

# ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## Regulations for the MSci Honours Degree in Biomedical Science

### 1. Degree Title

The degree shall be known as the MSci Honours Degree in Biomedical Science of St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent College of the University of London.

### 2. Responsible Committee

The Undergraduate Biomedical Science Course Committee shall be responsible to the Undergraduate Medicine and Bioscience Education Committee for the structure, content and delivery of the degree programme.

### 3. Entrance Requirements

3.1 Before admission to the programme a candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

- (a) satisfy the general entrance requirements of SGUL, as published by the Admissions department;
- (b) satisfy the specific requirements for admission to the programme as approved by UPC.

3.2 Applications to the programme shall be made through the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

#### 3.3 Mature candidates

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3.1 above, consideration will be given to mature candidates on the evidence of their individual merit. They will be required to demonstrate both achievement in the basic sciences and evidence of recent academic study at an appropriate level.

#### 3.4 Graduates

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3.1 above, graduate candidates will normally be required to have obtained a non-science Upper Second Class Honours Degree *and* a GCE Advanced Level pass in Chemistry, Biology or its equivalent.

### 4. Admissions Policy

The Undergraduate Programmes Committee shall prescribe a detailed Admissions Policy for the programme which complies with the General Regulations provisions for admissions. This Admissions Policy shall be made in accordance with St George's Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement on Students with Disabilities.

### 5. Advanced Standing, Recognition of Prior Learning and Credit Transfer

Candidates who are able to show evidence of a prior qualification containing elements substantially similar to those within the MSci Honours Degree in Biomedical Science may be exempted from not more than one-half of the course of study and examinations leading to that degree. Assessment of prior learning will follow the guidelines and methodology outlined in Quality Manual.

### 6. Minimum Period of Study

The minimum period of registration required for the award of the full MSci (Hons) degree shall normally be four academic years (full-time). The maximum registration period for students enrolled on the MSci (Hons) Biomedical Science programme shall normally be six years. A student who wishes to request an extension to the maximum period of study shall do so in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Senate (see General Regulations).

### 7. Course Design and Content

#### 7.1 The Academic Year

Each academic year shall comprise two semesters.

## 7.2 The Modular System

Years One, Two and Three of the degree programme shall be delivered as a series of modules. All modules shall be taught during a single academic year.

Proposals for new modules will be considered for approval by the Course Committee, which will recommend any changes to the Validation Committee for final approval.

## 7.3 Course Modules

The modules taught shall be as follows (slight title changes may occur from year to year):

### 7.3.1 Year One (120 credits at Level 4)

All compulsory modules

#### Semester 1

Fundamentals of the Living Cell

Fundamentals of Pathology

Fundamentals in Pharmacology & Physiology

Personal & Academic Skills 1

#### Semester 2

Physiology 1

Anatomy 1

Personal & Academic Skills 2

### 7.3.2 Year Two (120 credits at Level 5)

All compulsory modules

#### Semester 3

Genomics

Physiology 2

Anatomy 2

Personal & Academic Skills 3

#### Semester 4

Microbiology & immunology

Molecular Basis of Disease

Personal & Academic Skills 4

### 7.3.3 Year 3

In Year 3, students will study modules to the value of 120 credits. All students will complete compulsory modules worth 45 credits and in addition will select a 75 credit pathway, subject to availability.

#### ***Compulsory 15 credit modules for MSci pathway***

Biomedical Research Techniques for Drug Development

Experimental Design and Data Analysis

Structured Research Project

#### ***75 credit pathways:***

Anatomy

Cell & Molecular Biology

Genomics

Immunity & Infection

Physiology & Pharmacology

### 7.3.4 Year 4 (120 credits at Level 7)

All compulsory modules

Research Proposal

Research Project

The research project may be undertaken at any approved institution within the UK (at the final discretion of the Course Director), or with European partner institutions under the Erasmus+ Scheme.

## **8. Assessment**

### **8.1 Forms of Assessment**

Assessment may take various forms. Written examinations may include essays, short answer questions, long answer questions, single best answer, problem-solving questions, calculation or data analysis. In course assessments may include project reports, practical write ups and presentations. Practical and *viva voce* examinations may be associated with assessments at any stage.

