



Key Changes to Newcastle University Regulations 2017-18

General Regulations

A. General Requirements

Amendments (underlined). This point has been reworded in response to the UUK Guidance on respect (Changing the Culture) to refer explicitly to respect for the University, staff, students and the wider community

3. In order to be admitted to the University all students are required to accept the following declaration: 'Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which demonstrates respect for the University, its staff, fellow students and the wider community' 'I hereby promise to conform to the discipline of the University, to the Student Charter and to all Statutes, Regulations and Rules in force for the time being, in so far as they concern me'. See www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations/.

C. Registration and Module Choice

Addition (underlined) to clarify that a Degree Programme Director cannot override the Qualifications and Credit Framework except with the relevant dean's permission

13. Students may be permitted, with the approval of the degree programme director, to select modules other than those listed in their degree programme regulations provided that the module selection complies with the Qualifications and Credit Framework. Any exceptions to this need to be agreed by the relevant dean.

V. Visa renewal Status for International Students

Addition (underlined) additional point added to this section to stress the requirement for students to have and maintain appropriate and legal immigration status.

74. Notwithstanding any extension to normal study agreed under specific progress regulations, to comply with the University's license with the United Kingdom Home Office, the Academic Registrar may withhold visa renewal support for a student where one or more of the following applies:

(...)

- h) Students are responsible for ensuring that they have and continue to maintain appropriate and lawful immigration status from the point of initial registration and throughout the duration of their programme of studies. Students who are not in possession of appropriate and lawful immigration status at any point throughout their programme of studies, may have their studies terminated in accordance with General Regulation U72.

Other minor wording changes have been made for clarification.

Undergraduate Progress Regulations

Addition (underlined). Text added to preliminary section of regulations to clarify where the authority for agreeing variations lies

Variations to these regulations, non-standard stage weightings and exceptions to the Qualifications and Credit Framework can only be agreed by University Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (ULTSEC), except where the power is explicitly vested in the relevant Faculty Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (FLTSEC) or Degree Programme Director (DPD) in the regulations themselves.

B. Definitions

Addition (underlined) to clarify the definition of core modules

4. Where the following terms appear in these regulations, in degree programme regulations or in the University *Undergraduate Examination Conventions*, they shall have the meanings assigned below:

(...)

- c) Core module: a module which students must pass, and in which a fail mark may neither be carried (Convention H33) nor compensated (Convention J35); such modules are designated by the board of studies as essential for progression to a further stage of the programme or for study in a further module. A final stage module cannot be deemed to be core;

E. Patterns of Study

Addition (underlined) to clarify that only University Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee can agree exceptions to The Qualifications and Credit Framework

Honours Degree Programmes

10. The standard pattern of study and the number of stages for an Honours degree programme shall be as prescribed in *The Qualifications and Credit Framework* and the relevant programme regulations. Exceptions to the Qualifications and Credit Framework can only be agreed by university learning, teaching and student experience committee.

(...)

Approval of Non-standard Patterns of Study

Amendment (underlined) to clarify that exceptional module choices agreed by the Degree Programme Director have to be in line with The Qualifications and Credit Framework

17. By *General Regulation C13*, students may select modules other than those prescribed in their degree programme regulations, subject to permission from the degree programme director. However, such permission shall not override the provisions of *General Regulations C10, C11 and C12* (registration of module choice) or paragraphs E14, E15 and E16 of these regulations or the requirements of the Qualification and Credit Framework <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/governance/modules/framework/>. In exercising this power the Degree Programme Director should also take account of the relevant credit transfer or recognition of prior learning, the requirements of accrediting bodies, fairness amongst the cohort and the level and relevance to the programme of any alternative module selected ~~Any such permission given under this provision shall be reported by the degree programme~~

~~director to the relevant board of studies and to the relevant faculty learning, teaching and student experience committee.~~

J. Provisions for Interruption of Progress

Amendment (underlined) to correct the regulations in respect of suspension of studies as only the Degree Programme Director has the right to permit suspension of studies and not the PEC Committee as was stated.

