



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST  
INDIES**

Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona

**Regulations**

MB BS  
**Medical Undergraduate Programme**  
(including the degree of  
B Med Sci)

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Revised Regulations

Academic Year 2015/16

(Applicable to students entering in Academic Year 2022/2023)

Note that these regulations are subject to change

## PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH

*Note:*

*Persons applying to enter undergraduate degree programmes at the University of the West Indies, Mona are required to sit the English Language Proficiency Test set by the University. Only persons who are successful in this test or who have been granted exemption will be considered for entry into the degree programme at Mona.*

*For information on this test, including requests for exemption, applicants are asked to check with the Admissions Section of the Registry.*

## REGULATIONS FOR THE MB BS DEGREE PROGRAMME

### 1. Entry Requirements

- 1.1 Applicants must normally have attained a minimum age of 18 years at the commencement of the academic year of entry to the MB BS programme.
- 1.2 Applicants must submit their applications to the Senior Assistant Registrar, Student Affairs, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica, by the end of the second week of January each year. For procedures concerning applications and for further information candidates should write to the Senior Assistant Registrar, Student Affairs.
- 1.3 Applicants required to withdraw from the Faculty for failing to complete the MB BS Degree Programme within the stipulated time or because of poor performance may be considered for readmission to the Programme after at least one year has elapsed since their withdrawal.

### 2. Qualifications for Admission

- 2.1 Applicants who wish to begin the degree programme must fulfil the general University regulations concerning matriculation and, in addition, the specific requirements of the Faculty set out below.

#### *Academic Requirements*

- 2.2 The academic requirements for admission to the MB BS Degree Programme are based on the applicant's proficiency and attainment in any of the following, hereinafter referred to as "approved examinations"

- Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE)/General Certificate of Education Advanced (“A”) Level Examinations or their equivalent.
- UWI Preliminary or Introductory Level Courses in the appropriate subjects in the Faculty of Science and Technology (Mona), the Faculty of Science and Technology (Cave Hill) or the Faculty of Food and Agriculture (St. Augustine) (see Regulation 2.3 and 2.4 below).
- Programmes/Courses which are considered equivalent at institutions recognised by the University of the West Indies (see Regulation 2.9 below).

2.3 The applicant must have obtained three (3) passes in the approved examinations including Biology/Zoology and Chemistry. The third subject can be Physics, Mathematics or any other approved subject including one from the humanities or social sciences provided that passes have also been obtained in Physics and Mathematics at the CSEC(CXC) or GCE O Level.

The minimum academic standard for entry is an average of two 3’s and one 2 at Unit 2 CAPE *or* one B and two C’s at GCE Advanced Level

2.4 Students currently studying at UWI in the Faculty of Science and Technology (Mona), the Faculty of Science and Technology (Cave Hill) or the Faculty of Food and Agriculture seeking to be transferred to the MB BS Degree Programme shall only be considered from the Preliminary and/or Introductory level courses. All such students must complete and submit a Transfer Form by the end of the second week of January in the calendar year of proposed entry.

2.5 Applicants who are accepted into the three-year Bachelor of Basic Medical Sciences (BBMedSci) Degree programme shall not be permitted to transfer to the MB BS Degree Programme at any time during their course but may apply to enter the MB BS Degree Programme in any subsequent year after obtaining the Degree. In such cases, exemptions (see Regulation 5.4 and 5.5 below) may be granted.

- 2.6 Applicants holding UWI first degrees in the natural sciences with a minimum of lower second class honours may be considered for entry.
- 2.7 Applicants holding professional degrees in allied Health disciplines may also be considered for entry provided that they have attained a minimum average grade of B+ or grade point of 3.3 in the appropriate science subjects during their degree programme or Grade 3 passes in Biology/Zoology and Chemistry at Unit 2 CAPE /A Level or equivalent.
- 2.8 Applicants holding degrees other than degrees in the natural sciences may also be considered provided that they have attained a minimum average grade of B+ or grade point of 3.3 in the appropriate science subjects during their university programme or Grade 3 passes in Biology/Zoology and Chemistry at Unit 2 CAPE/A Level or equivalent.
- 2.9 Applicants with first degrees from institutions other than the UWI shall also be eligible provided that:
- The programme of study has been accredited by a relevant body or agency and is considered acceptable by the UWI.
  - Credits have been obtained in Biology/Zoology and Chemistry.
  - A minimum grade point average of 3.0 or its equivalent has been obtained.

