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

## Academic year 2026/27

Approved by Senate on 25 June 2024

Last Revised by Senate on 24 June 2026

## 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 |
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| 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. Late student entries to any Medical Knowledge or Clinical Practical OSCE examination for all BMBS Medicine students are not allowed. The standard “30-minute grace period” of being late to any exam does not apply due to PSRB accreditation requirements.

10. 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.

11. 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

12. 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 | | | |
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| **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 | To align with Exeter. Standard setting is required by the GMC:<br><br>"*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.<br><br>**Assessment in Undergraduate Medical Education - GMC**<br><br>“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. | GMC and contingency partner |
| Programmatic assessment model | Code of practice for assessment and feedback | 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. | Contingency partner |
| No compensation | A1 regulations: 10, 119, 153, 155, 158, 159, 174, 175-180 | To align with Exeter and adhere with GMC guidance:<br><br>"*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* "<br><br>**Assessment in Undergraduate Medical Education - GMC** | GMC and contingency partner |

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| No third attempt of a module | A1 regulations: 155 | To align with Exeter and adhere with GMC guidance:<br><br>"… *most schools allowed one resit attempt for each single written or clinical final assessment, which seems reasonable to the GMC."*<br><br>**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 |

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| No late entry to examinations | A1 regulations: 153 | In accordance with PSRB regulations, students are not permitted to enter late to the MLA National Standard exam and the School of Medicine assessment strategy is designed so that assessments in the preceding years prepare the students appropriately for the rules, regulations and standards of a nationally delivered assessment so having different rules in different years is in direct opposition to the strategy and is not supportive to the students or to their preparation for onward study within the medical profession.<br>Students will have had only a limited number of opportunities to experience examinations in an equivalent format before undertaking this high-stakes national assessment. Allowing students to become accustomed to a routine 30-minute late-entry window in earlier assessments would therefore fail to prepare them appropriately and could disadvantage them when they encounter the MLA's stricter conditions. Applying the same principle consistently across the programme will ensure that students develop the time-management and examination-readiness behaviours required for the MLA.<br><br>It is not possible to permit a student entry into an OSCE assessment after the students have left the holding room and enter the assessment space. To do so would disrupt station timings, candidate flow, standardisation, and the experience of other candidates. A consistent approach is therefore necessary for both written and practical clinical assessments. | GMC |
| 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:<br><br>"*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. The schools should have processes to establish that standards are stable over time."* 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 | GMC and contingency partner |

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| | | validation.<br><br>**Assessment in Undergraduate Medical Education - GMC** | |
| Number of credits per year exceeding 120 credits | A1 regulations: 75 | 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. | Contingency partner |
| Code of Practice for Programme Life Cycle | Exception to the 30th April Module Modification deadline for BMBS Medicine programme.<br><br>BMBS Medicine Board of Studies meetings held: December mid-June | Extension approved to 30th June for BMBS Medicine modifications.<br>Approval to hold Board of studies meetings in December and June.<br><br>Due to the structure of BMBS Medicine, core modules run across the full academic year, with summative assessments taking place at the end of June. While every effort to identify and consider potential changes earlier in the year are made, many of the most meaningful insights only emerge once teaching and assessment for the full year have been completed. As a result, the current 30th April deadline falls before a full evaluation is complete to propose changes.<br><br>The Medicine programme runs in terms rather than semesters, and our teaching and quality assurance cycles are aligned with these three terms. This exception better supports the School of Medicine quality assurance timeline. | |

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| Self-certification application for Extenuating Circumstances | B1 Regulations for Extenuating Circumstances- 21, 22, 23<br>- *Exception*<br>Exception to regulations 34 and 38:<br><br>*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.*<br><br>Regulation 27. Outcomes of a valid EC:<br>- *Exception*<br><br>*For BMBS Graduate Medicine programme students the outcome of a valid EC application would be that the outcome would be reported to the Preliminary Board and/or Board of Examiners to be considered in relation to confirming the need for a resit opportunity for the student.* | To align with Exeter Medical School, students must apply for Extenuating Circumstances for their assessments with supporting evidence. Self-certified applications cannot be accepted.<br><br>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. | GMC requirement in relation to progression and programmatic assessment structure.<br><br>Contingency partner |
| Credits and award classifications | A1 Regulations for taught programmes – Table 1<br>- *Addition to current regulations* | Include Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery as an entry.<br>Award title: Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery<br>FHEQ Level of Award: 7<br>Credit value: 550<br>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<br>- *Exception* | 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<br>- *Addition to current regulations* | Note either in the table or as a footnote that:<br>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<br>- *Addition to current regulations* | 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. | |

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| 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 |
| | 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 |