



Key Changes to Newcastle University Regulations 2015-16

General Regulations

D. English Language Policy

Addition (underlined) to provide clarity on the language of teaching and assessment at campuses abroad.

16. Unless otherwise approved by the University, and explicitly stated in the relevant module or programme documentation, the language of teaching and assessment for all provision leading to a University award must be English. For the sake of clarity, this provision covers Newcastle programmes delivered at campuses abroad.

F. Fees

New Regulation to reflect new guidance from the Office of Fair Trading.

29. Any outstanding debt, tuition fees or other charges relating to academic study at the University, may be referred to an external collection agency and, if necessary, court action will be instigated.

S. Assessment of Incoming Study Abroad, Exchange and Occasional Students

New Regulation to clarify the assessment of Study Abroad, Exchange and Occasional Students.

67. Non-EU exchange or Study Abroad students studying at Newcastle for Semester 1 only will only be able to take modules that are made available to Study Abroad students and indicated as such on the module outline form. Where assessment normally takes place before the end of term in December, the module will be assessed in the normal manner. Where assessment normally takes place in January, these students will be provided with an alternative assessment (either at an alternative time, or in the form an alternative format assessment). Science Without Borders Students or EU exchange students are not entitled to an alternative assessment for these modules, nor are students spending the whole academic year at Newcastle. The most appropriate format of assessment will be determined by boards of studies on a module-by-module basis. Where the introduction of an alternative form of assessment changes the learning outcomes for a module, a new module will need to be created and approved.

Science Without Borders Students, EU exchange students and Study Abroad students who will be in Newcastle until the end of the January assessment period may contact the School or unit owning a module if the module outline form indicates that Study Abroad students wishing to take the module should contact the School.

U. Suspension or Termination of Studies

New Regulation to clarify the appeal route for students who have had their studies terminated under Regulation U.

70. As per the Academic Appeals Procedure, all students who have had their studies terminated have the right to appeal under the grounds listed.

Undergraduate Progress Regulations

F. Degree Programme Regulations

Addition (underlined) to clarify the intention of the regulation to allow a fresh start on a new programme with a small overlap, and that a student seeking a transfer cannot repeat a module in which they have already been assessed twice.

21. A degree programme director may grant permission to a student transferring under Regulation 20 to repeat modules in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners. The following conditions apply;

(...)

c) A student seeking a transfer under b) above cannot repeat a module in which they have already been assessed twice. This might render a transfer impossible.

G. General Provisions Governing Attendance and Progress

Amendments (underlined) to make clear the requirement to attend for interview:

Evidence of Failure to make Satisfactory Progress

24. Any of the following may constitute failure to make satisfactory progress and all may be taken into account in considering the student's case:

- a) failure to attend for interview with the tutor, or other academic staff, as required.
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/quilt/assets/documents/qsh-personaltutoring-fwk.pdf>
- b) failure to attend for interview with the personal tutor, DPD or other academic staff as required in connection with failure to attend programme of study or failure to make satisfactory progress or ~~other required contact point as part of attendance procedures.~~

Undergraduate Examination Conventions

Clarification to clarify the removal of the third attempt at assessment for students in stage 3 of a four stage programme (2015-16 phase).

- All students commencing, or repeating, Stage 0 or Stage 1 of an Undergraduate or Integrated Masters programme from September 2013 onwards, those commencing, or repeating, Stage 2 of an Undergraduate or Integrated Masters Programme from September 2014 onwards, and those registering for an intercalating year between Stage 2 and 3 in September 2014, and those commencing, or repeating, Stage 3 in September 2015 will have at most two attempts at their current and subsequent stage of their each programme.
- Students commencing, or repeating, later Stages of an Undergraduate or Integrated Masters Programme in September 2015 will not be affected by any changes to the resit regulations in 2015/16. Earlier versions of the examination conventions surrounding resits and the right to carry failed modules shall apply to these students (2012/13 Undergraduate Examination Conventions L and M).

U. Aegrotat

Additional Convention (underlined) to clarify that the award of degrees issued posthumously is at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

73. The Board of Examiners shall have the power to award a degree posthumously as it sees fit.

Foundation Degree Regulations

Where appropriate, the Foundation Degree Progress Regulations and Examination Conventions have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above.

Integrated Masters Regulations

Where appropriate, the Integrated Masters Examination Conventions have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above, including the phased implementation of resit arrangements.

Extra Credit, Standalone and Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme Regulations

Where appropriate, the Extra Credit, Standalone and Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme Regulations have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above, including the phased implementation of resit arrangements.

Postgraduate (Taught) Progress Regulations

Where appropriate, the Postgraduate (Taught) Progress Regulations have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above.

Postgraduate (Taught) Examination Conventions

Where appropriate, the Postgraduate (Taught) Examination Conventions have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above. In addition, please note:

Significant amendments following the change to the Postgraduate rules about Compensation. Sections K and L in 2014/15 Conventions have been removed, and sections M. Reassessment and P. Discretion have been rewritten.

Compensation

Students who started their programme before 2014/15 shall be eligible for compensation under the 2013/14 examination conventions, but there is no compensation available for students who started their award in 2014/15 or later.

B. The Board of Examiners

Personal Extenuating Circumstances (PEC) Committee
Additions (underlined) clarifying PEC Committee practice.

14. A Personal Extenuating Circumstances (PEC) Committee shall be appointed by each board of studies to review and consider medical and mitigating personal circumstances which may have an effect on a student's performance. These circumstances should be brought to the Committee's attention by the student and relevant evidence should be attached. One PEC Committee can cover a number of programmes.

M. Reassessment

Amendments to clarify reassessment for Postgraduate Taught Students.

