

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 23 May 2014

Proposed Amendment to PGT Generic Regulations at The Glasgow School of Art

Janet Allison, Head of Registry, The Glasgow School of Art

GSA wishes to seek University of Glasgow approval for a revision to the Postgraduate Taught Regulations for implementation in session 2014/15.

Academic Rationale and Summary

GSA does not consider the current Grade Point Average marking scheme to be an appropriate fit for the School of Fine Art and School of Design programmes owing to the nature of study.

A particular difference evidenced within GSA postgraduate programmes in the Schools of Fine Art and Design is the specific nature and focus upon practice and studio based development. The programmes are constructed in order to support student's growth and to enhance their understanding of independent practice.

In Stages 1 and 2 it is important to foster and support experimental practice and the taking of risks. This is developed from a position through which students are encouraged to deconstruct their previous knowledge and critically analyse their personal practice.

Stage 3 sees the consolidation of personal learning achieved through stages 1 and 2 culminating in the final work produced for assessment and/or exhibition. This reflects the upward trajectory of development represented in the exit velocity of students and the growth of achievement as the students' progress through the programmes.

This represents the academic rationale for focusing the final award on Stage 3.

For clarification the current marking scheme is considered appropriate to the delivery of the Mackintosh School of Architecture Master in Architectural Studies programme therefore there is no proposed change to the current Grade Point Average marking scheme for this programme.

In terms of progress requirements GSA is of the belief that those students who have met the requirements for the award of postgraduate diploma should be eligible to proceed to Stage 3 of the Masters programme. This would apply to all PGT programmes.

Proposed Changes

- 1) Requirements for the Award of Masters Degree and Rules for Award of Distinction and Merit

Currently the grade point average from the taught courses and the grade from the dissertation or other substantial independent work, determine the award of Masters degree and award of distinction and merit.

It is proposed that the Masters degree and award for distinction and merit is determined only by the grade achieved in the dissertation or other substantial piece

of work and should not be calculated using the grade point average of the taught courses. For clarification the dissertation or substantial piece of work is GSA Stage 3.

A grade D or better on the dissertation or other substantial independent work will be required for the award of Masters.

A grade B3 or above for the dissertation or other substantial independent work will be required for the award of Merit.

A grade A5 or above for the dissertation or other substantial independent work will be required for the award of Distinction.

This proposed change to the regulations will be applicable to the following awards:

- Master of Design in Animation
- Master of Design in Design Innovation
- Master of Design in Fashion and Textiles
- Master of Design in Graphic Design
- Master of Design in Illustration
- Master of Design in Innovation and Citizenship
- Master of Design in Innovation and Environmental Design
- Master of Innovation and Service Design
- Master of Design in Interior Design
- Master of Design in Photography
- Master of Design in Sound for the Moving Image
- Master of Education in the Creative Disciplines
- Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art)
- Master of Letters in Fine Art Practice
- Master of Research in Creative Practices
- Master of Science in International Heritage Visualisation
- Master of Science in Medical Visualisation and Human Anatomy
- Master of Science in Serious Games Development

The GSA Master of Architectural Studies will retain the Grade Point Average marking scheme currently being applied. All School of Fine Art and School of Design programmes listed above will follow the proposed change and no alternative model will be considered.

The following Degrees are governed substantially by the above regulations. Any variations to the requirements in respect of programme component, progress, or reassessment will be described in the Programme Specification.

Master of Design in Communication Design
Master of Fine Art

2) Candidates for the Award of Masters Degree: Progress

Currently a candidate will only be permitted to progress to preparation of the dissertation, or other substantial independent work required by the degree, only if he/she has obtained a grade point average of 12 (equivalent to C3) or above in the taught courses, with at least 75% of the credit at grade D3 or better and all credits at Grade F or above.

It is proposed that candidates will be permitted to progress to preparation of the dissertation, or other substantial independent work required by the degree, only if he/she has met the requirement for the award of Postgraduate Diploma – a grade

point average of 9 (equivalent to D) in 120 credits, with not less than 80 of these credits at Grade D or above and all credits at Grade F or above.

