General Regulations for awards conferred jointly with other Degree Awarding Institutions

The following General Regulations for Awards Conferred Jointly with other Degree Awarding Institutions apply to all degrees awarded jointly by the University of Aberdeen and other degree awarding institutions. The degrees governed by these General Regulations are conferred in accordance with Resolution No 256 of 2008, which was approved by the University Court on 20 May 2008, as modified by subsequent University Court Resolutions.

1. The Senatus Academicus may designate as Joint Degrees, programmes responsibility for the delivery and/or quality assurance of which is shared between the University and other institutions having degree-awarding powers. A list of the programmes currently so designated is contained in Schedule A to these Regulations, and may be amended from time to time.

2. In respect of each joint programme, the University Court on the recommendation of the Senatus Academicus, shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU]. This memorandum shall for each programme designate an institution of primary registration, which shall be responsible for the processing of applications for admission, termination of study and conferral of awards. The memorandum shall also specify arrangements for collection of fees and distribution of resource and for quality assurance matters.

3. Where the University of Aberdeen is not the Institution of Primary Registration, the students on Joint programmes shall nevertheless be registered as Individual Subject Study or Registered Postgraduate Students, as appropriate.

4. The provisions of the Code of Practice on Student Discipline shall apply to breached committed within the campuses of the University of Aberdeen, or in respect of courses for which the University of Aberdeen provides the Course Co-ordinator.

5. The external examiners at programme level for Joint Degrees shall be appointed and remunerated by the Institution of Primary Registration, following consultation with the other institutions involved.

SCHEDULE A
Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery with the University of Dundee.

Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

The degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) is conferred in accordance with Resolution No 258 of 2008, which was approved by the University Court on 24 June 2008. Amendments to these regulations shall come into force on the day on which they are passed by the University Court.

1. The degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) may be conferred jointly by the Universities of Aberdeen and Dundee in accordance with the General Regulations for Awards Conferred Jointly with other Degree Awarding Institutions, with the University of Aberdeen being the Institution of Primary Registration. All subsequent references in these Regulations to the University Court, the Senate, the School of Medicine & Dentistry or the Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry) are to those bodies as constituted within the University of Aberdeen.

2. The curriculum shall extend over a period of four years and can be undertaken by full-time study only. A candidate’s course of study should be pursued in consecutive academic years except with the permission of the Senate on the recommendation of the Head of the School of Medicine & Dentistry.

3. The examiners for the degree shall be academic staff, Clinical Tutors, Teaching Fellows and NHS staff who conduct courses qualifying for graduation in Dentistry in the University, and such other internal and external examiners as the Court shall appoint; provided that every candidate shall be assessed in each prescribed topic by at least two examiners of whom one shall be an external examiner appointed by the University Court.

4. Every candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery must before admission possess a degree or equivalent qualification of a recognised University at an appropriate standard in a relevant academic discipline, and other such personal qualities, as in the view of the Senate afford evidence of the ability of the candidate to cope with the academic and other demands of the degree programme. Possession of such qualifications does not of itself guarantee admission. In addition to satisfying the academic requirements for admission, candidates must undertake a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) check and must attend for interview if required. Applicants must also meet the requirements of the General Dental Council for fitness to practise including screening for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV infection. Admission to the School will not be possible for those who may pose a risk of blood borne virus infection to patients.

5. The subjects to be followed and the degree assessments shall be as prescribed in the Programme Specifications listed in the University Calendar on http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/calendar/medicine.php

6. Candidates’ knowledge of the various subjects listed in the Programme Specifications shall be assessed from time to time as the Senate may determine and the results may be taken into account in the prescribed degree assessments.

7. (i) In each academic year candidates shall not be afforded in any course more than two opportunities of degree assessment, including continuous assessment and/or written examinations as appropriate. However, only results obtained at the first available opportunity of assessment in any academic year shall contribute towards Honours and Commendations; and class grading.

(ii) Where a candidate successfully completes a course on more than one occasion, only the credit points obtained on the first occasion may be counted toward the credit requirements necessary for progression and graduation.
8. (i) Candidates shall not be admitted to a prescribed degree assessment in any subject unless they have attended the course or courses of instruction in that subject in that academic year and fulfilled such conditions as may from time to time be prescribed by the Senate.

(ii) Except by permission of the Senate, candidates may not proceed to the next part of the programme unless they have completed or gained exemption from all the previous prescribed degree assessments.

