

Academic Regulations for Taught Awards

effective from the 2026-27 academic year

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The Academic Regulations for Taught Awards provides the framework and criteria for the assessment, examination and awarding of university taught awards.	

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CONTENTS

A.	INTRODUCTION TO THE ACADEMIC REGULATIONS	3
A1	SCOPE AND PURPOSE	3
B.	THE ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK	4
B1	STRUCTURE OF THE ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK	4
B2	AWARDS	4
B3	UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS	5
B4	GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE AWARDS	5
B5	COMBINED HONOURS AWARDS	6
B6	PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	6
B7	UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATIONS	6
B8	DUAL, JOINT AND MULTIPLE AWARDS WITH OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS	6
B9	DURATION OF STUDY	7
C.	ADMISSION OF STUDENTS	8
C1	GENERAL PRINCIPLES	8
C2	RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING	8
D.	ASSESSMENT	9
D1	GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ASSESSMENT	9
D2	THE PROGRESSION AND AWARD BOARD	10
D3	UNIVERSITY DEVIATIONS FROM REGULATIONS	10
D4	CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRESSION AND CONFERMENT PURPOSES	11
D5	GAINING CREDIT AND PROGRESSING	12
D6	DEGREE CLASSIFICATION	13
D7	EXIT AWARDS	16
	UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS	16
	INTEGRATED MASTERS AWARDS	16
	POSTGRADUATE MASTERS AWARDS	16
	AEGROTAT AWARDS	17
D8	REASSESSMENT	17
	RESIT	17
	BEST GRADE STANDING	17
	REPEAT	17
	PROGRESSION TRAILING CREDIT	18
D9	REASSESSMENT WITH ACCEPTED EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES	18
	REASSESSMENT FOLLOWING AN ACCEPTED DEFERRAL CLAIM	19
	REASSESSMENT FOLLOWING ACCEPTED IMPAIRED PERFORMANCE	19
D10	APPEALS AGAINST THE DECISION OF A PROGRESSION AND AWARD BOARD	19
E.	EXTERNAL EXAMINERS	19
F.	CONFERMENT OF AWARDS	20
F1	GENERAL	20
F2	ISSUE OF AWARD AND ASSOCIATED CERTIFICATES	20

F3	POSTHUMOUS AWARDS	21
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G	WITHDRAWAL AND INTERRUPTION	21
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G1	RETURNING TO STUDY FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL	21
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G2	RETURNING TO STUDY FOLLOWING INTERRUPTION	21
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The *Academic Regulations for Taught Awards* should be read in conjunction with the relevant sections of the University's other academic procedures and policies available at <https://www.gre.ac.uk/policies>. If you have any questions about the *Academic Regulations for Taught Awards* or need further clarification on any of the content, please email, Student & Academic Services at Regulations@greenwich.ac.uk

For students studying either a Postgraduate Research Award or with the Medway School of Pharmacy the relevant Academic Regulations should be reviewed.

Please contact the Disability & Dyslexia Team on 020 8331 7875 or by email at wellbeing@gre.ac.uk if you require this document in an alternative format.

Freedom of speech and academic freedom

In any matter falling under this policy, the University will have particular regard to, and place significant weight on, the importance of freedom of speech within the law, academic freedom and tolerance for controversial views in an educational context or environment. The University's commitments to freedom of speech and academic freedom are set out in the [Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#). In the event of any conflict between this policy and the Freedom of Speech Code of Practice, the Freedom of Speech Code of Practice will take precedence.

A. INTRODUCTION TO THE ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

A1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- A1.1 This introductory section describes the University's approach to the management of academic standards and outlines the principal ways in which the quality of learning, teaching and assessment at the University of Greenwich are assured and enhanced.
- A1.2 In keeping with its designation as an autonomous degree awarding body the University requires a comprehensive, consistent and coherent framework of academic regulations, procedures and working practices to enable the assurance of academic standards and the consistent and equitable treatment of all its students wherever they are located. The *Academic Regulations for Taught Awards* (hereafter known as the *Regulations*) therefore are intended to:
- a) be deployed consistently across all areas of the University's operations;
 - b) be fit for purpose, up to date and approved by Student Success Board;
 - c) provide a point of reference on academic regulations for taught awards across the University;
 - d) inform all decision-making designed to enhance the quality of educational provision at the University;
 - e) be written in clear language and available in a range of forms upon request across the University;
 - f) be known and understood in all areas of the University;
 - g) provide a framework for the development of learning, teaching and assessment.
- A1.3 Student Success Board is responsible for approving all amendments, additions and variants to the *Regulations* prior to their formal ratification by Academic Council.
- A1.4 The *Regulations* encompass all the University's academic provision contributing to taught awards. This includes all collaborative provision.
- A1.5 In exceptional and specific circumstances where derogations are deemed necessary, permission for a derogation from the *Regulations* should be sought from Academic Council citing appropriate reasons for the derogation. This will include derogations that are required to satisfy specific professional body requirements that cannot be accommodated within the framework. A list of approved derogations will be maintained and reviewed annually by the University.
- A1.6 The *Regulations* are reviewed annually by the Quality Assurance Team and updated to reflect any changes that may have been approved by Student Success Board during the previous year. Updated *Regulations* are published annually during the first full working week of September on the Student & Academic Services website together with a clear statement about changes that have been made since the previous publication.

