

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.

Candidates subject to UK immigration law may be subject to a regulatory framework implemented by the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). Where these regulations are more stringent than those stipulated within the University's own regulations, those of the UKVI will take priority.

1. The degrees of Bachelor of Medicine (MB) and 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. Every candidate for the degrees 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 attend for interview, if required. In the rare circumstance that an applicant/candidate has a notifiable health condition, relevant Occupational Health Service advice will be followed.
3. The curriculum for the degrees can be undertaken by full-time study only.
4. The courses for the degrees shall cover five years. The curriculum to be followed and the degree assessments shall be as prescribed in the Programme Specifications listed in [the University Calendar](#).
5. A candidate for the award of the degrees shall complete, at a minimum, programme years 4 and 5 as prescribed in the programme specification listed in the [University Calendar](#). The preceding period of the curriculum may be spent in any other University or Medical School, as approved for this purpose by the University Court after consultation with the Senate.
6. (i) Candidates shall not normally be permitted to present themselves for an end of course assessment unless they have appropriately undertaken all required instruction and activities in that academic year, and subsequently obtained a class certificate. The validity of a class certificate shall be limited to the academic year in which it is awarded. Any candidate who has been subject to attendance monitoring and warned of being 'at risk' of losing their class certificate) may lose their class certificate with no further warning if this behaviour is repeated for the course concerned.

(ii) The Student Progress Committee (SPC), on behalf of the Senate, may exceptionally determine the conditions under which a candidate, who has previously achieved the attendance requirements for the award of a class certificate or successfully completed a course, may be exempted in whole or in part from instruction and/or assessment in any component for the degrees.

- (iii) The SPC, on behalf of the Senate, may terminate, at any time, the studies of a candidate who persistently fails to meet the minimum attendance requirements or perform the required work of the courses, for which they are registered.
7. (i) In any academic year a candidate shall not normally be afforded, in any course, more than two opportunities of summative assessment, including continuous assessment, clinical and/or written examinations, as appropriate. This applies except where there is an exempting examination, for which there is a specific standard operating procedure in place. Only results obtained at the first available opportunity of assessment in any academic year shall contribute towards Distinctions, Honours and Commendations, and/or class grading.
- (ii) Where a candidate successfully completes a course on more than one occasion, only the credit points obtained at first sitting may be counted toward the requirements necessary for progression and graduation.
 - (iii) Where a candidate is undertaking a repeat year, or undertaking assessment as an external candidate, a maximum of three opportunities of degree assessment for any course is permitted, including those taken in previous years.
8. (i) Candidates shall not be permitted to progress to the next programme year unless they have successfully achieved all summative assessments in one academic year. Unless regulation 6(ii) applies, any student required to resit a programme year must achieve all degree assessments within that academic year.
- (ii) Candidates who fail to achieve all summative assessments within one academic year, and/or have not met the level of performance required, shall normally be entitled to a maximum of one repeat year across the MBChB Programme. This applies to all programme years, with the exception of the final year where a candidate shall be entitled to an automatic repeat year, regardless of whether a repeat year has previously been undertaken.
 - (iii) Candidates must normally satisfy all requirements for the award of the degrees within a maximum of six calendar years of the date of their first registration. This excludes any intercalating degree period, or instances where a candidate has been unable to complete a full academic year or has taken a full gap year, for health, personal or other reasons, and has had this absence approved by the University..
 - (iv) Candidates who are required to undertake a resit, must normally do so within the same academic year, unless otherwise approved by the University. . Candidates who fail to achieve the requirements of a repeat year, or any subsequent year shall be required to discontinue their studies for the degrees and be excluded from further assessment.
 - (v) Where a candidate (due to medical reasons or other proven good cause) has taken the resit examinations as a first diet, and/or for these same reasons been unable to take the resit examinations at the prescribed time, the candidate will be eligible to sit at the next available sitting, which is normally in the following academic year.
 - (vi) Where candidates withdraw from the programme for a period covering more than one academic year, the SPC on behalf of the Senate may require the candidate to repeat

any previously achieved year of study, including the requirement to pass any assessments on conclusion of that repeat year.

