

SHORT SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2026/27 (v.2)

Area of Focus	Summary of change				
REGULATION CHANGES					
Award Classification Changes (coming into effect for awards issued from October 2028 onwards) *	Awards issued from October 2028 onwards will be calculated using the mean of the marks for all contributing modules. There will be no discounting of the weakest 20 credits after this time.				
	From October 2028, boundaries for award classifications will change as follows:				
	Percentage	Foundation Degree / Target DipHE / Grad Diploma	Honours Degree	Masters Degree	HND/HNC
	69.50%+ Will change to 70%+	Distinction	First	Distinction	Distinction
	59.50-69.49% Will change to 60 - 69.99%	Merit	Upper Second	Merit	Merit
	49.50-59.49% Will change to 50 - 59.99%	Pass	Lower Second	Pass	Pass
	39.50-49.49% Will change to 40 - 49.99%	Pass	Third	Fail	Pass
Attendance Monitoring *	Section D.5 has been updated to refer to the new Attendance and Academic Engagement Policy. (Separate staff and student communications on the detail of the new Policy have been implemented.)				

Registration *	The following new statement has been added to Regulation D1.1 (which sets out the requirement for continuing students to re-register annually): <i>“Failure to complete re-registration within 21 days of commencement of delivery in the academic year may result in the imposition of restricted access to IT and other University systems, and could ultimately result in termination from programme.”</i>
Maximum Registration Periods (D3)	The standard registration periods and maximum registration periods contained within the regulations have been reviewed and standardised. The detail of standard and registration periods for all academic awards can be found in Section D3 of the regulations.
Award of credit at Level 3 vs actual award	From September 2027, students who exit after successfully completing the first year of an integrated foundation degree will be issued a transcript of credits showing their academic achievement at Level 3. They will not be issued an academic award of Foundation Certificate. This change will see Row 14 removed from Table C1.3 (Table of credit requirements for higher education awards) from 2027/28.
Progression to the sandwich placement year	A ‘progression’ requirement has been approved, setting our requirements for students to be able to move onto the sandwich placement year. This will come into effect for new sandwich degree students from September 2027.
Intercalation	The term ‘intercalation’, which is used to describe an agreed interruption of study, will be replaced with ‘Break in Learning’ to provide clearer language and aligning terminology across apprenticeship and non-apprenticeship programmes.
Reassessment Regulations	At present, when a student fails their first assessment and their reassessment, they are able to re-register to retake the module they have failed the assessment in. From 2026/27 this is to be replaced by a 2nd reassessment opportunity. This change is considered to be in students’ best interests as: ➤ There is no charge for the 2nd reassessment opportunity (retake modules incur a fee where the student has to step off programme to retake)

	➤ It provides an opportunity for students to retrieve their assessment failure more quickly, increasing students' likelihood of progression with their cohort. ➤ Linked to the above, it means that students are more likely to complete in the planned period of study, with financial advantages (not having to step off the substantive programme to retake a module and rejoin a year later, and graduating and securing graduate employment sooner). A failure in the 2nd reassessment will result in a Confirmed Failure and any student in this position would be withdrawn from the programme for academic failure. (The provision of a retake module will be preserved for occasional use in when approved by the assessment board.) Whilst regulation changes normally come into effect for the next academic year, this change will come into effect for assessment boards operating in June-September 2026 (the University's main assessment boards period). This means that any student whose academic results are presented to a University Progression and Award Board in this period will have the new regulations applied i.e. if a student has failed their reassessment, they will be offered a 2nd reassessment opportunity and not a retake module. However, students in this position will be advised in their formal board outcomes that if they would rather have a module retake in place of the 2nd reassessment, this may do so. This optionality will only be offered to students whose profiles are going to board June-September 2026, recognising that this is an in-year change which we feel to be in students' best interests. The new regulation will apply to all students from 2026/27 i.e. all assessment submitted (or taking place) on or after 1 August 2026 will be under the new regulations. Section F8 of the regulations provides the detail. Note: A number of programmes are, by virtue of operating under the regulatory requirements of their professional body, already operate the 2nd reassessment (where the retake module option is not permitted by the PSRB). So not every student will feel affected by this change. Academic teams operating in this context should ensure that their students understand that they are not affected by this change.
Exam arrangements (F7.1)	This section of the regulations has been changed to clarify that this applies to unseen examinations, and not to 'seen' / open book examinations.

Collaborative Provision B6	Changes to the Collaborative Provision section of the Academic Regulations have been approved to align to changes to Collaborative Provision arrangements within the University.
Readmittance following confirmed failure (G4)	Whilst it is implicit within existing regulations that students whose registration has been terminated due to academic failure should not be readmitted to the programme, this has been made clearer. Sections E2.5 and G3.4-G4.5 provide full details.
Housekeeping throughout (Regulations and P&P)	Housekeeping changes (no changes of principle) have been made, including changes Institutes to Faculties from 2026/27.
PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES	
Appendix 3b Marking and Moderation and Appendix 3f Conduct and Operation of Assessment Boards	An administrative change has been made to clarify expectations of additional reports in specific circumstances e.g. high fail rate reports.
Appendix 3d Malpractice Procedures	Malpractice procedures have been updated to ensure that outcomes can only be referred into Fitness to Practice processes (where there are PSRB implications), and not into Disciplinary Procedures (double jeopardy). Additionally a statement has been added to clarify that that Malpractice Panels are not working to legal basis of proof but work on the premise that decisions are made on the balance of probability. has been added, in line with sector practise.
Appendix 4 External Examiner Procedures and Processes	An administrative change has been made to enable Chief External Examiners to be appointed externally, as well as from the University's pool of Subject EEs.

** These changes were approved by Academic Board in June 2026*