

Exceptions to *A1. Regulations for taught programmes* for the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (BMBS) Graduate Medicine programme

Academic year 2024/25

Approved by Senate on 25 June 2024

Introduction and scope

1. This document sets out the exceptions to the [A1. Regulations for taught programmes](#) for the BMBS Graduate Medicine programme only and should be read in conjunction with the [A1. Regulations for taught programmes](#).
2. In the interests of completeness and transparency, a full list of regulatory exceptions to academic and student regulations which were granted by Senate in 2023 and 2024 is attached in Appendix 1 of this document. This appendix includes exceptions to [A1 Regulations for taught programmes](#), [B1 Regulations for Extenuating Circumstances](#), [B6 Regulations for fitness to practise](#) and [Code of practice for assessment and feedback](#).

Pass Mark

3. The BMBS Graduate Medicine programme prescribes a pass mark for assessing student work that relates to achieving the agreed passing standard of the module for the BMBS programme. Detail on the specific requirements to pass a module and to progress to the next academic year are outlined in the School of Medicine Programme Examination and Assessment Regulations (PEAR.)

Award and credit requirements

4. The Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery is a Pass/Fail award and does not make use of the generic University of Surrey degree classification algorithm.
5. The number of credits per academic year required to meet the BMBS degree award exceeds the standard University minimum/maximum. Please see below an excerpt from Table 1: University awards and credits, [A1. Regulations for taught programmes](#):

Award title	FHEQ level of award	Credit value	Requirements
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery	7	550	A minimum of 145 credits at FHEQ level 7, 240 at FHEQ level 6 and 165 at FHEQ level 5

Requirements for progression to the next level of study

6. To progress from one level of study of the BMBS programme to the next, a student must achieve the required credit for that level and pass all units of assessment. All modules on the BMBS programme are year-long and designated as Core.
7. Students on the BMBS programme are not permitted to progress to the next level of study with trailing credits. This is in accordance with a programmatic assessment model and to align with the Exeter Medical School requirements.

ASSESSMENT AND REASSESSMENT

Submission of coursework

8. Where a student has not submitted a coursework unit of assessment by the deadline specified, and there are no confirmed extenuating circumstances, the late submission penalty will be applied as defined in PEAR. In cases where the BMBS programme coursework assignments are Pass/Fail only or not graded, the percentage point deduction penalty is not applicable. Students on this programme should refer to the PEAR with regards to the current rules for assignments and late submission penalty.

Failure and reassessment

9. Students on the BMBS programme are not eligible to take reassessment or repeat modules without attendance. This is in accordance with the programmatic assessment model and full attendance is required to achieve the integrated learning outcomes and in medical knowledge, clinical practice, professional development and special study units to ensure the GMC standards for safe clinical practice and proficiency.
10. Where a student has failed a module(s) at the second attempt (reassessment), they are not permitted to repeat the failed unit of assessment on the third occasion. To align with the Exeter Medical School and the GMC guidance, students are only entitled to one reassessment attempt.

Timing of reassessments

11. Students on the BMBS programme are assessed throughout the academic year and there are no fixed assessment periods. Similarly, this flexibility applies to the timing of reassessments. Reassessments for units of assessment failed during the academic year will occur outside of the University of Surrey Late Summer Assessment (LSA) period.

Appendix 1. Exceptions to academic and student regulations for the BMBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) Medicine (Graduate Entry) degree, approved by Senate on 25/06/2024

