

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
UNDERGRADUATE RULES OF ASSESSMENT
Applicable to Students Studying the YUFE Bachelors in
Urban Sustainability Studies (Joint Degree) Starting at
the University of Essex in Academic Year 2025-26

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Preamble

- 1.1** These Rules of Assessment apply to the Bachelors in Urban Sustainability Studies (Joint Degree), which is delivered collaboratively between the University of Essex and Partner Institutions in the Young Universities for the Future of Europe Alliance (YUFE). Throughout this document, the ten universities within the YUFE alliance are referred to as 'YUFE Universities'.
- 1.2** YUFE employs different terminology from that used at the University of Essex: YUFE 'courses' correspond to University of Essex 'modules,' and YUFE 'semesters' align with University of Essex 'terms' (Semester 1 aligns to the Autumn Term at the University of Essex, and Semester 2 covers the Spring and Summer Terms). For the purposes of these Rules of Assessment, University of Essex terminology has been adopted. However, in joint YUFE documents, YUFE terminology is used.
- 1.3** This course is made up of mandatory and elective modules. Mandatory modules must be passed and cannot be trailed, in line with the standard University of Essex rules for core modules. In some cases, students may have a choice between mandatory modules. Within these Rules of Assessment, mandatory modules are referred to as 'core' modules.
- 1.4** Elective modules offer students a broader choice and are able to be trailed, however these modules must be passed, as students must pass all 360 credits to be awarded their degree. Within these Rules of Assessment, elective modules are referred to as 'optional' modules.
- 1.5** As a joint degree, the YUFE Universities have established a common set of Education and Examination Rules (EER), which govern degree structure, admission, assessment, progression, award requirements, and grading. The Rules of Assessment outlined in this document align with the EER and relevant YUFE assessment, progression, and award documents.
- 1.6** During your joint degree you will study at multiple universities and will therefore encounter different academic approaches and local policies. The Education and Examination Rules specify which academic and non-academic policies and procedures apply.
- 1.7** Modules within the degree follow the academic calendar of the hosting institution, including the scheduling of assessments and reassessments.

Wherever possible, reassessment opportunities will be provided in time for results to be available before you begin studying at a different YUFE University at the start of a new academic year or term. Where this is not possible, opportunities to defer reassessment will be offered where possible. Academic Advisors will support you in understanding any variations in academic calendars that may affect study trajectories or available options.

- 1.8** These Rules and the EER should be read alongside the relevant course structure (including Minor structures), Programme Specification, and module outlines, which define the status of each module.

Year One

Requirement to Pass Year One

- 1.9** To pass Year One and proceed to Year Two, you must pass all modules and achieve 120 credits at Level 4 within two years of starting your course.
- 1.10** You may be allowed to proceed to the next Year, following an attempt at reassessment, having passed a minimum of 90 credits, provided you have passed all the core modules for the Year.
- 1.11** Up to 30 non-core credits of reassessment can be carried forward from Year One to Year Two of your course. Carrying forward the reassessment in failed credits to the following Year is called trailing. Where credits are trailed, the mark for the reassessment will be recorded as part of the previous Year's marks. You are only able to trail credits from one Year into the next Year, i.e., Year One credits can be trailed into Year Two but cannot be subsequently trailed into the Final Year. They will need to be passed prior to progression to the Final Year.
- 1.12** If you do not pass any of the trailed credits from Year One after your final permitted attempt and within two years of starting your course you will be required to withdraw from your course.

Pass With Distinction

- 1.13** To achieve a Distinction in Year One, you must have the following, either:
- a) A Year Mark of 70 or above; or
 - b) 60 Credits at 70 or above with a Year Mark of 68 or 69.