(iii) A candidate who fails to satisfy the examiners in any element of assessment will normally be given one further opportunity for re-assessment in that academic year. A candidate who fails to satisfy the examiners following re-assessment shall be entitled to one repeat only of any one year within the BDS programme and shall be required to resit all courses in that academic year to a maximum total of three opportunities of assessment for any course within the BDS programme. Candidates who fail to pass completely the degree assessments in a repeat year or subsequent year shall be required to discontinue their studies for the degrees and be excluded from further assessment except under exceptional circumstances of health or personal issues, which must be notified to the Head of the Dental School prior to the degree examinations, and substantiated by documentary evidence. Retrospective claims will not be acceptable. In the event of health issues being raised, candidates may be required to undergo Occupational Health assessment as well as providing supportive evidence from their medical specialist. The decision to waive the regulation on discontinuation following failure of a repeat year shall lie with the University Court.

(iv) Notwithstanding the provisions of University regulations which permit candidates to present themselves for assessment in the same subject at two diets of assessment in any one session, candidates may be required to undertake an additional period of clinical study or a repeat period of study, specified by the Examiners, before being permitted to present themselves at a second diet of assessment in that subject.

(v) Candidates must satisfy all requirements for the award of the degree within five calendar years of the date of their first matriculation as candidates for the degree, except where a candidate has been unable to complete a full academic year for health reasons or has taken a full gap year for health, personal or other reasons approved by the School of Medicine and Dentistry.

(vi) Candidates who wish to establish that their academic performance has been adversely affected by their health are required to secure medical certificates relating specifically to the periods which are relevant and may be required to undergo Occupational Health assessment. Absences for health reasons must be notified to the BDS Office as soon as practicably possible, and absences for other reasons must be approved in advance by the Year Coordinator.

(vii) Illness and/or other personal circumstances which affect a student’s performance at examination must be notified in writing, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the Year Coordinator not later than one week after the examination. Where events prevented the student from notifying the University within seven days, the student should set out in a letter details of the events which prevented him/her from notifying the Year Coordinator within the prescribed period and submit supporting documentary evidence of both the illness and/or personal circumstances and the events which prevented timely notification. Students should note that under no circumstances will the Examination Board take such illness or personal circumstances into account in permitting a student who has not reached an acceptable level of competence to progress into the next Year. Health issues may be taken into account in determining whether a student may be exempt from the 5 year rule in Regulation 8(v).

9. The Senate shall have power to terminate during the academic year the studies of candidates who persistently fail to perform the required work of the classes or to attend the classes which they are required to attend.

10. Any health, conduct, behaviour or other issue that could bear on a candidate's suitability or fitness to practise dentistry will be considered by the School of Medicine and Dentistry's Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry). However, where such a case relates to academic misconduct within the Code of Practice on Student Discipline, it may be referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee only after procedures under that Code are exhausted and an allegation has been admitted or found to be proved. All other forms of misconduct, where they relate to a candidate's suitability or fitness to practise dentistry, may be referred directly through the School of Medicine and Dentistry’s Fitness to Practise procedures. The Senate, on the recommendation of the Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry), may suspend or terminate the studies of candidates for the Degrees of BDS who, following a proper process of investigation, are judged not "fit to practise". In exceptional circumstances only, the University may suspend the matriculation of, or exclude from specified activities of the University, candidates whose case has been referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry) pending consideration of their case. In all cases, any such suspension or exclusion shall be subject to the procedures detailed in the University's Code of Practice on Student Discipline, as these are prescribed by any Resolution of the University Court in force at the relevant time.

11. The degrees shall not be conferred on candidates who have not passed all the degree assessments prescribed by Regulation 5, by the end of the period allowed for submission.

12. Students who fail to complete the requirements for the Degree but who have achieved 120 credits at SCOF level 7 or above, 240 credits including 90 at SCOF level 8, or 360 credits including 60 at SCOF level 9, shall be eligible for the award of an Undergraduate Certificate in Higher Education (Dentistry), an Undergraduate Diploma in Higher Education (Dentistry), or the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Science (B Dent Sci), respectively. Such awards do not entitle the candidate to register with the General Dental Council of the United Kingdom.

13. The Degree of BDS may be awarded with Commendation or Unclassified Honours to those candidates considered worthy by the Examiners.

Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)

The degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) are conferred in accordance with Resolution No 148 of 1991, which was approved by the University Court on 14 May 1991. Amendments to these regulations shall come into force on the day on which they are passed by the University Court.
1. The degrees of Bachelor of Medicine (MB) Bachelor of Surgery (ChB), hereinafter called ‘the degrees’, may be conferred by the University of Aberdeen. The degree of Bachelor of Medicine shall not be conferred otherwise than with the degree of Bachelor of Surgery, and vice versa.

