

# UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

## RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR FULL-TIME MODEL A INTEGRATED PHDS 2025-2026

### 1. PREAMBLE

a) The University has two models for full-time Integrated PhDs:

- Model A: The standard 1 + 3 model of taught Masters (180 credits) for Year One, followed by the standard three-year PhD course.

- Model B: A research and communication skills preparatory Integrated PhD (titled Integrated PhD in [Academic Subject] (Research and Communication Skills), which is comprised of 120 credit taught modules in Year One, followed by the standard three-year PhD course.

b) These rules are for Model A and apply to Year One, the Postgraduate Taught phase of the Integrated PhD programme. The rules should be read in conjunction with the:

- [Variations to the Rules of Assessment](#) document

- [Postgraduate Taught Programme Credit Framework](#)

- Programme Structure - this identifies which modules are core for the programme.

- [Programme Specification](#)

- Online [Module Directory](#) entries (or equivalent for Partner Institutions) - these give details of assessment arrangements and formats

- [Programme Milestones](#) - these include the progression requirements for the research components

- [Principal Regulations for Research Degrees](#) and [Codes of practice relating to higher degrees](#) - these outline the requirements for postgraduate research degrees

c) A taught module is any assessed component excluding the dissertation or equivalent. Core modules must be taken as part of the programme structure and passed, with no condonement of marks below a pass allowed.

d) Taught module and dissertation marks will be considered by the Postgraduate Taught Board of Examiners who will determine whether the criteria for progression to Year Two of the Integrated PhD have been met. If the progression criteria have not been met, the Postgraduate Taught Board of Examiners will consider whether reassessment can be offered or if the student is eligible for an exit award.

## **2. PASS MARK**

a) The pass mark for all taught modules is 50. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed. In cases where failure with a mark of 40 to 49 is condoned, the credits are not awarded; however, the module mark will still be used to calculate the overall weighted average for the taught modules and the overall weighted average.

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.

### **3. PROGRESSION**

#### **3.1 Progression requirements for all courses**

To pass Year One, the Postgraduate Taught phase, and proceed to Year Two of the Integrated PhD, a student must:

- a) Attempt 180 credits at Masters level (Level 7) of which at least 140 must be passed, with any remaining credits condoned, subject to (c).
- b) Pass all the taught core modules and meet the course specific requirements for the dissertation or equivalent.
- c) Failure with a mark of 40 to 49 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 or above.
- d) Meet any course specific requirements outlined in the Variations to the Rules of Assessment, [Appendix A](#).

### **4. REASSESSMENT**

#### **4.1 Reassessment for taught modules**

- a) Students who have failed any taught module will have one opportunity to undertake reassessment in that module. This only applies to any individual assignment/examination for the module that has been failed.
- b) Where eligible, students will also be offered reassessment in taught modules where they have not met the overall weighted average requirement to progress to Year Two of the Integrated PhD, in addition to reassessment in failed modules. Although the marks achieved at the first attempt will remain on the transcript, the marks achieved after reassessment will be used to calculate whether or not the student has achieved the required overall weighted average to be eligible to

progress to Year Two of the Integrated PhD. The student's overall weighted average and module aggregate will not change.

c) No second attempt at the assessment for a module is permitted prior to the Board of Examiners meeting where marks are confirmed.

d) Where the original mark is below 50, the maximum mark that will be recorded for a module as a result of a second attempt is 50, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

e) The Board of Examiners will reinstate the module mark for the previous attempt at a failed module if it is higher than the mark for the most recent attempt or where reassessment was taken for progression purposes, unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

**4.1.2** If a student fails a module or fails to meet the progression requirements on the second attempt at the assessment, no further attempt is allowed unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances accepted by the Board of Examiners.

**4.1.3** A student cannot be permitted to repeat a module unless permitted by the Board of Examiners because of substantiated extenuating circumstances.

**4.1.4** Where a student has not met the requirements to pass and is eligible to undertake reassessment and/or have failed marks condoned, the Board of Examiners will normally give the student the opportunity to undertake reassessment at the next available opportunity so the Board of Examiners can confirm whether a student can progress to Year Two of the Integrated PhD (the first year of the PhD) before the start of the next year of study.

## **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.

or

iii) where the current Dissertation Module Aggregate Mark is at least 50 but the student has not met the overall weighted average requirement to progress to Year Two of the Integrated PhD.

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) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- f) Determining whether a student can progress to Year Two of the Integrated PhD.
- g) Determining the appropriate exit award for each student.
- h) Requiring any student whose performance is below that required to achieve an award to withdraw from the University.

**5.1.1** An Interim Board of Examiners Meeting shall normally be held at the end of the taught module assessment.

**5.1.2** Where a student has not met the requirements to pass and is eligible to undertake reassessment and/or have failed marks condoned, the Board of Examiners will normally give the student the opportunity to undertake reassessment across the summer so the Board of Examiners can confirm whether a student can progress to Year Two of the Integrated PhD before the start of the next academic year.

**5.1.3** 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**

Where Extenuating Circumstances are submitted 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.

## **6. EXIT ROUTES**

Where a student does not meet the criteria to progress to Year Two of the Integrated PhD, or where the student is withdrawn or decides to withdraw in subsequent years, then the award of either a Taught Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate will be considered. Students can be considered for the award of a Distinction and Merit for an exit award and success will be based on standard rules of assessment for Postgraduate Taught Masters Degrees.

It is for the Postgraduate Taught Board of Examiners to determine whether the criteria for a Masters award have been satisfied.

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