Assessment Requirements for Students Returning after an Interruption of Study

36. Where a student is permitted by the ~~PEC Committee~~ Degree Programme Director to interrupt the programme of study at any time during a stage and is required to resume those studies at the same point during a subsequent academic year, any assessments completed prior to the date of interruption shall be carried forward to the end of that stage.

~~L. Inconsistency between the University Regulations and the Degree Programme Regulations~~

Section removed in light of addition of preliminary text added to Undergraduate Progress Regulations which clarifies where the authority for agreeing variations lies

~~42. In the event of any inconsistency between the University Regulations and the degree programme regulations, the University Regulations shall prevail, unless an express departure from the University Regulations has been approved by the University Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee, and a statement that the degree programme regulations are to have priority has been incorporated within them.~~

Other minor wording changes have been made for clarification.

Undergraduate Examination Conventions

Addition (underlined). Text added to preliminary section of regulations to clarify where the authority for agreeing variations lies.

Variations to these regulations, non-standard stage weightings and exceptions to the Qualifications and Credit Framework can only be agreed by University Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (ULTSEC), except where the power is explicitly vested in the relevant Faculty Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (FLTSEC) or Degree Programme Director (DPD) in the regulations themselves.

Preliminary text relating to UG and IM resits removed, as no longer relevant.

~~Resits for Undergraduate and Integrated Masters students:~~

~~*In September 2013, new regulations surrounding resit opportunities were introduced. The changes are being phased in, to limit the effects on students who completed stage 1 prior to 2013/14.*~~

~~Implementation 2016/17 phase:~~

- ~~• *All students commencing, or repeating, Stage 0 or Stage 1 of an Undergraduate or Integrated Masters programme from September 2013 onwards, those commencing, or*~~

~~repeating, Stage 2 of an Undergraduate or Integrated Masters Programme from September 2014 onwards, and those registering for an intercalating year between Stage 2 and 3 in September 2014, and those commencing, or repeating, Stage 3 in September 2015 will have at most two attempts at their current and subsequent stage of their each programme.~~

- ~~• Students commencing, or repeating, later Stages of an Undergraduate or Integrated Masters Programme in September 2016 will not be affected by any changes to the resit regulations in 2016/17. Earlier versions of the examination conventions surrounding resits and the right to carry failed modules shall apply to these students (2012/13 Undergraduate Examination Conventions L and M).~~

B. The Board of Examiners

Amendment (underlined) to update and clarify the status of the Policy and Procedures for External Examiners of Taught Programmes.

External Examiners and External Assessors

Note: Conventions 8-11 also apply to external assessors (see Convention 12).

8. Procedures for appointing external examiners are set out in the *Policy and Procedures for External Examiners of Taught Programmes* at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh-extexam-policy.pdf>. The policy is the definitive source on matters relating to external examining and in the event of any conflict between the policy and these regulations, the Policy would prevail. The duties of external examiners are set out in the policy.

9. The external examiner shall be a member of the relevant board of examiners and have the right to attend any meetings of the board. Normally no decision on the recommendation of an award may be made by a board of examiners unless there is an external examiner present. If, exceptionally, any external examiners cannot be present, they shall be given the opportunity to make their views known to the board.

10. External examiners have the right to speak on any matter at the meeting of the board of examiners, regardless of whether their opinion has been specifically invited. The board of examiners shall take into account, but need not defer to, the views of external examiners in taking decisions.

11. Final classification lists shall be signed by the chair and the external examiners and these lists be retained within the academic unit. Where an external examiner is unable to be present, s/he should be asked by e-mail to confirm the decisions made by the board. The minutes of the meeting should confirm whether the external examiners have endorsed the decisions made by the board.

12. The assessment of the work of students on BA Combined Honours and those Joint Honours programmes specified by ULTSEC is subject to the normal examination processes and scrutiny by external examiners in the relevant subjects. An external assessor shall be appointed by the relevant faculty learning teaching and student experience committee, in line with the criteria laid down for external examiners. The external assessor will not scrutinise the work of students, but is required to report to the University on the reliability and integrity of the processes used in awarding these degrees.

Note: Conventions 8-12 also apply to external assessors.