46. A student who passes a module by discretion cannot be reassessed for any component of that module.

47. A student has the right to one reassessment for each taught module failed at the first attempt provided that:

- a) for a student on a Masters or Postgraduate Diploma programme, no more than 40 credits of the taught element of the programme is failed at the first attempt;
- b) for a student on a Postgraduate Certificate programme, no more than 20 credits of the taught element of the programme is failed at the first attempt.

The form of the reassessment at any stage may vary from the original, at the discretion of the board of studies. Note that the board of studies may delegate this authority to the board of examiners, but that the students who are to be reassessed must be informed of the style of reassessment to be adopted.

A recommendation for an award does not negate the right to reassessment set out in this convention. That is, a student who has been recommended for an award, but who has failed one or more modules at the first attempt (meeting the criteria in a) or b) above), may undertake reassessment in those modules either for the purpose of improving their transcript or with a view to improving their overall average (calculated as prescribed in Convention R56).

N. Resubmission of Dissertation

Additions to clarify the intention for Postgraduate students for resubmission of the Dissertation.

52. A Masters student has the right to one resubmission of their dissertation provided they have failed no more than 40 credits of the taught element of the programme at the first attempt. A student who fails more than 40 credits of the taught element of the programme at the first attempt will not normally be permitted to resubmit their dissertation without the support of the chair of the board of examiners. Resubmission should be within a defined period agreed by the board of examiners, normally within 3 months of the board of examiners' decision.

P. Discretion

Significant amendments to clarify practice.

43. Notwithstanding the student's results, and without prejudice to the requirements for professional accreditation, the board of examiners may, in its ultimate discretion:

- a) deem a student to have passed specific modules – including core modules,
- b) deem a student to have passed the stage of a programme.
- c) deem a student to have progressed to the next stage of a programme, despite not meeting a specific progress regulation or examination convention.
- d) recommend a final stage student, or other student eligible to leave the University with an award, for a higher award or degree classification (See conventions 53-55).

44. The exercise of discretion does not set a precedent as each individual case should be considered on a case by case basis. However, in any discussion regarding the possible exercise of discretion, the board shall ensure that no student in similar circumstances has been treated less favourably.

45. The reasons for exercising or not exercising discretion shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings in every case where the exercise of discretion is considered, both those where such consideration is required under Convention 54 or where it is considered on other grounds. The minutes shall record the issues raised and the decisions reached, whilst maintaining, wherever possible, the anonymity of board members contributing to the debate. Chairs of Boards of Examiners should report in writing annually to the relevant Board of Studies on the exercise of discretion for the recent examination sessions. Reports should

then be forwarded to faculty learning, teaching and student experience committees for review.

R. Use of Marks after Reassessment or Discretion

Amendments to clarify calculations following reassessment.

56. ~~Please note that references to compensation in this section applies only to candidates who started their programmes in 2013/14 or earlier. For the sake of clarity there will be no compensation on postgraduate taught programmes for those starting their programmes in 2014/15 and later years.~~ Where a student has achieved a passing mark following reassessment, or has been deemed to have passed in an assessment by the exercise of ~~compensation or discretion~~, the overall module mark used by the board of examiners, shall be a mark of 50 (or 40 for modules at Level 6 or below). The mark achieved by the student must be recorded on the transcript, with an appropriate note if discretion has been applied, and a statement that a mark of 50 (or 40 for Level 6 modules) will be used in any calculations. However, in such cases, the board of examiners may, in its ultimate discretion, have regard to the actual mark obtained at the second occasion of assessment. Where a student fails a module after reassessment, the better of the two marks for the module shall be used in calculations.

S. The Award and Classification of Masters' Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Certificates (entry awards)

Additions to clarify the intention to award a degree with up to 20 credits of fail.

57. A student is recommended, as of right, for the award of an appropriate Masters degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate if all the requirements for the award are met and all the modules in the programme are passed (at either first or second attempt).

A student who passes all core modules and fails up to 20 credits of non-core modules from the taught stage of the programme (whether after one attempt or two) is recommended, as of right, for the award of an appropriate Master's degree or Postgraduate Diploma, provided that the weighted average mark for all modules and all non-modular aggregated assessment (taking credit values into account) is at least 50. In classified programmes, such a student will be eligible as of right only for the award of a pass; a student would only be entitled to a Merit or Distinction, as indicated by their overall average, if they have passed all modules (at either first or second attempt). The same principle applies to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate to a student failing up to 10 credits of non-core modules.

Doctor of Philosophy Progress Regulations

No major changes, confined to reorganisation, deletion of content to avoid repetition and clarification.

Doctor of Philosophy Examination Conventions

Posthumous Degrees for PGR Students - A new regulation relating to posthumous awards has been added to the 'Doctor of Philosophy Examination Conventions' and the full policy has been added to the Examiners Handbook for PGR students.

Additions throughout to clarify that the Conventions apply to both a thesis submission and a published work submission.

Doctor of Philosophy by Published Work Examination Conventions have been removed

The information previously contained in these can now be found in either Section XV. Doctor of Philosophy Examination Conventions or Section XIX. Rules for the Form of Theses.

The role of the 'Internal Assessor' to determine if there is a prima facie case for examination following a published work submission has been removed.

The sections of the 'Doctor of Philosophy by Published Work Examination Conventions' relating to the format of a 'by published work submission' have been added to Section XIX. Rules for the Form of Theses.

Rules for the Form of Theses

An additional section has been added to indicate the thesis word length for students in the Faculty of HaSS:

'For PhD students in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the doctoral thesis should not exceed 80,000 words (inclusive of notes, bibliography and appendices).'