

## **Additional Academic Regulations (COVID-19) 2020/21: March –October 2021**

The Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes enable the provision of Emergency Academic Regulations where the University, because of exceptional circumstances beyond its reasonable control, is unable to apply the Academic Regulations as approved for an academic year. These Emergency Academic Regulations, and the period for which they will apply, are approved by Academic Board.

These Additional Academic Regulations will apply to progression and award decisions at University Assessment Boards in March, June, July, August, September and October 2021. These Emergency Regulations for 2020/21, hereafter referred to as Additional Regulations, have been developed in response to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, and the impact on teaching, student support and assessment.

These Additional Academic Regulations set out the modifications to and/or general exceptions from the approved Academic Regulations (old and new Regulations, and relevant Procedures and Processes) which shall apply to all taught students. The Additional Academic Regulations are approved for a period of nine months in the first instance. The application of these regulations, or elements thereof, may extend beyond this time, as determined by Academic Board.

These regulations apply to all students on taught programmes. Requirements of Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) and Apprenticeships may oblige the University to apply these provisions in a modified way to meet external regulatory requirements.

The provisions set out in this document are intended to enable the University to continue to deliver teaching, learning and assessment and, as far as possible, enable students to progress through their programmes or achieve their intended award whilst preserving academic quality and standards.

The implementation of Additional Academic Regulations approved by Academic Board shall not constitute a failure to apply correctly the relevant approved Academic Regulations and shall therefore not of itself provide valid grounds for an academic appeal against a decision of an Assessment Board.

**The application of all decisions on award profiling, compensation and progression carrying failure may be constrained by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirements. Programme Leaders will discuss these provisions with the relevant PSRB and inform the Chair of the Board of any constraints to the application of the Regulations prior to the Board meeting.**

### **1. Assessment for Progression: Undergraduate study**

*(Change to Academic Regulations on Compensation/Condonement, Progression and Reassessment)*

*Note: Where these Additional Regulations use the term compensation, this extends to compensation (new regulations from September 2018) and condonement (applying to continuing students who elected to stay on the old regulations for the duration of their programme).*

#### Progression at Level 3 and Level 4

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, compensation limits will be extended from 40 to 60 credits and compensation may be applied where the mark achieved for the module is above 30% (normally 35%)

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, a student may exceptionally progress to Level 4 with up to 40 credits of outstanding assessment (due to deferred assessment) or reassessment where the UAB considers that combined with ongoing study, this presents a manageable workload and the student is adequately prepared for study at the next level. The remaining credits at Level 3 must be completed successfully before commencing any study at Level 5.

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, a student may exceptionally progress to Level 5 with up to 40 credits of outstanding assessment or reassessment where the UAB considers that combined with ongoing study, this presents a manageable workload and the student is adequately prepared for study at the next level. The remaining credits at Level 4 must be completed successfully before commencing any study at Level 6.

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, students may be permitted an additional reassessment opportunity (a second reassessment for those on Version 1 Regulations or a third reassessment for those on Version 2). Exhaustion of reassessment opportunities would then allow students on either Version 1 or Version 2 Regulations to apply to retake one or more modules, using the process in the Version 1 Regulations.

In the exceptional situation of student work having been submitted but, after exhausting all reasonable alternatives, marking of the work has not been completed, a student may progress to the next level. The above regulations will apply once the marking has been completed and the student may be required to retrieve failure(s) of assessment within the next level of study.

#### Progression at Level 5

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, compensation limits will be extended from 20 to 40 credits and compensation may be applied where the mark achieved for the module is above 30%.

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, a student may exceptionally progress to Level 6 with up to 40 credits of outstanding assessment (due to deferred assessment) or reassessment where the UAB considers that combined with ongoing study, this presents a manageable workload and the student is adequately prepared for study at the next level.

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, students may be permitted an additional reassessment opportunity (a second reassessment for those on Version 1 Regulations or a third reassessment for those on Version 2). Exhaustion of reassessment opportunities would then allow students on either Version 1 or Version 2 Regulations to apply to retake one or more modules, using the process in the Version 1 Regulations.

In the exceptional situation of student work having been submitted but, after exhausting all reasonable alternatives, marking of the work has not been completed, a student may progress to Level 6. The above regulations will apply once the marking has been completed and the student may be required to retrieve failure(s) of assessment within the next level of study.

