

Summary of Key Changes

2026/27

1 Context

1.1 The University annual reviews its Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures. This document summarises the key changes that have been made for the 2026/27 academic year. All changes have been informed by feedback received staff, students and partners and considered and approved through the University's academic governance structure.

1.2 The Academic Regulations will apply to all students registered with the University.

2 Academic Regulations

Change
Inserted an exceptions process for students who cannot join the programme by the two-week deadline. "Identified as a requirement through having a number of cases exceed the two-week deadline and no process in place to manage this, proposed wording as found in the Section B Enrolments.
Created university definitions of remote delivery (distance learning) / blended / hybrid and HyFlex learning. Remote / blended / hybrid / HyFlex delivery are being used as terms inconsistently across the University, this creates a compliance risk and difficulty in determining if a programme is accessible for international students. Definitions for academic use are provided in Section A Context: 7.4 Progs & Awards. NB. Fee/Loan definitions to be held in the Fee Regulations as required.
Clarified that students whose programme structure requires advancement to some modules of a higher level, before the Progression Board has decided on progression between levels, proceed at risk. This is because the board will not have taken place before delivery of those higher-level modules begins. This is something that was previously only seen with 2-year accelerated programmes, but now with in-year reassessment and other programme structures the need for a more general statement is required.
Clarified that the mark of a dissertation must be of the higher classification, unless the programme does not contain a distinct research/dissertation module, for both Masters with and without Advanced Practice. Aligning both Masters and Masters with AP (TPG-J).
Clarified that a student cannot progress to the next level without completing the full level and any trailing modules first. This was explicitly noted in previous versions of the Regs prior to 2023 and needed placing into the new Regs.
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Removed truism regarding 55% and 65% thresholds for award classes. No need for the bullet points regarding
55% and 65% thresholds for award classes as they only indicate what is true in the tables.

Change
Clarified that all modules must be passed at first attempt for a Distinction and also for the Merit, in TPG-J
Clarified that there is no PGCert with AP exit award, but there is a PGDip with AP. Now indicates what is required for this exit award. This was missing and not detailed within the regs despite the need for clarification.
Corrected for accuracy the PCET awarding criteria. The statements needed correcting to indicate the full award title, credit requirement and professional practice element.
Changed to "The module is exempt from compensation as it forms part of the modules that collectively make up the research block credits. Your Programme Specification will detail which specific modules this applies to." This needed to be changed from stating 60 credit research block, as this was not always true dependent on subject area and format of delivery.
Changed the wording of the Posthumous Award to third person and clarify that partial completion will confer a full award if supported by the subject team. The previous wording was not appropriate and partial completion not fully acknowledged.
Distinct section for Higher National Certificates and Diplomas, including: • Clarification on no compensation for HNC/HND. • Addition of explicit reference to HNC/HND progression. • Revised points system and necessary calculations for HNC/HND.
Clarified the difference between periods of study and max periods of registration, as well as what exceptional circumstances means in this context in Section A and B. Confusion over the terminology and the extensions to max periods has indicated the need for these amendments.
Corrected that the threshold for repeat years are not for comprise/equal to 80 credits but above/exceeds 80 credits. Previous confusion over whether it was equal to and above or just above 80 credits for repeat years.
Clarified the approach when max reg period is ended. Clarification was needed regarding that students must re-apply as a new student, rather than re-enrol, if they attempt to rejoin a programme outside their original max period of reg after they have voluntarily withdrawn from said programme.