

Key changes to University Regulations 2025/26

The following are specific changes of principle to note for 2025/26

All Regulations

- All references to Student Progress Service have been updated to 'Registry and Education Service'

I. GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR TAUGHT AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

C. Student Conduct

The following additional Regulation has been added to clarify the provisions relating to Visa sponsorship.

35. The University does not normally offer visa sponsorship to taught students in relation to study towards deferred assessment or reassessment.

REGULATIONS FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

II. Glossary of Terms for Taught Programmes

Following a review of the Qualifications and Credit Framework the following additions and amendments have been made.

21. **Foundation Certificate:** the qualification awarded, in line with the University's Qualifications and Credit Framework, to a candidate who undertakes a programme of 120 credits at Level 3.
22. **International Foundation Certificate:** the qualification awarded, in line with the University's Qualifications and Credit Framework, to a candidate who undertakes a programme of 120 credits at Level 3.
24. **Graduate Certificate:** the qualification awarded, in line with the University's Qualifications and Credit Framework, to a candidate who undertakes a programme of 60 credits, at least 40 of which are at Level 6.
25. **Graduate Diploma:** the qualification awarded, in line with the University's Qualifications and Credit Framework, to a candidate who undertakes a programme of 120 credits, at least 90 of which are at Level 6.

III. Progress Regulations For Taught Programmes

D. Patterns of Study

The following regulation has been amended to reflect that it applies to all students.

Approval of Non-standard Patterns of Study

11. A Degree Programme Director may permit a student to select modules having a total credit value of not less than 50 and not more than 70 in any one semester, subject to satisfying the requirements of the Qualifications and Credit Framework, excluding any Extra Credit modules (see III.8). However, a Degree Programme Director may also approve exceptional variations to this standard, taking into account the workload implications and on the understanding that the student is fully aware of the consequences.

IV. Assessment Regulations For Taught Programmes

The following regulation has been clarified and an out-of-date reference to exam conventions has been removed.

F. Module and Aggregated Assessment

18. Where assessment is aggregated, modules having a total credit value of up to 40 credits may be combined for the purposes of aggregated assessment, unless the relevant faculty education committee approves a higher total credit value for aggregation. In all cases where some form of aggregated assessment is used, the relevant degree programme regulations shall determine how the aggregated assessment will be used in accordance with the University Regulations governing student progress and degree classification.

The following regulations have been amended to provide that a Postgraduate Taught Programme student is entitled to be reassessed or continue on their programme of study providing no more than 60 credits of the taught element have been failed at the first attempt. Regulation V.H.103 has also been amended accordingly.

J. Reassessment

Postgraduate Taught Programmes

34. If you fail modules on a taught postgraduate programme you are entitled to one reassessment for each taught module failed at the first attempt provided that:

- a. No more than 60 credits of the taught element is failed at the first attempt on a 180 credit master's programme or a postgraduate diploma programme;

37. If you are a Master's or Postgraduate Diploma student who fails more than 60 credits, or a Postgraduate Certificate student who fails more than 20 credits, at the first attempt of the taught element of the programme, you will not be permitted to continue without explicit consent of the Board of Examiners (see also Regulation V.H.103(d)).

The following regulation has been amended to clarify the provisions for reassessment where a module has been failed due to marks in specific components.

General Rules

41. Except where IV. F.15 applies, if a module is failed due to one or more component marks, it is for the Board of Studies (who may delegate this to the Board of Examiners) to determine whether only the failed components should be reassessed. Your final module mark is calculated by using the most

recent component marks. In some cases, this may be a combination of second and first attempt component marks, depending on the resit arrangements for the module. It is not the case, however, that the best component marks automatically carry forward to the final module mark. Although the actual mark attained in the reassessed component(s) will contribute towards the overall module mark, this will be classed as a second attempt at the module and will be capped at the pass mark for the purposes of calculating the stage average. The actual mark will appear on your transcript.

The introduction of the following Regulation at IV.L.45.

L. Timing of Assessment at any Stage Other Than the Final Stage – Undergraduate Programmes

Note: This regulation applies to modular programmes only.

45. You are entitled to be entered for assessments relating to a maximum of 80 credits during the August assessment period. You will not be permitted to attempt assessments relating to more than 80 credits without the explicit consent of the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners will determine the arrangements where this limit is exceeded, which may include undertaking some or all assessments at the next normal occasion.

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

The following regulations have been amended to reflect existing practice.

53. Modules taken by Study Abroad, Exchange and Occasional students shall have marks returned in the normal way. Compensation will not apply to such students and the module decision will be either pass or fail. However, the Board of Examiners may still exercise discretion, particularly where a Personal Extenuating Circumstance Committee has assessed personal extenuating circumstances as having an impact on the student's performance.

