

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/21/3e

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

11 March 2021

Agenda Item 6.2.1

COVER SHEET

NEW AWARD REGULATIONS

Presenter: Professor A McKillop

To consider for approval draft award regulations for the new qualification of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).

Ulster University Programme Regulations

1. TITLE

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

2. MODE OF ATTENDANCE

Full-time

3. DURATION

Full-time: normally 4 years; maximum 6 years.

4. LOCATION

Magee campus

5. FACULTY

Life and Health Sciences

6. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

(a) satisfy the University's general entry requirements; and

- Have a minimum of a 2:1 Honours degree in any discipline; and
- Sit the entrance examination GAMSAT; and
- Pass Mini-Multiple Interview assessments; and
- Have an Enhanced Disclosure from AccessNI or other relevant authority; and
- Complete a medical declaration and have occupational health clearance

And

- Prospective students should also be aware of the *Medical students: professional values and fitness to practise* guidance from the GMC that will take into consideration their behaviour both before and during their period of study. Failure to comply with this guidance could impair eligibility for a student to register with the GMC and could affect continuation on the programme. The guidance is available at: (https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/professional-behaviour-and-fitness-to-practise-0816_pdf-66085925.pdf)
- International and EU qualifications are assessed using National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) and UCAS Overseas Qualifications manual. Applicants from non-English speaking countries are also required to achieve grade B in GCSE English or IELTS grade 7.5 with no individual mark below 7.0.

or

(b) provide evidence of their ability to undertake the programme through the accreditation of prior experiential learning (English requirement only).

7. EXEMPTIONS

There can be no exemptions from any part of the approved programme.

8. PLACEMENT

There will be clinical placement experience periods throughout all four years of study:

9. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 Students are expected to attend all classes associated with the programme and be punctual and regular in attendance.
- 9.2 A student who has not been in attendance for more than three days through illness or other cause must immediately notify the Course Director. The student shall state the reasons for the absence and whether it is likely to be prolonged. Where the absence is for a period of more than five working days and is caused by illness which may affect their studies, the student shall provide appropriate medical certification in accordance with the University General Regulations for Students.
- 9.3 Students who are absent without good cause for a substantial proportion of classes may be required to discontinue studies, in accordance with the University General Regulations for Students.
- 9.4 Attendance at placements is compulsory within the framework described at paragraph 8.
- 9.5 In addition to managing non-attendance through University procedures it will normally also be considered through MBBS Fitness to Study or Fitness to Practice, whichever is more appropriate, to comply with regulatory procedures.

10. RULES GOVERNING STUDENT CHOICE

- 10.1 The programme is offered as indicated in the table at section 18. Revisions may be made in accordance with the University's quality assurance procedures.
- 10.2 **Student Selected Components**
Student Selected Components (SSC), in all years of the programme, shall allow students to study, in depth, areas of particular interest, building up a broad range of experience.
- 10.3 **Final Year Elective**
There will normally be a seven-week final year elective.

Any student in final year who is required to attend remediation or clinical attachment(s) for the purpose of a resit assessment, will forego the Final Year Elective for this purpose.

11. EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 The performance of candidates shall be assessed by the Board of Examiners in accordance with the Regulations Governing Examinations in Programmes of Study.
- 11.2 Candidates shall be assessed in the module for which they have enrolled in each year of study.
- 11.3 Within each module candidates shall be assessed by coursework in accordance with the attached table.
- 11.4 Students will be required to take formative assessments throughout the programme, which shall be for the information of the student and his/her teachers. The marks or grades obtained at such assessments shall not contribute to decisions concerning progress, although attendance at these assessments is mandatory.
- 11.3 Credits will be awarded at the end of each year on the basis of three assessment domains (**Professional Values and Behaviours**, **Professional Skills** and **Professional Knowledge**). Credits will be awarded on the basis of summative assessments. The total credits for each year are specified below. Credits will not be awarded for completion of part of a year's study and assessment.
- 11.4 Credit accumulation
The programme shall be based upon the accumulation of credit in each year of the programme, using the standard undergraduate UK framework and the European Credit Transfer Scheme (ECTS), as follows:

Year	Year name	Credit Level	UK framework credits	ECTS credits
Year 1	Clinical Science	Level 5	175	87
Year 2	Transition	Level 6	195	97
Year 3	Penultimate	Level 6	220	110
Year 4	Final	Level 7	190	95

- 11.5 Assessment shall be by a variety of methods which may include in-course assessment, written tests, practical and clinical assessments or such other forms of assessment as are specified in the Scheme of Assessment.
- 11.6 The pass standard for the written assessments shall be determined using recognised methods for standard setting.
- 11.7 The pass standard for the OSCE shall be determined using recognised methods for standard setting. In order to attain the pass standard in OSCE, candidates are required to achieve the numerical passmark for the assessment **and** pass 65% of stations (rounded to the nearest whole number).
- 11.8 For first year, for the summative elements of **the Professional Values and Behaviours** domain, candidates at the end of the year will be graded as either Acceptable, Cause for Concern, or Unacceptable as determined by an algorithm as detailed in the Scheme of Assessment.

