

SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC POLICY DECISIONS – AUTUMN 2008

This information note refers to decisions made at the following meetings:

Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee – 05/10/08 and 06/02/09
Joint meeting of the Undergraduate and Graduate School Board – 10/12/08
Senate – 15/10/08, 15/01/09

Minute numbers are given to indicate the source of the information set out below. Where extracts of minutes are included verbatim, this is indicated by speech marks.

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FOR ACTION

1. **Amendments to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Rules of Assessment**
(S.MM.46-52/09 and S.MM.54-65/09)

There are further approved variations to the Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Rules of Assessment, which can be found at:

<http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/students/ug/newrules.htm> and

<http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/students/pgt/pgrules.htm>

Changes following the January Senate which apply to the current academic year will be updated in the Spring term.

2. **“Equivalent and Lower Qualifications (ELQ)” – Changes to funding methodology and implications for Postgraduate Study (GSB.M.17/09)**

Departments are advised to note the concept of ELQs and the fee implications for students. Graduate Admissions has a standard paragraph that can be used if required on hard copy or electronic material.

Departments that handle their own Home and EU enquiries for taught postgraduate study are advised to alert enquirers to the concept of ELQs and the fee implications if it is clear at the point of enquiry that they may be affected.

Departments may wish to consider the implications for their Graduate Diplomas, if applicable.

Received A report on Changes to Funding Methodology and Implications for Postgraduate Study. (full report available here:
[https://www.essex.ac.uk/committees/committeedocs/GSBD/2008/documents/2008-12-10item7\(iii\).doc](https://www.essex.ac.uk/committees/committeedocs/GSBD/2008/documents/2008-12-10item7(iii).doc))

SECTION B – FOR INFORMATION

1. Regulation of External Examiners and Oral Examinations (S.M. 49/09)

Resolved that regulation 6.11 be deleted with immediate effect.

The regulations, from 6.10 onwards will be renumbered to reflect this change.

2. Amendments to Ordinances and Regulations (S.MM.83-84/09)

Recommended to Council

Resolved that Ordinance 46 be revised as follows with effect from 2009/10 (deleted wording struck through):

Boards of Examiners

The Senate has delegated to Boards of Examiners the power to make the final decision on the results for ~~courses~~/modules, progression, awards and degree classification for all students of the University, provided that the Board of Examiners is properly constituted in accordance with the procedures approved by the Senate.

Resolved that revision to Regulation 1.17 be approved, with immediate effect, as set out below (new wording underlined, deleted text struck through):

Regulation 1.17.

Applicants whose mother-tongue is not English are required to provide to the relevant University officer evidence that their ability to understand and express themselves in both written and spoken English is sufficiently high to enable them to derive full benefit from the programme of study for which they are applying.

They are also required, unless exempted by the relevant University officer, to undertake a test of proficiency in written and spoken English conducted at the University. The test will normally take place in the first week of the Autumn term in which they enter the University. Students who register after the beginning of the Autumn term will take the test at a time arranged by the International Academy. On the basis of this test, students and their Departments will:

- a. be advised that English classes are not normally considered necessary or
- b. be advised that they should take English language support classes ~~or~~ and that failure to do so could be detrimental to their studies and, in the event of failure, would be part of the evidence available to Examination Boards.
- e. ~~be required to take English language support classes.~~^c

Rachel Lucas
Assistant Registrar (Quality)

CIRCULATION

FOR ACTION:

Heads of Department/School

Directors of

Human Rights Centre

Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities

Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies

Study Abroad Office

Centre for Theoretical Studies

Departmental Administrators (including Centres listed above)

FOR INFORMATION:

Vice-Chancellor

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Deans

Academic Registrar

Faculty Managers

Academic Officers