

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee - Friday 20 February 2009

Monitoring of Three Year Degree – Faculty Feedback: Faculty of Law, Business & Social Sciences: Award of MA (Social Sciences) 3 Year General Degree

Ms F Webster, Faculty of Law, Business & Social Sciences

There are two mechanisms for awarding the above degree –

- 1) Prior to a graduation ceremony, the Chief Adviser of Studies is sent batch validation transcripts from the Registry for confirmation by himself and another Faculty Officer of eligibility to graduate, or otherwise, of those students who have been pursuing a non-honours degree in the final year of study.

The criteria for the award of the degree is set out in the Faculty Regulations i.e. currently 280 credits at D or better with a GPA of 10 or over, although completion of 360 credits with an examination result A to G in each course must be recorded. It is the Faculty practice to average over course results i.e. a C result and a E result are regarded as equal to a D, this being the guidance from the Clerk of Senate (Professor Andrew Nash) at the time of introduction of modularisation of courses.

In the case of a few students who are not qualified to graduate after completion of the final year of study, the practice is to recognise courses taken outwith the university e.g. Open University. This would generally be when only a small number of credits remain outstanding, would not contribute to a student's GPA and would normally require the approval of the Chief Adviser prior to commencing a course.

If a student is eligible for an award, the transcript is marked accordingly in red pen with one of the following: NQ (not qualified), Q (Qualified), QM (qualified with merit), QD (qualified with distinction), initialled and dated by the Chief Adviser and returned to Registry.

In some cases, examination results will still be awaited and Registry will be asked to rerun a transcript when results are known. Or, it may be that a student has been unsuccessful in examinations and will have to undertake examinations at a resit diet in which case the transcript is marked NQ.

- 2) In other instances, a year 3 honours student may decide at some point during the honours year that s/he does not wish to continue pursuing an honours course, and would like to be awarded a 3 year degree at the end of the session. In this circumstance, the student must make the Department aware of his/her intentions, and honours papers will be marked at the non-honours level, and awards for two level 3 Special courses (60 credits each) will be reported to Registry by Departments, who will then send transcripts, as above, to the Chief Adviser. The Chief Adviser and another Faculty Officer will ensure that the student's results have been correctly reported to Registry by Departments, and if so, will mark the student eligible to graduate. If not, the Department is contacted and asked to alter

results accordingly. Students will not be marked qualified to graduate until results are correctly recorded by Registry.

There is also provision for a third or fourth year honours student, who has not performed satisfactorily at the honours level to have results converted to level 3 Special courses (60 credits each) if this is possible, and follows the same procedure as in the paragraph directly above.

It is the Faculty practice that honours examinations results which are being altered to non-honours results, are upgraded one level. The justification for this is that an honours result previously recorded as HE was marked on WebSURF records as a 'Pass Degree Standard', and only a D result at the non-honours level is regarded as a 'pass' i.e. GPA of 10.

SB/FC/FW
22 January 2009