

Title:	Updates to the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations, and the Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations
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Action Required:	Disseminate to Schools/Faculties

Background

1. A number of minor updates to the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations have been made, following approval by the former Teaching and Learning Group (TLG) and Senate. These updates have now been made to both sets of Regulations and the updated versions have been uploaded to the original url address for the documents:
 - Undergraduate Degree Regulations: <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=13147> (version 2.6, January 2020)
 - Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations: <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=29208> (version 3.6, January 2020)
2. The updated versions are to be implemented immediately; however, if any Schools foresee an issue with this, please let your Faculty know.
3. The details of the updates can be found below, for your reference.

Both Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations

4. **Disclaimer printed in the footnote of all pages:** an addition has been made to state that Degree Regulations variances may be in place in order to comply with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), in cases relating to Degree Apprenticeships. This addition has also been included in other areas of the UG and PGT Degree Regulations which reference Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PRSBs).

“Note: Faculty approved variances to the Degree Regulations will be described within the Programme Handbooks. Where they exist they will take precedence, for example, in order to comply with Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) requirements.”

5. A new Version Amendment History has been added to both sets of Regulations, to highlight the details of the main changes in the various versions of the documents.

Undergraduate Degree Regulations

6. **Reassessment in the final year of an undergraduate degree, or at level 6 or 7 of an integrated masters:** in relation to the treatment of marks where reassessment in the final year is permitted as a requirement of a professional, statutory or regulatory body or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Updates to paragraphs F30 and J45 of the Regulations have been made in relation to this.

- a. Paragraph F30 now reads:

“There will be no reassessment in the final year (level 6 or 7) unless it is a requirement of professional, statutory or regulatory body (PSRB) or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), where programmes do not permit compensation or special compensation. In such cases, a student who has not satisfied the requirements of the intended University award may be reassessed in some units in order to demonstrate that they have met the minimum required learning outcomes of the unit. 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), or as required and agreed by the PSRB or ESFA and the School/Faculty, to determine the class of degree awarded to the student.”

- b. Paragraph J45 now reads:

“There will be no reassessment in the final year (level 6 or 7) unless it is a PSRB or ESFA requirement (see F30)” with the following supplementary text being deleted: “in which case the originally obtained marks will be used to determine the class of degree awarded to such a student.”

7. **Clarification of numbers of credits at specific levels relating to special compensation:** paragraphs J48 and J49 have had the word “across” added to confirm that special compensation may be awarded for up to 40 credits (J48) or 60 credits (J49) *across levels 6 or 7* of an Integrated Masters, and not 40 credits at *both* levels.

8. **Consideration of Bachelor Degree students within the boundary zone by mark distribution:** in ‘Appendix A: Undergraduate Classification Scheme’, a new footnote has been 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.”*

The same footnote has been added to the section on ‘Consideration of Integrated Masters students within the boundary zone by mark distribution’, in relation to 75 credits out of 120 in final year/Level 7 of an Integrated Masters programme.

Please note: In cases where students are already part way through their studies and application of this change may adversely affect them, Schools are asked to continue with their original arrangements for consideration of students’ classifications; however, for all new students, Schools are advised to use the new principle, that any units/credits which were accepted as AP(E)L or which are non-numeric pass/fail units, should not be included in the 2/3 of credits, or 75 out of 120 credits, which are at the higher classification.

9. **References to Viva Voce:** in the final section on “Stage 2: Classification Review and Viva Voce”, references to vivas have been removed as vivas should now no longer be a standard part of assessment and most areas of the University have moved away from using them.

Postgraduate Taught Degree Regulations

10. **Maximum credits for AP(E)L for 20 credit units for UMW programmes:** to tie in with the move towards 20 credit PGT units for UMW programmes, an additional line has been added to paragraph C6 (underlined below):

“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.”

11. **Additional section entitled “E Compensation and Reassessment maximums”:** a new section 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 G27) on one occasion, subject to the mark restrictions set out in G28. **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.”

12. **Change to section numbers:** 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.

13. **Consideration of postgraduate masters students within the boundary zone by mark distribution:**

- a. As with the Undergraduate Degree Regulations, above, a new footnote has been added to Appendix A: Postgraduate Degree Classification Scheme to state:
“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.”

Please note: Schools as asked to take note of the wording in red at the end of paragraph 8, above.

- b. The wording “120 out of 180 credits” has been replaced with “2/3 of the credits” in relation to the criteria for awarding the higher classification.

Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations

14. The [*Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations*](#) has been updated to reflect some of the changes to the Regulations noted above, and to provide clarification of some areas. A ‘tracked changes’ version of the document can be found at <https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/media/services/tlso/content/files/degree-regs/Guide-to-Taught-Degree-Regulationsv1.9-Feb2020-tracked-changes.docx>, so that details of the updates can be viewed.