- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

K

THE STANDARD POSTGRADUATE ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

K1 Introduction

- K 1.1 These regulations are standard assessment regulations for programmes of study leading to the awards of the University shown at K 2 below. All programmes of study which lead to those awards are governed by these assessment regulations, except where Academic Board has agreed that a particular programme of study may be exempt from all or part of these requirements. Where such an exemption has been granted alternative assessment regulations will be published in the Student Course Guide.
- K 1.2 Where deviation from these regulations is necessary in order to satisfy professional requirements, for example those of a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body, the relevant Student Course Guide will provide details of the alternative regulation(s).
- K 1.3 These regulations make no distinction for assessment purposes between students on different modes of attendance.
- K 1.4 These regulations only apply to assessments conducted for the purposes of establishing credit, determining the right to progress or determining an award.
- K 1.5 Where indicated, students should refer to the appropriate Student Course Guide for further details of the assessment requirements for their programme of study.

K 2 Maximum Registration Periods

K 2.1 For each award of the University there is a limit on the period for which a student may be registered for that award, as listed below. Where a student is admitted to a programme of study with exemption or with academic credit the maximum registration period for that student will be shortened. In such cases the maximum registration period will be calculated by deducting the maximum time permitted to reach the point at which the student is to be admitted from the normal maximum registration period for the award.

- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

Award	Maximum Period
Postgraduate Certificate	2 years
Postgraduate Diploma	3 years
Master's Degree	5 years

In order to comply with the requirements of a professional or statutory body the Student Course Guide may specify a shorter maximum registration period for a particular programme of study.

- K 2.2 There is no minimum registration period for any of the awards governed by these regulations.
- K 2.3 Where a student has formally interrupted his or her studies, the period of interruption of study will be included in the student's registration period for the purposes of calculating his or her maximum period of registration under these regulations. Procedures on withdrawal and interruption of studies are available from Academic Services (see also E2.17.3).

K 3 Expiry of Maximum Registration Period

- K 3.1 All students should aim to complete their programme of study within the maximum registration period. It is acknowledged, however, that there will be students who do not complete within that timeframe. A student whose maximum registration period for the award has expired may request to proceed on the programme of study on which he or she has been registered. Such a student cannot proceed without some re-assessment of the currency of his or her previous learning. Such re-assessment may result in no. part, or full academic credit being granted for the student's previous study on the programme concerned. The assessment of students for academic credit is the responsibility of the Examination Board but, in the case of part-time students only, responsibility for a decision to allow a student to proceed with full academic credit may be delegated to the Course Director. Where full academic credit has been granted the student may proceed on the programme of study. Where full academic credit is not granted the student may not proceed on the programme until full academic credit has been obtained, usually by undertaking further study at the same or a lower level of attainment to that reached previously. The decision on whether to readmit a student to an earlier stage of the same programme on which he or she was previously enrolled in order to obtain the missing credit is a matter for the School Academic Board or those nominated to act on its behalf.
- K 3.2 The University cannot extend a maximum registration period which is specified by a professional or statutory body for a particular programme of study.

- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

K 4 Modules

- K 4.1 All postgraduate programmes of study consist of a series of modules. A module is a discrete block of study with its own objectives, syllabus, learning outcomes and assessment requirements. The modules which form a programme of study are described in the Student Course Guide.
- K 4.2 Each module is assigned a credit value and level within an individual programme. More information about the credit rating and level of modules is given in K 5 and K 6 below.
- K 4.3 Modules must be classified as core or optional within a particular programme. The Student Course Guide will define whether modules are core or optional in a particular programme of study.
- K 4.4 All core modules within a student's programme of study are compulsory.
- K 4.5 An optional module is one selected by a student from a set of modules specified in the Student Course Guide. The number of optional modules a student must successfully complete in order to qualify for the award is also specified in the Student Course Guide. Where appropriate an optional module may be specified as a pre-requisite module for another optional module provided it satisfies the criteria set out in K 4.6 below.
- K 4.6 A pre-requisite module is one which must have been successfully completed before a module or modules for which it is specified as a pre-requisite can be studied subsequently. A module is defined as a pre-requisite because it is essential for students to complete it successfully as preparation for study of the subsequent module; therefore, a module cannot be designated a pre-requisite for a later module to which its subject content is not linked directly. Where a programme contains pre-requisite modules they are identified in the Student Course Guide.
- K 4.7 A co-requisite module is one which must be studied in conjunction with another specified module at the same time. Co-requisite modules are identified in the Student Course Guide.
- K 4.8 The Student Course Guide may also specify excluded combinations of modules. Excluded combinations are modules which may not be taken together as part of the same programme of study.

- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

K 5 The Credit Framework

- K 5.1 All programmes of study which lead to the awards governed by these regulations are credit rated. Awards are obtained by accumulating a specified number of these credits (see K 7 below).
- K 5.2 Credits are awarded in accordance with the University's framework for credit accumulation and transfer which accords with the systems used by many other British universities and can be easily translated to the systems used by universities elsewhere in Europe.
- K 5.3 Each module has a credit rating. A standard size module has 15 credits which represents 150 notional learning hours. Individual students may take more or less time to achieve the outcomes of a particular module, thus this figure is merely indicative. A programme of study may contain double modules (30 credits) or triple modules (45 credits) etc. Details of the credit rating of each module within a programme are given in the Student Course Guide.
- K 5.4 In order to be awarded the credits associated with a module a student must have successfully completed the assessment associated with that module, satisfying the requirements for a pass mark set out at K 10 below.
- K 5.5 Some postgraduate programmes of study permit students to include negotiated modules within their programme. The content of negotiated modules may be proposed by the student or the Faculty and may be undertaken in association with employers. Where negotiated modules are permitted within a particular programme of study the regulations governing the maximum number of negotiated modules which can be included and the procedures for approving the content of negotiated modules are defined in the relevant Student Course Guide.
- K 5.6 Negotiated modules are subject to the approval of the Faculty Committee designated in the Student Course Guide. In approving negotiated modules the Committee shall have regard to the coherence of the combination and sequence of modules which will form the student's total programme. It shall also ensure that the student's proposed programme satisfies the Academic Board's requirements in terms of standards, credits and level for the award for which he or she is registered.
- K 5.9 Some programmes of study include work-based learning which is assessed and has a credit rating. Details of any work-based learning are given in the Student Course Guide, which will also explain the assessment process and the amount of credit allocated to these modules.
- K 5.10 If a student has been granted academic credit through APL these credits count towards the total number of credits required for the award. The regulations governing the granting of academic credit are set out in Section D of Part 1 of the Academic Regulations and Policies.

- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

K 6 The Inclusion of Level 6 Modules

- K 6.1 Normally, modules that contribute to the awards governed by these regulations are designated level 7 but the requirements for an individual programme of study may permit the substitution of a small number of credits from level 6 modules for the same number of level 7 credits. The minimum number of level 7 credits that must contribute to an award governed by these regulations is set out in the table at K7 below.
- K6.2 The Student Course Guide will indicate the number of level 6 modules which may be substituted for level 7 modules within the particular programme and will provide details of those modules.

K7 Eligibility for awards and granting of interim awards

K 7.1 In order to satisfy the requirements for an award students must have been awarded the credits shown in the table below. Where a student has been admitted with academic credit to a postgraduate programme the amount of credit required for an award will be reduced by the number of credits with which the student has been admitted. The regulations governing the admission of students with academic credit are given in Section D of Part 1 of the Academic Regulations and Policies.

Award	Minimum credit needed to satisfy the requirements of the award
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits of which at least 40 must be at level 7
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits of which at least 90 must be at level 7
Master's Degree	180 credits of which at least 150 must be at level 7.

- K 7.2 Students shall receive the highest award to which they are entitled. Exceptionally, the Examination Board shall recommend the conferment of an interim award for the purpose of professional body recognition to a student who is continuing on the programme with a view to obtaining a higher award. Where an interim award is available to a continuing student this will be specified in the Student Course Guide.
- K 7.3 A student will be permitted to study concurrently modules which contribute to the award of Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma provided credit has already been awarded for any necessary pre-requisite modules.
- K 7.4 It may be necessary to specify requirements that students must meet in order to progress, either to meet a professional body requirement or because of the

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- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

particular nature of the programme. Such a progression requirement should be considered by the programme's approval/review panel and is subject to the approval of the Academic Board.

K 7.5 All the awards covered by these regulations are available as aegrotat awards. Where, in order to comply with the requirements of a professional or accrediting body, an aegrotat award is not available for a particular programme of study this will be specified in the Student Course Guide.

