

VIII GENERIC REGULATIONS FOR TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES

Regulations

A student admitted onto a programme leading to an award must follow the instructions issued by the relevant Department or equivalent and be aware of the content of the Programme Document (often referred to as the Programme or 'Course' Handbook) issued by that Department or equivalent which will contain further details on the Programme including, in some cases, further requirements associated with the award.

1. Application of Regulations

- 1.1 These regulations apply without modification to the degrees listed in §11 below.
- 1.2 These regulations apply also to the degrees listed in §12 below subject to alternative requirements described in the relevant Programme Document. The requirements for these degrees may vary only in respect of duration of study (§3) or progress (§7) to reflect the requirements of professional or statutory bodies.

2. Admission

Before being considered for admission to study for an award to which these Regulations apply, a candidate must normally have obtained a degree or equivalent.

3. Duration of Study

The minimum period of study for the award of a Masters degree is 12 calendar months. The maximum period for full-time study is 24 calendar months of registered study. The maximum period within which all students must complete the programme is five years from the date of initial registration.

4. Programme Components

- 4.1 In order to qualify for an award in respect of the programmes specified in §11 and §12, a candidate must complete minimum credits¹ as follows:
 - (i) For the award of a Masters degree: 180 credits, which includes both taught courses and a 60 credit (or more) dissertation or other substantial independent work.
 - (ii) For the award of a Postgraduate Diploma: 120 credits of taught courses.
 - (iii) For the award of a Postgraduate Certificate: 60 credits of taught courses.
- 4.2 The taught courses will normally be undertaken during the academic session (September – June) and are specified in the relevant Programme Document. The length and nature of the dissertation or other substantial independent work is as specified in the relevant Programme Document.

5. Minimum Requirement for the Award of Credits

Credits for courses contributing to a candidate's curriculum shall be awarded subject to the fulfilment of required conditions. The minimum requirements for the award of credits are set out in the Code of Assessment at §16.36 – §16.40 of the chapter *University Fees and General Information for Students* in the University Calendar.

6. Assessment

Regulations for assessment are, insofar as not modified by these regulations, governed by the Code of Assessment which is contained in the *University Fees and General Information for Students* chapter of the *Calendar*.

7. Candidates for a Masters Degree: Progress

- 7.1 A candidate will be permitted to progress to preparation of the dissertation, or other substantial independent work required by the degree, only if he or she has obtained an average aggregation score of 12 (equivalent to C3) or above in the taught courses described in Regulation 4, with at least 75% of the credits at Grade D3 or better, and all credits at Grade F or above². The Programme Document may specify a course or courses in

¹ In compliance with the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework a minimum component of the total credit must be gained from **Masters level** courses (Level M/SCQF Level 11) as follows: 150 credits for a Masters Degree, 90 credits for a Postgraduate Diploma, 40 credits for a Postgraduate Certificate.

² Average aggregation scores are determined with reference to the schedule of grades and aggregation scores contained in the University's Code of Assessment. The average is calculated as the arithmetic mean of individual course scores, adjusted to reflect relative weights attributed to the scores being combined. These weights will correspond to the weights (if any) published in programme documentation but otherwise will be determined by the distribution of course credits within the programme.

respect of which a specific grade is a minimum requirement of progression. Exceptionally, a candidate may be permitted to progress to the dissertation or other substantial independent work where the department judges that the candidate's performance offers a reasonable prospect of that candidate's reaching the standard required for the award of the Masters degree following reassessment.

- 7.2 A candidate who has commenced study midway through an academic session will be permitted to progress to preparation of the dissertation, or other substantial independent work, only if he or she has obtained an average aggregation score of 12 (equivalent to C3) or above in the taught courses assessed by the end of the session in which study was commenced, with at least 75% of the credits at Grade D3 or better, and all credits at Grade F or above. The Programme Document may specify a course or courses in respect of which a specific grade is a minimum requirement of progression. Exceptionally, a candidate may be permitted to progress to the dissertation or other substantial independent work where the department judges that the candidate's performance offers a reasonable prospect of that candidate's reaching the standard required for the award of the Masters degree following reassessment.

8. Reassessment of the Dissertation

Reassessment of the dissertation or other substantial independent work will be permitted on one occasion only, under such conditions as the Examiners may prescribe in each particular case. Normally, resubmission should be no later than 3 months after the date of the meeting of the Board of Examiners. There is no automatic entitlement to repeat any previous practical work associated with the dissertation or substantial independent work or to undertake further practical work.

9. Requirements for the award of a Masters degree and rules for award of distinction and merit

- 9.1 A candidate will be eligible for the award of the degree on obtaining an average aggregation score of 12 (equivalent to C3) or above in the taught courses described in Regulation 4, with at least 75% of these credits at Grade D3 or better, and all credits at Grade F or above, and obtaining a grade D or better in the dissertation or other substantial independent work.
- 9.2 A candidate who has achieved at the first attempt an average aggregation score of 15 (equivalent to B3) or above for the taught courses and Grade B3 or above for the dissertation or other substantial independent work will be eligible for the award with Merit. Where the average aggregation score for the taught courses falls within the range 14.1 and 14.9 the Board of Examiners shall have discretion to make the award with Merit. No discretion can be applied in relation to the grade required for the dissertation or other substantial independent work.
- 9.3 A candidate who has achieved at the first attempt an average aggregation score of 18 (equivalent to A5) or above for the taught courses and Grade A5 or above for the dissertation or other substantial independent work will be eligible for the award with Distinction. Where the average aggregation score for the taught courses falls within the range 17.1 to 17.9 the Board of Examiners shall have the discretion to make the award with Distinction. No discretion can be applied in relation to the grade required for the dissertation or other substantial independent work.

10. Requirements for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate and rules for award of distinction and merit

- 10.1 The requirement for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma is an average of Grade D in 120 credits, with not less than 80 of these credits at Grade D or above.
- 10.2 The requirement for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate is an average of Grade D in 60 credits, with not less than 40 of these credits at Grade D or above.
- 10.3 These awards may be granted with Merit or Distinction according to the criteria specified in §9.2 and §9.3 above.

11. Degrees to which these Regulations Apply³

The following awards are governed by the above regulations:

³ Each of these degree programmes also offer awards of Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate with the same title (see Regulation 10 above).