The academic rationale for this proposal is to ensure that all students who successfully complete stages 1 and 2 and are eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma, are permitted to progress to preparation of the dissertation.

GSA does not want students unable to progress to Masters despite being eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma, therefore GSA wishes to align the regulation relating to successful completion of Stages 1 and 2 and progression into Stage 3 (dissertation).

3) Reassessment

There is no proposed change to the current regulations in relation to reassessment.

GSA does not believe there is any conflict in lowering the progression threshold but keeping the reassessment opportunity available to students in its current form.

4) Requirement for the Award of a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate

There is no proposed change to the current regulations in relation to the award of postgraduate certificate or postgraduate diploma.

5) Degree programmes delivered in conjunction with the Glasgow School of Art/University of Glasgow

- For those programmes where GSA is the lead and teaching is supplied by UoG, the proposed changes will apply.
- For those programmes where UoG is the lead and teaching is supplied by GSA, the current UoG regulations will apply.
- Where GSA and UoG are joint lead, the regulations which apply will be defined in the Programme regulations and where this is not defined the current UoG regulations will apply.

TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES AT THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

The Masters Degrees listed in §11 and §12 below are governed by Resolution No. 561 of the University Court which came into effect on 1 September 2006 with the following provisions.

1. The Masters Degrees listed in §11 and §12 may be awarded by the University of Glasgow at The Glasgow School of Art.
2. The Senate may make Regulations, which are subject to the approval of the University Court, governing the award of the Degrees - these are set out in the section entitled 'Regulations' below.
3. The Senate recognises The Glasgow School of Art, through its Academic Council, as being corporately responsible for the administration and development of the courses leading to the Degrees listed in §11 and §12.
4. It shall be the duty of the Academic Council of The Glasgow School of Art to consider annually the curriculum for the Degrees and such other matters, including the admission and progress of students, as may be remitted to it by the Senate and to report to the Senate thereon. It shall be competent for the Academic Council to make recommendations to the Senate, with regard to the appointment of Examiners for the Degrees.
5. It shall be competent for the University Court, on the recommendation of the Senate, to recognise as teachers of the University for the purpose of the Degrees, such lecturers and other officers of The Glasgow School of Art having responsibility for courses qualifying for the Degrees, as may be proposed for such recognition by the Academic Council.
6. The Senate may appoint as an Examiner for the Degrees, but not as an External Examiner, any teacher recognised in accordance with §5 above.
7. The External Examiners for the Degrees shall be appointed by the University Court on the recommendation of the Academic Council and the Senate.

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 Specification 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 Specification. The requirements for these Degrees may vary only in respect of duration of study (§3), programme components (§4), progress (§7) or reassessment (§8) 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 either a degree from a recognised University or an equivalent qualification to the satisfaction and approval of the Academic Council of The Glasgow School of Art.

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 Academic Council of The Glasgow School of Art may recognise attendance given and examinations passed in another institution. The maximum period within which all candidates 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, as described in the respective Programme Specification.
 - 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.

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.

- 4.2 The taught courses will normally be undertaken during the academic session (September - June) and are specified in the relevant Programme Specification. The length and nature of the dissertation or other substantial independent work is as specified in the relevant Programme Specification.

5. Minimum Requirement for the Award of Credits

The minimum requirement for the award of credits for a component of the programme shall be specified by the Department or equivalent concerned, and given to candidates in writing at the beginning of the programme component. This requirement shall normally include a specified minimum level of compliance with instructions in terms of attendance and completion of work, and a specified minimum level of performance in assessed work. Normally no grade or credits shall be awarded to a candidate who has not met these requirements.

6. Assessment

- 6.1 Regulations for assessment are, insofar as not modified by these regulations, governed by the GSA's Code of Assessment.

