

Summary of Key Changes for 2014-15 Edition of the *University Calendar*

Please note that the regulations in the new edition of the Calendar apply to all students. The only exception to this rule is that continuing students will be governed by the degree regulations in place in the year of first registration on their current programme of study. (For Honours students, this means the year in which they commenced their Honours programme.)

1. Generic regulations for postgraduate taught programmes

a) Submission of the dissertation

The generic PGT regulations state that before students can 'progress' to the dissertation they must achieve an overall GPA of at least 12.0 in the programme's taught courses. In reality, on many programmes students are required to start work on the dissertation before the final GPA for the taught courses is confirmed. The question has therefore arisen as to what the position should be for students who commence work on the dissertation but subsequently are confirmed to have a GPA of less than 12.0. The regulations have always been clear that the masters degree cannot be awarded where the taught courses GPA is less than 12.0, but a new regulation has been added to indicate what should happen in relation to the dissertation in such a situation:

7.3 A candidate may be required to commence work on the dissertation or other substantial work before the assessment of the taught courses referred to in §4 has been completed. Such a requirement shall not indicate that the candidate has satisfied the requirements for award in relation to the taught courses. In the event that subsequently the grade point average for the taught courses, after all opportunities at assessment have been exhausted, is less than 12.0, the candidate will not be eligible for the award of the Masters degree, and the following will apply:

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

b) Duration of study when progressing from PG Diploma to Masters

Students who complete a PG Diploma may subsequently progress to a related masters degree. The postgraduate masters regulations (§3) state that the maximum duration of study is five years. A footnote has now been added to this provision indicating that where a student has previously completed a related PG Diploma (the credit from which is counted towards the masters degree), the total duration of study for the masters degree will include the duration of study on the PG Diploma.

Footnote to §3:

Where a candidate has progressed to study under §8 of the Generic Regulations for Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas that candidate's duration of study for the Masters degree shall be counted as the period since first registration for the Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma.

c) Repeat of a PGT programme

Students sometimes indicate a wish to register on a second occasion for a specific PGT programme. This may be because their first experience on the programme was affected by significant adverse circumstances which undermined their ability to fully engage with the learning and in some cases may have involved early withdrawal. On the other hand, some students request the opportunity to register on a second occasion as they wish to achieve an improved performance or have other reasons for repeating the experience. Academic Standards Committee has agreed that students should **not** be permitted to register for a PGT programme on a second occasion unless the student's first experience of the programme has been significantly compromised by adverse circumstances. (This position, while agreed by ASC, is not specifically covered in the PGT regulations.)

2. Code of Assessment – definition of Good Cause (s. 16.45(a))

The definition of good cause has been expanded (incorporating wording that was already used in the Code of Academic Appeals):

Good cause refers to the sudden unforeseen onset of illness or adverse circumstances affecting the student. It is not intended to apply to chronic or persistent illness or to long-term adverse personal circumstances. Where there is a chronic medical condition good cause shall only be established where the candidate's performance in assessment has been compromised by a sudden severe episode of the illness.

This wording highlights the fact that good cause should only be used in relation to situations where a student's ability *to demonstrate what they have learned* is compromised. Where circumstances have impacted a student's ability to engage in the learning associated with a course, those circumstances cannot be cited as good cause. (Other courses of action would need to be explored for such students, e.g. possibly repeating affected courses.)

If you have any queries regarding the *Calendar* regulations please contact Helen Butcher (Helen.Butcher@glasgow.ac.uk) or Ruth Cole (Ruth.Cole@glasgow.ac.uk) in the Senate Office.

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