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- 11.9 For second year, for the summative elements of **the Professional Values and Behaviours** domain, candidates at the end of the year will be graded as either Acceptable, Borderline, Cause for Concern, or Unacceptable, as determined by an algorithm as detailed in the Scheme of Assessment.
- 11.10 For third year, for the summative elements of **the Professional Values and Behaviours** domain, candidates at the end of the year will be graded as either Acceptable, Borderline Acceptable, or Unacceptable, as determined by an algorithm as detailed in the Scheme of Assessment.
- 11.11 For final year, for the summative elements of the **Professional Values and Behaviours** domain, candidates at the end of the year will be graded as Acceptable or Unacceptable.
- 11.12 For all years except final year, for the summative elements of the **Professional Knowledge** domains, candidates at the end of the year will be graded one of the following categories:
- **A (Acceptable):** competent – the numerical pass mark or above
 - **C (Cause for Concern):** not yet competent – up to and including 2 Standard Errors of Measurement (SEM) below the numerical passmark
 - **U (Unacceptable):** poor – more than 2 Standard Errors of Measurement (SEM) below the numerical passmark
- 11.13 For final year, the summative elements of the **Professional Knowledge** domain will be assessed by the externally (GMC) prepared and moderated Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA) and the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) of the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA). Candidates at the end of the year will be graded one of the following categories:
- **A (Acceptable):** competent – the numerical passmark or above for the Prescribing Skills test **and** the Knowledge Proficiency Test
 - **U (Unacceptable):** below the numerical passmark for the Prescribing Skills Test **and / or** the Knowledge Proficiency Test
- Candidates will be required to achieve a grade of **Acceptable** in **both** the Prescribing Skills Test and the Knowledge Proficiency test, in order to pass the written assessment element
- 11.14 For all years except final year, for the summative elements of the **Professional Skills** domain, candidates at the end of the year will be graded as one of the following categories:
- **A (Acceptable):** competent – the numerical passmark or above **and** pass at least 65% of stations
 - **C (Cause for Concern):** not yet competent – up to and including 2 Standard Errors of Measurement (SEM) below the numerical passmark **or** fail between 35% and 50% of stations
 - **U (Unacceptable):** poor – more than 2 Standard Errors of Measurement (SEM) below the numerical passmark **and/or** fail more than 50% of stations
- 11.15 For final year, for the summative elements of the **Professional Skills** domain candidates at the end of the year will be graded as one of the following categories:

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- **A (Acceptable):** competent – the numerical passmark or above **and** pass at least 65% of stations
- **U (Unacceptable):** below the numerical passmark **and/or** pass less than 65% of stations

11.16 A grading algorithm will be used to determine the overall grade achieved each year

12 SUBMISSION OF COURSEWORK

12.1 Coursework shall be submitted by the dates specified by the Course Committee

12.2 Students may seek prior consent from the Course Committee to submit coursework after the official deadline; such requests must be accompanied by a satisfactory explanation and in the case of illness by a medical certificate. This application shall be made to the Director of Education.

12.3 Coursework submitted without consent after the deadline shall not normally be accepted.

13 PROGRESS

13.1 Subject to 14 hereof, candidates are required to pass all assessments in each year of study in order to proceed to the next. Progress from semester 1 to semester 2 is automatic.

13.2 Students shall normally be required to complete the course of instruction and complete satisfactorily all the prescribed assessments within six academic years from initial enrolment. This period may be extended in exceptional circumstances in accordance with the MBBS Procedures.

14 CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE

14.1 Candidates are permitted to submit their Student Selected Components up to three times in years one, two and three and twice in year four in order to achieve a pass.

14.2 Candidates who fail to satisfy the Board of Examiners in assessment may be permitted at the discretion of the Board to re-present themselves as specified in 14.4 for one more supplementary examination and repeat such coursework or other assessment requirements as shall be prescribed by the Board.

14.3 A student may only have **ONE** discretionary 3rd attempt during the MBBS Programme. Under the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment*, 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 Faculty will consider the student's application for a discretionary third attempt. Detailed information about the fast-track criteria, procedure and timescales is published on the Student Affairs section of the Programme Support Area in the Student Portal.