- 6.2 Courses for which the candidate has registered must be counted towards the calculation of the candidate's grade point average for the purposes of §7, §9 and §10 unless other provision is justified by good cause circumstances affecting the candidate.

This regulation applies where course registration continues:

- a) on the date on which the first summative assessment for that course is to be submitted; or
- b) on such other date as may be specified in the course document for that course.

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/she has obtained a grade point average² of 12 (equivalent to C3) or above in the taught courses described in §4 with at least 75% of the credits at grade D3 or better and all credits at grade F or above. The Programme Specification 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 it is judged³ 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/she has obtained a grade point average 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 Specification 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 it is judged³ 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

- 8.1 A candidate will be permitted reassessment in any taught course, for which he/she has obtained grade D1 or worse. A candidate will be entitled to one reassessment only in any course and the timing and nature of the reassessment will be as specified in the Programme Specification.

- 8.2 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 three months after the date of the meeting of the GSA Final Examination Board.

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.

² The grade point average is determined with reference to the schedule of grades and grade points contained in Schedule A of the GSA's Code of Assessment. The grade point average is calculated by taking the product of each course's weight and the candidate's grade points and dividing the sum of these products by the sum of the courses' weights. The weights shall correspond to the courses' credit ratings unless specified otherwise in the relevant programme documentation. The grade point average is expressed to one decimal place (§4.4 (a) of the GSA's Code of Assessment). In determining whether a candidate has satisfied requirements in relation to progress and award, no further rounding is permitted. Thus, a grade point average of 11.9 would not satisfy a requirement for a grade point average of 12.

³ This judgment is normally made by the GSA Final Examination Board or in cases where there is no scheduled meeting, the Convener of the GSA Final Examination Board.

8.3 The Programme Specification may specify more stringent criteria for reassessment on the basis of requirements of external bodies.

8.4 All reassessment results will be capped at grade C3.⁴

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 a grade point average² of 12 (equivalent to C3) or above in the taught courses described in §4, with at least 75% of these credits at grade D3 or better, and all credits at grade F or above, and obtaining grade D or better in the dissertation or other substantial independent work.

9.2 A candidate who has achieved at the first attempt a grade point average 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 grade point average for the taught courses falls within the range 14.1 and 14.9 the GSA Final Examination Board 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 a grade point average 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 grade point average for the taught courses falls within the range 17.1 to 17.9 the GSA Final Examination Board 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 a grade point average of 9 (equivalent to 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 a grade point average of 9 (equivalent to 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. Degrees⁵ to which these Regulations Apply

The following Degrees are governed by the above regulations:

Master of Architectural Studies

Master of Design in Animation

Master of Design in Design Innovation

Master of Design in Fashion and Textiles

Master of Design in Graphic Design

Master of Design in Illustration

Master of Design in Innovation and Citizenship

Master of Design in Innovation and Environmental Design

Master of Design in Innovation and Service Design

Master of Design in Interior Design

Master of Design in Photography

Master of Design in Sound for the Moving Image

Master of Education in the Creative Disciplines

Master of Letters in Fine Art Practice

Master of Research in Creative Practices

Master of Science in International Heritage Visualisation

Master of Science in Medical Visualisation and Human Anatomy⁶

Master of Science in Serious Games Development

⁴ It is necessary to define the secondary band at the lowest point for C (i.e. C3) in the capping process for resits in order to prevent students achieving a C2 or C3 at the first sitting being disadvantaged against students gaining higher results at resit (i.e. C1 or C2).

⁵ Each of these degree programmes also offer awards of Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate with the same title (see §10 above).

⁶ Delivered in conjunction with the University of Glasgow.

12. Degrees⁵ which Include Variations to Regulations 3, 4, 7 and 8 Above

The following Degrees are governed substantially by the above regulations. The requirements for these Degrees may vary in respect of duration of study (§3), programme components (§4), progress (§7) or reassessment (§8) and such variations will be described in the Programme Specification:

Master of Design in Communication Design

Master of Fine Art