

## Summary of academic policy decisions, 2025-26

This summary includes decisions made at the following meetings:

Senate (5 November 2025)  
Senate (21 January 2026)

*The following committees have been reviewed and no decisions relating to academic policy were made:*

Academic Quality and Standards Committee (September 2025 virtual meeting)  
Academic Quality and Standards Committee (15 October 2025)  
Academic Quality and Standards Committee (December 2025 virtual meeting)  
Academic Quality and Standards Committee (28 January 2026)

Education Committee (8 October 2025)  
Education Committee (10 December 2025)  
Education Committee (4 February 2026)

Senate (3 December 2026)

As decisions are being made in response to changing circumstances, please make sure to refer to current communications and information on webpages and check with the relevant team if you have any questions.

Approved variations to the Rules of Assessment for specific courses or Partners are not included in this summary. Departments will be notified of approved variations directly following their approval.

Name of New or Amended Policy	Category	Applies to	Key contact(s)	Summary of change or new policy approved	Date that change or new policy takes effect	Link to source paper/committee minutes
<b>Education Action Plan 2025-26</b>	Action Plans	All levels of provision	Emma Hardy, Deputy Academic Registrar	The updated <a href="#">Education Action Plan 2025-26</a> , as set out in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/61, Appendix A</a> .	Immediate effect	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/61, Appendix A</a>
<b>Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions Policies</b>	Admissions	All levels of provision	Emma Ellis, Deputy Director of Admissions (Operations)	That the Chair of Senate, following a recommendation from Education Committee, approved amendments, on behalf of Senate, to the <a href="#">Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions Policies 2026/27</a> to reflect the newly adopted process for CAS issue in use for the January 2026 intake onwards, and a change, as a result, to when a credibility interview takes place in the	For January 2026 intake onwards	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/51</a>

				Admissions process. These changes ensure that the policy wording is clear and transparent for applicants under our obligations as set out in the UUK Fair Admissions Code of Practice, CMA and OfS guidance. Details can be found in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/51</a> .		
<b>Recognition of prior learning and re-use of credit policy</b>	Admissions (credit use and transfer)	All levels of provision	Ceri Law, Senior Quality Enhancement Manager	The proposed changes to the <a href="#">Recognition of Prior Learning and Re-Use of Credit Policy</a> , as set out in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/61, Appendix J</a> , with immediate effect.	Immediate effect	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/61, Appendix J</a>
<b>Extenuating Circumstances Policy</b>	Assessment	All taught provision	Tegan Locke, Senior Student Progress Manager	Changes to the <a href="#">Extenuating Circumstances Policy</a> , strengthening guidance and including the removal of the requirement for students to provide external evidence when submitting claims, as set out in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/61, Appendix H</a> , with effect from 1 December 2025.	1 December 2025	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/61, Appendix H</a>
<b>Rules of Assessment for Full-time Taught Masters Degrees with Professional Placements</b>	Assessment	Postgraduate Taught provision	Jodie Field, Senior Assessment Manager	That the proposed changes to the <a href="#">Rules of Assessment for Full-time Taught Masters Degrees with Professional Placements</a> as set out in <a href="#">Senate paper S/26/08, Appendix B</a> , be approved.	For Academic Year 2025-26	<a href="#">Senate, 21/01/2026, S/26/08, Appendix B</a>
<b>Taught External Examiner Policy</b>	External Examiners	All taught provision	Cerys Somers, Quality Enhancement Manager	The creation of a <a href="#">Taught External Examiner Policy</a> , collating existing policy information into a single policy, as set out in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/61, Appendix I</a> , with immediate effect.	Immediate effect	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/61, Appendix I</a>
<b>Author Rights Retention Policy</b>	Library	N/A	Liam Bullingham, Assistant Director (Academic and Research Services)	The revised <a href="#">Author Rights Retention Policy</a> , as set out in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/62, Annex 3</a> .	Immediate effect	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/62, Annex 3</a>