*Non-academic Considerations*

- 2.10 All applicants are required to submit a short 250 - 300 word autobiographical summary outlining the reasons for their career choice.
- 2.11 An applicant's chances of entry will be enhanced by documented and certified involvement in extracurricular activities in the years prior to his/her application.
- Each activity should be listed on the application form and must be accompanied by original letters of certification from principals, supervisors or employers for each activity. Both the duration of involvement and the level of responsibility of the applicant in each

activity shall be taken into consideration and certifying documents must state these clearly.

- In considering these activities, the University places emphasis on applicant's voluntary participation in community/social projects although consideration shall also be given to other extracurricular activities, experiences and abilities (such as music, sports, drama, and debating or proficiency in a foreign language).
- Applicants may also be required to attend an interview.

### **3. Registration**

- 3.1 Registration for courses takes place during the first week of the first semester of each academic year.

*Please note that the registration of a student is not complete until the appropriate tuition and other fees have been paid in respect of that student or arrangements acceptable to the Campus Principal have been made with respect to the payment of such fees.*

### **4. Programme of Study**

*Further details about the programme may be obtained from the Faculty office and can be found in the student handbook and through the Faculty's curriculum web site:  
<http://www.mona.uwi.edu/fms/MBBS/curriculum.asp>*

- 4.1 The programme for the MB BS Degree lasts for five years and consists of two stages:
- MB BS Stage I; and
  - MB BS Stage II.
- 4.2 Both Stages consist of courses or clerkships in which are included lectures, conferences, seminars, tutorials, self-study, the use of learning aids (including information technology), practicals and demonstrations including clinical bedside teaching.



- 4.3 The student's progress in each course or clerkship is assessed on the basis of his or her performance in a combination of course-work and written, practical, clinical and oral examinations.
- 4.4 MB BS Stage I spans the first three years and consists of a series of courses with assigned credit values. In order to advance into each year of the programme, students must complete and pass each of the specified courses. (see Regulation 9.7 and 9.8 below)
- 4.5 MB BS Stage II comprises the final two years and is made up of a series of rotating clinical clerkships followed by a final examination. The MB BS degree is awarded at the level of a Pass, Honours, or Honours with Distinction on satisfactory completion of the programme.

## 5. Exemptions

- 5.1 An applicant who has completed a course and passed an examination from another recognised university in a subject which forms a part or the whole of an analogous subject in the MB BS Degree programme may apply to the Academic Board, through the Dean, for exemption **and credit**. The Academic Board shall make a decision on the matter after considering the recommendation of the Faculty Board which shall take into account the syllabus, the nature and duration of the course, the person's grading in examinations in the course, the time which has elapsed since the course was completed and, in particular, whether it is analogous in whole or in part to that offered in this University.
- 5.2 The Faculty Board shall make one of the following recommendations to the Academic Board, indicating the reasons for the recommendation:
- (a) that the application be rejected; or
  - (b) that the applicant be exempted from a part or the whole of the subject, but be required to take a part of or the full examination; or
  - (c) that the applicant be exempted both from the course and the examination and credited with the course.

- 5.3 Exemption and credit shall not normally be granted to applicants who have been asked to withdraw and are re-admitted to the Faculty for whatever reason after a lapse of more than two years.
- 5.4 Applicants entering the programme with a Bachelor of Basic Medical Sciences (BBMedSci) Degree from the UWI (see Regulation 2.5 above) may be granted exemption and credit of a maximum of the first two years of the programme depending upon the time which has elapsed between the completion of that Degree and the date of application to enter the MB BS Degree programme.
- 5.5 Applications for exemption and credit shall not normally be considered in respect of persons who obtained the BBMedSci Degree more than two years prior to the date of application to enter the programme.

## **6. Examinations – General aspects**

*The procedures and regulations for student assessment in the Faculty of Medical Sciences are governed by the general University regulations for examinations which can be obtained on request from the Examinations Section of the Registry.*

- 6.1 Subject to Regulation 11.2, registration for a course constitutes registration for the examination in that course. Registration for courses in both Stages takes place during the first week of the first semester of each academic year.
- 6.2 The candidate must attempt, at the same sitting, all required *Parts*, *Sections* or *Components* of the Examinations for which he or she has been registered.
- 6.3 A candidate must attend all the written, practical, clinical and oral sections of the Examinations for which he or she has registered, and that are applicable in his or her case.
- 6.4 A candidate who fails to attend any written, practical, clinical or oral

section of any Examination for which he or she has registered and that is applicable in his or her case shall be recorded as having failed the Examination. (Regulations governing absence due to illness can be found in the general University regulations governing examinations)

