

## Progression, award and the classification of a degree in taught programmes: mitigating the impact of the industrial action upon academic outcomes at the summer exam boards 2023

### *Addendum for undergraduate programmes in Law and the MA in Law programme*

This document sets out how the academic outcome of students on undergraduate programmes in Law and the MA in Law programmes will be determined at the summer 2023 exam boards where assessment and/or the marking process has been affected by the industrial action in 2022/23, particularly where assessment and/or unit marks are missing as a result of the marking and assessment boycott. Specifically with regard to:

- Progression on undergraduate programmes in Law and the MA in Law programme
- Award and classification in the MA in Law programme

A variation to the [temporary academic regulations](#) for 2022/23 is set out below.

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#### **Academic mitigation – stage 3**

- 3.1 Where a student does not have a normal range of unit marks by the time of the main summer exam board due to the industrial action and an academic decision cannot be reached on the basis of stage 1 or 2 of academic mitigation, the exam board will additionally apply temporary qualifications to academic regulations, as set out below. For the purpose of applying these regulations, the exam board should assume that the student has passed any non-must-pass unit where there is not a unit mark.

#### **Progression**

- 3.2 Students will be awarded 120 credit points for the year of study and permitted to progress between any years of study, where they have:
- Demonstrated the relevant programme ILOs or the potential for meeting the relevant programme ILOs where the unit mark is missing for must-pass units or units required for PSRB accreditation relating to that year of study in the academic judgement of the exam board as evidenced by submission of all summative assessments and by passing those summative assessments for which marks are available.
- 3.3 Where outstanding unit marks become available at a later date, if a student has failed (including a fail mark within the range for ‘compensation’) a must-pass unit or a unit required for PSRB accreditation, and has not exceeded their maximum number of attempts:
- Students will be required to undertake reassessment in any failed must-pass units in the following academic year or can elect to undertake a supplementary year to complete those failed must-pass units.

- Students can elect to undertake reassessment of up to 40 credit points in the following academic year or take a supplementary year for over 40 credit points for any failed units that are required for PSRB accreditation.

Reassessment in the following academic year for units that are required for PSRB accreditation and must-pass units will be capped at the pass mark unless the student is permitted to repeat the assessments 'as the first time' due to validated extenuating circumstances.

3.4 Additionally, in programmes where there is evidence of a substantial impact of IA such that marks are not available for a student,

- Any higher progression requirements (e.g. onto a study abroad or placement year) within a programme are suspended.
- The conditional progression of a student to the next year of study should not be prevented by missing unit marks due to the MAB.
- The compensation of a marginally failed unit to award credit and permit progression should not be prevented by missing unit marks in other units impacted by the MAB.
- The existing requirement for a student to gain at least 40 credit points in the year of study to access reassessment (30.6) should be suspended for affected students.

3.5 If a student does not meet the conditions for progression under 3.2 - 3.4 above at the main summer exam board, then:

- The exam board will delay the decision to a later faculty exam board.

3.6 If a student does not meet the conditions for progression under 3.2 or 3.4 above by the later summer exam board, then the exam board should refer the case to the institution-level Taught Degrees Exam Board with a recommendation on the basis of the unit marks that are available (and potentially assessment marks in units that do not have a unit mark). It would be the responsibility of the TDEB to ensure decisions are being consistently made institution-wide.

3.7 Where any outstanding assessment marks in units within intermediate years of study<sup>1</sup> that contribute to degree classification become available at a later stage (up to a designated date prior to the exam board where the award is made), these marks will be used to calculate the classification. Exceptionally, the pass mark will be awarded for the unit where a unit mark is returned that is below the pass mark and a progression decision has already been made (subject to 3.3).

3.8 For progression on the MA Law Programme, 3.2-3.7 will apply.

### ***Award and Classification***

3.9 The [temporary academic regulations](#) for award and classification in undergraduate programmes (3.8-3.16) will apply to the MA in Law, with the following variation:

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<sup>1</sup>Years of study that contribute to classification that is not the final year.

*3.12 Where the student has met the conditions for award but unit mark/s are unavailable due to the MAB, the exam board will either:*

- Award a classification where there is sufficient evidence to do so (i.e. no more than **60** credit points excluded in 2022/23 due to the MAB and no more than 100 credit points overall across the years of study that contribute to classification), or*
- Determine that there is not sufficient evidence to award a classification, but award a degree with a pending classification.*

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Approved by:

- Professor Kate Whittington, Chair of University Academic Quality and Standards Committee, 16 June 2023
- Professor Tansy Jessop, Chair of University Education Committee, 16 June 2023
- Vice-Chancellor, Chair of Senate, 26 June 2023