Reassessment: General Principles

- 1.14** If you have failed any module(s) after you have completed all your assessments, you may need to take reassessment before you can progress to the next Year of study. It is not possible to progress and take the reassessment or repeat the module while you are studying in the next Year unless you have been offered trailed or deferred reassessment.
- 1.15** The Board of Examiners can permit up to two further attempts at any module.
- 1.16** The Board of Examiners will offer you all the reassessment opportunities that are available to you. If you have a Tier 4 or Student Route visa, your immigration status will not have been taken into account by the Board of Examiners and some options offered may not be available to you due to the Home Office rules and guidance.
- 1.17** If you have attempted the reassessment of a module in the resit period or without attending the University and your Module Mark is lower than your previous attempt, the Board of Examiners will use the previous higher mark to determine whether or not you can progress. However, if you repeat the Year (either full-time or part-time), the marks you achieve during your repeat Year will be the marks that are used by the Board of Examiners to determine whether or not you can progress. They will not take account of marks from a previous Year or attempt, even if they are higher.
- 1.18** Any marks obtained during reassessment will remain uncapped while you are enrolled in this joint course. However, if you transfer to a standard University of Essex course or are granted an Exit Award from the University of Essex, your reassessment marks will be capped at the Module Aggregate level at the pass mark of 40.
- 1.19** If the timing of the reassessment allows it to be completed before the start of the academic year at the next YUFE University you will be studying at, you must attempt the reassessment before the Board of Examiners can consider your eligibility for trailing of failed credits. You can only trail a total of 30 non-core credits into the next Academic Year.
- 1.20** Where reassessment in failed credits is trailed into the next Year of study, the mark for the reassessment will be recorded as part of the previous Year's mark.

- 1.21** You may be able to defer reassessment until after you return from your period of study at your next YUFE Host University under the following circumstances:
- a) Where the timing of the reassessment does not allow it to be undertaken or the marks to be confirmed by the Board of Examiners before the start of the next Academic Year at your next YUFE Host University; or
 - b) Where the nature of the reassessment requires it to be taken in person at the University of Essex.
- 1.22** The option to defer reassessment or choose an alternative module will only be offered where available, and where the reassessment cannot be trailed and undertaken alongside studying at the new YUFE Host University.
- 1.23** If your reassessment is deferred, you will be required to undertake the reassessment at the first available opportunity. Deferral opportunities will only allow up to 30 credits of reassessment to be deferred and the requirement for Year One modules to be passed within two years of you starting the course will still apply.

Reassessment Opportunities at the End of the Year

- 1.24** If you do not pass the Year, you may be offered reassessment.
- 1.25** If you fail up to 30 non-core credits, you may be able to trail or defer your reassessment in these failed credits where it is not possible for you to undertake the reassessment prior to you starting your next year of study at your next YUFE Host University (see 1.21).
- 1.26** If you fail up to 60 credits you will be offered compulsory reassessment before the start of the next Year.
- 1.27** If you fail more than 60 credits you will be offered one or more of the following:
- a) A full-time repeat year for uncapped Module Marks;
 - b) A part-time repeat year for up to 105 credits for uncapped Module Marks;
 - c) Reassessment in the following Year without attending the University for uncapped Module Marks.
 - d) Reassessment in more than 60 credits before the start of the next academic year may be offered where the Board determines that it would be beneficial to the student and would support progression.

Reassessment Opportunities Following the Resit Assessment Period

- 1.28** Following reassessment, if you do not meet the requirements to progress, you may be offered one or more of the following opportunities:
- a) A full-time repeat year for uncapped Module Marks;
 - b) A part-time repeat year for up to 105 credits for uncapped Module Marks;
 - c) Reassessment in the following Year without attending the University for uncapped Module Marks.
- 1.29** Following reassessment, if you still have not passed an optional module and you are repeating the Year, either full or part-time, you can pick a different optional module.
- 1.30** You will not be allowed to progress to the next Year if you have failed any core module.
- 1.31** Following an attempt at reassessment for all the required modules, if you have failed up to 30 non-core credits, the Board of Examiners will offer you one or more of the following opportunities:
- a) If you have not had three attempts at the failed module(s), you can remain in Year One and take reassessment (see 1.28 above);
 - b) If you have not had three attempts at the failed module(s), you can progress to Year Two and trail the reassessment in your failed module(s);
 - c) If you have not had three attempts at the failed module(s) you can progress to Year Two and defer the reassessment in your failed modules (see 1.21).
- 1.32** If you fail your final attempt at a module and are therefore unable to progress on the joint programme, or if undertaking reassessment would cause you to exceed your maximum period of study, the Board of Examiners may consider you for transfer to a course where the failed module(s) are not core and therefore can be condoned or trailed.
- 1.33** If you transfer to a standard University of Essex course to continue your studies, any marks from reassessments previously undertaken will be capped in accordance with the standard three-year Rules of Assessment, and failed modules will be considered for condonement in line with those rules (see 1.18).

