

SPRING SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC POLICY DECISIONS 2015-16

This document refers to key decisions made during the 2015-16 academic year at the following meetings:

Senate (S): 20.4.16

Education Committee (EC): 10.2.16, 23.3.16

Academic Quality and Standards Committee (AQSC): 9.3.16

SharePoint site: <https://sp.essex.ac.uk/sections/academic/senate/default.aspx>

	Category	Name of New or Amended Policy	Summary of change and link to source paper/committee minutes
1	Ordinances	Ordinance 31 <i>Graduation</i>	That Ordinance 31 should be amended in order to ensure that it reflected the provisions in Ordinance 3 <i>The Pro-Chancellors</i> and Ordinance 46 <i>Boards of Examiners</i> . Senate and Council Senate 20 April 2016 S/16/15 S.M. 56-57/16
2	University initiative	Digital Skills	Senate agreed that the recommendations in relation to the development of Digital Skills should be approved. This includes the adoption of the JISC definition of “digital literacy” and a series of additional areas of development for departments, Employability and Careers, the TEL team, as well as the constituting of a Task and Finish Group, and investigation into intercalated degrees. Senate 20 April 2016 S/16/22 Appendix A Annex A-B S.M. 90/16
3	Taught Provision (Undergraduate)	Admissions Regulation 1.8 Undergraduate Admissions Approval Process	Dean’s approval process for undergraduate admissions The Chair of Education Committee took Chair’s Action to approve changes to the Dean’s approval process for undergraduate admissions to give delegated authority to Undergraduate Senior Admissions Advisors Education Committee 23 March 2016 EC/16/13 Appendix 1 EC.M 60-61/16

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4	Taught Provision (Undergraduate)	Rules of Assessment (Undergraduate)	<p>Variations approved for East 15 for 2015/16:</p> <p>Variations approved for Cert HE in Theatre Arts, FDA/BA Stage Management and Technical Theatre, BA Stage and Production Management to reflect course structures.</p> <p>Variations approved for Language and Linguistics for 2017/18</p> <p>Variations approved for all Modern Language courses with respect to Years Abroad.</p> <p>Senate 20 April 2016 S/16/22 Appendix A Annex A-B S.M. 90/16</p>
5	Taught Provision (Postgraduate)	i. Postgraduate Entry Requirements	<p>Amendments to the English language requirements for courses in Economics</p> <p>The Chair of Education Committee took Chair's Action to approve the reduction of the IELTS from 6.5 to 6.0 excluding the MSc Economics and Econometrics and the MRes Economics.</p> <p>Education Committee 23 March 2016 EC/16/13 EC. M 60-61/16</p>
		ii. Rules of Assessment (Postgraduate)	<p>Variations approved for East 15 for 2015/16:</p> <p>Variations approved for MA and MFA courses to reflect course structures.</p> <p>Variations approved for Government for 2015/16:</p> <p>Variations approved for the Government MRES course with respect to reassessment.</p> <p>Senate 20 April 2016 S/16/22 Appendix A Annex C-D S.M. 90/16</p>

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6	Taught Provision (Postgraduate)	Postgraduate Credit Framework	<p>The Task and Finish Group made the following recommendations which were approved by Senate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Departments may continue to choose one of the existing credit frameworks but are strongly encouraged to consistently adhere to one credit framework. ii. Masters courses may consist of 180-190 credits (this does not include integrated Masters courses which should consist of 120-130 credits). Any exemptions would need a Variation to the Rules of Assessment. iii. Departments running both 15 credit and 20 credit variants should review this and obtain permission from the DDE as part of Curriculum Review. Detailed rationales will be required for the approval of new 20 credit variants. iv. The creation of 15 credit variants will not be permitted. v. Departments who wish to change their credit framework must provide a detailed rationale to the DDE and PVC (Education). vi. The PVC (Education)'s Advisory Group on Rules of Assessment will undertake a review of the Rules of Assessment for PGT courses during the Summer of 2016. vii. Departments should review the weighting of PGT dissertations during the academic year 2016/17 as part of Curriculum Review, in time for Spring 2017 Annual Update. <p>Senate 20 April 2016 S/16/20 Appendix A Annex C-D S.M. 89/16</p>

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