<b>Ordinance 6: the Registrar and Secretary</b>	Ordinances	N/A	Lucy Johnson, University Secretary	Senate recommended to Council that amendments to the <a href="#">Ordinances</a> , associated with the transfer of the powers and responsibilities of the former Registrar and Secretary role to new, permanent roles of University Secretary and Chief Operating Officer and as set out in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/54 Appendix 5</a> , be approved, and updated, together with the amendments to the University Calendar, Regulations, Policies, and Procedures, at the next review point.	To be updated at next review point	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/54, Appendix 5</a>
<b>Principle Regulations for Graduate and Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates</b>	Regulations	Postgraduate taught provision	Emma Hardy, Deputy Academic Registrar	That the Chair of Senate approved updates, on behalf of Senate, to the <a href="#">Principle Regulations for Graduate and Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates</a> , to reflect current structures and terminology, from 1 August 2025. Details can be found in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/51 Appendix B</a> .	From 1 August 2025	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/51, Appendix B</a>
<b>Student Protection Plan</b>	Student protection	All levels of provision	Lucy Johnson, University Secretary	Senate was asked to comment on the enhancements in the <a href="#">Student Protection Plan</a> included in sections 2 (Changes to/discontinuation of your Course), section 3 (We close the Department in which your Course is being offered) and section 8 (We lose the right to offer the qualification for which you are studying), as these areas of the Plan are within Senate's remit.  These changes had been approved by Council, through Chair's Action, and the latest version of the Plan had been submitted to the OfS for approval on 6 June 2025.	<i>Pending OfS approval</i>	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/2025, S/25/53</a>

<b>Reasonable Adjustments Policy</b>	Student support	All levels of provision	Heather Hunt, Head of Student Services and Wellbeing	That as a result of changes to our Health Centre arrangements, which mean that all students will now be required to pay for any medical evidence they require, and following a recommendation from Education Committee, the Chair of Senate approved, on behalf of Senate, amendments to the <a href="#">Student Reasonable Adjustment Policy</a> . Details can be found in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/61, Appendix K</a> .	Immediate effect	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/25, S/25/61, Appendix K</a>
<b>Study and Wellbeing Intervention Policy and Procedure</b>	Student support	All levels of provision	Will Jennings, Accessibility and Wellbeing Manager	That in light of feedback from Departments and the Student Wellbeing Team in relation to the Chair arrangements for Stage 2 meetings, and following a recommendation from Education Committee, the Chair of Senate approved, on behalf of Senate, amendments to the <a href="#">Study and Wellbeing Intervention Policy</a> . Details can be found in <a href="#">Senate paper S/25/61, Appendix L</a> .	Immediate effect	<a href="#">Senate, 05/11/25, S/25/61, Appendix L</a>
<b>Peer Review of Teaching Policy</b>	Teaching delivery	All taught provision	Samer Gharib, Education Developer	That the changes to the <a href="#">Peer Review of Teaching Policy</a> be approved with immediate effect as set out in <a href="#">Senate paper S/26/08 Appendix G</a> .	Immediate effect	<a href="#">Senate, 21/01/26, S/26/08, Appendix G</a>

<b>The Summary of Academic Policy Decisions is circulated to:</b>
Heads and Directors of Departments, Schools and Centres
Directors of Education
Heads of Academic Section Teams
Academic Services Senior Management Group
Department Managers/Administrators
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Executive Deans
Dean of Undergraduate Education
Dean of Postgraduate Taught Education
Dean of Postgraduate Research Education
Deans of Partnerships
Faculty Deans (Undergraduate & Postgraduate)
Academic Registrar
Faculty Managers
Faculty Education Managers
Quality and Academic Development Managers
Postgraduate Research Education Managers
Progress Managers
Assessment Managers
Students' Union
Governance Office
University Secretary
If a staff role should be added to this list, please email <a href="mailto:quad@essex.ac.uk">quad@essex.ac.uk</a>