

## **MPHIL/PHD CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY**

**PROPOSED AWARD:** Master of Philosophy degree/Doctor of Philosophy degree.

**DURATION OF PROGRAMME** (including Internship, Research Project, other): MPhil (3 years Full time and 5 years Part time); PhD (5 years Full time and 7 years Part time).

The programme is research-oriented and areas of basic and clinical investigations will include metabolic, endocrine and genetic disorders, toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES - *Chemical Pathology Programmes***

The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus will be the only institution in the Caribbean offering postgraduate degrees in Chemical Pathology. The University of West Indies currently offers a Doctor of Medicine degree in Chemical Pathology.

The proposed MPhil and PhD programmes are research-oriented and areas of basic and clinical investigations will include metabolic, endocrine and genetic disorders, toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring.

The doctoral programme seeks to produce knowledgeable and competent persons who will provide a high level of leadership in research in Chemical Pathology. PhD students will attend regular seminars arranged by the programme and make presentations once per semester. PhD students must complete a minimum of 9 credits and conduct research leading to a thesis. Students will be required to submit a research thesis and pass an oral examination before graduation.

MPhil students will attend regular seminars arranged by the programme and make presentations once per semester. MPhil students must complete a minimum of 6 credits and conduct research leading to a thesis which must be submitted before graduation.

The programme is an entirely new programme; no similar programme previously existed at UWI or any other University in Jamaica. This programme is self-financing.

### **Criteria for Admission:**

Normally only a University Graduate with a first class honours or an upper second class honours degree from a recognized university in science or medicine [including Medical Science Degrees, BBMed Sci. majors, Physiotherapy, Pure Science degrees (including Chemistry, Zoology and Forensic Sciences)] will be considered for direct admission to the MPhil programme in the Sub-Department of Chemical Pathology, Department of Pathology. Candidates with a MBBS degree will be considered for admission to the MPhil programme.

Candidates with an appropriate technical qualification and work experience, or equivalent qualifications, will also be considered for admission to the course following an interview by the Departmental Specialty Board. Such candidates, if the Departmental Specialty Board is in doubt of their suitability for admission, may be considered for admission subject to successfully passing a qualifying examination.

This qualifying examination would follow a prescribed *qualifying* course(s)/programme in the relevant subspecialty area and would take the form – written and/or oral examination – prescribed by the Departmental Specialty Board.

Students will be required to satisfy the credit requirements for postgraduate study as prescribed by the Board of Graduate Studies. If they have not already completed suitable and recognized courses in Research Methods, then they will be required to do so. This will also contribute to credit requirements.

Additional requirements to be met by all applicants:

Two letters of recommendations from individuals who can attest to the candidate's character, scientific ability and work experience.

### **MPhil Chemical Pathology**

The programme extends over not less than 24 months including any departmental courses required. It consists largely of work on a research topic examined by thesis. One or more supervisors for the proposed research will be available and adequate facilities for the particular work must exist.

The MPhil thesis is based on laboratory research. It should comprise not less than 15,000 words and should be supported by diagrams and photographic illustrations, etc. Candidates for the MPhil degree may be required to take an oral examination on the general field of study and on the thesis.

### **PhD Chemical Pathology**

Candidates intending to study for the PhD degree must hold a Master's degree in Chemical Pathology, Clinical Chemistry or Clinical Biochemistry as well as Doctor of Medicine degree in Chemical Pathology. All other candidates with medical or pure science degrees must first register for the MPhil and complete Chemical Pathology I and may transfer their registration after at least one year of study based on the recommendation of the Supervisory Committee and:

- (a) Submission of a research proposal of a standard suitable for a terminal research degree,
- (b) Presentation and defense of their research proposal before an assessment committee,
- (c) Independent assessment by the Department of Pathology.

The award of the degree is based on presentation of a thesis of original research which significantly advances the discipline of Chemical Pathology. The examination for the degree is by assessment of the thesis and a viva voce examination.

The MPhil and PhD degrees in Chemical Pathology will be offered when necessary.

### **EVALUATION**

#### **Semester 1:**

Students will be evaluated on the preparation of a research proposal and in-course assessments and include:

- a. Selection of a problem for investigation and its clear definition (10% of final grade).
- b. A critical review of the literature on the problem with accurate and complete referencing of the material reviewed (see Instructions for Authors, West Indian Medical Journal).

- c. Preparation and pre-testing of a questionnaire, by interviewing at least 15 potential subjects and demonstrating how the questionnaire was revised after the pretest.
- d. Preparation of a proposal for submission to the ethical review committee, FMS, UWI.
- e. A mid-course (30%) and final examination (60% of final grade).

#### Semester 2:

Students will be evaluated based on the preparation of a written research project report using either

- A. Primary data which they collect themselves based on the study designed in Semester 1 or
- B. Analysis of secondary data from a data bank available either within the Department or other sources approved by the supervisor. In the latter instance, the student must submit a proposal for the analysis of secondary data to the supervisor by the end of December.
- C. A final report in the format approved by the University must be submitted.

### **REGULATIONS AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES**

Students should refer to the Manual of Procedures for Graduate Diplomas and Degrees, the regulations for Graduate Diplomas and Degrees, the Graduate Studies Guide for Students and Supervisors, and the Thesis Guide.

#### **Progress through the Programme**

- i. Students admitted to the programme are required to register for all the prescribed courses. A student may elect to do additional courses outside of their prescribed option.
- ii. Candidates are not permitted to carry failed courses valued more than 3 credits in any one term.
- iii. PhD students must complete a minimum of 9 credits and conduct research leading to a thesis. Students who satisfy these requirements and completed a research thesis and pass an oral examination will be eligible for the award of the degree subject to The University of the West Indies regulations.
- iv. MPhil students must complete a minimum of 6 credits and conduct research leading to a thesis. Students who satisfy these requirements and completed a research thesis will be eligible for the award of the degree subject to University of The West Indies regulations.

#### **Time Limits for Completion**

- i. A candidate taking examinations in the programme will normally not be allowed to re-sit any examination more than once.
- ii. Candidates for the MPhil are required to submit their theses for examination within 3 years of their initial registration for full-time studies or, subject to Regulation 53, within 5 years of their initial registration for part-time studies, unless the Campus Committee in any particular case otherwise decides.
- iii. Candidates for the PhD are required to submit their theses for examination within 5 years of their initial registration for full-time studies or, subject to Regulation 53, within 7 years of their initial registration for part-time studies, unless the Campus Committee in any particular case otherwise decides.