### **8.2 Timing of Assessments**

#### **8.2.1 Years One and Two**

Examinations in Years One and Two comprise in-course assessments and written papers taken at the end of each Semester. The written paper at the end of each semester will examine the course material from modules taught during that semester.

#### **8.2.2 Year Three**

Year 3 taught modules will normally be assessed by a combination of in-course assessment and written examination. In-course assessments will normally be submitted at the end of the semester in which the module was taught. Module co-ordinators will prescribe the topics, guidelines and submission deadlines for in-course assessments and will communicate these to students. Written examinations will normally take place at the end of the academic year.

#### **8.2.3 Year Four**

Year 4 modules will be assessed through in-course assessment. Module co-ordinators will prescribe the topics, guidelines and submission deadlines for in-course assessments and will communicate these to students. The compulsory Research Project will be assessed by poster presentation, award of an in-course mark from the supervisor, and a mark for the written dissertation.

## **9. Scheme of Assessment**

The Undergraduate Programmes Committee shall prescribe a Scheme of Assessment for each component part of the degree course in accordance with Regulation 7 of the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study.

## **10. Rules for Progression**

The pass mark for academic years 1-3 is 40%. Students are required to pass each academic year to progress to the subsequent level of study. The pass mark for Year 4 is 50%.

Additionally, MSci (Hons) Biomedical Science students are required to obtain a combined average mark of 60% or above from Years 1 and 2 to progress into Year 3 of the MSci programme. Average marks will be calculated by weighting the marks for Year 1 to Year 2 at a ratio of 1:2 (for example, a Year 1 mark of 50% and a Year 2 mark of 65% would be averaged as  $50+(65 \times 2)/3 = 60$ ).

Students who have successfully passed Years 1 and 2 but who have failed to meet the 60% threshold will be automatically transferred into Year 3 of the BSc Biomedical Science programme.

## **11. Re-entry to Assessments**

11.1 Students may normally re-sit examinations and/or resubmit work on one occasion only. The reassessment will be by the same methods as at the first attempt. Marks for resubmitted in-course assessments or resit examinations at Levels 4-6 shall be capped at 40%, as detailed in the Scheme of Assessment. Marks for resubmitted in-course assessments or resit examinations at Level 7 shall be capped at 50%, as detailed in the Scheme of Assessment.

11.2 A student who fails at first re-entry to examinations will normally have their registration on the course terminated but will be eligible to be considered for a discretionary third attempt at failed assessments, in accordance with the relevant Scheme of Assessment and the *Procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment*, as approved by Senate. Under this procedure, Boards of Examiners will have the authority to approve a discretionary third attempt if a candidate meets programme-specific fast-track criteria. For candidates who do not satisfy the

programme-specific fast-track criteria, a Discretionary Panel of Senate will consider the student's application for a discretionary third attempt. Detailed information about process and timescales is published on the Student Affairs section on the SGUL Website.

- 11.3 A student will be permitted to undertake a discretionary third attempt at assessments on only ONE occasion on the programme.

## **12. Award of Degree**

To qualify for the award of the MSci degree, students must complete all the course requirements. Marks from all years of the programme will contribute to the final classification of the degree in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment.

## **13. Classification of Honours**

The degree of MSci in Biomedical Science may be awarded with First, Upper Second or Lower Second Class Honours in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment.

## **14. Exit qualifications**

- 14.1 Qualifications at certificate and diploma level shall be available to students who have successfully completed the relevant components of the programme of study, as set out in the paragraphs below, but who are not continuing registration for the MSci (Hons) Biomedical Science degree or any other degree award at St George's. The award of these qualifications shall be considered by the Board of Examiners on the recommendation of the Course Director.

- 14.2 An Undergraduate Certificate in Biomedical Science may be awarded to students who have successfully completed Year 1 of the MSci Biomedical Science degree programme (120 credits at Level 4).

- 14.3 An Undergraduate Diploma in Biomedical Science may be awarded to students who have successfully completed Years 1 and 2 of the MSci Biomedical Science degree programme (120 credits at Level 4, and 120 credits at Level 5).