B. THE ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK

B1 STRUCTURE OF THE ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK

- B1.1 The University operates a single credit-based Framework which is available at pre-degree, degree and taught postgraduate levels.
- B1.2 The University's taught provision is available at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels, leading to a range of awards.

B2 AWARDS

- B2.1 To obtain a named award students must successfully complete designated core modules and sufficient appropriate optional and/or elective modules as required in the approved programme structure/specification.
- B2.2 The standard of each award may be defined in terms of the number and level of credits a student is required to obtain and the qualification descriptors/hierarchy encompassed by the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). The table below illustrates the FHEQ level and minimum expected credit values associated with the design of programmes leading to the main HE qualifications conferred by the University.

HE qualifications as set out in the FHEQ	FHEQ level and definition		Minimum credits	Minimum credits at the level of the qualification
Taught master's degrees (MA, MSc, MTL, MArch, MBA, MRes) LLM, MLA	7	Provides opportunity to demonstrate: a) the ability to reflect on the significance and inter-relationships of knowledge acquired from a variety of sources b) the ability based on such reflection to formulate original ideas and innovative proposals c) the ability to carry out the activities in (a) and (b) with a fair degree of autonomy	180	150
Integrated master's degrees (MEng, MChem, MSt, MPhys, MPharm, MBiol, MMedSci, MMath) ¹			480	120
MSc Top Up			60	60
Postgraduate diplomas			120	90
Postgraduate Certificate in Education PGCE			60	40
Postgraduate certificates			60	40
Bachelor's degrees with honours (e.g. BA/BSc/BEng/LLB)	6	Reflects the synthesis of basic knowledge, skills and competence and equips students with tools of analysis and evaluation. Contributes to the individual's distinctive professional development, where appropriate.	360	90
LLB (Hons) Law Senior Status			300	90
Bachelor's degrees			300	60
Professional Graduate Certificate			60	40

¹ Integrated master's degree programmes include at least 480 credits of which at least 120 credits are at level 7.

in Education (PGCE) ²				
Graduate diplomas			80	80
Graduate certificates			40	40
Foundation Degrees			240	90
Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)	5	Builds on Level 4 and involves an extension and reinforcement of theoretical and/or practical aspects of knowledge	240	90
Higher National Diplomas (HND)			240	90
Higher National Certificates (HNC)			150	120
Certificates of Higher Education (Cert HE)	4	Provides basic knowledge, skills and competence	120	90

B2.3 Any requests to depart from these norms will be scrutinised as part of the programme authorisation/validation process.

B3 UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

B3.1 Undergraduate awards (whether pre-degree or degree) are normally based on the three-year full-time Honours Degree for which at least 360 credits must be accumulated.

B3.2 Normally, one year of full-time study for an undergraduate award is equivalent to 120 credits and is defined as an academic stage; one year of full-time study on a two year accelerated honours degree is equivalent to 180 credits (one and a half academic stages).

B3.3 Normally a full-time student will be required to study modules that are within one level of their current academic stage.

B4 GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

B4.1 Programmes which are Postgraduate in Time (Graduate Awards)
Graduate entry programmes leading to certificates or diplomas will normally cover the equivalent of 120 credits for each full-time year of study (as for undergraduate programmes). They are based on a balance of credits at Levels 4 - 6, according to the standard of a particular award and the level of professional experience expected of a successful student.

B4.2 Programmes which are Postgraduate in Level (Postgraduate Awards)
Graduate entry programmes which are postgraduate in level as well as time are based on the taught master's degree which normally requires full-time study over one calendar year or twelve-month period, and for which at least 180 credits must be accumulated.

B4.3 A postgraduate degree programme shall incorporate a compulsory element of independent study at Level 7.

² Full statement on the PGCE qualification title may be accessed at [PGCE Qualification Title \(qaa.ac.uk\)](http://qaa.ac.uk).

B5 COMBINED HONOURS AWARDS

B5.1 Joint Honours Degree (Subject A and Subject B)

Within the 360 credits required for an Honours degree the requirements for a Joint Honours Degree are:

- an overall minimum of 240 credits in Subjects A and B with at least 45 credits of each subject at level 6 in the final stage of the award and;
- at least 45 credits of each subject at level 5 in the penultimate stage of the award.

B5.2 Major/Minor Honours Degree (Subject A with Subject B)

Within the 360 credits required for an Honours degree the requirements for a Major/Minor Honours Degree are:

- an overall minimum of 240 credits in Subjects A and B with at least 60 credits of Subject A and at least 30 credits of Subject B at level 6 in the final stage of the Award and;
- at least 60 credits of subject A and at least 30 credits of subject B at level 5 in the penultimate stage of the award

B6 PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

B6.1 Architects Registration Board

Master of Architecture (MArch)	Awarded to a graduate student who successfully completes 240 credits at level 7.
Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)	Awarded to a graduate student who successfully completes 300 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7, of which at least 180 credits are at level 7
Diploma in Landscape Architecture	Awarded to a graduate student who successfully completes 120 credits at level 7

B7 UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATIONS

Foundation Diploma/ International Foundation Diploma	Awarded to a student who successfully completes, or is otherwise credited with, at least 120 credits at level 3 or above having followed a prescribed programme of study.
Diploma in Industrial Studies/ Diploma in Professional Practice	Awarded to a student who successfully completes at least 36 weeks of supervised work placement and the associated assessment requirements.

