

Title:	Proposals from the TLG Policy and Guidance subgroup: suggested updates to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Principles and Guidance for the Application of the Accreditation of Prior Learning (AP(E)L)</i>• <i>Undergraduate Taught Degree Regulations</i>• <i>Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations and</i>• <i>Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations</i>
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Action Required:	For discussion/approval

1. Principles and Guidance for the Application of the Accreditation of Prior Learning (AP(E)L)

- 1.1 The current *Principles and Guidance for the Application of the Accreditation of Prior Learning (AP(E)L)*, (<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=2856>) needs to be updated slightly to take into account the move from 15 credit to 20 credit units for UMW programmes, which was updated in the PGT Degree Regulations from September 2018.
- 1.2 The table contained on page 2 of the Principles and Guidance document, showing ‘Maximum credits allowed for AP(E)L for Postgraduate Taught Programmes’, should therefore be revised to reflect this move to 20 credit units, so that the maximum credits which can be awarded under AP(E)L for a PG Certificate reads:

“Where the PG Certificate is a standalone programme, AP(E)L will be permitted up to a maximum of 15 credits (for a 15 credit structure award) or 20 credits (for a 20 credit structure award)” (as opposed to 15 credits, as per the current wording).
- 1.3 The maximum number of credits permitted for AP(E)L for other PGT awards will remain the same.

2. Undergraduate Taught Degree Regulations

- 2.1 Updates to paragraphs F30 and J45 of the [Undergraduate Degree Regulations](#) were approved by Senate in October 2018 but have not yet been published in an updated version of the Regulations. These updates refer to reassessment in the final year for students where this is a requirement of a professional, statutory or regulatory body, and the treatment of such marks.
- 2.2 Further updates have been suggested to the following paragraphs:

2.3 Paragraph J48 – the addition of the word “across” to the following sentence, to confirm that special compensation may be awarded for up to 40 credits *across levels 6 or 7* of an Integrated Masters, and not 40 credits at both levels:

“When considering classifications for classes 1st, 2:1 or 2:2, an Examination Board may award special compensation* for up to 40 credits at level 6 of a Bachelors degree programme or across levels 6 or 7 of an Integrated Masters, for any failed unit, providing they meet the following criteria:

- Has passed at least 80 credits at the level of the award.”

2.4 Paragraph J49 – similar to the above, the addition of the word “across” to be added in relation to up to 60 credits being permitted for special compensation across levels 6 or 7 of an Integrated Masters, but a student’s classification would be reduced in this situation:

“When considering classifications for classes 1st, 2:1 or 2:2, an Examination Board may award special compensation for up to 60 credits at level 6 of a Bachelors degree programme or across levels 6 or 7 of an Integrated Masters, for any failed unit, providing they meet the following criteria:

- Has passed at least 60 credits at the level of the award. However, there is a penalty applied due to the failure of more than 40 and up to 60 credits and the student will have the classification reduced to the classification below that which would have been awarded on the basis of the weighted average for the programme.”

2.5 In “Appendix A: Undergraduate Classification Scheme”, following discussion with staff working on the Student Lifecycle Project, it is proposed that a footnote is added to the section on ‘Consideration of Bachelor Degree students within the boundary zone by mark distribution’, as follows:

“2/3 of the credits* taken in the awarding academic year are equal to/higher than the final award (for example, if the student is in the boundary between a 2:1 and a first, 2/3 of the credits must be at 70% or higher to fulfill this criteria and award the students a first class degree). The 2/3 credit may include credit at level 5 or 6.)”

“*Excluding AP(E)L and non-numeric pass/fail units; where there are AP(E)L or non-numeric pass/fail courses, mark distribution should be calculated based on 2/3 of the remaining credits.”

2.6 Similar to the above, the same footnote is suggested to be added to the section on ‘Consideration of Integrated Masters students within the boundary zone by mark distribution’.

2.7 In the final section on “Stage 2: Classification Review and Viva Voce”, it is proposed that all references to vivas are removed from the Regulations, as they should now no longer be a standard part of assessment and most areas of the University have now moved away from them.

3. Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations

3.1 To tie in with the move towards 20 credit PGT units for UMW programmes, a suggested additional line has been added to paragraph C6 of the [Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations](#) as follows:

“Where the Postgraduate Certificate is a standalone programme, AP(E)L will be permitted up to a maximum of 15 credits if the award is based on a 15 credit structure, and a maximum of 20 credits if the award is based on a 20 credit structure. Where the Postgraduate Diploma is a standalone programme, AP(E)L will be

permitted for up to a maximum of 45 credits. For a Masters award, the maximum amount of credits which can be permitted for AP(E)L is 60.”