K 8 Structure of Postgraduate Programmes

- K 8.1 All programmes of study that lead to the award of a Master's Degree are required to include a dissertation or project. The dissertation/project forms a significant element of the requirements for the award and must comprise at least **30** level 7 credits. Students registered on a Master's programme must complete the dissertation/project successfully in order to be eligible for the award. The Student Course Guide will include details of the requirements for the dissertation/project and will specify the number of modules that comprise the dissertation/project.
- K 8.2 Programmes of study which lead to the award of a Postgraduate Diploma may be designed so as to include a compulsory dissertation or project. Students registered on such programmes must complete the dissertation/project successfully in order to be eligible for the award. The Student Course Guide will include details of the requirements for the dissertation/project and will specify the number of modules that comprise the dissertation/project.
- K 8.3 Postgraduate programmes of study which include a dissertation/project must also include appropriate training in research methods to support the dissertation/project. The Student Course Guide will explain the format and timing of the research methods element.

K 9 Module Assessment

- K 9.1 Modules are assessed by the methods and criteria described in the syllabus provided in the Student Course Guide.
- K 9.2 A schedule of assessment will be published to students at the start of each module or combination of modules. The schedule will provide information about the nature and timing of assessment for the module or combination of modules.
- K 9.3 The following limits have been placed upon the number of assessments permitted per module:

Modules with a credit rating of 15 credits shall include one item of assessment only; and

- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

Modules with a credit rating of more than 15 credits may include up to two items of assessment.

The assessment method(s) for each item of assessment will be defined in the schedule of assessment. The method used to assess each item of assessment will vary according to the nature of the module and may include, for example, an examination (including open-book), presentation, coursework, log-book, project, laboratory test or clinical test etc.

- K 9.4 Academic Board may accept a recommendation from a panel established to consider the approval or review and re-approval of a programme of study to allow a module to include more assessments than would normally be possible under K 9.3 above. Such a proposal may also be approved through a Faculty's minor change processes. In these cases, the nature and size of the additional item(s) of assessment will be explained in the Student Course Guide.
- K 9.5 The use of additional grading schemes to supplement the information provided to students about their assessed work is permitted. Where such a scheme is operated it will be described in the relevant Student Course Guide.

K 10 Marks

K 10.1 Marks for items of assessment

K10.1.1 Marks assigned by examiners for each item of assessment are expressed as a percentage and in whole numbers.

K 10.2 Pass mark for a module

- K10.2.1 The pass mark for a module with one item of assessment is **50%.**
- K10.2.2 In modules which have more than one item of assessment a pass will be awarded where:

the overall average of the marks achieved for the items of assessment is **50%** or more; and

the mark in each separate item of assessment is not less than 40%.

In calculating the overall average mark for a module the marks attributed to each item of assessment will be weighted equally unless a different weighting has been specified in the Student Course Guide

- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.
- K10.2.3 Where the process of calculating the overall weighted average mark for a module results in a mark which is not a whole number, that mark will be expressed to one decimal place except where the overall weighted average expressed to one decimal place is between **49.5% and 49.9%.** In these cases the overall average mark will be rounded up.
- K 10.2.4 The same pass mark requirements apply to Level 6 and Level 7 modules forming part of a postgraduate programme.¹
- K10.2.5 Where a different pass mark is required in order to meet requirements of a professional body this will be specified in the Student Course Guide.
- K10.2.6 If it is agreed at the point of programme approval or via a Faculty's minor change procedures that a module is to be marked on a pass/fail basis this will be specified in the Student Course Guide.

K 11 Notification of Marks to Students

- K 11.1 Marks will remain provisional until they have been confirmed by the relevant Examination Board.
- K 11.2 Students who have failed a module or modules will be notified of their results by email.² Faculties are required to make appropriate arrangements to advise students who have failed about what has to be done to retrieve the failure, the support that will be available and the date of the re-assessment(s). Where a student is recommended or required to re-study a module or modules this will be confirmed and advice given about any new modules that can be studied concurrently.
- K 11.3 A final transcript which accords with the University's standard template for the transcript of learning and achievement will be issued when an award is confirmed.

K 12 Late Coursework

K 12.1 It is the responsibility of students to submit work for assessment as required.

¹ Where it is planned to deliver the same Level 6 module as part of an undergraduate and postgraduate programme, advice should be sought from Academic Registry.

² The University's collaborative partners may use different methods to notify students of their results in writing and will make appropriate arrangements to advise students who have failed about what has to be done to retrieve the failure, the support that will be available and the date of the re-assessment(s). Where a student has to re-study a module or modules this requirement will be confirmed and advice given about any new modules that can be studied concurrently.

- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.
- K 12.2 Information about the nature and timing of assessment will be published to students in accordance with K 9.1 and K 9.2 above. The Student Course Guide will also define those items of assessment which are classified as coursework.
- K 12.3 Where a student submits his or her first attempt at an assessment up to **2 hours** after the published deadline the mark that will be awarded will be reduced by 10% (see also K13.3 below). For example, a mark of 60% will be reduced by 6% so that the mark that the student will receive is 54%. Where the process of calculating the mark results in a mark which is not a whole number, that mark will be expressed to one decimal place.

The 10% reduction in the mark will not be applied in the following two cases:

- The mark is below the pass mark for the assessment. In this case, the mark achieved by the student will stand
- Where a deduction of 10% will reduce the mark from a pass to a fail. In this case the mark awarded will be 50%.
- K12.4.1 Where a student submits his or her first attempt at an assessment between **2 hours** and **5 working days** after the published deadline the maximum mark available will be 50% (see also K13.3 below). Work submitted more than **5 working days** after the published deadline will not be marked and the student will be deemed to have failed an attempt at the assessment.
- K 12.4.2 Where a student submits a re-assessment attempt after the published deadline the student will be deemed to have failed the re-assessment and the coursework will be returned to the student unmarked.
- K 12.5 A student who is unable to meet a coursework deadline because of exceptional circumstances may request either an extension to the coursework deadline or to defer the assessment (see K 13).

K 13 Claims to defer assessment or to request a coursework extension because of Exceptional Circumstances

- K 13.1 A student who is unable to meet a coursework deadline because of exceptional circumstances may request either:
 - an extension to the coursework deadline or
 - to defer the assessment
- K 13.2 The regulations and procedures for requests to defer an assessment or to be granted an extension are described in Part II of the Academic Regulations and Policies. Guidance for students is also published in Part II which describes the type of circumstances that may be seen as exceptional and the nature of evidence

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- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

that will be required to determine the validity of a request to defer an assessment or be granted an extension.

- K 13.3 If a student with disabilities has a Support Summary recommending additional time to complete coursework, the student may be granted an alternative deadline in accordance with the policy and procedures set out in Part II. The granting of additional time to complete the coursework does not affect the student's right:
 - to submit a request for a deferral of assessment or an extension on the grounds of exceptional circumstances provided the student's request is based on exceptional circumstances which have not already been taken into account in the Support Summary;

or

- to submit his or her first attempt at an assessment up to 2 hours after the alternative deadline or between 2 hours and 5 working days after the alternative deadline. The mark will be reduced by 10% if the late coursework is submitted up to 2 hours after the alternative deadline apart from in the following cases:
 - the mark is below the pass mark for the assessment. In this case the mark achieved by the student will stand;
 - where a deduction of 10% will reduce the mark from a pass to a fail.
 In this case the mark awarded will be 50%.

The maximum mark available will be 50% provided the late coursework is submitted **after 2 hours** but no more than **5 working days** after the alternative deadline. Work submitted more than **5 working days** after the alternative deadline will not be marked and the student will be deemed to have failed an attempt at the assessment.

K 14 Provisions in the Event of Failure

K 14.1 Re-assessment opportunities

- K14.1.1 If a student fails the assessment for a module or modules he or she will be permitted to be re-assessed in the failed module or modules on up to two occasions. The re-assessment will take place on the next occasion the module is assessed unless the student has indicated the intention to substitute an alternative optional module where this facility is available (see K 14.1.7 below).
- K14.1.2 The maximum mark which can be awarded for a module after re-assessment is 50% irrespective of the academic merits of the re-assessed work. This mark will be used for the purposes of calculating eligibility for an award with Commendation or Distinction.

- Students who enrolled for the first time on or after 1st September 2010 on a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%; and
- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.
- K14.1.3 Where a module includes more than one item of assessment a student will not be required to be re-assessed in an item he or she has passed. The mark achieved in the passed item will be used along with the mark achieved after re-assessment of the failed item to calculate the overall weighted average mark for the module. The mark achieved in a re-assessed item of assessment must be 40% or more and must be sufficient to raise the overall weighted average mark for the module to 50%. Where a student has failed more than one item of assessment in a module he or she will be registered automatically for re-assessment in the failed items of assessment. If the mark achieved after re-assessment in an item of assessment is lower than that achieved at the previous attempt, the higher mark achieved will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark for the module.
- K14.1.4 Where a decision has been taken to cease to offer a module, the Faculty will schedule two re-assessment opportunities for the final cohort. Students will be eligible to submit claims to defer an assessment or claim a coursework extension because of exceptional circumstances in respect of each attempt at assessment in such a module (see Procedures for the Procedures for the Consideration of Exceptional Circumstances in Part II). Students will be offered the choice of registering for a replacement module, rather than repeating the module which is being phased out where this is possible. Any attempt at this alternative module will be regarded as a re-assessment. The maximum mark which can be awarded after re-assessment in the replacement module is **50%** irrespective of the academic merits of the re-assessed work. This mark will be used for the purposes of calculating eligibility for an award with Commendation or Distinction.
- K14.1.5 A student cannot demand re-assessment in a module which is no longer current in the programme. The Examination Board will make such special arrangements as it deems appropriate in cases where it is not practicable for students to be re-assessed in the same module and by the same methods as before.
- K14.1.6 A student will not be permitted to repeat the assessment for an item of assessment, module or modules he or she has already completed successfully in order to improve the mark.
- K14.1.7 Where a student has failed an optional module or modules he or she will be permitted to substitute alternative optional modules, provided such modules are available. The actual mark achieved for the assessment of the new module will be used for the purposes of calculating eligibility for an award with Commendation or Distinction. Failed substitute modules cannot subsequently be substituted.