#### Progression at Level 6

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, students may be permitted an additional reassessment opportunity (a second reassessment for those on Version 1 Regulations or a third reassessment for those on Version 2). Exhaustion of reassessment opportunities would then allow students on either Version 1 or Version 2 Regulations to apply to retake one or more modules, using the process in the Version 1 Regulations.

### Variation to Regulation

Normal compensation limits will apply at Level 6. In a variation to the Academic Regulations, compensation may be applied where the mark achieved for the module is above 30%.

## **2. Assessment for Award: Undergraduate study**

### **Undergraduate Degree Classification**

(Change to Academic Regulations on Degree Classifications H3.6.3):

#### **For students graduating in 2020/21 with Bachelor degrees (other than top-ups):**

The better of two profiles:

- A. A profile comprising 30% weighting from the better profile for Level 5 credit created under the 2019/20 Emergency Regulations and 70% weighting from Level 6 credits. In this profile the marks for the 20 lowest credits at Level 5 or 6 are discounted as usual and additionally the marks for the lowest 20 remaining Level 6 credits are discounted.

OR

- B. The mean mark for the best 100 Level 6 credits.

#### **For students graduating in 2020/21 with HND/C awards, Target DipHEs (where classified) and Foundation degrees:**

The better of two profiles:

- A. A profile comprising 30% weighting from the better profile for Level 4 credit created under the 2019/20 Emergency Regulations and 70% weighting from Level 5 credits. In this profile the marks for the 20 lowest credits at Level 4 or 5 are discounted as usual and additionally the marks for the lowest 20 remaining Level 5 credits are discounted.

OR

- B. The mean mark for the best 100 Level 5 credits.

#### **For students graduating in 2020/21 with Bachelor's degrees achieved by Top-Up (one year) study:**

The mean mark of the 100 best credits from all modules achieved (note that the existing method of classification is the mean mark of all 120 credits achieved).

The methods above are articulated on the basis of full-time students. For part-time students, the calculation will use the same methods of treating credit subject to disruption in 2019/20 and 2020/21, pro-rata for the total credit achieved by the student in the relevant year.

Students may have taken Year-long modules in 2019/20 and found that part of one or more modules has been disrupted in the January-June 2020 period. In this case, the Board will apply the two methods of calculation

above, creating the (b) profile by using an aggregate of the summative assessment marks on the year-long module(s) achieved before 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2020 and excluding summative marks achieved after 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020.

Students graduating in later years with profiles including credit from the period January – June 2020, where that credit is included in the normal method of classification for the award, will have the same opportunity to have that credit discounted in profiling if its inclusion disadvantages the student.

Assessment Boards will give due consideration to the long-term best interests of the student in applying award decisions.

### 3. Postgraduate (Level 7) Progression and Award

In a variation to the Academic Regulations, failed credit may be considered for compensation with a minimum module mark of 40%.

The existing limit of credit that may be compensated for each award will be extended as follows:

Postgraduate Certificate	20 credits may be compensated (no compensation normally allowed)
Postgraduate Diploma	40 credits may be compensated (up to 20 credits normally allowed)
Masters (inc MBA & LLM)	40 credits may be compensated (up to 20 credits normally allowed)

Note: the limits are for the whole award and not for stage of study, on the basis of the target award for which the student is registered at the time compensation is considered. A student who transfers from PGC to MSc, for example, may only be awarded MSc on the basis of a maximum of 40 compensated credits irrespective of whether modules were compensated before or after the transfer to the longer award.

#### Classification of Masters Degrees

In a variation to the Academic Regulations final profiles for Masters students will be calculated in the following ways:

#### **For Full-time students graduating in 2020/21 with Masters Degrees:**

The mean of all the contributing modules, discounting the mark for the lowest 30 taught credits (which must not include the Dissertation or final project module). The standard requirement for award of Distinction in relation to the dissertation mark continues to apply (note that the existing method of classification is the mean of all the contributing modules).

#### **For Part-time students graduating in 2020/21 with Masters Degrees:**

The mean of all the contributing modules excluding any taught modules in January – June 2020, and discounting the lowest 30 credits studied in 2020/21 (which must not include the Dissertation or final project module). The standard requirement for award of Distinction in relation to the dissertation mark continues to apply (note that the existing method of classification is the mean of all the contributing modules).