~~8. Procedures for appointing external examiners are outlined in the *Policy and Procedures for External Examiners of Taught Programmes* at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh-extexam-policy.pdf>.~~

~~9. The external examiner is required to report to the Vice-Chancellor on the sufficiency and integrity of the examinations, and on the standards of student attainment. In order to carry out this task, the external examiner shall have the right to see any materials relevant to the process of assessment.~~

~~10. The external examiner shall be a member of the relevant board of examiners and have the right to attend any meetings of the board. In normal circumstances, no decision on the recommendation of an award may be made by a board of examiners unless there is an external examiner present. If, exceptionally, any external examiners cannot be present, they shall be given the opportunity to make their views known to the board.~~

~~11. External examiners shall have the right to speak on any matter at the meeting of the board of examiners, regardless of whether their opinion has been specifically invited. The board of examiners shall take into account, but need not defer to, the views of external examiners in taking decisions.~~

~~12. Final classification lists shall be signed by the chair and, normally, by the external examiners. The external examiners shall make an annual report (and a final report at the end of their period of duties) to the Vice-Chancellor. These reports may include comments and recommendations. In addition, external examiners may make a confidential report at any time on any matter to the Vice-Chancellor.~~

~~13. The assessment of the work of students on co- and multi-disciplinary programmes (including the BA and BSc Joint and Combined degrees specified by ULTSEC) is subject to the normal examination processes and scrutiny by external examiners in the relevant subjects. In addition, an examination board for co- and multi-disciplinary programmes shall also be convened to review these programmes; an external assessor shall be appointed by the appropriate faculty learning, teaching and student experience committee, in line with the criteria laid down for external examiners. The external assessor will not scrutinise the work of students, but is required to report to the University on the reliability and integrity of the processes used in awarding these degrees.~~

E. Marking Procedures

Convention added (underlined) to clarify the position in respect of late submissions and to include a link to the Submission of Assessed Work policy.

267. In line with the University Policy and Guidance on Moderation and Scaling <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh-assmt-modscal-pol.pdf>, the following shall constitute the procedure and, where appropriate, minimum requirements, for marking throughout the University:

(...)

- b) Each board of examiners shall have a written Moderation and Scaling policy which should comply with the University's guidance.

In line with the University Policy on the Submission of Assessed Work
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh-assmt-assessedwork-policy.pdf>:

- c) When coursework is submitted late but remains eligible for a capped mark, the mark that would have been awarded had the work been submitted on time must be recorded and must be available to the Board of Examiners if required.

H. Progression from One Stage to Another

Amendments (underlined) to clarify the Conventions on Progression from one stage to another and to allow for the possibility of 4 year undergraduate awards.

32. A stage average is defined as the weighted average mark over all modules at that stage, where the weighting reflects the credit value of each module. Degree programme regulations may allow for additional credit value for non-modular aggregated assessment. The stage average shall be calculated and rounded to one decimal place.

- a) When calculating a (non-final) stage average for the purposes of compensation under Convention J3435, the calculation must use the best module marks that relate to the given stage, regardless of whether the best marks are from first or second attempts, except that the pass mark must be used for a module passed by discretion

(...)

- c) When calculating a final stage average, the marks used shall be:
- i. The module mark, for modules passed at the first attempt and for consideration of the first attempt at the stage.
 - ii. The pass mark (i.e., a mark of 40 for modules up to level 6 and 50 for level 7 modules) for modules passed at the second attempt (Conventions N5758, P5859).
 - iii. The second attempt mark for modules failed after two attempts (Convention P5859).

Note that stage averages will need to be recalculated after the application of discretion or compensation and after reassessment.

33. A student is permitted to proceed from one stage to the next of the programme of study if the student passes or is deemed to have passed all the modules in the current stage or the stage is passed by discretion (exercised under Conventions 38-4039-44) notwithstanding failures in specific modules.

