

ORDINANCE 43: Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

1. The University shall offer two programmes of study leading to the award of the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), as follows:
 - a) MBChB Five-Year Programme (A100, A105)
 - b) MBChB Four-Year Graduate Entry Programme (A101)
2. The University may award the degrees of MBChB to students who have pursued the approved programme of studies, as set out in the programme specification for the degree, to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners. The programme specification for each programme shall set out the aims, learning outcomes, structure, subjects of study and the assessment and re-assessment requirements of the programme. The subjects of study for the MBChB programmes shall be as required by the appropriate regulatory/validating bodies. The Five-Year Programme may commence with a Year 0, the requirements for which shall be set out in the relevant Year 0 programme specification.
3. Candidates for the degrees of MBChB shall, before entry upon the degree programme, have obtained entrance qualifications of a type and standard deemed appropriate by the University.
4. The University may recognise the programmes of study and examinations for other degrees in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, or programmes of study and examinations of other approved universities and institutions as, in part, qualifying a student for the award of the degrees of MBChB, provided that at least three years of the student's studies have been taken under the supervision of the University.
5. The programmes shall be full-time. The maximum period for which a student may be registered for the degrees of MBChB, including periods of interruption of study and repeated years of study but excluding any Year 0 taken for admission to the Five-Year Programme, shall normally be eight years for students on the Five-Year Programme and seven years for students on the Four-Year Graduate Entry Programme. Where a student enters directly into Year 2 or Year 3 of the programme, the maximum period of registration shall be adjusted accordingly.
6. Students on the Five-Year Programme may elect to undertake an additional year of studies as a 'Year in China', as provided for in the relevant programme specification. Students who opt to undertake a Year in China must still complete the programme within the maximum registration period for the Five-Year Programme detailed in clause 5.
7. Students shall be required to attend the compulsory components of the programme as detailed in the relevant programme specification. The Board of Examiners, or a Progress Panel acting on behalf of the Board of Examiners and University, shall be empowered to exclude from an examination any student who has not attended and engaged with, to the satisfaction of the Dean of the School of Medicine, the approved programme of study

or who has not properly completed written or other work, including clinical training, again as detailed in the programme specification.

8. All assessments shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the programme specification for the degree. The assessments shall include written, practical and clinical examinations, as detailed in the programme specification. Students must take and pass all assessments detailed in the relevant programme specification before proceeding to the following year of study. Students who fail assessments shall be required to present themselves for reassessment, normally on one further occasion, with the timing dependent upon the type of assessment failed. For some assessments (e.g., written assignments and knowledge-based assessments for progression), two attempts are possible within the same academic year, with the exact timing of the resit set out in the relevant programme specification. For some other assessments (e.g., clinical assessments for progression), only one attempt is possible within the same academic year; students who fail such assessments must retake the year. Students must also complete all placements and portfolio requirements each year. Students who do not complete placements or fail the portfolio in any academic year must retake and pass this either within the same academic year, or after a supported repeat year, dependent on the extent of remediation that the Board of Examiners deems necessary.
9. Students repeating years do so with attendance and must take and pass all assessments in that year, as detailed in the relevant programme specification. For repeat year assessments, any that were previously passed are retaken as first attempts, whilst those failed are retaken as second attempts.
10. Students who fail to satisfy the Examiners at the second attempt in any assessment will usually have their studies terminated. However, exceptionally (e.g., where there are accepted extenuating circumstances), students may be permitted an additional attempt, including after a further repeat year for some assessments (as explained in clause 8), provided that the maximum registration period set out in clause 5 is not exceeded.
11. Students in a year with clinical attachments must provide evidence of satisfactory completion of the required clinical attachments before they are permitted to progress to the next year of the programme.
12. Students must provide evidence of satisfactory completion of the clinical attachments, school and national assessments in the final year. Students who have not satisfactorily completed all of these components shall be allowed to repeat the year, on one further occasion only, taking all assessments detailed in the programme specification for that repeat year, provided that the maximum registration period set out in clause 5 is not exceeded. Students who do not satisfactorily complete the second attempt at their final year shall be required to terminate their studies.
13. The rules governing the award of the degrees of MBChB, MBChB with Commendation and MBChB with Honours shall be as set out in the relevant programme specification.

14. Where a student's studies are terminated or they otherwise fail or withdraw from the programme, they may be entitled to an exit award of either the degree of Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, or a Diploma in Higher Education, or a Certificate in Higher Education. The BSc in Health Sciences, with or without Honours, will be awarded when students have successfully completed the first three years of their programme, in accordance with the Ordinance governing the degree of BSc in Health Sciences. The criteria for the award of the degree with and without Honours shall be specified in the relevant MBChB programme specification. A Diploma in Higher Education shall be awarded to students who have passed the first two years of their programme. A Certificate in Higher Education shall be awarded to students who have passed the first year of their programme.
15. Subject to any overriding considerations of patient safety in relation to clinical assessments, the Board of Examiners shall be empowered to take account of extenuating circumstances affecting students' performance in determining the conditions relating to re-assessments (and, in the case of the exit award of BSc in Health Sciences, in determining their final results) in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.
16. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, in consultation with the Dean of the School of Medicine, has the right to require any student to withdraw from a clinical placement with immediate effect if the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor considers that the student's presence is against the interest of patients or of the establishment concerned. The student will be suspended for a specified period of time pending full consideration of the circumstances by the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor under the University's Fitness to Practise procedures. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor has the right to extend the period of interruption if they consider that action to be justified.

The Code of Practice on Assessment (including the Extenuating Circumstances Policy) can be found at:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/aqsd/academic-codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-on-assessment/on-assessment/>

The Fitness to Practise Procedures can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/student-administration/policies-procedures/fitness-to-practise/>

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE TO ORDINANCE 43

1. Original amended Ordinance approved on behalf of Senate and Council September 2015.
2. Amendments approved via Chair's action on behalf of Senate and Council December 2021 to reflect changes to the programme that had already been approved.
3. Amendments approved via Chair's action on behalf of Senate and Council August/September 2022 to bring the Ordinance up to date with the current Faculty structure and to reflect revised terminology.
4. Amendments approved via Chair's action on behalf of Senate in November 2024 following a recommendation from the Office of the Independent Adjudicator that the University should clarify its regulations regarding full year re-takes and whether this includes the usual two (first sit and re-sit) attempts at assessments.
5. April 2025 - minor amendments approved via Chair's action to reflect revisions in nomenclature (replace 'suspension' with 'interruption').