- 14.4 The degree of BSc (Hons) Science of Biomedicine may be awarded to students who have successfully completed Years 1, 2 and 3 of the MSci Hons Biomedical Science degree programme (120 credits at Level 4, 120 credits at Level 5 and 120 credits at Level 6) and who wish to exit the programme. The degree of BSc (Hons) Science of Biomedicine may be awarded with First, Upper Second, Lower Second or Third Class Honours in accordance with the Scheme of Assessment.

- 14.5 The awards referred to in this section shall be made by St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent college of the University of London. Awards referred to in 14.2 and 14.3 shall not be classified.

## **15. Date of Award**

The date of the Board of Examiners meeting will be the date the award is conferred.

## **16. Course Syllabus**

A detailed syllabus for each component part of the degree course shall be prescribed by the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science and shall be published on Canvas.

## **17. Constitution of the Board of Examiners**

### Appointment and Accountability

- 17.1 The Board of Examiners for the BSc (Honours) Degree in Biomedical Science is appointed by the Senate for each academic year (starting 1 October) to conduct examinations for that degree at St George's in accordance with the Regulations and the Schemes of Assessment for that course.

17.2 The Board of Examiners shall make reports to SGUL's Senate, through the Academic Registrar, after the conclusion of examinations for each stage of the degree course.

17.3 Membership

The Board shall consist of:

- (a) The Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (*ex officio*).
- (b) A Chair and a Deputy Chair who shall each be an Internal Examiner
- (c) A Responsible Examiner, who shall be an Internal Examiner, for each module or half module examined within the curriculum.
- (d) An External Examiner for each subject area included within the curriculum; at least one External Examiner shall be external to the University of London.

17.4 Appointment of the Board

In October of each year the Vice-Chancellor, acting on the advice of the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science, shall nominate the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board. To be eligible for nomination, a person must be a member of the academic staff of SGUL or hold an honorary academic appointment and have at least three years' experience of examining. These nominations shall be confirmed by the Senate in April.

17.5 In October of each year the Academic Registrar shall invite the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science to nominate Internal Examiners and External Examiners for the coming academic year.

17.6 To be eligible for nomination as an Internal Examiner, a person must be a member of the academic staff of SGUL or hold an honorary academic appointment.

17.7 To be eligible for nomination as an External Examiner, a person must be a member of the academic staff of another college of the University of London, another university or equivalent institution, or hold an honorary teaching appointment with that university or institution, and must have at least three years' experience of examining within their own institution. Nominations as External Examiners should not be made unless it has first been ascertained that they are in principle willing and able to serve. An External Examiner may not serve on the Board for more than four consecutive years and after retiring from membership shall not be eligible to serve again until a period of two years shall have elapsed.

17.8 The complete list of the nominated Board shall be forwarded by the Academic Registrar to the Senate in the Autumn term for appointment.

17.9 Following confirmation by the Senate, letters of appointment shall be sent by the Academic Registrar to all members of the Board, with the relevant Scheme(s) of Assessment, Instructions for Marking, dates of examinations, and advice as to the duties of examiners.

17.10 Duties of examiners and conduct of examinations

The General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study of SGUL, and the Schemes of Assessment for each stage of the degree, detail the duties of examiners and the rules for the conduct of the examinations.

Assessors may be appointed by the Chair of the Board to assist with the setting of examinations or the marking of candidates' work. Assessors need not be members of the Board but shall be invited to meetings of the Board where they may speak but not vote.

17.11 Meetings of the Board

Where a Scheme of Assessment provides for provisional results and the determination of borderline oral examinations, a meeting of the Board shall be held for this purpose. At the conclusion of examinations for each stage, the Board shall meet to determine the results for that stage. These meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Board or, in their unavoidable absence, by the nominee of the Vice-Chancellor.

Except in the most extreme situations (e.g. in an emergency where the results of an examination are likely to be seriously prejudiced) the Board is not empowered to alter examination protocols including Schemes of Assessment but only to recommend amendment to the Undergraduate Course Committee for Biomedical Science and Senate.

Any emergency amendments to procedures will be reported to the Senate.

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