

School of Medicine

(Note: The powers and duties conferred upon the Senatus under the sections marked * have been delegated to the individual School Boards.)

School of Medicine

Degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD)

1. *A candidate for the Degree shall be a graduate in Medicine. They must be resident within Dundee or its immediate vicinity unless they fulfil one of the three following criteria:

a) a graduate in Medicine of this University;

or

b) an employee of Dundee University;

or

c) hold an appointment or honorary appointment in the NHS in Fife or Tayside deemed to be appropriate for the purposes of the research by the Dean of Medicine.

In all cases, the candidate must satisfy the Senatus Academicus that they are likely to be sufficiently accessible to their University supervisors.

2. An applicant may be admitted (a) as a full-time or (b) as a part-time candidate for the Degree.

The area of study must be either clinical research and/or scientific research related to any area of medicine.

3. All candidates shall spend not less than one year or the pro-rata equivalent in attendance at the University of Dundee. The School Board may authorise a candidate to prosecute part of the research elsewhere than in the University for the remainder of the proposed period of study, provided the School Board is satisfied that the necessary facilities exist for the prosecution of the research and that it is being done under adequate supervision.

4. A candidate's application must fulfil the following criteria:

4.1 A candidate for the Degree must first obtain from the Dean of Medicine copies of the Regulations for the Degree and for the Form and Presentation of Theses together with an application form that must be completed and returned to the Dean;

4.2 Before a candidate may be accepted for the Degree he or she must satisfy the Medical School Higher Degree Committee who will advise the Dean on the suitability of the candidate to undertake the proposed study;

4.3 Each candidate for the MD Degree shall present a title and two-page outline of the research proposed, including background, the hypothesis to be tested and methods to be employed, which shall be considered by the Medical School Higher Degree Committee who will advise the Dean on the suitability of the work. Supervisors shall then be appointed. In

addition a Monitoring Committee will be appointed by the Medical School Higher Degree Committee for each candidate. One supervisor may be external to the University of Dundee, provided that the Principal Supervisor is a member of University of Dundee staff

4.4 Work to be presented as part of the MD degree must be undertaken prospectively; i.e. work undertaken prior to registering for the MD degree is not admissible

4.5 Work undertaken during employment as a research fellow within the University of Dundee may count as full-time work towards an MD, provided that in the opinion of the Higher Degrees Committee, the work as a research fellow is fully congruent with the programme of work laid out for the MD.

5. The candidate shall report to the supervisors on such occasions and in such manner as the supervisors may require. A candidate may be required by the supervisors, with the approval of the appropriate School Board, to attend courses of instruction and to pass an examination associated therewith. The candidate will report to the Monitoring Committee on such occasions as required by the Higher Degree Committee.

6. Registration may be full-time or part-time.

a. Full-time registration will apply to students who will spend >80% full-time equivalent devoted to research related to the MD project. They may be either not in employment for >20% full-time equivalent, or employed in a post in which at least 80% full time equivalent time is available for research related to their MD project rather than for clinical training or practice or other duties. Full time students have a prescribed period of two years in which they will conduct the research (during which annual tuition fees and bench fees, if applicable, are due), normally with up to one year to write up the thesis thereafter (during which matriculation fees only are due). Thesis submission is permitted at two years at the earliest and within three years.

b. Part-time registration will apply to students who are in employment unrelated to their MD project for >20% full-time equivalent, or who elect not to devote as much as 80% of their time to the MD research project. Students may opt to study either at 40% full-time equivalent, for which they will have a prescribed period of research of four years, or at 60% equivalent, for which the prescribed period is 3 years. In either case, annual tuition fees will be charge at a rate reduced pro rata from the full-time fees, and students will have two years to write up the thesis at the end of the prescribed period. Thesis submission is permitted at the end of the prescribed period of study at the earliest, and normally no later than one calendar year after the end of the prescribed period of study at the latest. Applicants for less than full-time study must submit a job plan with their application detailing how time for research studies will be protected within their overall work pattern.

Extensions to studies will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Higher Degrees Committee, and will not exceed one year or pro-rata equivalent for less than full-time registrants.

7. A candidate for the Degree shall matriculate in each year of study and pay the prescribed annual fee.

8. An annual pro-rata fee for each year of the Degree shall be paid at the time of matriculation). Continuation fees will be paid where appropriate.

9. At the point of confirmation of registration (Transfer of Ordinance), it is possible to recommend that the candidate's registration change to the award of PhD, or to the lower award of Master of Medical Science (MMSc) or Master of Surgical Science (MSSc), as appropriate.

A report on research progress, (up to 3000 words) and a revised two-page outline of the research proposed, and revised financial arrangements may be submitted to the Higher Degree Committee. In addition, reports from both the monitoring committee and the supervisors will be considered by the Higher Degree Committee who will then advise the Dean on the suitability to transfer from an MD to the alternative degree proposed.

10. The thesis having first stated a problem must provide an introductory section outlining the relevant history of the subject and indicating the objectives and scope of the thesis. The methods used for exploring the problem must be described and the data collected by such methods must be clearly set out. The data must then be analysed, where appropriate by statistical methods, and an attempt made to deduce conclusions. A thesis must give evidence of original observation or scholarship that must be discussed along with a critical assessment of the state of knowledge of the subject at the time of writing.

11. The candidate shall submit four copies of the thesis for examination, two of which will be retained by the University and two of which will be returned to the candidate.

12. The Senatus, on the recommendation of the School Board, shall appoint the University members of a committee (internal examiner and a convener) to examine the thesis. The Court, on the recommendation of the Senatus as advised by the School Board, shall appoint to membership of the Examining Committee one or more external examiners who shall not be members of the University. The supervisors may not be members of the Examining Committee. If the candidate is a member of University of Dundee academic staff there should be two external examiners.

13. Each candidate for the Degree shall be required to submit to a viva voce examination to ensure that the candidate has acquired the skills and core knowledge relevant to the subject of their thesis. This requirement may be waived in special circumstances but only with the express approval of the School Board.

14. The Examining Committee appointed to examine the thesis shall hold a viva voce within a period of three months from the date of submission of the thesis by the candidate. Thereafter, the report of the Examining Committee shall be submitted to the Senatus at the meeting immediately following the date of the receipt of the report by the Postgraduate Office.

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