Dear **Year 3 Biomedical Science Student**

As a Year 3 Biomedical Science student allocated to a medical BSc this academic year, please be aware that we are introducing a **new procedure that will require you to undergo health clearance and possible vaccination(s) if you chose and are allocated to certain BSc projects** offered in your BSc course in the Faculty of Medicine.

Some of the projects offered in the medical BSc courses may involve one or more of the following:

* **Contact with patients**
* **Handling of human blood, serum and/or unfixed human tissue**
* **Work with certain pathogens, generally considered to present risk to humans**
* **Work with genetically modified organisms and/or tissue, etc. that may generally be considered to present risk to humans**

Whilst you will be allowed to choose such a project, if you do so and are allocated to it you will have to be cleared by Occupational Health before you can start work. Please note that the projects in question will be flagged to alert you that prior health clearance will be required.

The clearance will involve the following:

* **Completion and submission of the relevant form to Occupational Health** (Please note that different forms cover different conditions of those listed above; each form can be downloaded from the relevant link in the table below and from the teaching intranet : Year 4 - Modules 4-5 - Year 3 Biomedical Science students: BSc Projects); Please note that you will need access to your previous immunisation and general health record for the completion of the form(s). I suggest you get hold of this information now so that when you are notified of your allocation to a BSc project title in your course you can complete and submit the relevant form quickly.
* **Attendance of an appointment with Occupational Health**: Based on the information in the form you submit to Occupational Health, you may be asked to attend an appointment where your health status will be checked and appropriate vaccination(s) will be administered. Please note that the appointment will be compulsory; without clearance for your project by Occupational Health, you will not be allowed to start the project and as a result may have to be allocated to another project (because this will happen after the official allocation of all students in the course, you may find that the choice of project titles available to you at that point in time has become very limited).
* **Once you have been cleared, your supervisor and FEO will receive a notification from Occupational Health and you will be allowed to start your BSc Project.**

I must underline the importance of your obtaining clearance for your BSc project in advance of its start date in February 2013. If you fail to do so, you will be re-allocated to a project that does not require additional health clearance for Biomedical Science students.

**Please note that *it is your responsibility to contact Occupational Health* with completed form(s) relevant for the project you have chosen. Occupation Health will then notify you of the necessary arrangements, which you must follow.**

The reason why you are asked to do the above is that, unlike the medical students in your BSc course who have to meet these preconditions before entering Year 1, Biomedical Science students do not have to meet these preconditions at the beginning of the 3-year Biomedical Science BSc.

Some Year 3 Biomedical Science students have already been through a health clearance process for Part B of their BSc course. If you are one of them, please note that the clearance you received will be valid only for some but not all of the project conditions listed above; please check the table below for more details.

If you have any questions regarding the project health clearance procedure, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr Griffin Ryder ([g.ryder@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:g.ryder@imperial.ac.uk)).

Regards,

Antony

Antony Aleksiev, PhD

Curriculum Administrator (BSc)

Faculty Education Office (Medicine), Imperial College London, Hammersmith campus

Wolfson Education Centre, Room105, Du Cane Road, London W12 0NN

Tel: 020 8383 1071

[a.aleksiev@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.aleksiev@imperial.ac.uk)

[www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine)

The health clearance by Occupational Health will involve the following:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hazard | Requirement | Clinic attendance | Comment |
| Work with live animals | Enrol for Lab animal allergy health surveillance with College OH Service | YES | Detail & questionnaire at [Health Surveillance](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/occhealth/guidanceandadvice/healthsurveillance) |
| Work with patients | Clinical Health clearance | YES | Students previously cleared for Part B do not need to re-submit form; Previous clearance will still be valid. |
| Handling of blood, serum or unfixed tissue | Complete & submit a Biological Agents Health Questionnaire Complete Hepatitis B vaccination | MAYBE | Detail and questionnaire at [Work with Pathogens](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/occhealth/guidanceandadvice/healthsurveillance/workwithpathogens).  Once Questionnaire received, OH will contact the student to make a clinic appointment if a relevant health problem declared on the form or vaccination needed, before clearing them.  Clearance is notified to the person named as Principal Investigator on the questionnaire.  \*If the handling of blood is in a clinical context, e.g. collecting blood samples on the ward, then Hepatitis B vaccination will apply only. |
| Deliberate work with a Group 2 or 3 Human pathogen | Complete & submit a Biological Agents Health Questionnaire Attend for vaccination if advised | MAYBE | As above |
| Deliberate work with a class 2 or higher genetically modified organism | As above | MAYBE | As above |