

## BSc Clinical Pharmacy student Q&A sheet – June 2022

### Theme 1. Formats and structures of UoM assessments

<b>Sub-theme 1: different types of assessments</b>	
1.1.	I'd like to know the types of exams we take and the grading criteria, the time and method of our exams, and whether they are online or offline.
<p>Your learning on this programme will be assessed in various ways, including examinations via Blackboard, coursework assignments (e.g., report, essay, portfolio, patient care plan, etc.) and presentations, posters and videos (individual or group), etc. The assessments are determined based on the learning objectives of the unit and may change each year.</p> <p>This will all be clearly listed out on your course specification where you are able to view before the beginning of each unit via the unit Blackboard space.</p> <p>The examination types include (this is not a complete list, and exam types change each year): multiple choice questions, clinical skills assessed in mock scenarios), and short or long answer question exams (these questions may require you to integrate your science and clinical practice knowledge and are often presented in scenarios).</p> <p>Exams will take place online via Blackboard and may range in time from 60 to 120 minutes (some exams may be longer than 120 minutes). Some exams are open-book exams where you can use written materials and some allow use of calculators in the exams. It depends on the unit and exam requirements.</p>	
1.2.	What is the format of the UK exams?
<b>Please refer to part 1.1.</b>	
1.3.	How many kinds of exams do we have?
<b>Please refer to part 1.1.</b>	
1.4.	What is the approximate time of an exam? Is there any case that there is no time to finish it?
Academics set the examination duration. To have a good mark on the exam, students need to have adequate exam skills, including time management skills. Generally, students will be provided with past exam papers or examples before the exam to better understand exam structure.	
1.5.	What is the process of group presentation?
To prepare a group presentation, students are expected to work in their groups to discuss the task, designate roles/jobs to complete the task and prepare and deliver the presentation. In most cases, each student needs to sign a declaration to address their contributions to the group work and each group member needs to help deliver the presentation. Each group member generally shares the same 'group' mark; sometimes, assessors may give more marks to those who perform exceptionally well.	
1.6.	We hope to get more help accomplishing workshops since this is an entirely new learning approach.
Students need to prepare before the workshops and be actively involved in the workshop discussions to learn successfully. Academic staff may provide you with materials to prepare before the workshop that you need to bring with you. Part of the current ISEP programme is preparing you for these skills; please make good use of the opportunity to practice your skills.	
1.7.	Are we asked to participate in some social activities to get scores?
Engaging in volunteer work or social activities will help you blend in the English-speaking environment and culture, which may also then benefit your degree studies (i.e., scores).	

We generally don't score your social activities but will recognise your contributions to social responsibilities by some "awards" that can benefit your CV and future employability.
1.8. Which parts are included in the assessments?
<b>Please refer to part 1.1.</b>
1.9. What are the question types in the exam, and how much score each type occupies?
<b>Please refer to part 1.1.</b>  The marks allocated to each question varies. Generally speaking, for questions that require students to integrate and apply their scientific and clinical knowledge together they may be worth more marks. These types of question are an important part of the course and students should expect them.
1.10. How often do we have an exam? Is it monthly or irregularly?
Typically, the "exam" happens at the end of an academic semester. In the UK, semesters typically take place during September – December and February – May, with exams taking place in January and May-June. However, during the semesters, you are likely to be requested to submit some coursework or assignments as part of the assessment and take mock or interim exams. Some assessments may also take place during your classes, where you might demonstrate your skills e.g. clinical and communication skills or take a small test.
<b>Sub-theme 2: UK grading system</b>
1.11. How many points do you pass the exam?
Typically, you will need a 40% mark to pass an exam. However, some of the assessments may need a higher mark – each unit leader will tell students if this is the case. There are also assessments that are compulsory, but for which you only get "pass" or "fail" results as these exams may require you to demonstrate that you can perform a particular skill.
1.12. I'd like to know the types of exams we take and the grading criteria, the time and method of our exams, and whether they are online or offline.
<b>Please refer to part 1.1.</b>
1.13. How much will the score affect our final grade?
Each semester and academic year, your performance will be scrutinised at the Exam Board according to the University's progression criteria. All the scores will be added up.  Each of your exam or assessment scores in Manchester will contribute a different percentage to the total unit mark – for example in Unit 1 there may be three assessments, where assessment A contributes 30% of the unit mark, assessment B 20% and assessment C contributes 50% of the unit mark. Students may need to pass all assessments A-C for unit 1, but their scores will be weighted to create their overall unit mark.  Once all the unit marks are determined, these will again be weighted to create the final degree mark at the end of your studies in Manchester. Your final degree score will be separated into five categories: 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2:1, 2:2, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , and fail.
1.14. What are the examinations like in Manchester? Answering the papers individually or finishing collaborative work?
<b>Please refer to part 1.1, 1.9 and 1.10</b>
1.15. Will what the lecturers teach covers every question in the paper? Exam questions are based on specific intended learning outcomes (ILOs) and you should use these ILOs to help prepare for assessments (you can find ILOs of each course on the unit Blackboard space).