B8 DUAL, JOINT AND MULTIPLE AWARDS WITH OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS

- B8.1 The University may collaborate only with other institutions that have degree awarding powers to design and offer jointly agreed, approved and delivered curricula; may recognise taught modules offered by another institution and which may contribute to a University award and may enter

twinning and exchange arrangements to facilitate student entry to specific degree modules at the University.

- B8.2 Joint Awards involve the granting of single award for successful completion of one programme of study offered by two or more collaborating institutions.
- B8.3 Dual and Multiple Awards involve the granting of separate awards by one or more partner organisations. Regulations governing the recognition and approval of dual, joint and multiple awards can be found in the Academic Quality Handbook.

B9 DURATION OF STUDY

- B9.1 The maximum periods of registration, during which a student must complete the requirements for an award from the University, are as follows:

Programme of Study	Full-time Maximum	Part-time Maximum
Certificate of Higher Education	2 years	3 years
Diploma of Higher Education	4 years	5 years
Higher National Certificate	2 years	3 years
Higher National Diploma	3 years	5 years
Foundation Degree	4 years	5 years
BA/BSc/BEng/LLB (Hons/Pass degree)	5 years	7 years
BA/BSc/BEng (Hons degree/Pass degree) Sandwich	6 years	N/A
BA/BSc/Beng (Hons degrees/Pass degree) Sandwich with Foundation Year	7 years	N/A
BA/BSc/BEng (Hons/Pass degree) Mixed Mode	6 years	N/A
BA/BSc/BEng (Hons /Pass degree) with Foundation Year	6 years	N/A
BA/BSc/BEng (Hons/Pass degree) Accelerated	4 years	N/A
Year 2 Direct Entry – 240 credits	3 years	N/A
Year 2 Direct Entry – 180 credits	3 years	4 years
Final year entry programmes	2 years	3 years
Graduate Diploma	2 years	N/A
Integrated Masters (MEng)	6 years	N/A
Postgraduate Certificate/Professional Graduate Certificate	2 years	3 years
Postgraduate Diploma	2 years	3 years
Postgraduate Degree in Architectural Practice	3 years	5 years
MA/MSc/MBA/MLA/LLM (Masters)	3 years	6 years
MA/MSc/MBA - Master's with Placement Year	4 years	N/A
Biomed On-Line Suite of Programmes – PGDip	N/A	5 years
Biomed On-Line Suite of Programmes - MSc	N/A	7 years

- B9.2 The maximum period of registration defines the period within which a student must achieve the credit required for the award.
- This includes any formally approved periods of interrupted study (maximum 2 years) or repeat study. The period of registration will be adjusted on a pro-rata basis for direct entrants and students who change their mode of study.
 - For apprenticeship programmes where students can interrupt their study they will have to re-join at the next available point based on the programme structure.

- c) Where a student has extenuating circumstances, this will not normally allow a student to exceed the maximum period of study.

B9.3 The Progression and Award Board may approve an extension to the maximum period of registration, by one-more year, where a student has failed to progress and has provided valid evidence of extenuating circumstances that are accepted as impaired performance or deferral request

C. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

C1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- C1.1 The University's admissions policy and practices assist in meeting the strategic aims of the University and enhancing its position as a leading higher education institution.
- C1.2 The University is committed to operating admissions procedures that are fair, transparent and consistent, and are also compliant with all relevant legislation and regulations. The University strives to admit only suitably qualified applicants who can complete their programme of study successfully. Further information is available in the University's [Admissions Policy and Procedure](#).
- C1.3 The University has a long-standing commitment to widening access and maximising student achievement. Further information is in the University's [Access Agreements](#).

C2 RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

- C2.1 We recognise that knowledge and skills come from many different formal and informal learning environments. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process used to recognise learning for academic purposes. Applicants should apply for RPL prior to the commencement of their programme of study. Further information is available at: [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)
- C2.2 Credits utilised in attaining an initial qualification recognised by the FHEQ cannot normally be used to secure advanced standing against another award of equivalent or lower status. Such credits are considered 'spent' as part of the certification of the initial award. Such credits, however, may contribute to a higher award in the context that the higher qualification subsumes the lower.
- C2.3 In determining the maximum credits available for RPL for any award within the FHEQ, the University has sought to balance the recognition of prior learning with a desire to ensure that conferred awards reflect sufficient evidence of study having been undertaken within the institution. The following shall apply:

AWARD	MAXIMUM RPL (CREDITS)	MINIMUM CREDITS TO BE STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY
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Certificate of Higher Education/HNC (120 credits)	60	60
Diploma in Higher Education/Foundation Degree/HND (240 credits)	120	120
Honours Degree (360 credits)	180	180
Integrated Master's Degree (480 credits)	240	240
Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits)	20	40
Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits)	60	60
Masters Degree (180 credits)	90	90

- C2.4 If RPL is used to enter directly into a later stage of a course, this is treated as an admissions decision, and will not be formally recorded as RPL on the student's academic record.

