

UG STUDENT ABSENCE POLICY
2025 / 2026 VERSION

DEFINITIONS

1. **Absence.** The School defines absences as per the [University Policy](#). Elements which are compulsory will include small group teaching, placements, sessions in the dissection room, plenary and other teaching sessions. Where a student has multiple compulsory elements on the same day this is considered one day's absence.
2. **Term time.** Term time is the period within which teaching, revision or examinations may be scheduled for the whole cohort. Students are expected to be available for the entire semester as listed in the University calendar (for BSc students) and MBChB Programme Guides (for ScotCOM and ScotGEM students).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

3. In all circumstances students must complete an online Self-Certificate of Absence for all absences via [e-Vision](#)
4. If you miss an element the expectation is that you will arrange to catch up on any material you have missed. In some circumstances, it may be possible to attend this element on another date. The student is responsible for asking the appropriate staff member about rearranging attendance. Completion of a Self-Certificate form does not exempt a student from fulfilling compulsory elements of a module.
5. Students are responsible for ensuring they sign themselves into compulsory classes. Students who do not sign in will be considered absent. Such an absence may contribute to absence totals for the Semester.

SELF-CERTIFICATES

6. Specific requirements:
 - a. All absences must be self-certified as soon as practical. The normal submission deadline is within 3 working days of the absence. Once the self-certificate has been submitted the absence will be marked as reviewed.
 - b. Students should use the free text box, not the drop down menu, to describe the conditions associated with the absence. As this text box can be read by a number of staff with permission to see student absences any student with a serious or confidential health concern should enter 'confidential health issue – will discuss with a member of the Medicine Support team' in the free text box.
 - c. Students must complete a self-certificate truthfully and accurately and accept that lying in such submissions will be viewed as fraudulent and may be a Fitness to Practise concern.
 - d. Any absence from any clinical element of the course should be reported in advance of the transport leaving for that session (medclinical@), or if no transport is involved, in advance of the start of the session. Failure to do so will result in a professionalism notice being issued along with being marked as absent. For MBChB (ScotGEM) students you should also inform your GCM. For MBChB students, you should also inform your relevant hub/placement block contact.
 - e. If a planned or unavoidable absence¹ is predicted then the student should alert the relevant module controller/year lead or placement coordinator as applicable prior to the event and explain the reason for the absence. The student must also submit the self-certificate. Where feasible the student must then make arrangements to take the missed activity at

¹ For example; health appointments, participation in official University competitions, funerals, job or course interviews etc
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another time. .

f. Documentary evidence may be required. The School will indicate to the student when further evidence² is required in addition to existing self-certification.

7. **Self-Certificated Absences.** The reason cited in the self-certificate will be monitored. The School will intervene supportively when patterns of absence raise concern. You must engage with any interventions (eg attend related meetings, [reply promptly to related emails](#)) otherwise this may become a professionalism issue.

8. **Non Self-certified Absences.** If a student does not complete a self-certificate within the specified timescale they will be emailed a Galen or Solas reminder, depending on which course they are on. If they do not submit a self-certificate 3 days after the reminder, the absence will be not be concluded and **further reminders will be sent until this task has been completed.** Students with unconcluded absences may be reviewed by the Professionalism and Welfare Committee.

IMPLICATIONS OF ABSENCE

9. The implications include:

a. Students may be referred to the Medicine Student Support Team or their personal tutor if their absence or self-certification is on medical or personal grounds.

b. MD2001 students who accumulate 3 days absence within the Semester will be invited to a supportive meeting with Module Controllers. All other UG students (incl MD2002) who accumulate 3 days absence within a Semester will be emailed advising they are nearing the interview threshold.

c. All UG students who accumulate 5 days absence within a Semester will be invited to a supportive meeting with the Module Controllers/Year Lead. The supportive meeting should concentrate on the academic consequences of missing classes. If pastoral support is required there should be onward referral to Medsupport/Student Services.

d. Patterns which cause concern, eg repeated unconcluded absences, patterns of absence from similar elements, may be referred to the School Welfare and Professionalism Committee, Programme Director or Medsupport Team.

e. As per [University of St Andrews Senate Regulations](#), no 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 be permitted to continue in that module, save in exceptional circumstances and with the consent of the Dean of the Faculty. Year long modules are considered to have two attendance periods: the start of teaching to 31st December and 1st January to the end of the assessment period.

f. Students who accumulate 8 days absence within a Semester will be issued with a [University Academic Alert](#) explaining the Senate Regulations in point e. 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.

g. 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.

h. For BSc students, incomplete attendance in MD4003 (<80% including clinical placements) may result in referral to the School Academic Progress Committee for

² For example; medical evidence from a doctor who is not related to the student, a memo from Student Services, a note from the police or evidence from a member of staff who was alerted to the circumstances at the time.

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consideration of awarding of a 0X for that module. Students will be issued with a University Academic Alert after their first absence in MD4003.

i. For BSc students, the number of absences per academic year, but not the reasons for absence, will be passed to the partner medical schools on graduation.

j. MD4006 attendance: all placement days are considered compulsory elements. Students must attend a minimum of $\geq 80\%$ of placements (5 placement days) to successfully complete the module. Additional placement opportunities, if there is justified absence, will be put in place within third year (MD4001) to ensure students reach a minimum of 5 placement days in total. These are in addition to the hospital placements that you will be allocated in MD4001. If you do not make up these days, you will be awarded 0X and not be able to gain your BSc (Hons).

ROLES

10. **Module Controllers/Year Leads.** All Module Controllers/Year Leads will have access to the student self-certificates through MySaint and access to module compulsory elements registers of attendance through Galen/Solas. The Curriculum Support Group will monitor absences from compulsory activities for all modules and may refer students to their Personal Tutor, Module Controller or Medsupport team if the reason cited warrants referral. This will be done on a weekly basis. The Curriculum Support Group or Module Controllers/Year Leads can remove an absence on Galen/Solas if there has been a mistake.

11. Medsupport team

a. The Medsupport team will monitor academic alerts to identify students who may require additional support. Medsupport can also discuss leave of absence with students who require an interruption to their studies for personal or health reasons. If a student has been absent for more than 15 days **after the end of week 9** this would result in a 0X. Depending on the reasons for absences would determine whether referral to Occupational Health would be required.

b. The Medsupport team will meet with students who are referred by Module Controllers/Year Leads or Student Services and use discretion in exploring these absences.

12. **All staff.** Staff may choose whether to complete this attendance function online at the time or later with referral to the attendance sheets. Absence should be recorded on Galen/Solas within 24 hours of the activity taking place. Paper attendance sheets should be retained for a semester as proof of signature may be relevant in any disciplinary hearings.

Author:	School Manager (dcm10)	Approval Committee:	
Consultees:			
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Version Control Record *(expand table as required)*

Date	Revision Description	Major Changes
27/07/2017	Published version	
19/04/18	Amended categorisation	
07/01/22	Item 9 updated with trial threshold for 2021/22 Semester 2	
28/06/22	Item 9 updated with meeting threshold and academic alerts	
10/04/23	Updated for 2023/24	
07/06/24	Updated for 2024/25 publication	
25/07/25	Items 6, 9 and 11 updated to reflect policy and process	