2. (i) The curriculum can be undertaken by full-time study only.

(ii) A candidate shall complete at least Years 4 and 5 of the MBChB programme at the University of Aberdeen. The remaining period of the curriculum may be spent in any other University or Medical School approved for this purpose by the Court after consultation with the Senate.

3. The Senate may determine the conditions under which a candidate may be exempted in whole or in part from instruction and/or assessment in any subject for the degrees. The Senate shall have the power to exempt from all or part of any prescribed degree assessment those candidates who have achieved the standard required for award of a pass in such written class assessments, or other course work, undertaken previously as it may designate for this purpose.

4. The examiners for the degrees shall be academic staff, Clinical Tutors, Teaching Fellows and NHS staff who conduct courses qualifying for graduation in Medicine and Surgery in the University, and such other internal and external examiners as the Court shall appoint; provided that every candidate shall be assessed in each prescribed topic by at least two examiners, of whom one shall be an external examiner appointed by the University Court.

5. Every candidate for the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine (MB) and Bachelor of Surgery (ChB) is required to comply with the requirements of admission to the degree programme. Possession of these qualifications does not of itself guarantee admission. In addition to satisfying any academic and Occupational Health requirements for admission, all candidates must satisfactorily complete a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) check and, if they are not UK residents, receive police clearance from their home country, and must also attend for interview if required.

6. The courses for the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery shall cover five years. The subjects to be followed and the degree assessments shall be as prescribed in the Programme Specifications listed in the University Calendar on http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/calendar/medicine.php.

7. Candidates shall not be permitted to present themselves for an end of course assessment in any course unless they have obtained a class certificate. The validity of the class certificate as an entitlement to admission to an end of course assessment shall be limited to the academic year in respect of which it is awarded. Any student who has been monitored and warned of being ‘at risk’ of losing their class certificate (C6) for any particular course in any one academic year will lose their class certificate (C7) with no further warning if this behaviour is repeated for the same course. The Senate may terminate at any time the studies of candidates who persistently fail to perform the required work of the courses or to attend the teaching which they are required to attend.

8. If a student is permitted a repeat year for which the validity of the relevant class certificate is renewed, such students are permitted a total of three opportunities only of degree assessment for any course within that particular year of the programme, including those taken the previous year.

9. (i) In each academic year candidates shall not be afforded in any course more than two opportunities of degree assessment, including continuous assessment and/or written examinations as appropriate. However, only results obtained at the first available opportunity of assessment in any academic year shall contribute towards Honours and Commendations; and class grading.

(ii) Where a candidate successfully completes a course on more than one occasion, only the credit points obtained on the first occasion may be counted toward the credit requirements necessary for progression and graduation.

10. (i) Candidates shall not be admitted to a prescribed degree assessment in any subject unless they have attended the course or courses of instruction in that subject in that academic year and fulfilled such conditions as may from time to time be prescribed by the Senate.

(ii) If candidates have not passed completely the degree assessments prescribed by Regulation 6 above by the end of the Year in which they are normally held, and met the level of performance of class work required by the relevant Year Coordinators, they shall be entitled to one repeat only of any one year within the MBChB Programme and will be required to resit all courses in that academic year, except in final year where they shall be entitled to an automatic repeat year to satisfy the requirements in Regulation 10(iii). Candidates who fail to pass completely the degree assessments in a repeat year or subsequent year shall be required to discontinue their studies for the degrees and be excluded from further assessment except under exceptional circumstances of health or personal issues, which must be notified to the Year Coordinator prior to the degree examinations, and substantiated by documentary evidence. Retrospective claims will not be acceptable. In the event of health issues being raised, candidates may be required to undergo Occupational Health assessment as well as providing supportive evidence from their medical specialist. The decision to waive the regulation on discontinuation following failure of a repeat year shall lie with the University Court.

(iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of University regulations which permit candidates to present themselves for assessment in the same subject at two diets of assessment in any one session, in final year candidates will be required to undertake a repeat year of clinical study before being permitted to present themselves at a second diet of assessment.

(iv) Candidates shall not be permitted to progress to the next Year of the programme until they have successfully passed within one academic year all degree assessments in their current Year. Candidates must satisfy all requirements for the award of the degrees within six calendar years of the date of their first registration as candidates for the degrees, excluding any period of registration for the final year of the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Science, or for another award taken as an intercalating student, or except where a candidate has been unable to complete a full academic year for health reasons or has taken a full gap year for health, personal or other reasons approved by the School of Medicine and Dentistry.
13. The degrees may be awarded with Honours or with Commendation, according to the merit displayed, to those candidates.