- 6.5 A candidate who fails any required examination on his or her first attempt shall be required to sit the examination at the next available opportunity, unless otherwise decided by the Academic Board, Mona, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners and the Faculty Board.
- 6.6 A candidate who applies to re-sit an examination must attempt all the required sections or components of the Examination at the same sitting.
- 6.7 A candidate who fails the final Stage II Examination on his or her third attempt shall be required by Academic Board, Mona, to withdraw from the MB BS Degree programme. Only where the candidate's performance is deemed unsatisfactory due to adverse examination conditions, can the Academic Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, support another attempt and, if warranted, grant an extension of time in which the Examination is to be completed. In considering whether to recommend an extension of time, the Faculty Board shall take account of the requirement that the time between the completion of the programme and the examination must not exceed nineteen months.
- 6.8 A candidate may be awarded a pass, honours or honours with distinction in the final qualifying examinations, depending on the standard that he or she has attained in the examination and during the programme, provided that honours or honours with distinction will be awarded only in the case of his or her first attempt at the examination.
- 6.9 Candidates shall be notified of the results of examinations as soon as possible, subject to ratification by the Board for Undergraduate Studies.

## **7. Unsatisfactory performance**

- 7.1 In the MB BS Degree Programme, a student's performance is considered unsatisfactory if he or she displays either poor academic performance or unprofessional behaviour.
- 7.2 A student's academic performance is considered unsatisfactory if he/she has failed any form of assessment, examination or on-going evaluation in any specified course, clerkship or learning unit which is a required component of the MB BS Degree Programme.
- 7.3 A student's behaviour is considered unprofessional if he/she displays inappropriate or unethical behaviour in his/her interpersonal contacts especially in relation to patients or their families, colleagues, or members of the University or hospital staff.
- 7.4 Where unsatisfactory performance is felt to be serious or is, for any other reason, considered to be a cause for concern, the matter should be reported in writing to the Dean and copied to the candidate.
- 7.5 The student shall be given an appointment to be interviewed by the Dean or the Dean's nominee who (except where Regulation 7.8 applies) shall arrange for appropriate remedial action to assist the candidate, followed by re-evaluation.
- 7.6 A student who fails to attend the interview or to participate in the remedial measures or the re-evaluation may be barred by the Academic Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, from continuing in the programme.

- 7.7 The Faculty Board shall consider a written report on the result of the remedial action and shall make a recommendation to the Academic Board as to whether or not the student may proceed to the next phase of the programme at that time.
- 7.8 Where poor academic performance is repetitive or where unprofessional misconduct is serious, the Dean shall convene a committee to examine the case and to provide a report to the Faculty Board. The committee shall include staff members from at least three different Departments. The student concerned shall be given an opportunity to be heard and may be accompanied by another member of the student body selected by the student.
- 7.9 The Faculty Board shall consider the report of the committee and may make a determination that no further action is required or may submit the matter to the Academic Board for its decision, with a recommendation as to the measures to be taken. Such measures may include:
- the institution of further remedial measures (which may include professional counselling);
  - leave of absence for a period of up to one year;
  - withdrawal from the MB BS programme.
- 7.10 The decision of the Academic Board or the Faculty Board, as the case may be, shall be conveyed to the student in writing and the student shall have the right to appeal the decision by application to the Board for Undergraduate Studies and Senate as appropriate.

## **8. MB BS Stage I - Courses**

- 8.1 MB BS Stage I courses extend over the first three years and comprise a series of courses which integrate the disciplines of Human Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology, Community Medicine, Pathology, Microbiology and Pharmacology and include early exposure to patients and teaching of basic clinical skills.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Details of the courses may be obtained from the Faculty Office.

8.2 In addition to the prescribed MB BS Stage I courses, the candidate is required to follow and complete 9 credits in the following University Foundation Courses.

- *English for Academic Purposes*
- *Law, Governance, Economy and Society*
- *Caribbean Civilisation*

8.3 In order to proceed to MB BS Stage II, students are *inter alia* required to complete all prescribed courses equivalent to 105 credits in addition to the three Foundation courses.

## **9. MB BS Stage I - Assessment & Examinations**

9.1 The courses and clerkships that make up the MB BS Stage I Programme are assigned a credit value and are assessed by a combination of course work, written, practical and clinical examinations.

