

Applying academic regulations to students taking outstanding assessment in 2020/21

This document sets out the University approach to applying academic regulations to students who are taking outstanding assessment from 2019/20 in the 2020/21 academic year and are due to be considered for award and classification. This relates to the academic regulations in place in [2019/20](#) and [2020/21](#) as well as the [enhanced package of mitigations](#) that were announced in January 2021 that will require temporary amendments to the regulations for 2020/21.

[Section 1](#) of the Regulations and Code of Practice for Taught Programmes (on the 'Application of new or revised regulations') is temporarily amended for the 2020/21 academic year to the extent and in the manner set out below. References to the regulations in place for the relevant academic year mean the regulations as temporarily amended for the year in question.

This temporary amendment applies to:

- Undergraduate and taught postgraduate students who would have expected to complete their programme in 2019/20 but were not able to do so within the academic year and so were permitted to undertake any outstanding assessment and complete their programme in 2020/21 instead. These are likely to be 'supplementary year' students who had not met the criteria for progression or award under the 2019/20 temporary regulations due to missed or failed assessment or PGT students who received an extension to complete their dissertation due to extenuating circumstances. Additionally, there may be students who suspended studies part-way through 2019/20 and have returned in 2020/21 to complete outstanding assessment.

The amendment does not apply to:

- Students who are being considered for progression, where the standard 2020/21 academic regulations will otherwise apply.
- Students studying on a part-time basis. [Regulations for taught postgraduate students studying part-time](#) in 2020/21 were published at the start of the academic year.
- Students who have chosen to withdraw with an exit award based on achievement only in previous academic years. In these cases, exit awards should be made according to the regulations in place for the final complete year of study.

Temporary amendment to the application of academic regulations for students taking outstanding assessment in 2020/21

1. Students will be subject to the academic regulations in place for the academic year in which the majority of their assessment was undertaken when being considered for award and classification in 2020/21. An exception to this is where a student on a taught postgraduate programme is wholly or mostly undertaking their dissertation in 2020/21, in the view of the relevant board of examiners, in which case the 2020/21 regulations apply. Where the amount of assessment (as defined in 2 below) is equally divided between the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, the 2020/21 regulations will apply.

2. The amount of assessment that determines which regulations are applied is defined as the total credit point value of the **units completed** within the specified academic year.
3. Original decisions of exam boards on the award of credit from previous academic years will remain unchanged.
4. Where students are eligible for the new mitigations on classification within the enhanced package of mitigations (i.e. reviewing the performance of students graduating in 2020/21 against previous years and re-evaluating the classification of taught postgraduate Master's degrees), they will be considered for award/classification at the summer exam boards.

However, where a student is eligible for the new mitigations on classification and where they have completed all outstanding assessment by the time of the mid-year exam board, the board should make an award based on the 2019/20 regulations. Due diligence should then be undertaken at the summer exam board by applying the 2020/21 regulations to ensure the student's academic outcome has not been disadvantaged, with the student receiving the better outcome, if any. Such cases should be reported to the Taught Degrees Examination Board to oversee.

For the avoidance of doubt these new mitigations on classification are not available under the 2019/20 regulations.

5. When applying the above mitigations, if the Faculty Exam Board determines that the academic outcome is not fair and reasonable for an individual or number of students, it may refer the case to the Taught Degrees Exam Board for further consideration and decision.

Illustrative examples

The following examples illustrate some possible scenarios and outcomes for students taking outstanding assessment and who are due to be considered for award and classification in 2020/21 under this temporary amendment.

- If a final year undergraduate student is taking 60 or more credit points of outstanding assessment in 2020/21, the 2020/21 regulations will apply to the award and classification of their degree.
- If a taught postgraduate student was due to submit their dissertation in September 2020 but receives an extension to the normal deadline for submitting their dissertation into 2020/21, the 2019/20 regulations will apply to the award and classification of their degree.
- If a taught postgraduate student is wholly or mostly undertaking their dissertation in 2020/21, the 2020/21 regulations will apply to the award and classification of their degree.

*Approved by the Vice-Chancellor
23 February 2021*