Withdrawal

- 1.34** You will be required to leave the University if:
- a) You have failed the same module after three attempts;
 - b) You have not passed all Year One modules within two years of starting your course; or
 - c) You cannot complete your studies in your maximum period.

Extenuating Circumstances

- 1.35** 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.

Year Two

Requirement to Pass Year Two

- 1.36** To pass Year Two and proceed to Final Year, you must pass all modules and achieve the equivalent of 120 credits in the Year at Level 5 or above from your YUFE Host Institutions.
- 1.37** You may be allowed to proceed to the next Year, following an attempt at reassessment, having passed a minimum of 90 credits, provided that:
- a) You have passed all the core modules for the Year; and
 - b) You have sufficient credits from the previous Year.
- 1.38** You will need a minimum of 210 credits from Year One and Year Two to be allowed to proceed.
- 1.39** You can only trail reassessment in up to 30 failed non-core credits into your next Year of study at a time. If you are undertaking deferred or trailed reassessment in:
- a) No failed credits from Year One, you can trail reassessment in up to 30 failed non-core credits into your next Year of study;
 - b) 15 failed credits from Year One, you can trail reassessment in up to 15 failed non-core credits into your next Year of study;
 - c) 30 failed credits from Year One, you cannot trail reassessment in any credits.

Reassessment: General Principles

- 1.40** Reassessment will be offered in line with the rules of the YUFE Host University where you are studying.
- 1.41** If you fail a module which requires reassessment in person at the original Host University, alternative modules will be offered where a suitable one is available.
- 1.42** If you fail your final attempt at a module and are therefore unable to progress on the joint programme, or if undertaking reassessment would cause you to exceed your maximum period of study, the Board of Examiners may consider you for transfer to a course where the failed module(s) are not core and therefore can be condoned or trailed.
- 1.43** If you transfer to a standard University of Essex course to continue your studies, any marks from reassessments previously undertaken will be capped in accordance with the standard three-year Rules of Assessment, and failed modules will be considered for condonement in line with those rules (see 1.18).

Exit Awards

- 1.44** If you cannot complete your studies or you are withdrawn from the University for any reason, the University of Essex Board of Examiners will consider you for an Exit Award.
- 1.45** If you are offered an Exit Award, any marks achieved for reassessment undertaken at the University of Essex will be capped at the pass mark of 40 (see 1.18).
- 1.46** If you have been awarded 120 credits at Level 4 or above, the University of Essex Board of Examiners will consider you for a Certificate of Higher Education.
- 1.47** If you have attempted a minimum of 240 credits (with 120 credits at Level 5 or above) and you have been awarded 225 credits or more (including at least 105 credits at Level 5 or above), the University of Essex Board of Examiners will consider you for a Diploma of Higher Education.

Withdrawal

- 1.48** You will be required to leave the University if:
 - a) You have failed the same module after the maximum number of attempts;

- b) You have not passed all Year One modules within two years of starting your course; or
- c) You cannot complete your studies in your maximum period.

Extenuating Circumstances

1.49 If you submit Extenuating Circumstances and they are accepted as valid, the Board of Examiners at your YUFE Host Institution will consider what action to take, in line with their own Extenuating Circumstances policies and guidelines.

Final Year

Requirement to Pass the Final Year

1.50 To pass the Final Year, you must pass all modules and achieve 120 credits in the Year, with at least 90 credits at Level 6 or the equivalent from your YUFE Host Universities.

Reassessment: General Principles

- 1.51** If you have failed any module(s) after you have completed all your assessments, you will need to take reassessment.
- 1.52** The Board of Examiners can permit up to two further attempts at any University of Essex module. The number of attempts may differ for modules taught at other YUFE Universities.
- 1.53** The Board of Examiners will offer you all the reassessment opportunities that are available to you. If you have a Tier 4 or Student Route visa, your immigration status will not have been taken into account by the Board of Examiners and some options offered may not be available to you due to the Home Office rules and guidance.
- 1.54** If you have attempted the reassessment of a module in the resit period or without attending the University and your Module Mark is lower than your previous attempt, the Board of Examiners will use the previous higher mark to determine whether or not you can progress. However, if you repeat the Year (either full-time or part-time), the marks you achieve during your repeat Year will be the marks that are used by the Board of Examiners to determine whether or not you can progress. They will not take account of marks from a previous Year or attempt, even if they are higher.