9.2 With the exceptions noted in Regulation 5 (Exemptions) candidates are required to complete and pass all prescribed MB BS Stage I courses of study before proceeding to MB BS Stage II.

9.3 *[deleted].*

9.4 On the basis of performance in the MB BS Stage I courses, candidates shall be assigned a grade point average (GPA). The grades from Foundation courses and courses designated as pass/fail shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

9.5 Candidates shall normally be required to maintain a GPA of 2.0 or above.

- 9.6 Candidates whose cumulative GPA consistently falls below 2.0 may be required to withdraw from the programme by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- 9.7 A candidate who has not obtained the required number of credits by passing all the prescribed courses or whose grade point average is less than 2.0 shall not be permitted to proceed to Stage II.
- 9.8 At the end of year 1 and at the end of year 2, students shall be permitted to proceed to year 2 or year 3, as the case may be, only if the credit value of failed courses in the year ended does not exceed a total of nine (9) credits.
- 9.9 Candidates who fail any course shall be assigned an F (0.0 quality points) which shall be recorded on their transcript.
- 9.10 Students assigned an F grade for any course shall be required to re-sit the examination for that course at the next available opportunity.
- 9.11 Students who are required to repeat a failed course shall normally be allowed a maximum of two further attempts at that failed course.
- 9.12 Students who do not pass a failed course after a total of three attempts shall normally be required to withdraw from the programme by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- 9.13 Students who repeat and pass a course subsequent to any failed attempt shall be assigned a maximum of a C grade for the successful result.
- 9.14 Students shall retain all F grades assigned for failed courses on their academic record (transcript).
- 9.15 The GPA of students who subsequently pass failed courses within the

stipulated time, will however be recalculated using the passing grade of C.

- 9.16 Students must pass all MB BS Stage I courses within eighteen months after the minimum time for completion of the MB BS Stage I Programme (see Regulation 4.4).  
Students who fail to complete Stage I within this time may be asked to withdraw from the programme by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the Faculty Board except in a case where the Academic Board, under Regulation 6.7, has approved an extension of this period.
- 9.17 Students who are required to withdraw from the MB BS Stage I programme may apply to be considered for re-entry after one (1) year has elapsed since their withdrawal.

#### *Award of the BMedSci Degree*

- 9.18 The award of the BMedSci Degree is not automatic. Students will apply in writing to the University for the award.
- 9.19 The Degree will be awarded subject to the student satisfying the following conditions:
- (a) being in good financial standing; and
  - (b) successful completion of the first three years (Phase 1) of the MB BS programme; and
  - c)
    - (i) subsequent withdrawal at any time prior to completing the MB BS programme for any reason (including but not limited to medical or financial factors); or
    - (ii) subsequent required withdrawal for academic reasons (poor academic performance and/or failure to progress).
- 9.20 The Degree will not be awarded in cases where the student is required to withdraw for disciplinary reasons including failure to comply with the defined codes of professional conduct for medical students.



## **10 MB BS Stage II**

- 10.1 Students are required to satisfactorily complete all prescribed MB BS Stage I courses of study and pass all course examinations before entry to Stage II unless exemptions (see Regulation 5 above) apply.
- 10.2 MB BS Stage II spans at least 24 months and includes courses or clerkships in the following subjects: Anaesthetics; Child Health; Community Health; Emergency Medicine; Internal Medicine (including Dermatology and Venereology); Microbiology; Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Pathology; Psychiatry; Radiology; and Surgery (including Ophthalmology, Emergency Medicine, Orthopaedics, and Otorhinolaryngology). There are also two short elective periods and opportunities for exposure to subjects such as palliative care, medical ethics and the history of medicine.<sup>2</sup>
- 10.3. Student performance in each of the prescribed courses or clerkships shall be assessed by a combination of continuous assessment and by end-of-course/clerkship written, clinical/practical and oral examinations.
- 10.4 Students shall be assigned a grade point average (GPA) on the basis of performance in the MB BS Stage II clerkships, courses and examinations. The grades from University Foundation courses and from pass/fail courses including electives shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.
- 10.5 Students shall normally be required to maintain a GPA of 2.0 or above.
- 10.6 Students whose GPA falls below 2.0 at the end of Year 4 may be required to withdraw from the programme.

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<sup>2</sup> Details of the courses may be obtained from the Faculty Office.