1.16. What is the the total score comprised of? Examination results or usual performance? Which is of more importance if I want to pass the course?

**Please refer to part 1.13**

1.17. To pass the exam, what quality is more important?

1.18. What are the forms of examnations?Are there any open-book exam?Are there any exams that require teamwork? **Please refer to part 1.1, 1.9, 1.10, 1.13**

1.19. Is there enough time to answer the exam? Do students often write more than they can finish?

1.20. What is the pass rate of the exam?What are the criteria for failing the exam?

1.21. Are there any preventive measures during the examination?

1.22. Do we have any mid-term examinations in the UK?If so,what is the percentage that those mid-term examinations occupied.

1.23. How often do we need to take the exam?

1.24. What is the main content and direction of the assessment? What do we need to do?

1.25. What is the standard of the exam? For example, how many passes.

1.26. Is there a chance to take a make-up exam if we don't pass it?

During your 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study at Manchester, if you do not pass an exam you may be offered a 'resit' opportunity during August. If you pass the resit, you can then proceed to the next academic year. The University of Manchester offers students on BSc programmes like yours 'compensation' for failed assessments, which will be discussed at the Q&A with the Programme Director in June. Details will also be provided to you through our Programme Handbook when you start in Manchester.

1.27. When we will have examination?

1.28. How many points did I pass the exam?

1.29. If I need to take a make-up exam,when will it be after the exam?

1.30. What are the components of the final score evaluation and what is the proportion of each component?

## **Theme 2. How to prepare assessments – study skills**

2.1. How do you prepare for the test by reviewing the lecture notes, the textbook or the courseware?

*Advice from your UoM lecturers:* One key point is to start revision process early, keep up to date as they go through the course and make sure that you keep up to date with writing up lectures and directed reading each week, and attending classes! We have data that shows that good class attendance correlates with better performance in assessments

2.2. Will we be informed of more details about exams? Will we have a go over the lesson before exams?

Yes, you need to learn from all the teaching content to prepare for the exam. Please assume that all your teaching material is examinable unless your course tutors tell you otherwise.

2.3. What are the recommended ways to earn credits in UoM? – how to get better marks?

*Advice from your UoM lecturers:* Engagement is also really important. By taking an active part in class and contributing to discussions, students can learn and understand more. It is also important to balance study time and personal free time, so you can enjoy your time at Manchester, make new friends, and seek new experiences. Taking some time away from studies is important to allow you to then focus better on your work when you return to

study. Building peer networks/friendship groups with fellow students both within and outside the Pharmacy programme really helps and with all the group work that you do on the MPharm this will hopefully help.

### Theme 3. Teaching and learning at UoM

3.1. How can we get our scholarship?
Most Russell group universities in the UK do not provide many international studentships for undergraduate students. Currently, there is limited funded studentship available at the University of Manchester. The university provides limited hardship funds for students who are in urgent financial hardship. The pharmacy programme also has some awards for excellent academic performance of students that have a financial award.
3.2. Will you further subdivide your major after going to the University of Manchester?
Most UK healthcare programmes will not allow students to take other programmes on top of their current programme due to the workload. However, the University of Manchester offers a number of postgraduate teaching and research programmes as well as volunteering opportunities that students could pursue after completing their BSc in Clinical Pharmacy. These include data sciences, economics, clinical pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical sciences, and others. Please discuss this question with your academic advisors if you want more information.
3.3. What will we learn?
Please refer to each unit content via Blackboard space
<b>Refer to the curriculum list.</b>
3.4. Questions about scholarships: what are the criteria for assessing the scholarship and the scholarship amount ?
<b>Refer to 3.1.</b>
3.5. Will foreign teachers be very strict?
Academic staff at the pharmacy programme aim to help support your studies in clinical pharmacy. They aim to create a learning environment where students learn from each other as well as staff, and that students can approach staff with questions. You will need to follow specific rules, such as no exam cheating, no plagiarism, etc and the university will support you in understanding these rules. It is also expected that students have good classroom manners and respect lecturers and classmates, particularly when undertaking placements in the clinical environment.
3.6. The University of Manchester course is particularly difficult to understand, can there be a PDF version of the textbook?
University of Manchester academic staff will often provide reading lists for their teaching which are important to study alongside other teaching such as lectures and workshops. They also provide copies of their lecture slides which you can download and read in your own time. If you find some content challenging, you should try to clarify them with the lecturers by asking questions (using the unit discussion board, or emails, or in-person). Academic staff are happy to discuss questions about their teaching materials with students. <i>Advice from your UoM lecturers: ask questions and clarify as you go along</i>
3.7. In the UK, will we have any chance to do some experiments in the lab?
Yes alongside our programme design you will be attending laboratory courses at UoM.