1.55 Any marks obtained during reassessment will remain uncapped while you are enrolled on this joint course. However, if you transfer to a standard University of Essex course or are granted an Exit Award from the University of Essex, your reassessment marks will be capped at the pass mark of 40 (see 1.18).

Reassessment Opportunities at the End of the Year

1.56 If you do not pass the Year, you may be offered reassessment.

1.57 If you fail up to 60 credits you will be offered compulsory reassessment before the start of the next Year.

1.58 If you fail more than 60 credits you will be offered one or more of the following:

- a) A full-time repeat year for uncapped Module Marks;
- b) A part-time repeat year for up to 105 credits for uncapped Module Marks;
- c) Reassessment in the following Year without attending the University for uncapped Module Marks.
- d) Reassessment in more than 60 credits before the start of the next academic year may be offered where the Board determines that it would be beneficial to the student and would support progression.

Reassessment Opportunities Following the Resit Assessment Period

1.59 Following reassessment, if you do not meet the requirements to be awarded your degree, you may be offered one or more of the opportunities below.

- a) A full-time repeat year for uncapped Module Marks; or
- b) A part-time repeat year for up to 105 credits for uncapped Module Marks;
- or
- c) Reassessment in the following Year without attending the University for uncapped Module Marks.

Exit Awards

1.60 If you cannot complete your studies or you are withdrawn from the University for any reason, the University of Essex Board of Examiners will consider you for an Exit Award.

1.61 If you are offered an Exit Award, any marks achieved for reassessment undertaken at the University of Essex will be capped at the pass mark of 40 (see 1.18).

- 1.62** If you have been awarded 120 credits at Level 4 or above, the University of Essex Board of Examiners will consider you for a Certificate of Higher Education.
- 1.63** If you have attempted a minimum of 240 credits (with 120 credits at Level 5 or above) and you have been awarded 225 credits or more (including at least 105 credits at Level 5 or above), the University of Essex Board of Examiners will consider you for a Diploma of Higher Education.
- 1.64** If you have been awarded 300 credits or more, with 60 credits at Level 6, the University of Essex Board of Examiners will consider you for an Ordinary Degree, which is unclassified.
- 1.65** If you have been awarded 330 credits or more, with 90 credits at Level 6, the University of Essex Board of Examiners will consider for an alternative University of Essex standard Bachelors Degree.

Withdrawal

- 1.66** You will be required to leave the University if:
- a) You have failed the same module after three attempts; or
 - b) You cannot complete your studies in your maximum period.

Extenuating Circumstances

- 1.67** 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.

Degree Eligibility and Classification

- 1.68** To achieve an Honours Degree, you must attempt and pass 360 credits across your degree with at least 90 credits at Level 6.
- 1.69** Year Marks are calculated as weighted averages using your rounded Module Aggregate Marks. Your Module Aggregate Marks are used to calculate this based on the credit value of the module, i.e., a 30-credit module counts as twice as much as a 15-credit module towards your overall Year Mark.
- 1.70** Your marks from Year Two and the Final Year are used to calculate an overall Degree Mark. Your Year Two mark counts as 40% and your Final Year Mark

counts as 60%. The Degree Mark is used to determine your Degree Class. This is set out in Table 1.1 below.

- 1.71** Your degree is classified using your Degree Mark. If your Degree Mark is within two marks of the next Classification, you will receive the higher Class if you have at least 120 of your credits across Year Two and the Final Year in the higher Class (as set out in Table 1.1 below).
- 1.72** At the University of Essex, Module Aggregate Marks, Year Marks, and your Degree Mark are rounded to the nearest whole number, with half marks (i.e., 0.5) or more being rounded up. Other YUFE Universities may apply different methods for calculating marks and degree classifications in accordance with their own policies and regulations.

Table 1.1: Honours Degree Classifications

Classification	Requirement to achieve this Classification
First Class Honours (1)	Either: a) A Degree Mark of 70 or more; or b) 120 credits (from Year Two and Final Year) at 70 or above with a Degree Mark of 68 or 69.
Upper Second Class Honours (2.1)	Either: a) A Degree Mark of 60 or more; or b) 120 credits (from Year Two and Final Year) at 60 or above with a Degree Mark of 58 or 59.
Lower Second Class Honours (2.2)	Either: a) A Degree Mark of 50 or more; or b) 120 credits (from Year Two and Final Year) at 50 or above with a Degree Mark of 48 or 49.

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