- a) When the stage is passed by discretion, notwithstanding failures in specific modules, the specific modules are not deemed to have been passed, and any subsequent calculations must use the best actual mark for each of the specific specified modules.
- b) If a student fails up to 20 credits of non-core modules at Stage 2 of a 3 year programme after two attempts, or over Stages 2 and 3 of a 4 year programme, it is the normal expectation that the stage will be passed by discretion (in recognition of the fact that it is still possible for a student to gain an Honours degree by right subject to convention 49). A Board of Examiners deciding not to exercise discretion on this context must minute a specific reason for not doing so. [N.B. Integrated Masters programmes are subject to the Integrated Masters Examination Conventions].

M. The Award and Classification of Degrees

Removal of incorrect wording to remove the presumption that all UG programmes have 3 stages.

5049. A student is recommended, as of right, for the award of an appropriate Honours degree (according to Convention 53 54) if all the requirements for the award are met, and

- a) all the modules beyond Stage 1 in the degree programme are passed, or
- b) no more than 20 credits beyond Stage 1 are failed and:
- c) the final programme average, ~~at the end of Stage 3~~ (calculated as specified in Convention M52 53) is not less than 40.

V. Retention of Assessed Work

Addition(underlined). Additional wording added to take account of decision made by the Data Retention Steering Group in relation to retention schedules for Student Data.

~~73~~ 72. All material for assessment, which contributes to 30% or more of a final module mark, should be retained for a minimum period of the current academic year plus one year. Further information can be found in the Policies on Submission of Assessed Work, Feedback on Assessed Work and Return of Assessed Work at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/gsh-assmt-assessedwork-policy.pdf>.

Student data relevant to student assessment should be retained as follows:

- i. Component marks on NeSS and PEC Committee and Exam Board minutes to be retained for 6 years after graduation.
- ii. Personal PEC information (Including Stage 1 PEC information for Board of Examiners' discretion usage) to be retained for 2 years after graduation.

Other minor wording changes have been made for clarification.

Foundation Certificate Examination Conventions

An additional section has been added to the Regulations which recognises the fact that the University has a Foundation Certificate (level 3 award) at NUMED as well as the INTO Foundation Certificates which it validates. These highlight only those areas where there is a difference from the Undergraduate Examination Conventions.

IV. Foundation Certificate Examination Conventions

Variations to the regulations, non-standard stage weightings and exceptions to the Qualifications and Credit Framework can only be agreed by University Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (ULTSEC), except where the power is explicitly vested in the relevant Faculty Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (FLTSEC) or Degree Programme Director (DPD) in the regulations themselves.

A. Introduction

1. These conventions shall be understood alongside the definitions of terms in the *Undergraduate Progress Regulations*, and in conjunction with requirements laid down in the

General Regulations of the University, and shall be read together with any examination conventions specific to the relevant degree programme, as approved by the relevant FLTSEC.

B. The Board of Examiners

(...)

Chair of the Board

6. The chair of the board of examiners shall be appointed by the head of school and the appointment reported to the relevant FLTSEC. Where the programme is offered by an educational partner, the chair shall be appointed by the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Learning & Teaching). The chair is responsible for conducting all meetings of the board, and for ensuring that all decisions are taken by the board in the full knowledge of all the performances for each student. In appropriate cases, the board may delegate to the chair the right to consider and make decisions. In so doing, the chair should consult as many members of the board as possible (including the external examiners). Action taken by the chair must be reported to the next scheduled meeting of the board. The chair shall exercise discretion only in a manner consistent with the normal practices and any additional agreed principles of the board. All agreed mark sheets, confirming decisions taken by the board, shall be signed by the chair.

(...)

External Examiners

8. Procedures for appointing external examiners are set out in the *Policy and Procedures for External Examiners of Taught Programmes* at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh-extexam-policy.pdf>. The policy is the definitive source on matters relating to external examining and in the event of any conflict between the policy and these regulations, the Policy would prevail. The duties of external examiners are set out in the policy.

9. The external examiner shall be a member of the relevant board of examiners and have the right to attend any meetings of the board. Normally no decision on the recommendation of an award may be made by a board of examiners unless there is an external examiner present. If, exceptionally, any external examiners cannot be present, they shall be given the opportunity to make their views known to the board.