Exceptions	Regulation or Code of Practice	Explanation	PSRB Name/ Justification
Use of standard setting to determine pass mark	Code of practice for assessment and feedback	<p>To align with Exeter. Standard setting is required by the GMC:</p> <p><i>"Medical schools should not employ fixed pass marks – that is, pass marks which are the same every year – since these do not reflect variations in the difficulty of examinations over time and therefore could result in individuals of identical ability passing in one year and failing in another.</i></p> <p>Assessment in Undergraduate Medical Education - GMC</p> <p>"The schools should have processes to establish that standards are stable over time." Standard setting is best practice in medical undergraduate exams and is the method used for setting the pass mark in the Medical Licensing Assessment Knowledge Test (National Finals) that all UK medical students must sit to be awarded a primary medical qualification.</p>	GMC and contingency partner
Programmatic assessment model	Code of practice for assessment and feedback	<p>We must use programmatic assessment to align with Exeter. As Exeter is our accreditation contingency partner (A GMC requirement) the GMC require alignment in assessment and progression criteria for the exceptional circumstance that Surrey students should need to transfer to Exeter Our assessment plans were commended by the external panel member during validation. The bespoke assessment arrangements will be managed by the School's local professional services team, and will not require adjustments to SITS.</p>	Contingency partner
No compensation	A1 regulations: 10, 119, 153, 155, 158, 159, 174, 175-180	<p>To align with Exeter and adhere with GMC guidance:</p> <p><i>"Compensation should not be used in ways that would allow students to graduate who are unable to demonstrate all the high-level outcomes and the practical procedures "</i></p> <p>Assessment in Undergraduate Medical Education - GMC</p>	GMC and contingency partner
No third attempt of a module	A1 regulations: 155	<p>To align with Exeter and adhere with GMC guidance:</p> <p><i>"... most schools allowed one resit attempt for each single written or clinical</i></p>	

A1: Regulations for taught programmes

		<i>final assessment, which seems reasonable to the GMC."</i> Assessment in Undergraduate Medical Education - GMC	GMC and contingency partner
No trailing credits	A1 regulations: 110	To align with Exeter	contingency partner
No resits without attendance	A1 regulations: 77, 153, 162	Does not fit with programmatic assessment model. Students will instead need to resit the year with attendance in the event of year failure. The nature of the BMBS degree requires full attendance to achieve the integrated learning outcomes in clinical knowledge, clinical skills, professional standards and practical procedures to ensure the GMC standards for safe clinical practice and proficiency.	GMC
Resits to take place outside of the late summer assessment period	A1 regulations: 165, 169	Students are assessed throughout the year; there are no fixed assessment periods. Now that the programme is starting in September, there are better opportunities for alignment, but as some assessment timelines are set nationally, we need the flexibility to hold resits outside of the established LSA.	GMC
Non-standard delivery – outside of University term time	A1 regulations: 60 – 61	To be aligned with Exeter as the contingency partner. This is an accelerated degree and will require atypical start/end dates and duration.	Contingency partner
Late submission penalty	A1 regulations: 120	Where a student has not submitted a coursework unit of assessment by the deadline specified, and there are no confirmed extenuating circumstances, the late submission penalty will be applied as defined in PEAR. In cases where the BMBS programme coursework assignments are Pass/Fail only or not graded, the percentage point deduction penalty is not applicable. Students on this programme should refer to the PEAR with regards to the current rules for assignments and late submission penalty.	Contingency partner
Grading criteria and grade descriptors	Code of practice for assessment and feedback: Appendix 1	To align with Exeter. Standard setting is required by the GMC: <i>"Medical schools should not employ fixed pass marks – that is, pass marks which are the same every year – since these do not reflect variations in the difficulty of examinations over time and therefore could result in individuals of identical ability passing in one year and failing in</i>	GMC and contingency partner