AWARD	MAXIMUM RPL (CREDITS)	MINIMUM CREDITS TO BE STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY
Honours Degree – L5 direct entrants (360 credits)	120*	240
Honours Degree – L6 direct entrants (360 credits)	240**	120

*Applicants applying for Direct Entry to stage 2 (Level 5) of an Honours Degree will need to evidence certificated learning equivalent to 120 credits; e.g. completion of a Certificate of Higher Education but will not be required to make a formal claim for RPL.

**Applicants applying for Direct Entry to the final stage of an Honours Degree will need to evidence certificated learning equivalent to 240 credits; e.g. completion of a Foundation Degree or Diploma of Higher Education but will not be required to make a formal claim for RPL.

D. ASSESSMENT

D1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ASSESSMENT

- D1.1 All programmes relate assessment requirements to specific learning outcomes. Students are expected to demonstrate the attainment of these in their overall performance at module/programme level.
- D1.2 The purpose of assessment is to enable students to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the objectives of their programme of study and have achieved the standard required for the award. Assessment is a matter of academic judgement, not simply of computation. Whilst grades provide information on which a decision about student attainment can be based, they should not

be considered as absolute values or exact measurements.

- D1.3 Where students cannot be assessed under normal conditions because of a disability, specific learning difficulty or special circumstances beyond their control, alternative arrangements may be made to carry out the assessment, where appropriate in accordance with the [Examinations & Assessments Regulations for Students with Disabilities, Specific Learning Difficulties and Long-term Medical Conditions](#).
- D1.4 Where the assessment of students on a particular module is governed by an external professional body, any alternative assessment strategy will need the approval of that body.

D2 THE PROGRESSION AND AWARD BOARD

- D2.1 Academic Council is responsible to the Governing Body for the regulation of the academic conditions for the admission of students to, and their progress within, the University. The responsibility for the assessment of a student's performance is delegated to the Progression and Award Board for a programme or programmes.
- D2.2 The Progression and Award Board has delegated authority from Academic Council for the conferment of awards and decisions relating to the progression of students, a record will be kept of any decisions which require the specific application of a regulation and/or where academic discretion has been applied by the Board.
- D2.3 Chair's Action may be taken following an initial Progression and Award Board decision, where an error has been identified on the information presented at the Board. Chair's Action decisions shall be reported at the next meeting of the Progression and Award Board.

D3 UNIVERSITY DEVIATIONS FROM REGULATIONS

- D3.1 Deviations from the Academic Regulations may be considered in exceptional circumstances. The Vice-Chancellor or nominee may declare University-wide or campus specific deviations which will authorise the Emergency Regulations to be implemented for a prescribed period.

Emergency Regulations

- D3.2 The Emergency Regulations provide a framework to allow progression and/or award where a full assessment of student performance is prevented or limited by acts or events which may be beyond the reasonable control of the University.

Marking during University-wide or campus specific exceptional circumstances

- D3.3 In the event that marking cannot be completed in accordance with the Assessment and Feedback Policy, a Progression and Award Board may, with the approval of the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost or nominee, use an alternative marking model. This may include relaxing some of the rules contained within the marking models.
- D3.4 If External Examiners are unable to fulfil their duties, the assessment process may proceed,

with the approval of the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost or nominee.

Progression during University-wide or campus specific exceptional circumstances

- D3.5 In the event that students are unable to be assessed in the original format, the method of assessment of a module and/or the relative weighting of the assessment components, as defined in the module specification, may be modified with the approval of a Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Dean. This should take place no later than the Subject Assessment Panel meeting.
- D3.6 In the event that students are unable to be assessed in any format and/or results are unavailable for some or all students, Progression and Award Boards may, if appropriate, progress students pending assessment and/or ratification at a later date, unless prohibited by the requirements of a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body.

Progression and Award Boards during University-wide or campus specific exceptional circumstances

- D3.7 In the event that the Progression and Award Board is unable to convene, Chair's Action may be taken by the relevant Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Dean to allow progression, ratify results and/or ratify awards.
- D3.8 In the event that the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Dean is unavailable, the Chair of Academic Council (or their nominee) will be appointed acting Chair.
- D3.9 The Chair/acting Chair shall normally consult with the External Examiner but may make decisions without the External Examiner's involvement if the External Examiner is unavailable. Chair's Action decisions shall be reported to the next meeting of the Progression and Award Board and to Academic Council.

Awards during University-wide or campus specific exceptional circumstances

- D3.10 Regulation F1.1 will continue to apply in the event of University-wide or campus specific exceptional circumstances. There are no exceptions to the rule governing classification and award. Degree classification boundaries cannot be lowered and exceptions cannot be made.

D4 CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRESSION AND CONFERMENT PURPOSES

- D4.1 Each programme will have clearly defined credit requirements which students must satisfy to gain the award for which they are registered.
- D4.2 All progression is based on credit accumulation and conforms to the FHEQ expectations of attainment (see B2.2).
- D4.3 Each module shall have clearly defined, discrete assessment requirements which students must satisfy to pass the module and gain the credits associated with that module.
- D4.4 Where a programme forms part of the qualifications required by a professional or statutory body, the requirements of that body may take precedence over those of the University

regulations in the awarding of credit and any professional qualification, including any exit award.

