10. Taught Postgraduate Programmes: Schemes of Study, Assessment and Award

Introduction

10.1 These regulations apply to the schemes of study, assessment and award of the following postgraduate qualifications: MA, MSc, LLM, MBA, M Res, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate. Separate regulations apply to the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

10.2 Each programme of study and assessment will have an approved programme specification which will include information on the following aspects of the programme:
   a) approved modes of study
   b) the normal and maximum periods of registration for each mode
   c) details of compulsory and optional modules
   d) details of any formal progression points
   e) titles of any intermediate awards available

10.3 Any variations to the provision set out in these regulations and any additional regulations will be approved by Senate and detailed in the relevant programme specification.

10.4 Programmes of study offered under these regulations will comprise taught modules and a dissertation or research project totalling 180 credits. Where 0-credit modules have been approved as part of a programme these will be detailed in the relevant programme specification.

10.5 Not all modules approved as part of a programme will necessarily be available every year.

10.6 Taught campus-based programmes usually begin at the start of the Autumn term unless otherwise stated in programme specifications.

10.7 For the purposes of progression and recommendation for an award the pass mark for programmes offered under these regulations is 50%.

10.8 Masters degrees offered under these regulations will include a dissertation or research project of 60 credits, unless otherwise approved.

10.9 All programmes will follow one of the schemes of assessment detailed in these regulations. The scheme of assessment followed will be specified in the relevant programme specification.

10.10 Departments are permitted to supplement the scheme of assessment followed by designating compulsory modules as 'necessary to pass', meaning that a mark of at least 50% must be achieved in the modules for the qualification to be awarded. Such modules should be clearly identified in programme specifications and handbooks.

10.11 In exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Academic Policy Committee modification of a scheme of assessment may be permissible where external accreditation requires it.

10.12 Where required by the relevant professional, statutory or regulatory body, Senate may approve procedures for the consideration of allegations of professional suitability and/or fitness to practise. The University may determine that a student found professionally
unsuitable and/or unfit to practise shall not be awarded a degree or other qualification, irrespective of their performance in assessments.

Progression Points

10.13 Formal progression points for individual programmes may be specified in the relevant programme specifications. A progression point defines the number of modules and level of attainment which a student must achieve in a specified time to progress to the next stage of their studies. The programme specification will specify whether, or in what circumstances, any periods of approved suspension may be taken into account when determining whether a student has completed the requirements at a particular progression point.

10.14 At each formal progression point the department will review the progress of each student and determine whether they have met the requirements to progress to the next stage of the programme. In cases where a student has failed to meet the requirements to progress the department will determine that the student will be required to withdraw from the University and will make a recommendation to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

The award of Masters Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Certificates

10.15 The appropriate degree, postgraduate diploma or postgraduate certificate will be awarded to students who have completed the relevant course in full and satisfied the examiners in the prescribed examinations and assessment.

Classification Conventions

10.16 Distinction: To be awarded a distinction, a student will have achieved the specific learning outcomes of the programme to an excellent or very high standard, displayed a very high command of the subject and technical and analytical skills and demonstrated independence of thinking and excellent research potential.

10.17 Merit: To be awarded a pass with merit, a student will have achieved the specific learning outcomes of the programme to a very good standard, displayed a high command of the subject and technical and analytical skills and demonstrated independence of thinking and very good research skills.

10.18 Pass: To be awarded a pass, a student will have achieved the specific learning outcomes of the programme to a satisfactory standard and displayed a sound command of the subject and technical and analytical skills and demonstrated independence of thinking and sound research skills.

Schemes of Assessment

10.19 The following two schemes of assessment have been approved for all postgraduate taught awards (except M Res)
Scheme A

10.20 Scheme A has two variants determined by the structure of the course. Courses with a 60 credit dissertation follow i) and those with a 90 credit dissertation follow ii):

i) Master’s

To be awarded a master’s degree a student must:
   i) obtain at least 90 credits at 50% or above in the taught modules and no more than 15 credits below 40%;
   ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements; and
   iii) achieve a mark of 50% or above in the dissertation.

To be awarded a master’s degree with merit a student must:
   i) obtain at least 60 credits at 60% or more in the taught modules;
   ii) achieve a mark of 60% or above for the dissertation; and
   iii) have no fail marks.