- 10.7 Students who have not obtained the required number of credits by passing all the prescribed courses /clerkships or whose grade point average is less than 2.0 shall not be permitted to proceed to the final MB BS examination.
- 10.8 Students in year 4 shall be permitted to proceed into the subsequent year only if the credit value of failed courses in year 4 does not exceed a total of nine (9) credits.
- 10.9 Students who fail any core course/clerkship shall be assigned an F (0.0 quality points) which shall be recorded on their transcript.
- 10.10 Students assigned an F grade for any course/clerkship shall be required to repeat the assessment for that course/clerkship at the next available opportunity.
- 10.11 Students who are required to repeat a failed course/clerkship shall normally be allowed a maximum of two further attempts.
- 10.12 Students who do not pass a failed course/clerkship after a total of three attempts may be required to withdraw from the programme.
- 10.13 Students who repeat and pass a course/clerkship subsequent to any failed attempt shall be assigned a maximum grade of C for the successful result.
- 10.14 The academic record (transcript) of students shall retain all F grades assigned for courses/clerkships failed.
- 10.15 Provided that the failed course/clerkship is passed within eighteen months of completing the course/clerkship, the GPA for the student shall be recalculated using the new passing grade of C.
- 10.16 A student whose performance in any course or clerkship is considered unsatisfactory (see Regulation 7 above) on the basis of on-going or examination performance shall be required to repeat the course/clerkship and/or the examination. Repetition of any part of the course may necessitate a delay in completion of the overall programme.

## **11. The final MB BS Stage II Examination**

- 11.1. Registration for the final **MB BS** Stage II examinations follows the general University regulations and procedures for examinations.
- 11.2. In order to sit the examination, candidates must have satisfactorily completed MB BS Stage I and passed all required courses/clerkships in Stage II.
- 11.3. The final examination consists of both written and clinical/oral components in the medical and surgical disciplines covered in the MB BS Stage II courses/clerkships.
- 11.4. Award of the MB BS Degree requires that candidates achieve a pass in each specified section of the final examination.
- 11.5. Candidates must pass the clinical component(s) in each of the specified examinations in order to pass the overall examination.
- 11.6. Candidates who fail the clinical component and/or the examination in any of the above disciplines shall be required to re-sit the entire examination in the discipline that they have failed after 6 or 12 months on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners of the Faculty Board.
- 11.7. A candidate who fails the examination in any discipline shall be required to follow a prescribed remedial course of study and to re-sit the examination at the time prescribed (see Regulation 11.6 above). Further attempts shall only be allowed on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners of the Faculty Board (see also Regulation 6.7 above).
- 11.8. The Academic Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty, may require a candidate who has not successfully completed the MB BS Stage II examination within eighteen months after the minimum time for completion of the MB BS Stage II, to withdraw for failure to progress. The foregoing provision shall not apply in a case where the Academic Board has allowed subsequent attempts at the examination under Regulation 6.7 and has extended the time for completion, in accordance with that section.
- 11.9. The MB BS Degree shall be awarded at Pass, Honours, or Honours with Distinction level, depending upon the standard reached in the

examination and in the continuous assessment. At the discretion of the examiners, candidates who are being considered for Honours with Distinction or who have obtained borderline failing grades may be invited to attend an oral examination, after which a final grade shall be awarded.

- 11.10 A candidate is eligible for the award of the MB BS Degree following satisfactory completion of the programme, including the required University Foundation Courses.
- 11.11 The category of Degree awarded to an individual candidate is based on the candidate's cumulative GPA for the 5-year programme and on satisfactory completion of the final MB BS Stage II (MB BS) Examination. (The GPA required by the Faculty for the award of each of the various categories of MB BS Degree is provided below.)
- 11.12 A candidate shall be awarded the MB BS Degree at Honours or Honours with Distinction level only if he or she passes all prescribed courses/clerkships and all specified sections of the final MB BS Stage II Examination at the first attempt.

| <b>Category of Degree</b>       | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Grade Point Average</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Honours Degree with Distinction | Demonstrates an outstanding and comprehensive grasp of the knowledge, skills and competencies required. | 3.7 and above              |
| Honours Degree                  | Demonstrates an excellent grasp of the knowledge, skills and competencies required.                     | 3.3 – 3.6                  |
| Pass                            | Demonstrates a satisfactory grasp of the knowledge, skills and competencies required.                   | 2.0 – 3.2                  |

***Award of the MB BS Degree***

- 11.13 After the Board for Undergraduate Studies has approved the pass list for the final MB BS Stage II Examination, the MB BS Degree shall be awarded to each successful candidate.