

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

RULES OF ASSESSMENT FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE MODULAR STUDY

2025-2026

1. PREAMBLE

a) These rules apply to modular postgraduate programmes. 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) The Rules of Assessment for a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or Master's Degree are only applied once a student has registered on a course leading to an award.

2. PASS MARK

a) The pass mark for all postgraduate modules is 50. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed.

b) Condonement of failure cannot be applied at the module Level: modules are either passed and credit awarded or failed and no credit awarded. Once a student registers on a course of study, the Rules of Assessment relating to condonement may be applied from that point onwards.

3. REASSESSMENT

a) Students who have failed any taught module may have a second attempt at the assessment for the module(s).

b) The Board of Examiners will reinstate the module aggregate mark for a previous attempt at a failed module if it is higher than the mark for the most recent attempt.

c) 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.

d) 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.

e) Once a student registers on a course of study, the Rules of Assessment relating to reassessment are applied from that point onwards.

4. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

4.1 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 when a student may commence the dissertation or equivalent.
- c) Considering extenuating circumstances as necessary and their implications for results.
- d) Requiring any student who fails a module on the second attempt to withdraw from the module.

4.2 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.

5. DISSERTATION OR EQUIVALENT

- a) The maximum period for the dissertation or equivalent is 12 months.

6. ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AWARD

To be eligible for a postgraduate award a student must apply to register for an award and satisfy the rules of assessment for the relevant Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or Master's Degree.

End

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