

University of Glasgow**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 22 March 2019****PGT Online Distance Learning Generic Regulations****Ms H Butcher/Mrs R Cole, Senate Office**

The University is offering online distance learning programmes across an ever-expanding range of subject areas. It is proposed that such programmes should be governed by a separate set of generic regulations which largely mirror the existing PGT generic regulations governing on-campus delivery but include small variations better suited to the nature of part-time on-line delivery.

ASC is asked to consider the following principles (a draft form of proposed regulations is attached in Appendix 1):

Regulation 3:

Minimum periods of study will be:

- two years for a Masters (though the usual will be three years, with two only applying on an exceptional 'accelerated' pathway)
- two years for Postgraduate Diploma
- one year for Postgraduate Certificate

Maximum periods of study are:

- Six years for a Masters (reflecting the usual minimum of three years)
- Four years for a PG Certificate and PG Diploma. This mirrors the existing generic PGT provisions, though it has been suggested that the PG Certificate maximum duration should be limited to two years.

Regulation 4.2

This recognises that on-line delivery will not necessarily follow the conventional structure for the delivery of teaching, and may include teaching periods that commence in September, January and April.

Regulation 7.1

For students registered for a PG Diploma or a Masters an additional progress point is introduced after completion of 60 credits of taught courses. In order to progress to the remaining taught courses on the programme students must achieve a GPA of at least 7. This relatively modest requirement is below the standard required for award of the PG Certificate but allows for the possibility of students improving their performance across the remaining taught credits to a standard where they would either qualify for the award of a PG Diploma (GPA of 9) or even progress to the Masters (GPA of 12). The requirement enables the University to exclude students who are not fully engaging with studies or who do not show the potential to perform at the required level. Exam Boards will be required to ratify results after each assessment diet so that progress can be considered.

Note: where a student is registered for a PG Certificate, if they subsequently wish to register for the related PG Diploma they will be required to achieve a GPA of 9 on the 60 taught credits of the Certificate.

Regulation 7.3

The clause referring to students embarking on the independent project before successful completion of 120 taught courses is introduced with the word 'Exceptionally' as the norm on such programmes is to have a clear progress point. However, it is thought to be desirable to leave open the possibility of early starts where an accelerated track is to be offered.

In due course, provision of postgraduate professional development plans will be considered (credit-bearing continual professional development without commitment to a PG Certificate or other award).

The Masters degrees listed in §11 are governed by Resolution No. XXX of the University Court which at the time of publication was in draft form, with provision that:

1. The Masters Degrees listed in §11 of the section entitled 'Regulations' may be awarded by the University of Glasgow in the Colleges with which these Degrees are identified in these Regulations.
2. The Senate may make Regulations, which are subject to the approval of the University Court, governing the award of these degrees - these are stated in §1 – §10 of the section entitled 'Regulations'.
3. The awards of Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate are also included in the Regulations.

REGULATIONS

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

1. Application of Regulations

These regulations apply to the degrees and awards listed in §11.

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 two years. The maximum period within which all candidates must complete a Masters programme is six years from the date of initial registration.¹

The minimum period of study for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma is two years. The minimum period of study for a Postgraduate Certificate is one year. The maximum period within which all candidates must complete a programme leading to the award of a Postgraduate Diploma or Certificate is four 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 credits² as follows:

- i) For the award of a Masters degree: 180 credits, which includes both taught courses and a 60 credit (or more) substantial independent work which should be appropriately supervised and may take the form of a dissertation or project.
- 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 to June) in blocks commencing in September, January and April and are specified in the relevant Programme Document. The length and nature of the 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 §16.40 – §16.44 of the 'University Fees and General Information for Students' section in the *University Calendar*.

6. Assessment

6.1 For each academic session assessment and reassessment 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' section of the *University Calendar* published for that session.

¹ Where a candidate has progressed to study for a Postgraduate Diploma or a Masters degree in accordance with §7.4 of these regulations, that candidate's duration of study for the later award shall be counted as the period since first registration for the Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma.

² 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.

- 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 §10³ 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. Progress

7.1 A candidate's progress on the programme will be considered as follows:

- a) After completion of 60 taught credits: A candidate for a Masters degree or a Postgraduate Diploma who after completion of 60 credits of the taught courses described in §4 has obtained a grade point average of at least 7 will be permitted to progress to the subsequent 60 taught credits on the programme.
- b) After completion of 120 taught credits: A candidate for a Masters degree will be permitted to progress to preparation of the substantial independent work required by the degree, only if they have obtained a grade point average⁴ of 12 (equivalent to C3) or above in the 120 credits of 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.