For Semester 1 only non-EU exchange and Study Abroad students an Extraordinary Board of Examiners meeting shall be held in early March, after moderation boards have concluded, to ratify module outcomes and enable the release of final transcripts.

56. Non-EU exchange or Study Abroad students studying at Newcastle only for Semester 1 will normally be able to take only identified modules. These include modules marked as available in the module information and may include modules where it is signalled that prior contact is needed with the academic unit. Students wanting to take modules where contact is required, must first seek permission from the owning school before registering on such a module.

57. Where assessment normally takes place in January, these students will be provided with an alternative assessment (either at an alternative time, which might be at the end of term in December, or in the form an alternative format assessment). 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.

Q. Aegrotat

Minor amendments have been made to the following regulations to clarify the provisions for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught students.

Undergraduate Programmes

60. The Board of Examiners may award an aegrotat degree to a candidate who has registered for the final stage of the programme, but presents sufficient evidence of ill health or any other extenuating circumstance that, in the judgement of the Board, there is no reasonable possibility that the candidate can complete the programme.

Postgraduate Taught Programmes

61. The Board of Examiners may award an aegrotat degree to a student who has demonstrated postgraduate ability typically over at least 50% of the programme on which they are registered, but who presents sufficient evidence of ill health or other extenuating circumstances such that, in the judgement of the Board, there is no reasonable possibility that then student can complete the programme.

General Rules

62. When considering the option of making this award, Boards of Examiners should be mindful of the possibility of enabling the student to sit the assessments at a later date, and so be eligible for a classified degree (or a merit or distinction in the case of a Master's student). In addition, the Board should consider the appropriateness of awarding an appropriate exit award.

63. It is not open to the Board to grant an aegrotat to students registered on certain professionally accredited programmes. A student to whom an aegrotat is awarded shall be deemed to have obtained honours but without classification.

64. The Board of Examiners shall have the power to award a degree posthumously.

V. Specific Progression and Classification Rules for Different Types of Taught Programme

Following a review of the Qualifications and Credit Framework the following sections have been added.

8. Specific Progression Rules for International Foundation Certificates

Return of Marks

6. The mark for each module on an International Foundation Certificate programme shall be returned to the Board of Examiners, and disclosed to students, using the following mark scale, unless there are different requirements in the programme regulations (e.g. for English language modules):

	Summary description applicable to modules <i>not used for degree classification</i>
0-39	Failing
40–49	Pass
50–59	Good
60–69	Very Good
70-79	Excellent
80-100	Outstanding

7. The final programme average mark shall be the average of all the module marks weighted according to their credit value.

When calculating a Stage average after the second attempt at the stage, the marks used shall be:

- i The module mark, for modules passed at the first attempt.
- ii A mark of 40 for modules passed at the second attempt.
- iii The best mark for modules failed after two attempts.

Principles of Compensation

The principles in this section shall apply unless the programme regulations state otherwise.

8. You will, on assessment and any reassessment, be deemed to have passed all modules, even if marks of less than 40 have been obtained in one or more modules for that stage, provided that each of the following conditions for compensation are met:

- a) The average of the modular marks is not less than 40;
- b) No single mark for any module is below 35;
- c) The modules for which marks lies between 35 and 39 do not include core modules and have total credit value no greater than 40 (out of the 120 credits studied). Where an International Foundation Certificate contains more than 120 credits the maximum number of credits which can be compensated is one third of the total credits in the award.

The modules in c) above will be deemed to be **passed by compensation**.

The Award

9. You are entitled to an International Foundation Certificate if all the requirements for the award as set out in the programme regulations are met and the programme average is not less than 40.

Use of Discretion

10. Following the Principles set out in IV Assessment Regulations, I 29 and 30, the Board of Examiners may:

- a) Deem you to have passed specific modules – including core modules,
- b) Deem you to have passed the programme.

C. Specific Progression Rules for Higher Education Certificates

Return of Marks

11. The mark for each module on a Higher Education Certificate programme shall be returned to the Board of Examiners, and disclosed to you, using the following mark scale, unless there are different requirements in the programme regulations (e.g. for English language modules):

	Summary description applicable to modules <i>not used for degree classification</i>
0-39	Failing
40–49	Pass
50–59	Good
60–69	Very Good

70-79	Excellent
80-100	Outstanding

Your final module mark is calculated by using the most recent component marks. In some cases, this may be a combination of second and first attempt component marks, depending on the normal resit arrangements for the module. It is not the case, however, that the best component marks automatically carry forward to the final module mark.

12. The final programme average mark shall be the average of all the module marks weighted according to their credit value.

When calculating a Stage average after the second attempt at the stage, the marks used shall be:

- i The module mark, for modules passed at the first attempt.
- ii A mark of 40 for modules passed at the second attempt.
- iii The best mark for modules failed after two attempts.

Principles of Compensation

The principles in this section shall apply unless the programme regulations state otherwise.