- 3.2 An additional section entitled “E Compensation and Reassessment maximums” has been inserted before the sections on Compensation and Reassessment to pull together details of the maximum number of credits that can be used for compensation and reassessment, rather than these being included and duplicated in both sections. The new section E, which also includes a new final paragraph to clarify the maximum credit allowances for compensation and reassessment on MRes programmes, reads as follows:

“E14 Postgraduate programmes can be compensated **up to 40 credits for PG Diploma/Masters and 20 credits for a PG Certificate (see also E16, below).**

E15 Postgraduate programmes can be referred **in up to half of the taught credits (see also E16, below)**; this includes credits on a PG Certificate or PG Diploma award. Students may also resubmit the dissertation (or equivalent, see G28) on one occasion, subject to the mark restrictions set out in G29. **The number of credits referred and those compensated cannot exceed half the taught credits in total.**

E16 The total number of credits allowable for referral for a PG Diploma/Masters is 60, of which 40 can be compensated. For a PG Certificate, the total number of credits allowable for referral is 30 credits, of which 20 can be compensated.

E17 For MRes programmes (with 90 credits of taught content and 90 credits dissertation) the total number of credits allowable for referral and compensation combined is 45.”

- 3.3 As a result of the above change, the section on Compensation becomes section F and the section on Reassessment becomes section G, with subsequent section numbers also increasing in line by one letter.
- 3.4 Similar to the revision in the Undergraduate Degree Regulations, above, it is proposed that a new footnote is added to Appendix A: Postgraduate Degree Classification Scheme following discussion with staff working on the Student Lifecycle Project:

“Excluding AP(E)L and non-numeric pass/fail units; where there are AP(E)L or non-numeric pass/fail courses, mark distribution should be calculated based on 2/3 of the remaining credits.”

- 3.5 Again in Appendix A: Postgraduate Degree Classification Scheme, it is proposed that the wording “120 out of 180 credits” is replaced with “2/3 of the credits”:

“After allowances have been made for mitigating circumstances, a student whose total mark at the first assessment is within the boundary zone specified above, must be awarded the higher degree classification as long as both the following criteria are satisfied (see also notes on AP(E)L):

- For the award of distinction, all course units must have been passed at the first attempt without any compensation.
- ~~120 out of 180~~ **2/3 of the** credits are equal to/ or higher than the final award.”

- 3.5 Similar wording is proposed to the section in Appendix A for cases where Schools have decided to implement paragraph existing paragraph H35 (now I38 in the updated version):

“Where Schools have decided to implement paragraph I38, after allowances have been made for mitigating circumstances, decisions at the boundary of a ‘Distinction’, should be made as long as all the following criteria are satisfied (see also notes on AP(E)L, section C):

- For consideration of a student in the boundary zone for the award of distinction, the student should have passed either the ‘taught’ **or** ‘research’ element at the level of a ‘distinction’ and the other element must be in the boundary zone, as defined in table A1 (see page 8, Stage 1: Classification Thresholds and Boundaries).
- All course units must have been passed at the first attempt without any compensation.
- Either the overall average is equal to or above 70.0; ~~or 120 out of 180~~ 2/3 of the credits are equal to or above 70.0.”

4. Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations

4.1 Suggested updates have been made to the [Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations](#), mainly in relation to factual/version detail updates and clarification around a few specific points, as follows:

4.2 Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (AP(E)L) section (page 7 of the tracked changes version on the [Consultations webpage](#)): clarification that AP(E)L can range from 15 credit units for a PG Certificate, if the award is based on a 15 credit structure, and a maximum of 20 credits if the award is based on a 20 credit structure (to reflect the move to 20 credit units for UMW programmes):

“For PGT programmes, paragraph C6 of the PGT Regulations confirms the maximum amount of credits which are permitted for each programme for AP(E)L, ranging from 15 credits for a PG Certificate *(if the award is based on a 15 credit structure, and a maximum of 20 credits if the award is based on a 20 credit structure)* to 60 credits for a Masters award.

4.3 Updating of the number of credits that can be compensated in the section on Postgraduate Compensation (page 9), again to tie in with the move to 20 credit units for UMW programmes, which is already reflected in the PGT Degree Regulations:

“At postgraduate level, students can be compensated for up to ~~30~~ 40 credits for PG Diploma/Masters or ~~15~~ 20 credits for PG certificate.”