14. (i) Candidates for the Degrees of MBChB who

11. Any health, conduct, behaviour or other issue that could bear on a candidate’s suitability or fitness to practise medicine will

(v) Candidates who wish to establish that their academic performance has been adversely affected by their health are

12. The degrees shall not be conferred on candidates who have not passed all the degree assessments prescribed by Regulation 6, by the end of the period allowed for submission.

13. The degrees may be awarded with Honours or with Commendation, according to the merit displayed, to those candidates who are specially recommended by the examiners.

14. (i) Candidates for the Degrees of MBChB who either:

(a) have failed to complete the requirements for those degrees within six calendar years of the date of their first matriculation for those degrees, or:

(b) can no longer do so, or:

(c) have indicated in writing to the Senate that they no longer wish to pursue a curriculum leading to the degrees of MBChB;

But who (in each case) have obtained, while registered at the University of Aberdeen, not fewer than 480 credit points, including at least 180 at level 3 and 4 including at least 90 at level 4, be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Medical Science (B Med Sci) (Hon) Unclassified. Candidates who are not qualified for the award of the Honours degree but who have obtained, while registered at the University of Aberdeen, not fewer than 360 credit points towards the degrees including at least 60 credit points at level 3 may, on application, be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Medical Science (B Med Sci). Candidates not qualified for the B Med Sci but who have obtained, while registered at the University of Aberdeen, not fewer than 240 credit points towards the degrees, including at least 90 credit points at level 2 and who elect not to proceed to further study in the University shall be awarded the Undergraduate Diploma in Higher Education (UG Dip HE) in Medical Science. Candidates who are not qualified for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Medical Science, but who have obtained, while registered at the University of Aberdeen, not fewer than 120 credit points towards the degree, and who elect not to proceed to further study in the University shall be awarded the Undergraduate Certificate in Higher Education (UG Cert HE) in Medical Science.

(ii) A candidate who graduates with the Degree of Bachelor of Medical Science (Hon) Unclassified or the Degree of Bachelor of Medical Science may not subsequently be a candidate for either the Degrees of MBChB or the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences (BSc Med Sci).

(iii) The Degree of Bachelor of Medical Science (Hon) Unclassified or the Degree of Bachelor of Medical Science shall not be recognised as a qualification which entitles their holder to be registered with the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom.

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS

Year 1: May/June and August/September

ME 2013 Science for Medicine
ME 2303 Principles of Disease 1A
ME 2304 Principles of Disease 1B (OSPE/OSCE)
ME 2306 Community Course 1
ME 2508 Systems 1A
ME 2506 Systems 1B (OSCE)
ME 2507 Student Selected Component 1

Year 2: February, May/June and August/September
ME 3009 Systems 2A
ME 3010 Systems 2B (OSCE/OCPE)
ME 3012 Community Course 2
ME 3013 Student Selected Component 2
ME 3902 Systems 3A

Year 3: March/April
ME 3019 Systems 3B
ME 3016 Systems 3C
ME 3018 Community Course III
ME 33** Medical Humanities Option - 30 credit points – See list on MediCAL website: www.abdn.ac.uk/mrc/medical_humanities/index.php

Year: May/June
ME 4805 Student Selected Module III: Clinical Effectiveness
ME 4804 Specialist Clinical Practice I(a) (assessed with ME 4007)

Year 4: December & June and August/September
ME 4019 Specialist Clinical Practice I(b)
ME 4020 Elective Outline
ME 4403 Specialist Clinical Practice II (MCQ/MEQ)
ME 4404 Specialist Clinical Practice II (OSCE)

Year 5 (Phase IV): October, December, February, April, June
ME 5014 Medicine/Paediatrics/Care of the Elderly
ME 5015 Surgical Specialities/Obstetrics & Gynaecology/Anaesthetics/ITU
ME 5016 General Practice/Psychiatry
ME 5801 Professional Practice
ME 5012 Phase IV Assessment
ME 5017 Medical Elective
ME 5018 Immediate Life Support (ILS) Course

Degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Science (BSc Med Sci)
The degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Science (BSc Med Sci) is conferred in accordance with Resolution No. 140 of 1990, which was approved by the University Court on 19 June 1990. Amendments to these regulations shall come into force on the day on which they are passed by the University Court.

