

### **Case study six: Overseas students studying in the UK**

Several students from a Middle Eastern country would like to study medical science, including core subjects such as microbiology or toxicology, in the UK.

The core elements of the course are capable of misuse in a chemical and biological weapons programme.

The subject matter of a medical science degree course is likely to be in the 'public domain'. Therefore the transfer of such 'technology' would be exempt from these controls. The course tutor need not seek an export licence.

A licence may be required if the students undertake more advanced research projects or practical study of pathogens or toxins, when using information or data not normally in the public domain.

A tutor must also apply for an export control licence on becoming aware or informed that the 'technology' being taught is intended for WMD purposes. Generalised concerns about WMD programmes is not normally sufficient justification.

Practical research in areas such as virology, bacteriology and toxicology fall under strict regulatory requirements in addition to export controls, such as health and safety legislation and the Anti-Terrorism Crime & Security Act 2001 (Part 6, Security of Pathogens).