

**The Academy of Clinical Science and
Laboratory Medicine**



**Pathways to Fellowship and Post Graduate
Qualifications Review**

Revision 3 Approved Council

January 2024



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1 Introduction

Fellowship of the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine (Academy) is offered to Scientists who have advanced knowledge of, and practice in, clinical science and laboratory medicine. Traditionally fellowship of the Academy has been offered to members of the Academy employed as Medical Scientists with approved post graduate qualifications and required experience in clinical laboratories.

The Academy recognises that the profession requires Scientists with skills in a broad range of clinical science specialisms, in keeping with developments in laboratory medicine. Consequently, the Academy also approves members with a wide range of post-graduate science qualifications for fellowship.

Fellowship of the Academy attests an academic standard and experiential learning in clinical science and laboratory medicine.

This document outlines the pathways whereby fellowship can be awarded. Council of the Academy is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association (Constitution). There are 3 pillars for fellowship: Qualification, Membership and Experience.

2 Constitution

Article 4(b) of the Academy constitution states:

Any applicant for admission as Fellow of the Academy shall hold:

- 1 a) A post graduate degree in the field of Medical Laboratory Science accredited or approved by the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine

and

Shall hold current membership of the Academy for a minimum of 12 months.
or

- 1 b) Shall be a fellow of an equivalent international professional body
- and



- 2 Shall have four years experience in the practice of Medical Laboratory Science acceptable to Council.

3 Qualification

The Academy accredits education programmes, on application, which meet the requirements laid down in its Course Validation Guidelines.

3.1 Accredited Masters Programmes 2023

- MSc Clinical Laboratory Science, Technological University Dublin
- MSc Clinical Chemistry, University of Dublin, Trinity College
- MSc Biomedical Science, University of Ulster
- MSc Biomedical Science, Munster Technological University / University College Cork
- MSc Molecular Pathology, Technological University Dublin / Dublin University

- MSc Medical Science, Atlantic Technological University

Note: Fellowship of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences by Examination is also accepted for fellowship (Awarded prior to 1999)

3.2 Approved Qualifications by Taught Masters

The Academy may approve qualifications from programmes, within or without the state, that have not applied for accreditation under certain conditions.

Programmes must be Science Master's degrees, with a laboratory-based project related to clinical laboratory practice. The Science Masters must have modular components related to the practice of clinical science and laboratory medicine. The candidates undertaking the Master's Programme must already fulfil the requirements for membership of the Academy.

Most Biomedical Science Master's degrees which have modules in the clinical laboratory disciplines of Clinical Chemistry/Biochemistry, Cellular Pathology/Clinical Cytology, Haematology, Medical/Clinical Microbiology, Clinical Immunology and Transfusion and Transplantation Science will meet the academic requirements of the Academy for the award of fellowship.

3.2.1 Requirements for Taught Master's Programmes

Taught Master's Programmes must include the following four components:

1. **Biomedical Sciences – minimum of 10 ECTS (NQF Level 9)** in subjects relating to Biomedical disciplines in Human Pathology. These include:
 - Clinical Chemistry/Medical Biochemistry
 - POCT/Endocrinology/Toxicology
 - Cellular Pathology/Clinical Cytology/Neuropathology
 - Haematology/Haemostasis/Molecular Haematology
 - Medical Microbiology/Clinical Microbiology
 - Medical Virology/Clinical Virology/Parasitology



- Transfusion Science/Transplantation Science/Stem Cell Transplantation
 - Clinical Immunology/ Immunopathology
 - Medical Genetics/Medical Cytogenetics
2. **Research Methods/Biostatistics Module.**
Taught Master's Programmes must include a module which addresses Research Methods and Biostatistics
3. **Core Biological and Allied Sciences - minimum of 10 ECTS (NQF Level 9)** of core sciences, such as:
- Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Genetics
 - Immunology, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics
 - Microbiology, Molecular Diagnostics, Virology
 - Biology of Disease, Global and Public health, Epidemiology
 - Disease Surveillance
 - Quality Management, Legislation/Regulation
 - Healthcare Management
 - Forensic Science
 - Health/Safety, Infection management
 - IVD Product Development and Innovation
 - Reproductive Medicine, Embryology
 - Health information systems / Healthcare Informatics
 - Bioethics
 - Haemovigilance
4. **Laboratory-based Research project – minimum of 20 ECTS**
The research project must be a laboratory-practice based analysis and must include a literature review, and a full detailing of methods, results, statistics and conclusions.
Dissertations which are literature reviews will not be accepted *in lieu* of a laboratory-based research project.
If the applicant has not completed a laboratory-practice based project, the applicant must submit a peer reviewed laboratory practice based research paper, on which they are lead author, **in addition** to the MSc dissertation.

Note: To reflect the changing roles of medical scientists projects based on quality assurance, audits, disease surveillance, haemovigilance, POCT, bioinformatics and or epidemiology will be acceptable, provided that they are practice-based.



3.3 Fellowship of the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) by Examination or Thesis.

The applicant must have been awarded FIBMS by virtue of an examination set by the IBMS up to 19XX or have submitted a thesis to the IBMS as the awarding body up to 19XX.

3.4 Post Graduate Qualification by Research MSc and PhD

The entire thesis must be submitted for assessment.

The post-graduate research qualification to MSc or PhD will be evaluated under the following criteria:

- The qualification must have been passed by an accredited National or International University or Technological University.
- The NQF level equivalent of the qualification must be level 9 or 10 [for International qualifications].
- The thesis must have relevance to the field of clinical science and laboratory medicine.
- The research thesis must be a laboratory-practice based analysis and must include a literature review, and a full detailing of methods, results, statistics and conclusions.

4 Post Graduate Qualifications Review

Scientists with postgraduate qualifications that are not accredited by the Academy may apply to have their postgraduate qualifications reviewed for eligibility for promotional medical scientist posts. This review process is open to both members and non-members of the Academy. Applicants for the postgraduate qualification review process should apply using the Postgraduate Qualification Review Form.

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- The research thesis must be a laboratory-practice based analysis and must include a literature review, and a full detailing of methods, results, statistics and conclusions.

5 Membership of the Academy

The Academy awards fellowship to its members who are current members for a minimum of 12 months.

Candidates from other jurisdictions must have an acceptable post-graduate qualification and be registered to practise as a Medical Scientist or equivalent for a minimum of two years AND fellowship of the professional body in their jurisdiction for a minimum period of 12 months.

6 Experience

Fellowship of the Academy implies advanced skill and competence in a clinical laboratory. This would normally be achieved through working as a scientist in a clinical laboratory in for a minimum of four years.

Candidates from other jurisdictions should provide evidence of a scope of practice equivalent to that of a Medical Scientist in Ireland.



7 Fees

Fees are set for review of portfolio submitted for Fellowship as follows:

- Current member of the Academy holding:
 - Masters accredited by the Academy €0
 - All other qualifications €100

- Candidates without current Academy membership €200

Fees are set for review of portfolio submitted for Post Graduate Qualification Review as follows:

- Current member of the Academy holding: €0

- Candidates without current Academy membership €200