10. External examiners have the right to speak on any matter at the meeting of the board of examiners, regardless of whether their opinion has been specifically invited. The board of examiners shall take into account, but need not defer to, the views of external examiners in taking decisions.

11. Final classification lists shall be signed by the chair and the external examiners and these lists be retained within the academic unit. Where an external examiner is unable to be present, s/he should be asked by e-mail to confirm the decisions made by the board. The minutes of the meeting should confirm whether the external examiners have endorsed the decisions made by the board.

12. The external examiners shall make an annual report and a final report at the end of their period of office to the Vice-Chancellor. These reports shall include comments and

recommendations. In addition, external examiners may make a confidential report to the Vice-Chancellor on any matter at any time.

Personal Extenuating Circumstances (PEC) Committee

13. A Personal Extenuating Circumstances (PEC) Committee shall be appointed by the board of studies to review and consider medical and mitigating circumstances which may have an effect on a student's performance. This committee shall normally consist of a chair, secretary and two other senior members of academic staff. The chair should be a senior member of academic staff with experience of sitting on a board of examiners and in the case of educational partnerships be a senior University academic. One of the members should be from outside the academic unit. The chair of the PEC Committee shall report the committee's recommendations, including a summary of action taken throughout the year by the PEC Committee, members and delegated staff, to the chair of the board of examiners. The board of examiners shall, accordingly, be made aware if medical or other circumstances have been put forward for or by a student; however, no more detail than is necessary shall be disclosed, and this shall include no personal or medical details. All personal information shall be handled by the PEC committee and the board of examiners in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

(...)

F. Return of Marks

27. The mark for each module on a Foundation Certificate programme shall be returned to the board of examiners, and disclosed to students, using the following mark scale, unless there are different requirements in the programme regulations (e.g. for English language modules):

	Summary description applicable to modules <i>not used for degree classification</i>
0-39	Failing
40-49	Fair
50-59	Good
60-69	Very Good
70-79	Excellent
80+	Outstanding

28. The final mark returned to the board of examiners for a module shall be the rounded nearest whole number on the University Common Scale.

The rounding of marks shall follow the convention: decimal marks with a decimal component of 0.5 or larger shall be rounded up to the next whole number; marks with a decimal component of less than 0.5 shall be rounded down to the next whole number.

(...)

J. Principles of Compensation

The principles in this section shall apply unless the programme regulations state otherwise.

34. A student shall, on assessment and any reassessment, be deemed to have passed all modules, notwithstanding that marks of less than 40 have been obtained in one or more modules for that stage, provided that each of the following conditions for compensation are met:

- a) the average is not less than 40;
- b) no single mark for any module of assessed is below 35;
- c) the modules for which marks lies between 35 and do not include core modules and have total credit value at most 40 (out of the 120 credits studied). Where a Foundation Certificate contains more than 120 credits the maximum number of credits which can be compensated is one third of the total credits in the award.

The modules in c) above are deemed to be passed by compensation.

(...)

37. Where the rules for compensation do not apply, the board of examiners may still exercise discretion under Conventions 18, 38-40.

K. Principles of Discretion

38. Notwithstanding the student's results, and without prejudice to the requirements for professional accreditation, the board of examiners may, in its ultimate discretion:

- a) Deem a student to have passed specific modules – including core modules,
- b) Deem a student to have passed the programme.

39. The exercise of discretion does not set a precedent as each individual case should be considered individually. However, in any discussion regarding the possible exercise of discretion, the board shall ensure that no student in similar circumstances has been treated less favourably.

40. The reasons for exercising or not exercising discretion shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings in every case where the exercise of discretion is considered. The minutes shall record the issues raised and the decisions reached, whilst maintaining, wherever possible, the anonymity of board members contributing to the debate. Boards of Studies are required to report annually on the exercise of discretion as part of the Annual Monitoring and Review Process.

L. Reassessment

41. A student who passes a module (including by compensation or discretion), at any stage of the degree programme, cannot be reassessed for any component of that module.

(...)