## Theme 4. British culture

4.1.	Details about the British medical system, which is a completely blind area for Chinese students.
	Some of the elements already and will be covered in Professor Jason Hall's unit – Intro to Pharmacists and Medical Ethics.
4.2.	Maybe some introductions for British convention as well as British history. We hope to get to know more about the backgrounds of medicine development in Britain.
	Some of these are covered in our ISEP programme and units.

## Theme 5. Student Experience Programme

5.1.	We sincerely hope our mentors as well as teachers to talk slower. There is no doubt that every tutor we met so far taught excellently, but some of us learned American pronunciation since childhood, and it becomes tough for us to keep up with all these words.
	We will let the student mentors and our lecturers know about your request. However, I sincerely hope you can quickly catch up with speed and accommodate the "British accent", as you will be taught at the "normal" speed when you come to study at the University of Manchester from September 2023. If you need to have some advice on improving your listening skills which you wish to share, please do let us know.
5.2.	I wish I could use some other messaging software instead of email.
	<p>Alongside discussion boards, email is the standard and official way to contact academics at the University of Manchester regarding your marks, questions you may have and other formal announcements. (This is the same if you want to find a job or contact the government for some legal issues). Within each unit on Blackboard, the main way that the university promotes discussion between students and academic staff is the discussion groups where you can post (often anonymously) messages and the academic staff will check – you can even reply to messages from your fellow students!</p> <p>Some academic staff at the University of Manchester have accommodated different ways of communicating with students. There are a variety of "social media" that you need to learn when coming to study at the University of Manchester. Currently, Manchester lecturers are advised by China Pharmaceutical University not to contact students by WeChat. Therefore, students need to learn how to communicate with lecturers by discussion boards or using email. If you have some problems in writing emails, Dr Richard Keers covered this topic in his introductory lecture (see the Homepage for the Public Health and Introduction to the Pharmacist units on Blackboard) and this video can also give you some tips: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwGVljgIMdw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwGVljgIMdw</a></p>
5.3.	Can we not change mentors halfway through?
	<p>We recommend that you try to stick with the current mentor and the group of students as we have done half of the programme. Some mentors requested to work with the same group of mentees as they have formed a friendship. Unless some unresolvable problems exist, we suggest you stick with the group. This will be the same principle for your future academic advisor group when you come to study at the University of Manchester.</p> <p>However, if you are unhappy with the current mentors, please get in touch with Dr Li-Chia Chen (or Mrs Selena Tai). We will see what we can do for you.</p>



## Theme 6. Student life at UoM

6.1. Question of dormitory: Can we choose our roommates ourselves?
<p>The University of Manchester guarantees all international students will have accommodation at the University student residences if they live in the student halls. The University has a wide variety of accommodations (variety in style and cost). You will need to get online to apply for the accommodations you prefer, and then the Accommodation Office will allocate a place for you. The on-line application for student accommodation 2023/2024 will be available from mid-December 2022 onwards. You can apply when the application becomes available and you are confident that you will progress to Year 3. If you receive an offer of accommodation and then decide not to come to Manchester then you do not need to accept the offer that has been made. At that time if you accept the offer of accommodation and then at a later date decide that you are no longer coming to Manchester your Advance Licence Fee Payment will be refunded as long as you cancel 7-days before the start date of your staying at the students accommodation.</p> <p>Information about UoM student accommodations can be found here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/">https://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/</a></p>
6.2. Has the school arranged the accommodation, or do we need to contact ourselves?
<p><b>Refer to 6.1.</b></p> <p>If you want to stay at the University accommodation, please get online to apply for it. Some students prefer to stay in private rented accommodations, which will be arranged by students themselves.</p>
6.3. Will there be any club activities at Manchester University?
<p>There are a huge number of students societies/associations (clubs) at the University of Manchester. You can check it out online or via the Student Union. I am sure you will find some societies/associations that are relevant to you. The challenges will be how to choose and how to balance your social life and study workload.</p>

## Theme 7. BSc Clinical Pharmacy programme

7.1. If the epidemic is still serious after one year, do we have to go abroad?
<p>Currently, the COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed in the UK. If the Chinese government has no additional restriction for travelling abroad (due to the COVID epidemic in China), we are confident that you should be able to travel over. We will monitor the COVID pandemic situations and take action as required.</p>
7.2. How much is the annual tuition fee? Is it paid once a year?
<p>The tuition is paid annually. Please refer to our programme webpage:</p> <p><a href="https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/pharmacy/bsc-clinical-pharmacy/">https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/pharmacy/bsc-clinical-pharmacy/</a></p>
7.3. Can we participate in scientific research projects at school?
<p>During the summer holiday between your 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of study, the university may offer student placements in the laboratory or other work environments. You will also study common research methods and practice during your UoM flying faculty and Manchester-based units.</p>
7.4. Where can we playback the video recorded in class?
<p>Our UoM lectures are recorded as videos and posted onto the Blackboard space for each unit during your degree programme.</p>
7.5. Do we have any optional courses in each term?
<p>There are no optional courses during your studies at Manchester.</p>

