

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR FULL-TIME TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES 2021-2022

SCHOOL OF SPORT, REHABILITATION AND EXERCISE SCIENCES

MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) (24 months – full-time)

1 PREAMBLE

- a) These rules apply to the full-time (24 months) Master’s programme named above. The rules should be read in conjunction with the relevant Programme Structure, Programme Specification and on-line Module Directory entries. The Module Directory will give detail of assessment arrangements. The Programme Structure will identify which modules are core for the Programme.
 - b) A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation or equivalent, which for this programme is SE760: Research Project.
 - c) All Masters degrees can be awarded with Distinction and Merit.
 - d) Successful completion of the MSc also leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Care Professions Council. There are two exit awards of Post Graduate Diploma – the Post Graduate Diploma in Physiotherapy and the Post Graduate Diploma in Health Studies. Only the Post Graduate Diploma in Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Care Professions Council.
 - e) It is for the Board of Examiners to determine whether the criteria for an award have been satisfied.
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2 PASS MARK

- a) The pass mark for all modules of the Masters degree is 50.
- b) For the purposes of these rules taught module averages, the overall weighted average for the taught modules and the mark for the dissertation or equivalent will be rounded to the nearest whole number – i.e. 49.5 will count as 50, 49.4 as 49.
- c) Clinical assessments are marked on a pass/fail basis.

3 ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD

THE MASTERS DEGREE

Pass

To be awarded a pass in the Masters a student should:

- a) Attempt 180 credits at Masters level (level 7) of which all must be passed.

3.1 A Pass with Merit or Distinction

3.1.1 Pass with Merit

To obtain a Merit, in addition to achieving the requirements for a pass, a student should;

- Have an overall weighted average mark of 60 or more.

3.1.2 Pass with Distinction

To obtain a Distinction, in addition to achieving the requirements for a pass, a student should;

- Have an overall weighted average mark of 70 or more.

3.2 THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE

Where a student is either unable to complete their studies or does not achieve the required credits to be awarded a Masters, then the award of either a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate will be considered. Students can be considered for the award of a Distinction and Merit for an exit award.

Departments will identify on the published programme structure which taught modules have to be passed in order to obtain a PG Certificate or PG Diploma.

3.2.1 To be awarded a POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PHYSIOTHERAPY (PREREGISTRATION) a student should:

- a) Obtain 120 credits at Masters level (level 7).
- b) Pass all the clinical assessments and all the following modules;
SE751, SE752, SE753, SE754, SE755, SE756, SE757, SE758, SE759

This award leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Care Professions Council.

A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Where a student has more than 120 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for a Postgraduate Diploma giving at least 120 credits will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark.

Pass with Merit

To obtain a Merit, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Diploma, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 120 PG Diploma credits of 60 or more.

Pass with Distinction

To obtain a Distinction, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Diploma, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 120 PG Diploma credits of 70 or more.

3.2.2 To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH STUDIES** a student should:

- a) Attempt 120 credits at Masters level (level 7) of which 90 must be passed, with the remaining credits condoned, subject to (c).
- b) Pass all taught core modules.
- c) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 30 credits in non-core modules may be condoned provided that the overall weighted average for the 120 PG Diploma credits is 50 or above.

This award **does not** lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Care Professions Council.

A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Where a student has more than 120 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for a Postgraduate Diploma giving at least 120 credits will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark.

Pass with Merit

To obtain a Merit, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Diploma, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 120 PG Diploma credits of 60 or more.

Pass with Distinction

To obtain a Distinction, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Diploma, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 120 PG Diploma credits of 70 or more.

3.2.3 To be awarded a **POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH STUDIES** a student should:

- a) Obtain 60 taught module credits at Masters level (level 7)
- b) Pass all taught core modules.

This award **does not** lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Care Professions Council.

A Pass with Merit or Distinction

Where a student has more than 60 credits, the best credits compatible with the structure for the Postgraduate Certificate giving at least 60 credits will be used to calculate the overall weighted average mark.

Pass with Merit

To obtain a Merit, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Certificate, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 60 PG Certificate credits of 60 or more.

