Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3 Integrated Summative Assessment, both written and clinical examinations.

^{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 the relevant Associate Director of Clinical Studies.

- 1.50 1. (a) Clinical Neurosciences;
1.51 (b) Community-based Medicine;
1.52 (c) Orthopaedic Surgery, Rheumatology, Trauma and Emergency Medicine;
1.53 (d) Paediatrics;
1.54 (e) Psychiatry;
1.55 (f) Women's and Reproductive Health.

- 1.56 2. ~~Candidates are required to satisfy the examiners in the~~ The Integrated Summative Assessment consists of:
a) An Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) consisting of multiple choice questions.
b) An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

1.57 ~~The written and clinical examinations~~ Integrated Summative Assessment will each assess the subjects specified in (a) to (f) above., and each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction.

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.~~

22. Delete heading

Assessment

23. Amend citation reference 1.59-60

1.59 A candidate in Year 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3 who has been deemed to have failed in any part of the Integrated Summative Assessment at the first attempt will be permitted one further attempt and will only be required to be reassessed in the part or parts of the assessment they have failed.

1.60 ~~No candidate may offer any assessment unit for Year 5 on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit in Year 5 shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the 'Procedure for Exceptional Attempts at the Second BM Examination', If granted, the exceptional resit attempt will only be in the assessment component which the candidate has failed and shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be deferred once, i.e. it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this second attempt, and any application that may have been made for an exceptional attempt is unsuccessful, then their name shall be removed from the Register of Clinical Students.~~

24. Add new section after current citation reference 1.60

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

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 the relevant 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 the relevant 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 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 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.

25. Amend headings above citation reference 1.61

Year 6 / Graduate Entry Year 4

Syllabus and Examination

26. Amend citation reference 1.61

~~^{1.61}In Year 6, students are required to satisfy: (a) the examiners in General Clinical Studies; and (b) the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies in Vocational Skills. Each candidate will be assessed according to the methods approved by the Medical Sciences Board and notified to candidates before the commencement of each course of instruction. Students who fail an assessment may have to forfeit part or all of the elective for a period of intensive clinical training.~~

27. Amend citation reference 1.62-64

~~^{1.62}**1. General Clinical Studies**~~

~~^{1.63}Students are required to satisfy the examiners in Medicine and Surgery in accordance with the General Medical Council's *Outcome for Graduates*.~~

There will be two examinations:

- a) Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) consisting of multiple choice questions.
- b) An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

^{1.64}Candidates must satisfy the Director of Clinical Studies and the relevant Associate Director of Clinical Studies that they have attended a course of instruction in Clinical Options. ~~approved by the Medical Sciences Board.~~

28. Amend citation reference 1.65-78

^{1.65}2. Vocational Skills

No candidate shall be deemed to have completed the Year 6 / Graduate-entry Year 4 Vocational Skills Course until they have passed the assessments for Years 4 / Graduate-entry Year 2 and 5 / Graduate-entry Year 3 and the Year 6 / Graduate-entry Year 4 General Clinical Studies Course.

Students are required to satisfy the Director of Clinical Studies and the relevant Associate Director of Clinical Studies that they have provided work to a satisfactory standard in:

- (a) Special Study approved on behalf of the Medical Sciences Board;
- (b) An Elective (students who fail an assessment may be required to complete remedial clinical work. These students will forfeit part, or all, of the elective and instead will be required to produce a satisfactory report at the end of an additional clinical attachment);
- (c) A student assistantship with a clinical team;
- (d) A Course to prepare students for work as a Foundation 1 doctor;
- (e) Practical Skills.

Assessment

A candidate in Year 6 / Graduate-entry Year 4 who has been deemed to have failed in any ~~part of the assessment unit in medicine and surgery~~ at the first attempt will be permitted one further attempt and will only be required to be reassessed in ~~part of parts~~ of the assessment unit they have failed. The examiners shall require the candidate to be reassessed after completing the necessary coursework; this assessment shall be carried out and adjudged by the examiners.

~~No candidate may offer any assessment unit for Year 6 on more than two occasions, save in exceptional circumstances. A further exceptional opportunity to offer any assessment unit in Year 6 shall require application to and approval on behalf of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of the Medical Sciences Board, according to the 'Procedure for Exceptional Attempts at the Second BM Examination'. If granted, the exceptional resit attempt will only be in the assessment component which the candidate has failed and shall normally be taken at the next opportunity, but may be deferred once, i.e. it must be taken at one of the next two opportunities. In the event that a candidate's performance is judged to be unsatisfactory at this second attempt, and any application that may have been made for an exceptional attempt is unsuccessful, then their name shall be removed from the Register of Clinical Students.~~

Duties of the Examiners

1. General Clinical Studies

~~The examination shall be arranged and conducted by the Year 6 Examination Board under the direction of the Chair of Examiners and the Principal Examiners in Medicine and Surgery.~~

~~In considering whether a candidate has passed the assessment, the examiners may fail a candidate who does not satisfy them in one part of the assessment, even if he or she has satisfied them in other parts at that stage.~~

2. Vocational Skills

~~Candidates shall be required to submit to the Director of Clinical Studies and the Associate Director of Clinical Studies 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 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.