43. A student has the right to a maximum of one reassessment of each failed module (Convention 47).

44. The form of the reassessment may vary from the original, at the discretion of the board of studies. Note that the board of studies may delegate this authority to the board of examiners, but that the students who are to be reassessed must be informed of the style of reassessment to be adopted, including identification of the various assessment components and weighting. Boards may specify components for which students may opt to carry forward marks. Changes to the format of assessment must apply to the whole cohort.

45. A final module mark is calculated by using the most recent component marks. In some cases, this may be a combination of second and first attempt component marks, depending on the resit arrangements for the module. It is not the case, however, that the best component marks automatically carry forward to the final module mark.

(...)

Timing of reassessment at any stage other than the final stage

47. *Second Attempt*

A student who has the right to a second attempt will automatically be entered for failed modules at the next available occasion of assessment.

48. Does not apply to Higher Education Certificates

M. The Award

49. A student is recommended, as of right, for the award of the Foundation Certificate if all the requirements for the award as set out in the programme regulations are met and the programme average is not less than 40.

(...)

Use of Discretion

The Board of Examiners under Conventions 18, 38 - 40 has a general power to exercise discretion to treat any student more generously than the numerical and other conventions require.

54. Discretion may be applied to board decisions on whether candidates have passed or failed. The board of examiners must consider whether or not to exercise discretion when there is a positive assessment of the impact of medical or other mitigating circumstances by the Personal Extenuating Circumstances Committee (Conventions 13 and 14).

55. The University does not permit the use of a viva voce for such programmes.

56. In any discussion regarding the possible exercise of discretion, the board shall ensure that no student in similar circumstances has been treated less favourably as a result of any particular decision.

N. Recording of Module Marks after Reassessment, Compensation or Discretion

57. Where a student has achieved a passing mark following reassessment at any stage, including the final stage, or has been deemed to have passed in an assessment by the exercise of compensation or discretion, the actual mark achieved by the student must be recorded on the transcript, with an appropriate note if compensation or discretion has been applied, and a statement that a mark of 40 will be used in any calculations. However, in such cases, the board of examiners may, in its ultimate discretion, have regard to the actual mark obtained at resit.

(...)

V. Retention of Assessed Work

73. All material for assessment, which contributes to 30% or more of a final module mark, should be retained for a minimum period of the current academic year plus one year. Further information can be found in the Policies on Submission of Assessed Work, Feedback on Assessed Work and Return of Assessed Work at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh-assmt-assessedwork-policy.pdf>.

Foundation Degree Regulations

Where appropriate the Foundation Degree Progress Regulations and Examination Conventions have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above.

Integrated Masters Regulations

Where appropriate the Integrated Masters Examinations Conventions have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above.

In addition please note a preliminary statement (underlined) has been added to mirror the Undergraduate Conventions and clarify where exemption should be sought:

Variations to these conventions, non-standard stage weightings and exceptions to the Qualifications and Credit Framework can only be agreed by University Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (ULTSEC), except where the power is explicitly vested in the relevant Faculty Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (FLTSEC) or Degree Programme Director (DPD) in the conventions themselves.

The following section has been added to mirror the UG Examination Conventions

W. Exemptions to these Conventions

73. Certain programmes are exempt from the requirements of the Undergraduate Examination Conventions which relate to assessment, reassessment and the use of the University Common Scale.

Note that referral to each individual set of degree programme regulations for full information on programme exemptions is required. A complete register of exemptions can be found at: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/governance/modules/regulations>

Graduate Diploma and Certificate Regulations

Where appropriate the Graduate Diploma and Certificate Regulations have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above.

Extra Credit, Standalone and Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme Regulations

Where appropriate the Extra Credit, Standalone and Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme Regulations have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above.

Postgraduate (Taught) Progress Regulations

Where appropriate the Postgraduate (Taught) Progress Regulations have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above. In addition, please note:

B. Definitions

Removal of wording to clarify the definition of core modules

4. These progress regulations shall apply to full-time and part-time taught postgraduate programmes, including Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates. Where the following terms appear they are to be given the meanings assigned below:

(...)

- e) Core module: a module which students must pass, ~~and in which a fail mark may not be compensated; such modules are designated by the board of studies as essential;~~

D. Preconditions to the Award of a Masters Degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate

Addition (underlined). To clarify where authority lies for approving programme specific regulations which define progress leading to the dissertation element of the programme

6. Before being awarded a Masters degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate, a student must

(...)