D5 GAINING CREDIT AND PROGRESSING

- D5.1 Students gain credit by achieving the learning outcomes either by passing a module through assessment, through compensation or through a successful claim for prior learning.

Passing a Module

- D5.2 Students must attend examinations and submit work for assessment as required by the stated deadlines; they must ensure that they are aware of these deadlines and comply with university procedures governing student academic conduct.
- D5.3 Any mark given to a student is provisional until ratified by the Progression and Award Board.
- D5.4 Students' work will be graded numerically or on a pass/fail basis.
- D5.5 The University pass marks for individual modules using numerical grading is:
- a) 40% for modules at levels 3, 4, 5, and 6 (undergraduate awards)
 - b) 50% for modules at level 7 (graduate/postgraduate/integrated masters awards)
- D5.6 Credit shall be awarded for those modules in which the overall grade achieved is the minimum mark as in D5.5, or where compensation is applied, or RPL has been agreed.
- D5.7 For the first opportunity in an Academic Year coursework submitted up to 2-calendar days after the official submission deadline will be accepted and the full mark awarded. Coursework submitted up to 14 calendar days after the official submission deadline will be accepted and marked and if it meets the criteria for a 'pass', the mark will be capped at the minimum pass grade for that item of assessment. Calendar days include Saturdays and Sundays but not university closure days.
- D5.8 Coursework will not be accepted later than 14 calendar days after the official submission deadline. In such circumstances, a non-submission and 0% or 'fail' will be recorded against this item of assessment.

Compensation

- D5.9 Compensation is the recognition of awarding credit to a module that has not been passed but the criteria under D5.11 are satisfied.
- D5.10 The Progression and Award Board will apply compensation at any point in time provided that the maximum credits of compensation permitted per academic stage are not exceeded and the criteria under D5.11 are satisfied.
- D5.11 In consideration of a student's profile, the Progression and Award Board will apply compensation up to a maximum of 30 credits per stage of study where all the following apply:

- the work has been marked using a numerical scale (e.g. is not a pass/fail module).
- the overall module grade is no more than 10-marks below the minimum module pass mark, which is 40% UG and 50% PG.
- at the point compensation is applied all other modules completed have been passed and the average stage grade of 40% UG and 50% PG has been achieved.
- a first resit opportunity has been offered, or the student can be awarded.
- the credit to be compensated is **NOT** the dissertation or major project piece of assessment, as identified by the faculty.

D5.12 Accelerated Honours Degree programmes may have compensation applied up to a maximum of 45 credits in an academic year, provided that the maximum of 30 credits per stage is not exceeded, and the criteria under D5.11 are satisfied.

D5.13 Postgraduate compensation should be applied to the taught credits once completed (discounting the final project) where the criteria under D5.11 are satisfied. Where eligible, compensation should be applied at the earliest opportunity, including where the Progression and Award Board is considering student profiles with partial credit (including part time students or students who joined an intake outside of September).

D5.14 Students who receive a compensated pass in a module will not be entitled to a resit or repeat of that module.

D5.15 Programme specifications may identify modules to which compensation may not be applied.

D5.16 In cases where compensation is applied, the actual grade attained will be recorded and credits awarded.

Use of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) credit

D5.17 Any credits gained via RPL will not be graded for the University of Greenwich award unless it has been recognised because of a faculty's external Credit-Rating activity or where there is an agreement with another Higher Education Provider to recognise such transfer of grades.

D5.18 Where a student has been admitted onto a programme using credits awarded for prior learning but does not complete any University taught credits no exit award at an equivalent or lower level within the FHEQ can be awarded.

D6 DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

Aggregation and Weighting for First Degree Awards

D6.1 Degree classification for the award of an Honours degree will be according to the following bands:

70% or more = First Class Honours

60-69% = Upper Second Class Honours

50-59% = Lower Second Class Honours

40-49% = Third Class Honours

D6.2 The following rule will be applied when considering the appropriate award classification:

- a) The final average grade will be rounded to the nearest whole number e.g. 69.50 will be recognised as 70 and 69.49 will be recognised as 69.
- b) When calculating the degree classification, a module percentage is calculated based on a weighted average of individual assessment grades achieved, to six decimal places.
- c) Students must pass, or otherwise gain (D4.1), the full number of credits required to achieve the award for which they are registered.

