

Consolidated Checklist for Module Handbooks

1. Module Identification

- MD2001 Foundations of Medicine 1
- First semester 2026-27
- 60 Credits
- If you are applying for any of the undergraduate programmes within the School of Medicine, you will need to meet a number of entry requirements, including achieving particular academic grades and taking the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT).

Full details of the entry requirements can be found on the school of medicine website: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/medicine/entry-requirements/>

2. Module Overview

- The first semester module, Foundations of Medicine 1 (MD2001), is a broad overview of the structure, function and behaviour of living cells and how they interact to form tissues, organs and systems within the human body.
- This module introduces the fundamental principles of molecular and cellular medicine, alongside key aspects of medical ethics and communication skills. The module also provides an anatomical overview of the major body systems, including dissection of the back, and offers opportunities for students to engage with volunteer patients living with chronic health conditions within the Medical School environment.
- The strands within this module are:
 1. Cellular and molecular medicine – e.g. biochemistry
 2. Structure – e.g. clinical and normal anatomy
 3. Function – e.g. physiology and pharmacology
 4. Mechanisms of disease – e.g. pathophysiology and microbiology
 5. Practice of medicine – e.g. ethics, Public health, research skills
 6. Clinical medicine – e.g. clinical skill communication skills, professionalism
- Our aim in the first turn of the curriculum spiral is to establish a link between existing knowledge, skills and attitudes, and help students to become independent lifelong learners, able to meet the professional challenges of doctors in training

- Learning outcomes for this Module are that by the end of the module a student should be able to:
 - Describe the basic structure and normal function of all the major body systems
 - Describe the basic cellular and molecular functions of discrete tissue types and cellular components
 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how to undertake a range of clinical and communication skills (e.g. gathering information, handwashing, basic life support, blood pressure)
 - Discuss the fundamentals of good clinical practice (e.g. regulatory frameworks, professionalism, medical ethics, evidence-based medicine)
 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of dissection instruments and techniques to complement the concepts of anatomy
 - Describe the various immunological responses the body mounts against discrete pathogenic infections
- Transferable skills from this module are a grounding in the fundamental structure and function of the human body that will inform their future modules within the school and clinical practice afterwards. Skills from clinical examination and communication practice will be used to interact with patient within medical school and beyond.

3. Teaching delivery

- The teaching formats used in this module are primarily in-person. These take the forms of lectures, small group tutorials, clinical and communication skills sessions. There are also practical classes in Physiology, microbiology and anatomy by dissection.
- There are also occasional online or recorded lectures these are exceptions and not the norm
- Guided studies and recommended reading are also used to guide self-directed learning
- Class time and locations are found on the school's in house VLE "Galen"
 - <https://galen.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

- Key dates:
 - Week 6 (w/c 19st October) is independent learning week; no classes are scheduled and it is an opportunity to prepare for assessment.
 - Wednesday 28th October: Mid-Semester Assessment. In person in the school
 - W/C 23rd November: final week of teaching
 - W/C 30th November: revision week
 - End of Semester Assessment during the University diet: 5th to the 21st of December (exact dates released in October. Again, in person and in the School).

5. Assessment structure and information

- All modules contain both formative (practice) opportunities and compulsory summative (contributing to module grade) assessments.
- Assessments sample the breadth and depth of knowledge, along with application of knowledge to novel problems. Summative assessments are blueprinted to assess content proportionately to represent the taught curriculum and are not intended to test every learning outcome of a module.
- Semester 1 summative assessment methods include:
 - Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)
 - Short Written Answer Questions (SWAs)
 - Anatomy Practical Exam (APE)
- The mid-semester assessment (MSA) will consist of 60 MCQs (1 h 12 min) and contribute 25% of the module mark. The end semester assessment (ESA) will be composed of two separate knowledge papers: one paper will contain SWAs (1 h 50 min); one paper will contain 60 MCQs (1 h 12 min) and there will be an APE where anatomy knowledge may be assessed using cadaveric material, models or images (10 min). The total number of marks for the ESA is 180 marks (60 for MCQs and 120 for SWA/APE) and will contribute 75% of the module mark.
- The final module mark will therefore be determined from a total of 240 marks based on the above MSA/ESA weightings.
- There will be formative assessments which do not count towards the module grade but enable students to consolidate learning and practice the summative

assessment methods. Formative assessments help students monitor progress, ability to apply knowledge and can help identify areas of weakness.

- There will be formative knowledge assessment opportunities ahead of both the MSA and ESA. In December, there will also be a formative Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), enabling practice of clinical and communication skills. Attendance at this OSCE is compulsory and any absence must be self-certified. Appropriate evidence will be required to verify the reason for any absence. This OSCE will help prepare you for the summative OSCE that will take place at the end of semester 2.
- Assessment of professionalism via the portfolio will be continuous across both semester 1 and 2. Failure to complete more than two portfolio components satisfactorily by the end of semester 2 will result in a formal portfolio assessment and remediation, to successfully complete MD2002 (see MD2002 module handbook for more details).
- Assessment related information and policies can be found on this page of the MedHandbook: https://medhandbook.st-andrews.ac.uk/assessment-information-for-ug-students/?asl_highlight=assessment&p_asid=1

6. Reading and Resources

- The main texts used in the module are all available as E-textbooks found here: <https://libguides.st-andrews.ac.uk/medicine/ebooks> . The university library does also stock a limited number of each as well.

7. Attendance

- Attendance is compulsory at all practical classes, workshops and tutorials – including online sessions.
- Lectures are not compulsory but attendance is highly recommended
- Consequences for non-attendance:
 - Three days of non-attendance in the first semester will result in an invitation to meet the module controllers for a supportive meeting to check how you are doing and help you with a plan to catch up.
 - Students who accumulate 8 days absence within a Semester will be issued with a University Academic Alert explaining the Senate Regulations. Students who do not respond to any Academic Alert issued

by the Director of Teaching within 4 days of receipt will be referred to the Professionalism and Welfare Committee.

- Students who accumulate 10 non-consecutive days absence within a Semester will be called to an interview with the Director of Teaching and a Module Controller/Year Lead and advised they may receive a special coding (0X for BSc) for that module.
- Any student who has been absent from a module for more than two consecutive weeks or more than 10 consecutive teaching days, or a total of 15 non-consecutive teaching days shall not be permitted to continue in that module, save in exceptional circumstances and with the consent of the Dean of the Faculty
- In all circumstances of absence, students must, within three days, complete an online Self-Certificate of Absence for all absences via MYSaint
<https://mysaint.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

8. Policies

- Extensions and late penalties
- Over-length penalties
- Generative AI usage policy
- Inclusive curriculum statement
- Grade descriptors and reporting scale
- Academic misconduct/good academic practice

9. Support and Contacts

- Module coordinators for MD2001 (md2001@st-andrews.ac.uk) :
 - Dr. Sandhya Duggal (sd311@st-andrews.ac.uk)
 - Module coordinator
 - Lecturer in Medical Sociology and Communication Skills
 - Mr Fraser Chisholm (fcc2@st-andrews.ac.uk)
 - Deputy module coordinator
 - Anatomy Teacher
- School administrative office
 - Medteaching@st-andrews.ac.uk

- Wellbeing officer:
 - medwellbeing@st-andrews.ac.uk

- International Education and Lifelong Learning Institute (IELLI)
 - Academic skills, support for learning, mentoring, coaching
 - <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/>

- Links to University Student Handbook and relevant policies:
 - School of medicine handbook: <https://medhandbook.st-andrews.ac.uk/>
 - University advice and policies: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/>