

Standards for Intercalation

School of Medicine

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

December 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the standards of intercalation at the University of Buckingham Medical School. This document relates to the individual programme specifications and outlines of intercalated degree options which should be read separately.

Nothing in these standards is intended to inhibit the motivation or creativity of those developing intercalated degrees.

Definitions

For the purpose of this document, intercalation is defined as “the pausing of the MB ChB programme to complete another one year degree at Buckingham, before returning to the MB ChB programme.”

Contents

Purpose	2
Definitions.....	2
Purpose of Intercalation	4
Timing of intercalation.....	4
Who can intercalate?	4
Applying for intercalation	5
Document Control.....	5

Purpose of Intercalation

An intercalated degree is an opportunity to learn more about a particular topic, to develop transferable skills and/or participate in a more in-depth research project than previously available as part of a medical degree.

Experience of the research environment and heightened research skills are desirable for students who wish to pursue a career that involves research. This could be as part of a dedicated speciality training programme, applications to the academic foundation programme, or a career as a clinical academic.

Completion of an intercalated degree may also help with speciality training applications. Research experience and presence of publications is considered within many of the competitive speciality training programmes. Applications often ask about research and publication experience and intercalation is an opportunity to provide some specific and individualised answers to these 'white box' questions.

Timing of intercalation

The MB ChB course at the University of Buckingham Medical School runs from January for 4.5 years. Phase 1 ends after 2 years, and then full-time clinical education based at various LEPs begins.

Due to the difference in the Buckingham timetable to other UK medical schools, enrolling on intercalated degrees at other providers involves the pausing of studies during clinical education or missing multiple years of the MB ChB. This is not typically permitted, as pausing clinical education is an issue for the continued learning and rotation nature of the blocks in Phase 2 and can lead to detriment for the individual student due to a lack of capacity for revision and catching up from the blocks prior to intercalation.

The ideal time to intercalate and pause the University of Buckingham MB ChB studies would be between Phase 1 and Phase 2. To match the desire for Buckingham Medical students to intercalate and the optimum time to pause studies to complete these additional degrees, intercalation options need to run from January to January. Courses at Buckingham, whereby a January start to a degree to normal, are therefore ideal options for medical students.

Students will normally be introduced to the options for intercalation and should make applications for these courses during term 4 and term 5 of year 2 of the MB ChB.

Who can intercalate?

Intercalation is an additional year of study in a different discipline and pauses academic progress in the MB ChB, therefore it is not a suitable option for all students. The Medical school will permit students to pause their studies and pursue an intercalated degree, assuming they meet the following criteria:

- At the time of application, students must have already met a satisfactory level in all assessments and show no evidence of any disruption to their academic performance.

-
- Students can also only be eligible for intercalation if they have no outstanding concerns about their academic or professional behaviours.
 - Fees for the MB ChB are up to date.

Applying for intercalation

Medical students should apply for intercalation by completing the application form for the desired course. A list of currently available courses can be given by the Phase 1 Lead.

The application information required for each course may be different but will likely include evidence of assessment performance and a statement of support from the Medical School.

Requests for transcripts and a statement of support should be sent to FMHS-quality@buckingham.ac.uk

Document Control

Date policy approved: January 2025

Date of policy review approval: n/a

Date of next policy review: Academic year 2025/2026