D6.3 The algorithm used for calculating degree classifications for undergraduate programmes will depend on the stage at which a student joined the programme and the date at which the student commenced the programme. The algorithms used for calculating degree classifications are outlined below:

- a) For students who are registered onto a full undergraduate degree programme (including extended and part-time modes of study) **prior to** the 2026/27 academic year, and who remain continuously registered until completion of the programme, the class of Honours degree will be calculated on the basis of grades achieved in stages 2 and 3 of a programme in the ratio of 10:90. Aggregation of grades to obtain the class of Honours will be based on averaging the full spread of grades in Stage 2 to obtain 10% of the final grade and the average of the best 90 credits of overall module grades in Stage 3 (Level 6 or above) to obtain 90% of the final grade [10:90].
- b) For students who are registered on a full undergraduate degree programme (including extended and part-time modes of study) **from** the 2026/27 academic year, and remain continuously registered, the class of Honours degree will be calculated and awarded on the grades achieved in stages 2 and 3 of a programme in the ratio of 10:90. Aggregation of grades to obtain the class of Honours will be based on averaging the full spread of grades in Stage 2 to obtain 10% of the final grade and the full spread of grades in Stage 3 (Level 6 or above) to obtain 90% of the final grade [10:90].
- c) For students who are registered with direct entry onto Stage 2 of undergraduate degree programme prior to the 2027/28 academic year the class of Honours degree will be calculated and awarded on the grades achieved in stages 2 and 3 of a programme in the ratio of 10:90. Aggregation of grades to obtain the class of Honours will be based on averaging the full spread of grades in Stage 2 to obtain 10% of the final grade and the average of the best 90 credits of overall module grades in Stage 3 (Level 6 or above) to obtain 90 % of the final grade [10:90]
- d) For students who are registered with direct entry onto Stage 2 of undergraduate degree programme from the 2027/28 academic year onwards the class of Honours degree will be calculated and awarded on the grades achieved in stages 2 and 3 of a programme in the ratio of 10:90. Aggregation of grades to obtain the class of Honours will be based on averaging the full spread of grades in Stage 2 to obtain 10% of the final grade and the full spread of grades in Stage 3 (Level 6 or above) to obtain 90% of the final grade [10:90].
- e) For students who are registered with direct entry onto stage 3 of an undergraduate degree programme prior to the 2028/29 academic year the class of honours will be based on the average grades of the best 90 credits at Stage 3.
- f) For students who are registered with direct entry onto stage 3 of an undergraduate degree programme from the 2028/29 academic year the class of honours will be based on the average grades of modules at Stage 3.

Aggregation and Weighting for Other Undergraduate Awards

D6.4 Sub-degree programmes:

- a) Students who achieve an Average Stage Grade of 60% or above in the final stage of a sub-degree programme will have that award conferred 'with Merit'.
- b) Students who achieve an Average Stage Grade of 70% or above in the final stage of a sub-degree programme will have that award conferred 'with Distinction'.

D6.5 Foundation degree and HND programmes:

- a) Students who achieve a Final Average Grade of 60% or above at final stage will have that award conferred 'with Merit'.
- b) Students who achieve a Final Average Grade of 70% or above at final stage will have that award conferred 'with Distinction'.

D6.6 HNC programmes:

Awards will be calculated using the best 120 credits at Level 4 or above.

- a) Students who achieve a Final Average Grade of 60% **or above** will have that award conferred 'with Merit'.
- b) Students who achieve a Final Average Grade of 70% **or above** will have that award conferred 'with Distinction'.

Aggregation and Weighting for Integrated Masters Awards

D6.7 a) Degree classification for the award of an Honours degree will be according to the following bands:

70% or more = First Class Honours

60-69% = Upper Second Class Honours

50-59% = Lower Second Class Honours

- b) The class of Honours will normally be calculated on the grades achieved in Stages 3 and 4 of a programme in the ratio of 20:80. Aggregation of grades to obtain the class of Honours will be based on averaging the full spread of grades in Stage 3 to obtain 20% of the final grade and averaging the full spread of grades in Stage 4 to obtain 80% of the final grade.

Aggregation and Weighting for Postgraduate Masters Awards

D6.8 The conferment of a postgraduate award with the classification of Merit is permitted where students obtain an average of 60% across the programme as a whole.

D6.9 The conferment of a postgraduate award with the classification of Distinction is permitted where students obtain an average of 70% across the programme as a whole.

D6.10 The final average grade will be rounded to the nearest whole number e.g. 69.50 will be recognised as 70 and 69.49 will be recognised as 69.

D7 EXIT AWARDS

Undergraduate Awards

D7.1 The Progression and Award Board may also confer:

- a) Degree without Honours to a student who successfully completes or is otherwise credited with at least 300 credits (including 60 credits at level 6) on an Honours programme
- b) Degree without honours to students who successfully complete 60-credits at Level 6 on a Final Year Entry undergraduate programme
- c) Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE) to a student who successfully completes, or is otherwise credited with, at least 240 credits, of which 90 must be at Level 5 or above, and at least 90 at Level 4 or above
- d) Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE) to a student who successfully completes, or is otherwise credited with, at least 120 credits, of which at least 90 must be at Level 4 or above
- e) Foundation Diploma to a student who successfully completes, or is otherwise credited with, at least 120 credits, of which at least 90 must be at Level 3 or above

Integrated Masters Awards

D7.2 The Progression and Award Board may also confer:

- a) Undergraduate Honours Degree on successful completion of Stages 1, 2 and 3, upon the proviso that the full credit requirements for an honours award (360 credits, of which at least 90 are at Level 6) and other specific programme requirements have been met. Exit awards to Honours Degree level will be classified using the University's current classification system.
- b) Degree without Honours to a student who successfully completes or is otherwise credited with at least 300 credits (including 60 credits at level 6) on an Honours programme.
- c) Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE) to a student who successfully completes, or is otherwise credited with, at least 240 credits, of which 90 must be at Level 5 or above, and at least 90 at Level 4 or above.
- d) Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE) to a student who successfully completes, or is otherwise credited with, at least 120 credits, of which at least 90 must be at Level 4 or above.
- e) Where a student is transferred to an alternative named award, due to not meeting Professional Statutory Regulatory Body requirements, they will be awarded with the relevant outcome.