9. (i) The University's Policy and Procedures on Student Absence provides a framework through which a candidate can report absence and/or establish that their academic performance has been adversely affected by medical circumstances or other good cause.
 - (ii) It is expected that a student who undertakes to sit an exam or submit an assignment, is fit to do so and there are no known extenuating/mitigating circumstances.
 - (iii) Acute illness and/or other personal circumstances which affect a candidate's performance at examination must be notified in writing, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the Extenuating Circumstances for review. However, the decision to waive the regulation on discontinuation following failure of a repeat year shall lie with SPC on behalf of Senate.
10. The examiners for the degrees shall be the academic staff and health and social care professionals who are involved in the delivery of courses qualifying for the degrees, and such external examiners as may be appointed by the University Court.
11. The degrees shall not be conferred on candidates who have not passed all the degree assessments prescribed by Regulation 4, by the end of the period allowed.
12. Candidates for the degrees are required to undertake the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA). Consisting of two elements (a) a clinical and professional skills assessment, undertaken as part of the final year OSCE and (b) an Applied Knowledge Test (AKT), the degrees will not be conferred on a candidate who fails to achieve a pass in both elements of the MLA. In regard to the AKT:
- (i) As an exception to Regulation 9, candidates will normally have a maximum of four opportunities, undertaken over the course of two academic years, to achieve a pass in the AKT.
 - (ii) In accordance with Regulation 8(i), candidates shall not be permitted to progress to programme year 5 without successful completion of the AKT.
 - (iii) Candidates must normally graduate with the degrees within two academic years of achieving a pass in the AKT. Failure to do so will result in a candidate being required to retake the AKT prior to graduation and a delay in conferral of the degrees.
13. The degrees may be awarded with Honours or with Commendation, according to candidates meeting the predetermined academic standards for these awards.
14. (i) Candidates for the degrees who *either*:
- a. have failed to complete the requirements for those degrees within six calendar years of the date of their first matriculation, or any extended time allowed by the SPC on behalf of Senate *or*:
 - b. can no longer complete the requirements for the degrees, *or*:
 - c. have indicated in writing to the SPC on behalf of Senate that they no longer wish to pursue the degrees;

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) Where a candidate has articulated from another institution part way through the programme, the required University of Aberdeen credit points and levels will be individually assessed by SPC on behalf of Senate.
 - (iii) Where a candidate has attained an intercalated degree it should be noted that credit points from that degree cannot be counted towards awards listed in 14(i).
 - (iv) A candidate who receives the awards described in 14 (i) may not subsequently be a candidate for either of the degrees of MBChB.
 - (v) 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 the holder to be registered with the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom.
- 15.(i) Any health, conduct, behaviour or other issue that could give rise to the question of whether or not a candidate's fitness to practise is impaired will be considered and determined through the School of Medicine, Medical Science and Nutrition's Fitness to Practise Processes. Senate, on the recommendation of the Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry), may suspend or terminate the studies of candidates for the degrees who, following Fitness to Practise Processes, are judged to have fitness to practise impairment. In exceptional circumstances only, the Head of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition or the Director of the Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences may suspend the matriculation of, or exclude from specified programme activities, any candidate in respect of whom there is a question of whether or not their fitness to practise is impaired, pending further process. The Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry) also has the power to consider the cases of graduates of the University with the degrees who may be referred to it by the Foundation Programme Director during their pre-registration period of training. In this Regulation, any reference to impaired fitness to practise is to be taken as a reference to that concept as defined in s. 35C (2) of the Medical Act 1983, and as explained in the General Medical Council's current published guidance.

- (ii) The above will apply during any time away from the MBChB programme if it is the candidate's intention to return to programme and ultimately seek graduation.