Pass with Distinction

To obtain a Distinction, in addition to achieving the requirements for a Postgraduate Certificate, a student should:

- Have an overall weighted average mark for the 60 PG Certificate credits of 70 or more.

4 REASSESSMENT

Reassessment for taught modules

- a) Students who have failed any taught module may have a second attempt at the assessment for the module(s);
- b) Where all individual components of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module only one opportunity to resubmit the failed component will be offered;
- c) The Board of Examiners will reinstate the module mark for a previous attempt at a failed module if it is higher than the mark for the most recent attempt;
- d) When a reassessment opportunity in a component leading to a numerical mark is offered the module aggregate will be calculated as follows:
 - i) Where students are not required to pass all the individual components of a module, the maximum mark that will be recorded for a module as a result of a second attempt is 50;
 - ii) Where students are required to pass all individual components of assessment, a pre-resubmission module aggregate will be calculated using the failed mark(s):
 - If the pre-resubmission module aggregate was below the pass mark then the resubmission can improve the module aggregate mark up to the pass mark only.
 - If the pre-resubmission module aggregate was above the pass mark then the resubmission cannot improve the module aggregate mark. The module aggregate is capped at the pre-submission aggregate.
 - Where the mark for the second attempt is lower than the mark for the first attempt, the final module aggregate will be that which is calculated using the mark of the most recent attempt.

4.1 If a student fails a module on the second attempt at the assessment no further attempt is allowed and the student will be required to withdraw unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

4.2 Reassessment for a clinical placement

- a) Only two failed clinical placements are permitted to be retaken as a second attempt.
- b) If a student who has already had two second attempts fails a third clinical placement, they will be required to withdraw unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.
- c) If a student fails a clinical placement on the second attempt at the assessment no further attempt is allowed and the student will be required to withdraw, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

4.3 Re-submission of Dissertation or equivalent

- a) Re-submission of dissertations or equivalent is only permitted in the following circumstances:
 - i) Either substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, or;
 - ii) Where the original mark awarded is at least 40.

 - b) Re-submission is subject to the following conditions:
 - i) A dissertation or equivalent must normally be re-submitted within two months of the formal notification of permission to resubmit; in cases of extenuating circumstances, this may be extended to a maximum of twelve months;
 - ii) A dissertation or equivalent which has been re-submitted because of a marginal fail shall be awarded no more than a maximum mark of 50; in the case of re-submissions because of extenuating circumstances, the full range of marks shall be available to examiners.
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5 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Powers of the Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners shall have the following powers:

- a) Confirming the taught module marks achieved, including any marks for reassessment presented to the Board, and awarding credit.
- b) Confirming the mark for the dissertation or equivalent, including any mark for resubmission.
- c) Confirming the assessment for the clinical elements.
- d) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- e) Determining the appropriate award for each student.
- f) Requiring any student who either fails the second attempt for a module/placement or fails a third placement to withdraw.

5.1 End of Year 1 Board

The Board of Examiners shall meet at the end of Year 1 to consider the students' performance on all modules completed at that point. The Board shall have the power to:

- a) Confirming the taught module marks achieved, including any marks for reassessment presented to the Board, and awarding credit.
- b) Confirm the assessment for the clinical elements completed.
- c) Determine whether each student may proceed to Year 2.
- d) Consider extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- e) Require any student who has failed to pass a taught module or clinical assessment on the second attempt to withdraw

5.1.2 Students will be required to withdraw where the accumulation of further credit would not result in the achievement of any postgraduate award according to the Rules of Assessment.

5.2 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

If you submit Extenuating Circumstances and they are accepted as valid, the Board of Examiners may be able to offer additional assessment opportunities, such as reassessment for uncapped module marks or voluntary reassessment, in line with the Extenuating Circumstances [Policy](#) and [guidelines](#). When extenuating circumstances are accepted, the Board of Examiners will use its discretion to determine what if any action should be taken in accordance with the powers set out in the Policy. Except in the case of accepted extenuating circumstances, Boards of Examiners do not have powers of discretion in relation to the application of the rules of assessment.

End

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