Postgraduate Masters Awards

D7.3 The Progression and Award Board may also confer:

- a) Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) to a student who successfully completes, or is otherwise credited with, at least 120 credits, of which at least 90 must be at Level 7 or above.
- b) Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) to a student who successfully completes, or is otherwise credited with, at least 60 credits, of which at least 40 must be at Level 7 or above.

- c) Where a student is transferred to an alternative named award, due to Professional Statutory Regulatory Body requirements, or the inability to obtain a placement, they will be awarded with a Pass, Merit or Distinction as appropriate.

Aegrotat Awards

- D7.4 Where a student suffers severe or long-term illness, an aegrotat may be recommended when a Progression and Award Board does not have enough evidence of the student's performance to be able to recommend the award for which the student was a candidate. The Progression and Award Board must be satisfied that, but for illness or other valid cause, the student would have demonstrated the standard required. In such circumstances, the student or their representatives must have signified that the student is willing to accept the award.

D8 REASSESSMENT

Resit

- D8.1 A resit is the opportunity to re-attempt a component of assessment(s) in order to pass a module overall within the same academic year as the original attempt as part of the recognised resit period.
- D8.2 Resit submissions that are submitted after the assessment deadline, and do not have approved extenuating circumstances, will be recorded as a non-submission and a 0% or 'fail' will be recorded against this item of assessment.
- D8.3 Retrieval of failure obtained by resit will result in component capping i.e. the minimum pass grade will be recorded for those elements that were resat. The overall grade for the module will not be capped.

Best Grade Standing

- D8.4 Where a student is required to undertake a resit of an assessment following an initial failed first attempt, the greater of the two marks obtained will be recorded to calculate the overall module mark. Any required capping of marks will apply where applicable.
- D8.5 Where a student is required to undertake a resit assessment in the next academic session following an initial failed first attempt, the greater of the two marks obtained will be recorded to calculate the overall final module mark. Any required capping of marks will apply where applicable.

Repeat

- D8.7 Where a student is required to repeat a failed module(s) (all or only failed components of assessment), the reassessment of that module will be deemed a 'repeat' and will be undertaken in the student's next academic year.
- D8.10 Where a student is required to repeat a failed module(s) a 4th and final opportunity to retrieve failure will be allowed.

- D8.11 Retrieval of failure obtained by repeating a module(s) will result in the overall uncapped grade attained being recorded for progression and classification purposes.
- D8.12 Where the failed module is an option module, the student may substitute an alternative module by agreement with the programme leader. Previous opportunities must be included as part of the total number of opportunities to achieve a pass.
- D8.13 Students repeating a module in a subsequent year will not be assessed in modules which are no longer current in the framework but will be offered an opportunity to achieve a pass on an alternative module.

Progression Trailing Credit

- D8.14 Progression trailing credit is the opportunity to repeat failed modules (all or only failed components of assessment) alongside the modules in the next stage of study.
- D8.15 Where at the point of progression to their next academic stage a student has not passed all modules, they will be given the opportunity to progress trailing credit, unless a derogation has been formally approved up to the maximum credits stipulated below:
- a) Undergraduate students may only be permitted to trail up to a maximum of 30 credits worth of modules.
 - b) Postgraduate students who have undertaken 120-credits may only be permitted to trail up to a maximum of 60 credits worth of modules.
- D8.16 The failed modules (all or only failed components of assessment) will be taken alongside the full credit worth of modules in the next stage. The Progression and Award Board will record whether the expectation will be that the failed modules will be repeated with or without attendance.
- D8.17 Retrieval of a failure obtained by repeating a module(s) through 'Progression Trailing Credit' will result in the overall grade attained being recorded for progression and classification purposes.
- D8.18 Failure to successfully retrieve the failed module during that period will prevent it from being carried forward into a later stage of the course.

D9 REASSESSMENT WITH ACCEPTED EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- D9.1 The Progression and Award Board will take account of the outcome of a successful claim for extenuating circumstances in determining a progression or final award decision.
- D9.2 Students who have an accepted extenuating circumstances claim for deferral or impaired performance will be considered for a reassessment opportunity as outlined below. For assessments solely for which an extenuating circumstances extension request has been granted, the Reassessment regulations in D8 will apply.

Reassessment following an accepted deferral claim

- D9.3 The Progression and Award Board will consider the student's overall profile applying the principles in D8 in to determine the timing of the reassessment opportunity as either:
- a) A deferred resit - the reassessment opportunity will be taken during the resit period prior to the commencement of the student's next academic stage of study; or
 - b) A deferred repeat - the reassessment opportunity will be taken in the student's next academic year.
- D9.4 The deferred reassessment will be treated as a an opportunity and the regulations for passing a module in section D5 will be applied to the deferred reassessment.
- D9.5 Further deferrals which would take a student beyond the maximum period of registration outlined in section B9, will not normally be permitted.