7.2 The Programme Document may specify a course or courses in respect of which a specific grade is a minimum requirement of progression.

7.3 Exceptionally, a candidate for a Masters degree may be required to commence work on the substantial independent work before the assessment of the taught courses referred to in §4 has been completed. Such a requirement shall not indicate that the candidate has satisfied the requirements for award of the degree in relation to the taught courses. In the event that subsequently after all opportunities at assessment have been exhausted the candidate does not achieve the standard required in relation to the taught courses specified in §9.1, the candidate will not be eligible for the award of the Masters degree, and the following will apply:

- If the substantial independent work has been submitted, it will be marked and a grade published.
- If the substantial independent work has not been submitted but is substantially complete and no further supervisory input is required, the candidate may submit the work by the published deadline. The work will be marked and a grade published.
- If the substantial independent work is not substantially complete or requires further supervisory input, the work should be discontinued and no submission made. No grade will be published for the candidate.

7.4 Progress from Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma

- A candidate registered for a Postgraduate Certificate may progress to study for a Postgraduate Diploma where such a programme is available in the same subject if the candidate has obtained a grade point average of 9 (equivalent to D3) in 60 credits, with not less than 40 of these credits at grade D or above.
- A candidate registered for a Postgraduate Diploma may progress to study for a Masters degree where such a programme is available in the same subject if the candidate has obtained a grade point average⁴ of 12 (equivalent to C3) in the taught courses described in §4 with at least 75% of these credits at grade D or above 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.

8. Reassessment of the Substantial Independent Work

8.1 Where a candidate for a Masters degree requires a higher grade in the substantial independent work to satisfy the requirements set out in §9.1, reassessment of that 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 Board of Examiners. There is no automatic entitlement to repeat any previous practical work associated with the substantial independent work or to undertake further practical work.

³ Except for §10.2 and §10.3 where only 60 credits will be counted in the calculation of the grade point average for a Postgraduate Certificate, and any excess credit will be discarded in such a way as to maximise the grade point average while meeting all other requirements of the regulations.

⁴ The grade point average is determined with reference to the schedule of grades and grade points contained in Schedule A and Schedule B of the University'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 (§16.34(a) of the Code of Assessment). In determining whether a candidate has satisfied requirements in relation to progress and award, no further rounding is permitted. For example, a grade point average of 11.9 would not satisfy a requirement for a grade point average of 12.

8.2 Where at the time of publication of the grade achieved on the substantial independent work a candidate has exhausted all assessment opportunities on the taught courses referred to in §4 and has failed to satisfy the standard required in relation to the taught courses specified in §9.1 for the award of the degree, a resubmission of the substantial independent work will only be permitted where the Board determines that no further supervisory input is required.

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 Masters degree on obtaining a grade point average⁴ 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 a grade D or better in the substantial independent work.

9.2 A candidate will be eligible for the award of Merit on achieving at the first attempt:

- a) a grade point average of 15 (equivalent to B3) or above in the 180 or more credits completed on the programme, and
- b) a grade point average of at least 14 (equivalent to C1) in the taught courses, and
- c) a grade of at least C1 in the substantial independent work.

9.3 Where a candidate has satisfied the requirements set out at §9.2 (b) and (c), and their grade point average for the 180 or more credits completed on the programme at the first attempt falls within the range 14.1 to 14.9 the Board of Examiners shall have discretion to make the award with Merit.

9.4 A candidate will be eligible for the award of Distinction on achieving at the first attempt:

- a) a grade point average of 18 (equivalent to A5) or above in the 180 or more credits completed on the programme, and
- b) a grade point average of at least 17 (equivalent to B1) in the taught courses, and
- c) a grade of at least B1 in the substantial independent work.

9.5 Where a candidate has satisfied the requirements set out at §9.4 (b) and (c), and their grade point average for the 180 or more credits completed on the programme at the first attempt falls within the range 17.1 to 17.9 the Board of Examiners shall have discretion to make the award with Distinction.

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 average⁴ of 9 (equivalent to D3) 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 D3) in 60 credits, with not less than 40 of these credits at grade D or above.

10.3 A candidate who has achieved at the first attempt a grade point average of 15 or 18 will be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate with Merit or Distinction respectively.

10.4 Where a candidate has achieved at the first attempt a grade point average of between 14.1 and 14.9 or between 17.1 and 17.9 the Exam Board shall have discretion to make the award of Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate with Merit or Distinction respectively.

11. Degrees and Awards to which these Regulations Apply

The following degrees are governed by the above regulations:

Masters degrees

Postgraduate Diplomas

Postgraduate Certificates