A1: Regulations for taught programmes

		<p><i>another. The schools should have processes to establish that standards are stable over time."</i> As Exeter is our novation partner, the GMC require alignment in assessment and progression criteria for the exceptional circumstance that Surrey students should need to transfer to Exeter. Our assessment plans were commended by the external panel member during validation.</p> <p>Assessment in Undergraduate Medical Education - GMC</p>	
Number of credits per year exceeding 120 credits	A1 regulations: 75	<p>We have inherited the course from Exeter as validated and from experience there seems to be nothing exceptional in the balance of credits for this programme compared to competitor programmes. The structure and curriculum recognise student effort rather than plotting to a number of credits. Giving the kudos to the effort made. The programme is an accelerated medical degree and as such there is a need for an intensive foundation year, which reflects the number of credits in year 1. The GMC do not set a credit requirement for medical programmes but have guidance regarding minimum teaching hours. For comparison, KCL have a total of 615 credits in a GEM programme, whilst Nottingham have 685. We are aligned to Exeter in this regard.</p>	Contingency partner
Self-certification application for Extenuating Circumstances	<p>B1 Regulations for Extenuating Circumstances- 21, 22, 23</p> <p>- <i>Exception</i></p> <p>Exception to regulations 34 and 38:</p> <p><i>The exception for BMBS Graduate Medicine programme students would be that the Faculty would be instructed to mark the work and the mark would stand and be presented to the BoE along with notification that the student has a valid EC.</i></p> <p>Regulation 27. Outcomes of a valid EC:</p> <p>- <i>Exception</i></p> <p><i>For BMBS Graduate Medicine programme students the outcome of a valid EC application would be that the outcome would be reported to the Preliminary</i></p>	<p>To align with Exeter Medical School, students must apply for Extenuating Circumstances for their assessments with supporting evidence. Self-certified applications cannot be accepted.</p> <p>Several factors make the BMBS Graduate Medicine programme unique at Surrey. There are many restrictive regulatory requirements which make progression and completion extremely challenging for students.</p>	<p>GMC requirement in relation to progression and programmatic assessment structure.</p> <p>Contingency partner</p>

A1: Regulations for taught programmes

	<i>Board and/or Board of Examiners to be considered in relation to confirming the need for a resit opportunity for the student.</i>		
Credits and award classifications	A1 Regulations for taught programmes – Table 1 - <i>Addition to current regulations</i>	Include Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery as an entry. Award title: Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery FHEQ Level of Award: 7 Credit value: 550 Requirements: A minimum of 145 credits at Level 7, 240 at Level 6 and 165 at Level 5	
Pass mark	A1 Regulations for taught programmes – reg 11 - <i>Exception</i>	Acknowledge that the PSRB prescribes a passmark that is not equivalent to a % but relates to achieving the agreed passing standard of the module for the BMBS programme.	
Award and Weightings	A1 Regulations for taught programmes – Tables 3 and/or footnote on page 6 - <i>Addition to current regulations</i>	Note either in the table or as a footnote that: Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery is a pass/fail award and does not make use of the usual University of Surrey degree classification scheme.	
Periods of Registration	A1 Regulations for taught programmes – Tables 6 - <i>Addition to current regulations</i>	Include Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery in the Table as its own entry. Registration period is Six years Full-Time and no option for Part-Time study.	
Fitness to Practise proceedings and outcomes	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise	Include statement to say the University complies with the Equality Act 2010.	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements
	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise – 31	Expand list of support services to include Centre for Wellbeing, Occupational Health, Disability and Neurodiversity and other relevant support services.	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements
	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise – 34	Add "warnings/conditions/undertakings" as a possible outcome.	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements
	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise - 39	In cases involving the GMC, students may request for the hearing to be open to members of the public (except hearings involving health issues, which should be held in private).	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements
	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise -44, 46	Amend to "Corrective Action Plan or (undertakings)".	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements

A1: Regulations for taught programmes

	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise -41, 30, 61	Amend to “Registrant with a license to practice”.	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements
	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise -12	Add note that some Registration Bodies require the student to declare any matters relating to their fitness to practice when applying for registration.	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements
	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise -48	Add that the letter will indicate the requirements for the student to disclose panel findings to the PRSB when applying for registration.	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements
	B6: Regulations for fitness to practise -62, 63	Add that where a panel finds there has been a failing in process, this does not overrule any decision about whether a student is fit to practice and that for medical students, this outcome will always require the initial matter to be reconsidered through the formal process (this applies to GMC regulated programmes only).	To comply with GMC FTP regulations and requirements