K 15 Withdrawal from the programme

K 15.1 Where a student withdraws before completing his or her programme, the student will be entitled to receive an interim award provided that the requirements for that

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- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.

award have already been met.³ Where an interim award is not available this will be specified in the Student Course Guide.

- K 15.2 A student who fails again after exhausting the right to re-assessment afforded under K14 above will be given the opportunity either:
 - to accept the conferment of the highest level of interim award for which he or she has satisfied the requirements, in which case the student will be withdrawn from the programme;³ or
 - to transfer his or her registration to an appropriate alternative programme for which he or she can still satisfy the requirements, where such a programme is available.
- K 15.3 An Examination Board may withdraw a student who, despite warnings, has failed to meet the requirements to attend/engage in the module. If the student has already satisfied the requirements for an interim award he or she will be given the opportunity to accept that award.
- K 15.3 A student who fails to satisfy the assessment requirements for his or her programme within the maximum permitted registration period for the award will be withdrawn from the programme (see K 3 above).

K 16 Compensation

K 16.1 An Examination Board is not permitted to compensate failure in any module forming part of a programme of study that contributes to any of the awards governed by these regulations.

K 17 Awards with Commendation or Distinction

- K 17.1 The award of Postgraduate Certificate is not available with Commendation or Distinction.
- K 17.2 The award of Postgraduate Diploma with Commendation will be made to students who satisfy the requirements for the award and achieve an overall average mark of 60 69% in the 120 credits required for the award.⁴

³ When an Examination Board is considering a student's results for an interim award, credits achieved for modules which form part of the Postgraduate Diploma programme may be counted towards the award of a Postgraduate Certificate and credit achieved for the Master's stage may be counted towards the award of a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma.

⁴ For students who were awarded marks for work on their programme before the start of 2010/11 awards with commendation and distinction will continue to be calculated according to the method described in Version 1 of the Standard Postgraduate Assessment Regulations. Where students have a mixture of module sizes the total

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- Continuing students who have moved on or after 1st September 2010 to a postgraduate programme which has modules with a pass mark of 50%.
- K 17.3 The award of Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction will be made to students who satisfy the requirements for the award and achieve an overall average mark of 70% or above in the 120 credits required for award.⁴
- K 17.4 The award of Master's Degree with Commendation will be made to students who satisfy the requirements for the award and achieve an overall average mark of 60 69% in the 180 credits required for award.⁴
- K 17.5 The award of Master's Degree with Distinction will be made to students who satisfy the requirements for the award and achieve an overall average mark of 70% or above in the 180 credits required for award.⁴
- K 17.6 Where module marks are averaged for the purposes of determining eligibility for an award with Commendation or Distinction, marks to one decimal place will be totalled for the calculation but the overall average mark will be expressed as a whole number. In order to express the overall average mark as a whole number fractions of .5 and above will be rounded up, anything below .5 will be rounded down.
- K 17.7 Where a student has been admitted with academic credit, eligibility for an award with Commendation or Distinction will be based solely upon the marks achieved in the modules the student was required to complete on the programme in order to qualify for the award.

K 18 Cheating

The procedures to be followed in cases of alleged cheating are governed by the Student Disciplinary Procedure in Part II.

K 19 Claims of Error in the Conduct of Assessment Processes

The procedures to be followed by a student who wishes to make a claim that there has been a material irregularity in the conduct of the assessment or the examination board are described in Part II of the University's Academic Regulations and Policies.

number of credits achieved may amount to slightly more or less than 60 credits in a Stage of the programme. An adjustment will be made to take this difference into account in the calculation.