

## **University of Essex**

### **Rules of Assessment for Modular Taught Masters Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Certificates 2025-2026**

#### **School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Science**

MSc in Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice

MSc in Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice (Hand Therapy)

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert in Musculoskeletal Practice (Hand Therapy)

PG Cert First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert Musculoskeletal Practice

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Imaging

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert International Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Imaging

#### **1. Preamble**

a) These rules apply to the modular postgraduate programmes listed 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. A core module must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed.

c) The maximum period for completion of studies using credit accumulation is six years (normally five years to complete all taught elements and a further one year to complete the dissertation (or equivalent)). The maximum period of study is measured from the point at which a student first registered for a module that was being used towards the award

d) The credit lifetime for any module is six years.

e) Masters degrees can be awarded with Distinction and Merit.

f) It is for the Board of Examiners to determine whether the criteria for an award have been satisfied.

## 2. Pass mark

a) The pass mark for all modules is 50. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed. In cases where failure with a mark of 40 is condoned, the credits are not awarded.

b) For the purposes of these rules taught module averages will be rounded to the nearest whole number – i.e. 49.5 will count as 50, 49.4 as 49.

c) All work placement/work-based assessments are assessed on a pass/fail basis. They are non-credit bearing but must be passed.

d) In addition to passing the module students must **pass all module assignments** in the following:

<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>
<b>HS632</b>	Preparation for Independent and Supplementary Prescribing V300 (NMC/HCPC)
<b>SE708</b>	Technical Considerations in Ultrasound Imaging
<b>SE709</b>	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound in Professional Practice
<b>SE710</b>	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Guided Injections
<b>SE713</b>	Understanding and Managing Complex Musculoskeletal Conditions
<b>SE714</b>	Soft Tissue and Joint Injection Therapy
<b>SE715</b>	Introduction to Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

<b>SE717</b>	Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment
<b>SE718</b>	Skill Extension for MSK Injection Practitioners: Ultrasound Guidance
<b>SE719</b>	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound, Clinical Skills Experience - Scanning Record
<b>SE721</b>	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound in Professional Practice (Non-UK Variant)
<b>SE731</b>	Leading Change in Healthcare
<b>SE746</b>	Technical Considerations in Ultrasound Imaging (Alternative to SE708 for students on Giant Cell Arteritis or Vascular Imaging)
<b>SE747</b>	Postgraduate Research Methods (Distance Learning)
<b>SE761</b>	First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice
<b>SE783</b>	Current Concepts in Upper Limb Rehabilitation
<b>SE784</b>	Medication Use in Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation
<b>SE785</b>	Musculoskeletal Research: Data collection and analysis

e) For HS62 Preparation for Independent and Supplementary Prescribing V300 (NMC/HPC) Pharmacology Examination the student must achieve a pass mark of 80 to be awarded a Pass.

f) For SE708 (and the alternative SE746) the MCQ exam pass mark is 70%.

The 70% examination pass mark will be adjusted proportionately to represent in real terms the mark students would achieve if the module used the standard 50% pass mark that applies to all other modules. This is achieved by applying the following formula:

If the raw mark is X which is less than or equal to 70, it goes to  $5X/7$ .

If the raw mark is X which is over 70, it goes to  $(5X-200)/3$ .

This transformed grade will not appear on the transcript and will be retained for the purposes of calculating the aggregate mark only.

g) The postgraduate Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Imaging awards, (PGCert, PGDip, MSc) require successful completion of three modules: SE708 **or** SE746, SE715, SE709.

### **3. Eligibility for an Award**

#### **3.1 The Postgraduate Certificate**

To be awarded a **Postgraduate Certificate** a student should:

a) Attempt 60 credits at Masters Level (Level 7) of which 40 must be passed, with the remaining credits condoned, subject to (d).

b) Pass all taught core modules.

c) Pass all placement/work-based assessments

d) Failure with a mark of 40 or more for up to 20 credits, in non-core modules, may be condoned.

Dissertation or equivalent credits cannot be used to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate.

**3.2 Non-accredited Postgraduate Certificate** for students on MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice, and the MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice (Hand Therapy)

Students who are not eligible for the Masters award can be considered for the Postgraduate Certificate which is a non-accredited award and does not lead to eligibility to register with the Health and Care Professions Council.

The titles will be as follows:

**PG Certificate in Musculoskeletal Practice** for students on the MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice.

**PG Certificate in Musculoskeletal Practice (Hand Therapy)** for students on the MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice (Hand Therapy).

### **3.3 Postgraduate Certificate - 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.

#### **3.3.1 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.

#### **3.3.2 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.

### **3.4 The Postgraduate Diploma**

To be awarded a **Postgraduate Diploma** 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 (d).

b) Pass all taught core modules.

c) Pass all placement/work-based assessments.

d) 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.

Credits obtained for the dissertation or equivalent can normally be used when considering whether a Postgraduate Diploma can be awarded, provided that the above criteria have been met.

**3.5 Non-accredited Postgraduate Diploma** for students on MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice, and the MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice (Hand Therapy)

Students who are not eligible for the Masters award can be considered for the Postgraduate Diploma which is a non-accredited award and does not lead to eligibility to register with the Health and Care Professions Council.

The titles will be as follows:

**PG Diploma in Musculoskeletal Practice** for students on the MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice.

**PG Diploma in Musculoskeletal Practice (Hand Therapy)** for students on the MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice (Hand Therapy)

### **3.6 Postgraduate Diploma - 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.

### **3.6.1 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.

### **3.6.2 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.

**3.7** Where a student is either unable to complete their studies or does not achieve the required credits to be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma, then the award of 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.

Dissertation or equivalent credits cannot be used to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate.

## **3.8 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 140 must be passed, with the remaining credits condoned, subject to (d).
- b) Pass all the taught core modules and the dissertation or equivalent.
- c) Pass all placement/work-based assessments.
- d) Failure with a mark of 40 or more, for up to 40 credits in non-core taught modules, may be condoned provided the overall weighted average for all the taught modules is 50.

## **3.9 Masters - A Pass with Merit or Distinction**

### **3.9.1 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.

### **3.9.2 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.

**3.10** 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.

Dissertation or equivalent credits cannot be used to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate.

#### **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.

**4.1.2** Where the Board of Examiners permits a student to have a second attempt at the assessment for a module this only applies to any individual assignment/examination for the module that has been failed. A student cannot be permitted to repeat a module unless permitted by the Board of Examiners because of substantiated extenuating circumstances.

## **4.2 Re-submission of Dissertations 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 current Dissertation Module Aggregate Mark is at least 40 and the Board of Examiners judges that the work required to achieve a pass does not include any additional experimental or practical work.

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.

## **5. Assessment Procedures**

### **5.1 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 any opportunities for reassessment for modules, including resubmission of the dissertation or equivalent; and any opportunities for condonement.
  
- d) Considering each student's marks' profile so that they can be advised on the range of possible award outcomes, including whether it is possible for them to make use of dissertation or equivalent credits.
  
- e) Confirm the assessment for the clinical elements.
  
- f) Confirming any opportunities for resubmission of the dissertation or equivalent.
  
- g) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
  
- h) Determining the appropriate award for each student.
  
- i) Determining that the credit being presented for the award is current.
  
- j) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw.

## **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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