

Summary of academic policy decisions, 2023-24

This summary includes decisions made at the following meetings:

Senate (1 November 2023)

Education Committee (13 December 2023 – decisions pending Senate approval)

The following committees have been reviewed and no decisions relating to academic policy were made:

Education Committee (4 October 2023)

Academic Quality and Standards Committee (September 2023)
Academic Quality and Standards Committee (18 October 2023)
Academic Quality and Standards Committee (December 2023)

As decisions are being made in response to changing circumstances, please make sure to refer to current communications and information on webpages and check with the relevant team if you have any questions.

Approved variations to the Rules of Assessment for specific courses or Partners are not included in this summary. Departments will be notified of approved variations directly following their approval.

Name of New or Amended Policy	Category	Applies to	Key contact(s)	Summary of change or new policy approved	Date that change or new policy takes effect	Link to source paper/committee minutes
Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions Policies 2024-25	Admissions	All levels of provision	Director of Admissions, admsnrteam@essex.ac.uk	<p>The Chair took action on behalf of Education Committee to approve changes to the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions Policies 2024-25 for recommendation to Senate, with immediate effect, as follows:</p> <p>Applicants who require a Student visa to study in the UK must pay a deposit prior to receiving their CAS. The deposit is normally non-refundable. This is in line with the University's policy on Tuition Fee Deposits (which also includes information about applicants who are exempt from paying a deposit, <u>and the amount of deposit required</u>) and what</p>	Immediate effect	Education Committee, 13/12/2023, EC/23/79, Section 1 <i>Pending Senate approval</i>

				circumstances the deposit may be refunded).		
Rules of Assessment	Assessment	Postgraduate provision	Wendy Clifton-Sprigg, Deputy Director of Academic Services (Student Administration and Policy)	That following recommendation from the Chair of Education Committee, the Chair of Senate has approved on behalf of Senate changes to the Rules of Assessment for Integrated PhDs , with effect from AY2023-24. To support the development of a new model of the Integrated PhD that has been developed for international markets, revisions have been approved to the Integrated PhD rules to distinguish rules for Model A (current Integrated PhD) and to create rules for the new Model B (Integrated PhD in [subject] (with research and communications skills)).	From AY 2023-24	Senate, 01/11/2023, Paper S/23/41, Section 7
Rules of Assessment	Assessment	Undergraduate provision	Chantelle Whyborn, Assessment Manager	<p>That the changes to the Rules of Assessment be approved as set out in Appendix A of the linked paper.</p> <p>Undergraduate Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed changes to the Three- and Four-Year Rules of Assessment and the Glossary of Undergraduate Rules of Assessment (Annex A of the linked paper) <p>That with effect from 2023-24 the following amendments be made to the Rules of Assessment:</p> <p>i. Clarification added to the Three- and Four-Year Undergraduate Rules of Assessment to confirm how Year</p>	For AY 2023-24	Senate, 01/11/2023, Paper S/23/59, Appendix A

				<p>Marks are calculated. ii. Addition of a definition of Year Marks, including how they are calculated, into the Glossary of Undergraduate Rules of Assessment.</p> <p>iii. Addition of a definition of Retrieval Placements into the Glossary of Undergraduate Rules of Assessment.</p> <p>iv. Amendment to the current definition of Variations within the Glossary of Undergraduate Rules of Assessment to clarify that variations may include differences in the operation of trailing for certain courses.</p>		
Policy on Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk	Safeguarding	All levels of provision	Compliance Manager (Safeguarding) Safeguard@essex.ac.uk	The Chair took action on behalf of Education Committee to approve for recommendation to Senate changes to the Policy on Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk , with effect from 1 December 2023, as set out in Appendix A of the linked paper .	December 2023	Education Committee, 13/12/2023, EC/23/79, Appendix A <i>Pending Senate approval</i>
Code of Student Conduct	Student conduct	All levels of provision	Senior Student Progress Manager studentconduct@essex.ac.uk	<p>The Chair of Senate approved on behalf of Senate a change to the Code of Student Conduct 2023-24 with reference to the new Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023. The full change is set out below:</p> <p>Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech</p> <p>The Council of the University has a duty <u>series of duties</u> under law (Section 43 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986) <u>through the Higher Education</u></p>	Immediate effect	Senate, 01/11/2023, Paper S/23/41, Section 6

				<p><u>(Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 (and, until the new Act is fully in force, under Section 43 of the Education (No. 2) Act 1986) to secure and promote the importance of academic freedom and freedom of speech. These freedoms, set out in the Policy on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech (.pdf) are available to all members of the University and to external speakers invited to make use of University facilities.</u></p>		
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The Summary of Academic Policy Decisions is circulated to:
Heads and Directors of Departments, Schools and Centres
Directors of Education
Heads of Academic Section Teams
Academic Services Senior Management Group
Department Managers/Administrators
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Executive Deans
Faculty Deans (Undergraduate & Postgraduate)
Academic Registrar
Faculty Managers
Faculty Education Managers
Quality and Academic Development Managers
Progress Managers
Assessment Managers
Students' Union
Governance Office
If a staff role should be added to this list, please email quad@essex.ac.uk