Reassessment following accepted impaired performance

- D9.6 Where a student has passed an assessment at the first attempt the Progression and Award Board will apply the principles in D8 to determine whether a student is given a reassessment opportunity to improve their existing grade.
- a) Where a reassessment opportunity has been offered, the greater of the two marks obtained will be recorded to calculate the overall module mark. No capping will be applied to the reassessment attempt.
 - b) Where the student does not undertake the reassessment opportunity, the existing grade(s) will be confirmed.
- D9.7 Where a student has failed an assessment at the first attempt, D9.3, D9.4 and D9.5 will apply.

D10 APPEALS AGAINST THE DECISION OF A PROGRESSION AND AWARD BOARD

- D10.1 A student may appeal against a decision of the Progression and Award Board in accordance with the [Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure](#).

E. EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

- E1.1 For every programme or group of modules leading to a qualification awarded by the University there shall be at least one examiner who is external to the University whose primary role is:
- i) to verify that academic standards are appropriate for the qualification, or part thereof, which they have been appointed to examine;
 - ii) to ensure national comparability of academic standards;
 - iii) to ensure that the assessment process is rigorous, fair and fairly operated, in line with the University's policies and regulations.

- E1.2 The External Examiner web pages set out the principles and requirements governing:
- i) the functions of an External Examiner
 - ii) the nomination, appointment and induction of External Examiners
 - iii) the preparation and submission of External Examiner reports
 - iv) the University's consideration of and responses to External Examiner reports.

F. CONFERMENT OF AWARDS

F1 GENERAL

- F1.1 An academic award (other than honorary) can only be given to a student who is registered for that award and who has satisfied the academic requirements to qualify for the award and all other requirements of the university, including the discharge of any outstanding financial obligations.
- F1.2 The date of conferment of a taught award will normally be the date of the final decision by the Progression and Award Board that the student has qualified for the award.
- F1.3 In very exceptional circumstances it may be necessary for an award to be rescinded. Quality Assurance should be informed of the circumstances and, subject to advice from Quality Assurance, the following action should be taken:
- a) If an error in recording the decisions of the Progression and Award Board was undetected up to and after the point of publishing the results the Chair of the Progression and Award Board will inform all members of the Board and issue a corrected record as quickly as possible, writing individually to the student(s) concerned.
 - b) If it should come to the attention of the Chair of the Progression and Award Board after the Board had met that there had been a breach of regulations which would affect the final outcome of the assessment and of which the Board was not aware, all students in that cohort should be informed that their awards are deferred and the Progression and Award Board should be reconvened to reconsider the results of the students involved.
 - c) In all other cases Quality Assurance will be consulted on the appropriate procedure to be followed.

F2 ISSUE OF AWARD AND ASSOCIATED CERTIFICATES

- F2.1 The certificate available to a student will be that specified in the regulations for the programme on which the student is registered. Unless specified in the regulations, an interim certificate will not be awarded to a student who is continuing to the final award.
- F2.2 A student who leaves the University having completed one or more stages of an award may receive a certificate for the highest stage completed if the programme regulations allow it and with the approval of the Progression and Award Board. The request to receive an "Exit Award" should be made within 2-years of the student not returning to their studies with the Conferment Date back-dated to the date that they last studied.
- F2.3 Unless the award is made by an external body, the certificate will be in the format approved by

the University. Samples of the approved format and wording of certificates will be held by the University Conferment's Office. Certificates will bear the signature of the Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor. Certificates without these signatures, or which have been amended after issue, are not valid.

- F2.4 A record of achievement (transcript) will be provided for any student who has successfully completed any elements of a programme of study leading to an award of the University. The transcript will be in the format currently approved in the University.

F3 POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

- F3.1 In the unfortunate event of a student death, the deceased student will be recommended for the award on which they were registered. Where all the required assessments for the award were completed at the time of death the conferment and any classification will be considered under D6. Where the required assessments were not completed at the time of death, an unclassified award will be conferred.
- F3.2 A posthumous award will normally be the named award to which the student was registered except in cases where professional body requirements advise otherwise.

G WITHDRAWAL AND INTERRUPTION

G1 RETURNING TO STUDY FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL

- G1.1 Where a student has previously withdrawn from their programme of study, they may apply to re-join the programme within a period of two years. Any return will be at the discretion of the University.
- G1.2 A student's previous marks for completed stages will normally be carried forward.
- G1.3 Returning students will be required to re-join their programme at the stage following their last successfully completed stage.
- G1.4 Any previous certificates awarded by the University must be returned prior to the conferment of a higher award.
- G1.5 Former students will not normally be permitted to return to a programme of study if they were discontinued due to academic failure.

G2 RETURNING TO STUDY FOLLOWING INTERRUPTION

- G2.1 Where a student has chosen to interrupt their programme of study, they will normally re-join the programme at the start of the following academic year.
- G2.2 A student may interrupt their programme of study for a maximum period of two years.

G2.3 Students will be required to undertake all modules and assessments that have not yet been formally ratified by the Progression and Award Board. Previous assessment marks will not normally be carried forward.