To be awarded a master’s degree with distinction a student must:
   i) obtain at least 90 credits at 70% or above in the taught modules and a mark of 60% or above in the dissertation; or
   ii) obtain at least 60 credits at 70% or above in the taught modules and a mark of at least 70% in the dissertation; and
   iii) have no fail marks.

Postgraduate Diploma

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma a student must:
   i) obtain at least 90 credits at 50% or above with no more than 15 credits below 40%, and
   ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements.

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma with merit a student must:
   i) obtain at least 60 credits or more at 60% or above; and
   ii) have no fail marks.

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma with distinction a student must:
   i) obtain at least 90 credits or more at 70% or above; and
   ii) have no fail marks.

Postgraduate Certificate

To be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate a student must:
   i) obtain at least 45 credits at 50% or more in the taught modules and no marks less than 40%; and
   ii) have completed all modules and their associated assessment requirements.
To be awarded a master’s degree a student must:

i) obtain at least 60 credits at 50% or above in the taught modules and no more than 15 credits below 40%; and

ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements; and

iii) achieve a mark of at least 50% or above in the dissertation.

To be awarded a master’s degree with merit a student must:

i) obtain at least 60 credits at 60% or more in the taught modules;

ii) achieve a mark of 60% or above for the dissertation; and

iii) have no fail marks.

To be awarded a master’s degree with distinction a student must:

i) obtain at least 90 credits at 70% or above in the taught modules and a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation; or

ii) obtain at least 30 credits at 70% or above in the taught modules and a mark of at least 70% in the dissertation; and

iii) have no fail marks.

Scheme B

10.21 Scheme B is as follows:

**Master’s**

To be awarded a master’s degree a student must:

i) obtain a credit weighted average from 180 credits of not less than 50%;

ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements and obtained a mark of at least 50% in the dissertation.

To be awarded a master’s degree with merit a student must:

i) obtain a credit-weighted average from 180 credits of not less than 60%, including obtaining a mark of 60% or more in the dissertation;

ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements.

To be awarded a master’s degree with distinction a student must:

i) obtain a credit-weighted average from 180 credits of not less than 70%, including obtaining a mark of 70% or more in the dissertation;

ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements.

Borderline candidates may be awarded a distinction at the discretion of the Board of Examiners. Borderline candidates are defined as those with a credit-weighted average of between 67.5% and 70%.
Postgraduate Diploma

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma a student must:

i) obtain a credit weighted average from 120 credits of not less than 50%;
ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements.

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma with merit a student must:

i) obtain a credit-weighted average from 120 credits of not less than 60%;
ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements.

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma with distinction a student must:

i) obtain a credit-weighted average from 120 credits of not less than 70%;
ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements

Borderline candidates may be awarded a distinction at the discretion of the Board of Examiners. Borderline candidates are defined as those with a credit-weighted average of between 67.5% and 70%.

Postgraduate Certificate

To be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate a student must

i) obtain a credit weighted average from 60 credits of no less than 50%;
ii) have completed all taught modules and their associated assessment requirements

Scheme of Assessment for M.Res Degree Programmes

10.22 The following scheme applies to all M.Res degree programmes with the exception of M.Res by individually supervised study, the scheme of assessment for which can be found on pp.51-52 of these regulations

a) To be awarded the degree of M Res a candidate must pass the taught components of the programme and the dissertation with a mark of 50% or above;

b) To be awarded the degree of M Res with merit a candidate must pass the taught components of the programme with a mark of 50% or above and the dissertation with a mark of 60% or above;

c) To be awarded the degree of M Res with distinction a candidate must pass the taught components of the programme with a mark of 50% or above and the dissertation with a mark of 70% or above.

Re-sits and Resubmissions

10.23 A student who fails to reach the pass mark in any assessed element of the programme, including the dissertation, may be allowed to re-submit or re-sit assessments where appropriate on one occasion only.
10.24 A student may re-sit examinations or re-submit coursework in relation to an individual module on one occasion only. The number of modules where re-sits or re-submissions are allowed may be detailed in programme specifications or may be at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

10.25 The mark obtained for re-submitted work or a re-sit is capped at 50%.

10.26 Where a student re-submits or re-sits an examination but does not reach the pass mark the highest of the two marks obtained at first submission/resubmission or sit/re-sit will be applied.