- c) where there are programme specific regulations which define progress leading to the dissertation element of the programme, satisfy these conditions before progressing. Such programme specific regulations shall be approved by the relevant faculty learning, teaching and student experience committee.

Postgraduate (Taught) Examination Conventions

Where appropriate the Postgraduate (Taught) Examination Conventions have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Undergraduate sections above. In addition, please note:

L. Progression within Taught Postgraduate Programmes

Addition (underlined) to clarify whether students have to have passed the taught stage of their programme before proceeding to their dissertation or research project

38. In addition to a Board of Examiners meeting at the end of a programme, a meeting of the Board will normally be held at the end of the taught component of a Master's programme to consider progression; the Board may also meet to consider progression at other times if appropriate. Internal members of the board of examiners will need to liaise with the external examiner(s) as appropriate.

(...)

- c) A Master's student who, at the end of the taught component, is eligible to be reassessed will normally also be permitted to proceed to the dissertation without any delay.

XII Regulations for Research Masters Degree Programmes (excluding MPhil programmes)

Where appropriate the Research Masters Degree Programmes Regulations have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Postgraduate Taught Progress Regulations and Examination Conventions sections above.

In addition, please note:

Section F Study Undertaken Outside the University

Addition (underlined) to 'Notes' section relating to Tier 4 visa holders:

(vii) that students who leave the UK to write-up in their home country or elsewhere will normally have their Tier 4 visa curtailed.

XIII Master of Philosophy Degree Regulations and XIV Examination Conventions

Where appropriate, Master of Philosophy Progress Regulations and Examination Conventions have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Doctor of Philosophy sections below.

XV Doctor of Philosophy Progress Regulations

Addition of 'or nominee' when referring to the Dean of Postgraduate Studies throughout the regulations, so that a nominee can be appointed, where appropriate.

Section H. Study Undertaken Outside the University

Addition (underlined) to 'Notes' section relating to Tier 4 visa holders:

- vi. That students under candidature undertaking primary research outside the UK, would normally be allowed to do this 'normally' for one year without their visa being curtailed.
- vii. That students leaving the UK to write-up in home country or elsewhere would have their visa curtailed.

Section N. Interruption of Study

Addition (underlined) relating to retrospective interruptions:

32. Retrospective (backdated) interruptions will not normally be considered unless there are exceptional circumstances and a compelling case.

33. Retrospective (backdated) interruptions are not permitted for students who are Tier 4 visa holders.

Addition (underlined) to 'Notes' section:

(iii) Students should not assume that the interruption request will be approved and should continue with their studies, where possible, until the formal decision is received.

XVI Doctor of Philosophy Examination Conventions

Addition of 'or nominee' when referring to the Dean of Postgraduate Studies throughout the regulations, so that a nominee can be appointed, where appropriate.

XVII Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated) Regulations

Where appropriate, Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated) Regulations have been amended to mirror the changes noted in the Doctor of Philosophy sections below.

XX Rules for the Form of Theses

Addition (underlined) to Section 6.

6. The normal length of a thesis has been determined as follows. Candidates must note any requirements or guidance issued by their graduate school committee or specific programme regulations.
 - a) For the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the doctoral thesis should not exceed 100,000 words (inclusive of notes, but excluding bibliography and appendices);
 - b) For the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering the doctoral thesis should not exceed 80,000 words (inclusive of notes, but excluding bibliography and appendices);
 - c) For PhD (Integrated) programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the thesis should not exceed 80,000 words (inclusive of notes, but excluding bibliography and appendices);
 - d) For PhD (Integrated) programmes in the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering the thesis should not exceed 50,000 words (inclusive of notes, but excluding bibliography and appendices);
 - e) For the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the Master of Philosophy thesis should not exceed 50,000 words (inclusive of notes, but excluding bibliography and appendices);
 - f) For the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering the Master of Philosophy thesis should not exceed 40,000 words (inclusive of notes, but excluding bibliography and appendices).