4.4 The addition of a new footnote in the section on Undergraduate Reassessment (page 10), relating to reassessment not usually being permitted in year 3, but that it is allowed in relation to Integrated Masters programmes:

“Reassessment is not usually allowed in year 3; however, paragraph J47 of the Undergraduate Degree Regulations does allow for it at the discretion of the Examination Board in relation to Integrated Masters programmes.”

4.5 An additional sentence is proposed in the section on ‘Re-sitting a failed component to meet programme or Professional Body requirements’ (page 12) to reflect the updated wording in the UG Degree Regulations, as follows:

“Where a variation to the Degree Regulations has been approved, in cases where an undergraduate student is required to re-sit a failed component of a unit in the final year (even though they may have achieved an average pass mark in the unit) in order to meet the requirements of the programme or of a professional body, *the recording and treatment of such marks must reflect PSRB requirements, be specified clearly by the*

School (in programme handbooks, etc.) and be approved by the Faculty. The expectation is that these marks will be capped at the equivalent of the lowest compensatable mark (30 at Undergraduate level), or as required and agreed by the PSRB and the School/Faculty, to determine the class of degree awarded to the student the marks will be capped at the pass mark to determine the class of degree awarded to the student."

- 4.6 An additional line is suggested to the section on 'Repeating the Level/Year (or part of a year)', on page 13, as follows:

"If a student has failed the level/year, the Examination Board can make the decision to permit the student to repeat the year (or part thereof – this would normally only apply in cases of approved mitigating circumstances – see H38 of the UG Degree Regulations)."

- 4.7 An additional sentence is suggested to the section on 'Classification in Postgraduate Taught programmes' on page 14, to tie in with the updates in the PGT Degree Regulations, as follows:

"Students who lie within the pass/merit boundary zone ~~can be considered~~ can be awarded the higher award if they have some compensation or resits within their profile, as long as they have achieved at least ~~120 out of 180~~ 2/3 of the credits (excluding AP(E)L and non-numeric pass/fail units) which are equal to or higher than the final award."

- 4.8 Two additional sentences have been added to the section on 'Final Year of an Undergraduate (including Integrated Masters) programme' on page 14 to clarify that up to 40 credits and be awarded across both levels 6 and 7 (not at each level), and up to 60 credits across both levels, with a penalty of reduced classification, as per the amended wording within the UG Degree Regulations.

"Paragraph J48 of the UG Degree Regulations states that students can fail up to 40 credits and be awarded 'special compensation' at Level 6/7, without penalty. To clarify, this is a total of 40 across both levels, not 40 at each level.

Paragraph J49 states students can fail up to 60 credits and be awarded 'special compensation', with a penalty of reduced classification. Again, this is a total of 60 across both levels 6 and 7, not 60 at each level."

- 4.9 In the box on pages 15-16 entitled "Distinguishing between the award of a Third and an Ordinary Degree", the following wording has been added/amended to reflect the updates to the UG Degree Regulations:

"Meet the criteria set ~~at top of page 11 out in the section on 'Consideration of Bachelor Degree students within the boundary zone by mark distribution' of in the~~ UG Degree Regulations (i.e. 2/3 of the credits ~~of in the~~ (excluding AP(E)L and non-numeric pass/fail units) at Level 6 taken in the awarding academic year are equal to/higher than the classification threshold of a Third – 40.0)."

- 4.10 In "Appendix A – Undergraduate Classification Scheme" (page 17), references to the viva voce have been removed, to reflect the case regarding the updates to the Undergraduate Degree Regulations. The whole section on "Use of Viva Voce for Undergraduate students during Classification Review" (page 19) has also been removed.

- 4.11 Similarly, the references to vivas in "Appendix B – Postgraduate Degree Classification Scheme" (page 20) have also been removed.

- 4.12 In "Appendix C – Classification Review Guidance" (page 22), the main detail of this guidance has been removed, with just the main principles remaining.

5. Action

- 5.1 TLG members are asked to consider the above proposed updates and agree the amendments, with the aim of the *Undergraduate Taught Degree Regulations* and *Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations* then being submitted to Senate for approval in November. (The *Principles and Guidance for the Application of the Accreditation of Prior Learning (AP(E)L)* and the *Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations* can be approved by TLG.
- 5.2 Tracked changes versions of all four documents can be found on the Consultations webpage on the TLSO (former TLSO) website, under 'Current consultations':
 - <https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/news/consultations/>