14.4 The consequences of failure in each year, other than the final year

The consequences of failure shall normally be as follows:

Failure at first attempt

A candidate, whose grade in any one or more assessment domain(s) (or element of) (including **either or both** elements of Professional Knowledge in Year 1) is **Cause for Concern**, will be given the option to enter the re-sit examination(s)/assessment(s) in each such assessment domain (or element of). Alternatively, a student may choose to repeat the year.

A candidate, whose grade in any one or more of the assessment domain(s) (or element of) (including **either or both** elements of Professional Knowledge in Year 1) is **Unacceptable** will be required to forego the re-sit examination(s)/assessment(s) and repeat the year. Candidates repeating the year will be required to sit all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or element of) in a previous academic year.

Failure at second attempt

A candidate, whose grade in any one or more of the re-sit assessment(s) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable** will be deemed to have failed the assessment and therefore the programme. Such students may be eligible for a 3rd discretionary attempt, in accordance with the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary attempt at an assessment* (see paragraph 14.2). Candidates offered a final, 3rd attempt will be required to repeat the year and sit all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or element of) in a previous academic year.

Failure at third (discretionary) attempt

A candidate, whose performance in any one or more of the re-sit assessment(s) is **Cause for Concern or Unacceptable** is deemed to have failed the programme and will have their registration terminated.

14.5 Failure in the Final Year

In the final year, the consequences of failure shall normally be as follows:

Failure at first attempt

A candidate, whose grade in any one or more of the assessment domains is **Unacceptable**, will be required to forgo the student arranged Final Year Elective and enter the re-sit examinations(s)/assessments(s) in the assessment domain (or element of). In addition, if the grade of **Unacceptable** is achieved in the Professional Values and Behaviours domain, the candidate will be required to defer the first sitting of the written assessment and OSCE in addition to the student arranged formative Final Year Elective and enter the re-sit examinations(s)/assessments(s) in the assessment domain (or element of). Alternatively, the candidate may choose to repeat the Final Year and sit all domains of assessment.

Failure at second attempt

A candidate, whose grade in any one or more of the re-sit assessment(s) is **Unacceptable** will be deemed to have failed the assessment and therefore the programme. Such students may be eligible for a 3rd discretionary attempt, in accordance with the *procedure for consideration for a final discretionary*

attempt at an assessment (see paragraph 14.2). Candidates offered a final, 3rd attempt will be required to repeat the year and sit all domains of assessment, regardless of whether they have passed the domain (or element of) in a previous academic year.

Failure at third (discretionary) attempt

A candidate, whose performance in any one or more of the re-sit assessment(s) is **Unacceptable** is deemed to have failed the programme and will have their registration terminated.

- 14.6 A further period of study may be prescribed prior to re-entry to an assessment. This shall normally be satisfied by continued attendance on the course and/or remediation.

15 CLASSIFICATION OF FINAL RESULT

- 15.1 To be awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, a student shall have completed the course of study prescribed above and have passed all assessments prescribed above.

- 15.2 The MBBS degrees are, under University Ordinances, honours degrees, but are awarded without classification by convention. At the end of final year, students who have passed all elements of assessment will be awarded a Pass.

- 15.3 Merits and Distinctions

15.3.1 Candidates who pass the Final Year and are awarded the MBBS degree will be eligible to be considered for the award of a University of Ulster Mark of Merit or a University Distinction, in the following four disciplines:

- Medical Sciences (on the basis of performance in year one, Clinical science year)
- Clinical Science (on the basis of performance in year two, Transition year)
- Clinical Specialties (on the basis of performance in year three, Penultimate year)
- Clinical Practice (on the basis of performance in year four, Final year).

15.3.2 For the sole purpose of calculating Merits and Distinctions, a final mark for each year shall be determined, using the weightings specified in the table below:

Year one	Weighting (%)
Professional knowledge (BCS)	50
Professional Knowledge (CPH/PPD)	25
Professional Skills	25
Years two and three	
Written examination	50
OSCE	50

Final year

Knowledge Proficiency Test (KPT) of the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA)	25
Prescribing Skills Test	25
OSCE	50

15.3.3 A Distinction in any discipline will be awarded to candidates in the top 10% of that year. Candidates must also achieve a grade of Acceptable in the Doctor as a Professional domain at first attempt.

15.3.4 A Merit in any discipline will be awarded to candidates in the second decile of the cohort in that year. Candidates must also achieve a grade of Acceptable in the Doctor as a Professional domain at first attempt.

