

Temporary amendments to academic regulation for 2020/21

The temporary qualifications of existing regulations in the Regulations and Code of Practice for Taught Programmes for the 2020/21 academic year are set out below:

1. Conditional progression in undergraduate modular programmes

Field course or practical units that could not be run in 2020/21 due to COVID-19 have been rescheduled to later in the programme in some subjects, given they are an essential part of the programme and meeting the programme learning outcomes. This means, however, that there will be a credit deficit when students are considered for progression in 2020/21. The ability of the exam board to permit a student to conditionally progress to the next year of study is therefore expanded. The decision to permit conditional progression can also be taken at the July, rather than September, exam boards, as below. The rescheduled unit will be taken for credit only (on a pass/fail basis) in the next academic year so that the marks for the 2020/21 academic year can be confirmed.

Change:

30.15.2 Students may be permitted to conditionally progress to the next year of study and make up a credit deficit in identified programmes where:

- *they have failed a particular unit or units, provided conditions (a-f) are satisfied OR*
- *where it has not been possible for a cohort to complete all of the practical or field work [or ...] necessary to achieve the credit points and meet the criteria for progression in the 2020/21 academic year, provided there is prior agreement with the Chair of the Faculty Board of Examiners. Schools and faculties are not under any obligation to allow conditional progress on their programmes.*

...

Conditional progression will only be available as a potential outcome from the September Board of Examiners and subsequent to considering whether a failed unit may be compensated for the purposes of progression (see 30.13). Where permitted and the conditions are satisfied, a student will progress into the next year of study and, in addition to the requirements for that year of study, either:

- *Re-take the failed unit/s (units may be undertaken on an exams-only basis where a student has already received and engaged in the teaching of the unit/s) or;*
- *Undertake a different unit/s in lieu of the one the student has failed by engaging with the teaching, as outlined in 30.15.1.*

Exceptionally, conditional progression will be available as a potential outcome from the July Board of Examiners where the practical or field work necessary to achieve the credit for unit/s was postponed in 2020/21. Where permitted, a student will progress into the next year of study and, in addition to the requirements for that year of study, undertake the outstanding practical or fieldwork units.

The board of examiners will subsequently consider the award of credit for the outstanding failed unit/s before considering progression from the year of study into which they have conditionally progressed.

2. Outcome of the self-certification from a timed assessment

The existing regulations state that self-certification only applies to examinations; this was temporarily extended to all timed assessments in 2020/21. A change to regulation allows exam boards to require students, particularly in the final year of an undergraduate programme, who self-certified absence **from a timed assessment**, to take it again in August as a supplementary assessment.

Change:

Extenuating circumstances

19.25 i. Students who are absent from an examination **or timed assessment** due to illness and who self-certify, will be required to undertake the ~~examination~~ **assessment** at the next scheduled time it is run, normally in the August / September 're-sit' period, without penalty.

The award of credit in the final year of undergraduate study for the purposes of completion

30.18 Students must achieve the pass mark (normally a mark of 40 out of 100 at levels 4-6 and 50 out of 100 at level 7) and meet any criteria, as described in 30.5, if applicable for the unit, to be awarded the associated credit. By achieving this, students thereby acquire the necessary credit points in their final year to complete the programme of study, except as specified below.

- Students who are absent from an examination **or timed assessment** due to illness and who self-certify, will be required to undertake the ~~examination~~ **assessment** at the next scheduled time it is run, normally in the August / September assessment period. The form of the assessment should remain unchanged.

3. Examinations taken outside of the UK in the Faculty of Health Sciences

An update to the existing regulation that prohibits students on the professional progressions in the Faculty of Health Sciences to take examinations outside of the UK is provided. It permits an examination to be taken outside of the UK, where it is online and proctored, subject to approval by the School. This temporary change applies for both the 2020/21 and the 2021/22 academic years.

Change:

11.9 Students on the MBChB, BDS and BVSc programmes are prohibited from taking examinations outside the UK. Exceptionally, where the format of the examination is an online, proctored assessment using University-approved software, approval may be sought from the School to sit the examination outside the UK. In this circumstance, the examination would normally need to be undertaken at the originally scheduled time in the UK, irrespective of the student's location. It is the student's responsibility to ensure their local hardware, software and internet connectivity meet the requirements for the examination.

Approved by the Vice-Chancellor
26th May 2021