13. You will, on assessment and any reassessment, be deemed to have passed all modules, even if marks of less than 40 have been obtained in one or more modules for that stage, provided that each of the following conditions for compensation are met:

- a) The average of the modular marks is not less than 40;
- b) No single mark for any module is below 35;
- c) The modules for which marks lies between 35 and 39 do not include core modules and have total credit value no greater than 40 (out of the 120 credits studied). Where a Higher Education Certificate contains more than 120 credits the maximum number of credits which can be compensated is one third of the total credits in the award.

The modules in c) above will be deemed to be **passed by compensation**.

The Award

14. You are entitled to a Higher Education Certificate if all the requirements for the award as set out in the programme regulations are met and the programme average is not less than 40.

Use of Discretion

15. Following the Principles set out in IV Assessment Regulations, I 29 and 30, the Board of Examiners may:

- d) Deem you to have passed specific modules – including core modules,
- e) Deem you to have passed the programme.

E. Undergraduate degrees – specific rules on progression and classification

Award of other than an Honours Degree

Minor amendments have been made to the following regulation to include more positive language. Equivalent regulations in Sections V.F-I also amended.

Procedure for Boards of Examiners and Personal Extenuating Circumstances Committees for Taught Programmes

These should be read in conjunction with the Assessment Regulations and the Progression and Classification Regulations for Specific Types of Programme.

A. The Board of Examiners

The following regulation has been amended to acknowledge that students permitted to proceed to the next Stage in accordance with VI.A.8.h) may not necessarily have attempted or failed modules. The definition at II.4 has also been amended.

Personal Extenuating Circumstances (PEC) Committee

8. The Personal Extenuating Circumstances Committee shall have the power to grant the following, subject to the appropriate evidence being provided for or by the student:

- a) Extensions within and beyond those permitted as part of the Submission of Work policy;
- b) Exemptions from minor elements of assessed work (normally a maximum of 20% of the module in question);
- c) Deferral of a formal examination or assessment attempt to the next normal occasion (generally August);
- d) Deferral of a formal examination or assessment attempt to a later normal occasion;
- e) Extraordinary examinations, including those outside of the regular assessment periods;
- f) Setting aside previous attempt(s) at a module, semester or stage and allowing repeat tuition if required;
- g) Allowing a student to retake a module, semester or stage with tuition (subject to payment of the appropriate tuition fees);
- h) Allowing a student to proceed to the next Stage of a programme carrying modules;
- i) To provide Boards of Examiners with a recommendation of support/no-support for specific assessments depending on the personal circumstances affecting a student, which have not been addressed by a-h above or where alternative adjustments would unreasonably add to the circumstances (i.e. to recommend the use of discretion where appropriate).

VII Regulations for Research Masters Degree Programmes (excluding MPhil programmes)

Where appropriate the Research Masters Degree Programmes Regulations will be amended to mirror the changes noted in the Postgraduate Taught Progress and Assessment Regulations sections, as well as the Doctor of Philosophy Progress and Assessment Regulations.

X Doctor of Philosophy Progress Regulations

Section G - Candidature Categories, Period of Study and Registration Requirements

- Revised to include wording on candidature flexibility where a student has a Student Support Plan indicating a reasonable adjustment in relation to candidature.

Section M – Change of Circumstances

- Revised to include wording about consideration for a phased return following an interruption of studies, to align with revisions to the PGR Leave policy/revised UKRI Terms and Conditions.
- Other minor wording and formatting changes throughout the regulation document.

- Where appropriate, changes will also be made to the VIII Master of Philosophy Progress Regulations.

XI Doctor of Philosophy Assessment Regulations

Section B – Appointment of Examiners

- Revised and simplified **Section B3** in relation to when two External Examiners will be appointed. Specific detail on these circumstances will be included in the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes.

New Section C - Following Thesis Submission

To include:

- Information on timescale for the examination, as well as referring to checks that are undertaken when the thesis is submitted to the Graduate School, e.g. tuition fee check, plagiarism check, etc.
- Outline circumstances where the Graduate School would return a submitted thesis to a student:
 - not in an examinable state, e.g. word count over length, incorrect formatting;
 - not adequately referenced (e.g. self plagiarism but not enough to go down an AI route). In these situations, the student would remain under examination but would be provided with 1 month to make the relevant changes to the thesis.

Updated Section P – Options for the Format of the Oral Examination

- To outline the oral examination format options that are available.
- Other minor wording and formatting changes throughout the regulation document.
- Where appropriate, changes will also be made to the IX Master of Philosophy Assessment Regulations.

XIV Rules for Form of Theses and Submission of Work of Higher Degrees

- Revised Point 6 relating to a thesis which is over the word-limit and including a link to the PGR webpages for further guidance on reasonable justification(s) for a higher than usual word count
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