15.3.5 Candidates who have a re-sit attempt will have their mark capped at 40%, or 50% at Level 7, for the purpose of calculating a Merit or Distinction.

Classification of Final Result (exit awards)

15.4 Candidates who do not satisfy the requirements for the award of a Degree and have passed the required credit value at level 6 Penultimate Year shall be assessed for the award of a BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences, or

15.5 Candidates who do not satisfy the requirements for the award of a Degree and have passed the required credit value at level 6 Transition Year shall be assessed for the award of a Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences, or

15.6 Candidates who do not satisfy the requirements for the award of a Degree or a Graduate Diploma and have passed the required credit value at level 5 Clinical Science Year shall be assessed for the award of an Advanced Diploma in Medical Sciences.

15.7 The assessment results for the level 6 Penultimate Year and the level 6 Transition Year shall determine the overall grading of the BSc (Hons). Normally the Transition Year shall contribute 30%. The assessment results for the level 6 Transition Year shall determine the overall grading of the Graduate Diploma; the level 5 shall determine the overall grading of the Advanced Diploma.

15.8 The following shall be the minimum overall percentages used to determine the final gradings of candidates.

BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences

Class I	At least 70%
Class II (division i) (Ili)	At least 60% and less than 70%
Class II (division ii) (Ilii)	At least 50% and less than 60%
Class III	At least 40% and less than 50%

Graduate Diploma, Medical Sciences

Pass with Distinction	70%
Pass with Commendation	60%
Pass	40%

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Advanced Diploma, Medical Sciences

Pass with Distinction	70%
Pass with Commendation	60%
Pass	40%

16 ILLNESS AND OTHER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

16.1 In any year other than final year

The Board of Examiners may in the case of candidates who are prevented by illness or other sufficient cause from taking or completing the whole or part of the assessment during the programme, or whose results are substantially affected by illness or other sufficient cause:

- a. permit the candidate to complete, take, or repeat the assessment in one or more elements at an approved subsequent date; or
- b. deem the candidate to have passed and recommend the award of an Aegrotat Advanced Diploma OR Graduate Diploma OR Honours Bachelor's Degree (as appropriate)

16.2 Final year

The Board of Examiners may in the case of candidates who are prevented by illness or other sufficient cause from taking or completing the whole or part of the final stage assessment or whose results are substantially affected by illness or other sufficient cause:

- a. permit the candidate to complete, take, or repeat as candidates for the Final Degree, the assessment in one or more elements at an approved subsequent date.

NOTE: Since Medicine is an accredited programme an Aegrotat MBBS degree cannot be awarded.

- 16.3 Before an Aegrotat award is recommended a candidate must have indicated that he or she is willing to accept the award.

17 REVISIONS TO REGULATIONS

These regulations may be revised during the student's period of registration in accordance with the procedures approved by Senate.

18

18.1 MBBS programme

Year	Semester	Level	Module Title	Code	Credit Value	Status Compulsory (c) Optional (o)	Assessment Methods		Contribution to the overall mark of the Final Award
							%Exam	%Coursework	
1	1/2	5	Clinical Science Year	MCN300	175	C	75	25	N/A
2	1/2	6	Transition Year	MCN500	195	C	50	50	N/A
3	1/2	6	Penultimate Year	MCN501	220	C	50	50	N/A
4	1/2	7	Final Year	MCN700	190	C	50	50	N/A

18.2 BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences (exit award)

Year	Semester	Level	Module Title	Code	Credit Value	Status Compulsory (c) Optional (o)	Assessment Methods		Contribution to the overall mark of the Final Award
							%Exam	%Coursework	
1	1/2	5	Clinical Science Year	MCN300	175	C	75	25	0%
2	1/2	6	Transition Year	MCN500	195	C	50	50	30%
3	1/2	6	Penultimate Year	MCN501	220	C	50	50	70%

18.3 Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences (exit award)

Year	Semester	Level	Module Title	Code	Credit Value	Status Compulsory (c) Optional (o)	Assessment Methods		Contribution to the overall mark of the Final Award
							%Exam	%Coursework	
1	1/2	5	Clinical Science Year	MCN300	175	C	75	25	0%
2	1/2	6	Transition Year	MCN500	195	C	50	50	100%

18.4 Advanced Diploma in Medical Sciences (exit award)

Year	Semester	Level	Module Title	Code	Credit Value	Status Compulsory (c) Optional (o)	Assessment Methods		Contribution to the overall mark of the Final Award
							%Exam	%Coursework	
1	1/2	5	Clinical Science Year	MCN300	175	C	75	25	100%