1. The Degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Science (BSc Med Sci) may be conferred only following the completion of an Honours programme. It can be undertaken by full-time study only. The examiners may recommend that a candidate who has failed to achieve the standard for the award of the Degree with Honours be awarded the Designated Degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Science.

2. Candidates for the degree, before being admitted to a course of study leading to the award of the degree, must have completed, at an appropriate standard, programme year 3 of the MBChB curriculum and have been accepted by the Head of the relevant School and Programme Co-ordinator.

3. Following their acceptance for the degree, candidates shall pursue a specialised programme of study. The duration of this programme shall be not less than three terms of full-time study. During this period candidates shall take a formal course of instruction, and undertake a programme of individual study and research leading to the submission of thesis/dissertation.

4. The courses qualifying for the degree are those contained in the Schedule of Courses annexed to these regulations. Candidates must comply with the degree prescription contained therein.

5. Award of the degree shall be based on the candidate’s performance in written examinations together with such practical and oral examinations as may be required, as well as the thesis.

6. The examiners for the degree shall be the Professors, Readers and Lecturers conducting courses qualifying for the degree together with such external examiners as may be appointed by the University Court.

7. There shall be three classes of Honours: First, Second and Third. The names of the candidates in the Second Class shall be arranged in two divisions. The names of the candidates in the First and Third Classes and in each division of the Second Class shall be arranged in alphabetical order.

8. Candidates who have duly satisfied all the conditions prescribed for the degree shall be entitled to apply for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Science.

10. The Senatus Academicus, may terminate, at any time, the studies of candidates who persistently fail to attend, or perform the required work of, the courses for which they are registered.

11. Any health, conduct, behaviour or other issue that could bear on a candidate’s suitability or fitness to practise medicine will be considered by the University Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry). However, where such a case relates to a matter falling within the Code of Practice on Student Discipline, it may be referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee only after procedures under that Code are exhausted and an allegation has been admitted or found to be proved. The
Senatus Academicus, on the recommendation of the Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry), may suspend or terminate the studies of candidates for the Degrees of MBChB who, following a proper process of investigation, are judged not “fit to practise”. In exceptional circumstances only, the University may suspend the matriculation of, or exclude from specified activities of the University, candidates whose case has been referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee pending consideration of their case. In all cases, any such suspension or exclusion shall be subject to the procedures detailed in the University’s Code of practice on Student Discipline, as these are prescribed by any Resolution of the University Court in force at the relevant time. The Fitness to Practise Committee also has the power to consider the case of graduates of the University with the Degrees of MBChB who may be referred to it by the Postgraduate Dean during their pre-registration period of training.

Fees

Details of tuition and other fees are published annually and may be found on the University website. Details may be obtained on application to the Registry.

Notes for the Guidance of Students

THE MBCHB CURRICULUM

(i) Students must commence their studies for the degrees of MBChB in the winter term; the order of study will be as indicated in the timetables of classes.

(ii) Particular attention is drawn to the Regulations for Degrees in Medicine (MBChB) and for the Degree in Dental Surgery (BDS)

GENERAL

(i) All students attending courses of instruction or clinical classes at any hospital or institution for the purpose of qualifying for the degrees of MBChB at the University of Aberdeen must register in the ordinary way

(ii) Students in Years 4 & 5 will be required to attend specified blocks of teaching outwith Aberdeen.

CURRICULUM

In line with GMC recommendations, the MBChB curriculum has been reorganised. The revised curriculum comprises core courses and a series of student selected components which provide the opportunity to study certain areas in more depth.

Year 1

Year 1 consists of a series of integrated courses, Science for Medicine, Systems 1, Principles of Disease and a Community Based Course. There is also a Student Selected Component.

Years 2 & 3 (first 2 semesters)

Years 2 & 3 continue the integrated Systems courses with Systems 2 and 3, and two Community Based Courses. There is also a Student Selected Component and a Medical Humanities Module.

Year 4 (Final third of Year 3 and all of Year 4)

Year 4 consists of a series of nine specialist clinical rotations, submission of the final year Elective Outline and one Student Selected Component.

Year 5

Year 5 comprises five blocks, to include one elective block, one professional practice block and three clinical blocks - in medicine and related topics, in surgery and related topics and in community based topics. There is also an Immediate Life Support Course which must be passed.

TIMETABLES

Detailed timetables for each year of the programme are issued to students at the beginning of each academic year.

Academic Appeals

The University’s Policy on Academic Appeals may be found at www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/appeals

Further information on all of the above is available from Registry, the Students’ Association and the MBChB Office at Forsterhill.