

## Key Changes to Taught Assessment Regulations 2020/21

Regulation	What has changed
<b>4 Convener of the Board of Examiners: appointment</b>	<b>Amended</b> Conveners of Boards of Examiners are now formally appointed by the relevant Head of School, rather than (as previously) appointed by the College based on a recommendation from the Head of Schools. Schools are required to inform their College Office of appointments of Conveners. This does not represent a change in expected practice for Schools.
<b>16 Feedback deadlines</b>	<b>Amended</b> to take account of courses on some PGT programmes which do not commence at the beginning of a semester. Previously this regulation stated 'At the start of the semester in which the course is taught, Schools will publish their timetable for returning feedback and marks for in-course work. This has been amended to 'At the start of <b>each course</b> , Schools will publish their timetable for returning feedback.....'
<b>25.2 Examination timetable</b>	<b>Amended</b> to replace reference to 'extenuating circumstances' with 'religious reasons or participation in elite-level sport'. The removal of the wording 'extenuating circumstances' is to prevent confusion with special circumstances, and also to clarify what is covered in this regulation. The special circumstances process and Schedules of Adjustments for disability deal with circumstances beyond students' control affecting their attendance at examinations. Regulation 25 only has relevance to religious observance and participation in elite sport, as these do not qualify as special circumstances. The change in wording does not represent a change in practice.
<b>26 Conduct of examinations</b>	<b>Amended 26.4</b> to add in reference to online examinations and to clarify the situation regarding extensions for take-home examinations. The revised regulation is 'Take-home examinations <b>and online examinations</b> are subject to the provisions of the Taught Assessment Regulations which are related to examinations but are not subject to the Examination Hall Regulations. Take-home examinations are not assessed coursework, <b>and are therefore not subject to extensions, although additional time may be offered to individual students in line with Schedules of Adjustments</b> '.
<b>28 Late submission of coursework</b>	<b>Amended</b> to reflect the role of the incoming Extensions and Special Circumstances Team, who will now make decisions regarding whether to permit extensions for individual students.  <b>Amended 28.8</b> Added that "failure, loss of theft or data, a computer or other equipment" may be accepted as a reason for late submission of coursework in exceptional circumstances for courses taken online. This is relevant to online programmes, but may also have relevance to courses offered under "blended"

learning methods. This should be of particular to benefit to students studying in locations with unreliable or intermittent access to internet, power, or IT equipment.

**35 Common Marking Schemes**

**New 35.3** Added reference to Pass/Fail courses, which are used in some Schools primarily on postgraduate taught programmes. The new regulation permits their use where approved by Boards of Studies on pre-Honours and postgraduate taught courses, but requires a specific exemption to be sought from APRC if Pass/Fail courses are to be used at undergraduate Honours level.

**39 Board of Examiners: quorum**

**Deleted 39.5** External Examiners are no longer required physically to attend one Board of Examiners meeting a year. At least one External Examiner must participate in every meeting of the Board of Examiners. Each External Examiner must physically attend at least one meeting in the first year of their term, as is now articulated in the External Examiners for Taught Programmes Policy (38).

**44 Borderlines**

**New 44.3(c)** Examples of borderlines for progression decisions now includes 'where a student being considered for progression on a postgraduate taught programme has achieved an average of 50% or more across 120 credits of taught courses, and a mark of 50% or more in 60 or 70 credits, with a further course or courses carrying a mark of 48 or 49%'.

**48 Degree examination scripts**

**Amended** to clarify that degree examination scripts, may be returned to students on SCQF Level 7 and 8 courses (usually Year 1 and 2 pre-Honours courses) '**after the Board of Examiners has published ratified course results**'.

**49 Retention and destruction of material**

**Amended 49.4** to clarify position regarding requests to make available information held by the University including copies of assessments (consideration on a case by case basis of whether an FOI exemption applies). Further guidance on this is available from Records Management.

**New 49.5** 'Where students have consented, assessment material can be retained for longer [than the end of the retention period or the period in which the School has agreed it will retain the information for] and be used as exemplars for future students. The material can be kept for as long as the course exists or until the student withdraws consent, whichever happens earlier. All student names must be removed before use'. This clarification has been provided by Records Management.

**55 Undergraduate degree classification**

**Amended** following agreement at Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (Jan 2020). For degrees with two honours years the degree classification is based on a **credit-weighted average of** performance across both honours years (with some exceptions to

this noted in the regulations). Classification based on an average of separate credit-weighted averages for each Honours year is only used on programmes which use differential weightings for each Honours year (e.g. 40:60).

**58 Resubmission of postgraduate dissertations or research projects**

**New 58.5** 'Students who achieve a mark of 45 to 49% for the dissertation or research project at the first attempt as a result of a marking penalty, either for late submission or for academic misconduct, are entitled to one resubmission, in line with this regulation'.

**Amended 58.6** Students must now include with their resubmitted dissertation a statement outlining the changes made to the previous submission. This places minimal additional workload on students, but should make the process of marking resubmitted dissertations more efficient for staff.

**Amended 58.7** Clarification added that students may be permitted a further resubmission where special circumstances affect the original resubmission attempt, if the relevant Board of Examiners considers this appropriate.

**Throughout**

**Amended** References to the Senate Curriculum and Student Progression Committee have been amended to refer to the Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee.