**POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT REGULATIONS**

**SUMMARY OF REGULATORY AMENDMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/17**

***The wording in bold reflects the amended wording***

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| **Section number** | **Relevant paragraph(s)** | **Page (s)** |
| Section 6 (2) | *The paragraph in bold has been added to Section 6 (2) to clarify that the dissertation/ research component of a Masters programme must be passed to qualify for the award.*  **Structure of programmes**   1. The programme specification may place restrictions on the range of taught courses available and will also stipulate whether a Fail outcome in these courses can be condoned for the purposes of progression or qualification for the award as follows: 2. mandatory courses which students must take and which are either designated as 3. non-condonable, that is, which students must pass, or from which they must be granted exemption in order to progress onto the next stage or to qualify for the award; 4. condonable, that is, which students must take but do not have to pass in order to progress onto the next stage or to qualify for the award; 5. optional/ elective courses which may be taken at a specific stage of a progamme. Fail outcomes in these courses can normally be condoned;   **Masters programmes include a research project/ dissertation, which is mandatory (non-condonable) so must be passed to qualify for the award.** | 5-6 |
| Section 8 (2 and 3) | *The following two paragraphs have been added to Section 8 to clarify whether moving to a new programme counts as a first or second attempt and that students who cannot continue on their current programme can transfer to another in the following academic year.*  **Transfer of programme**   1. **Where a student transfers to a new programme of study and is required to repeat a stage of study, this will count as a first attempt at the stage if no credits are carried over, but will count as a second attempt if credits are carried over.** 2. **A student who is not permitted to continue with his/her programme of study on academic grounds, may be given permission to commence, in the next academic year, another similar or entirely different programme of study in the College at the discretion of the relevant department(s)/ school(s) subject to the requirement in paragraphs in (1c) and (2) above and any others set by the relevant department(s)/school(s).** | 7 |
| Section 13 (6) | *The paragraph pertaining to the penalties for over length work has been amended as indicated below.*  **Outcomes of course assessment**   1. Work which exceeds the upper word limit set will be penalised as follows: 2. For work which exceeds the upper word limit by up to 10%, the mark will be reduced by **ten percent of the mark initially awarded**; 3. For work which exceeds the upper word limit by more than 10% but less than 20%, the mark will be reduced by **twenty percent of the mark initially awarded;** 4. **For work which exceeds the upper word limit by more than 20%,** **the mark will be reduced by thirty percent of the mark initially awarded.** | 10 |
| Section 15 (3g) | *The following paragraph has been added to Section 15 to clarify how final award outcomes for Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas are calculated where students have taken and passed more than the required credits. It also includes the stipulation that the award of a Postgraduate Diploma may be made where 120 credits have been passed in taught courses and the dissertation/ research project.*  **Consideration and classification of candidates for the award**   1. **For the purposes of calculating the Final Average for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate where the student has taken and passed more than the minimum number of credits for the award, the highest marks for 120 credits or 60 credits (or closest to these minima) respectively will be used. For the purposes of calculating the Final Average for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma the 120 credits may include the passing mark awarded for the dissertation/ research project. For the purposes of calculating the Final Average for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate, only passing marks for taught courses will be used.** | 12 |
| Section 15 (5) | *The following amendments have been made to clarify the need to pass the dissertation/ research project for the award of a Masters degree (see also amendment to Section 6 (2)).*  **Consideration and classification of candidates for the award**   1. For students first registered on **Taught Masters and Postgraduate Diplomas** with effect from September 2014, the examiners may, at their discretion and with the agreement of the External Examiner(s), condone a mark of Fail in **taught** courses constituting up to a maximum of 40 credits, except that the percentage score in any such course may not normally be below 40%. For students first registered on **such** programmes prior to September 2014 the examiners may, at their discretion and with the agreement of the External Examiner(s), condone a mark of Fail in **taught** courses constituting up to one quarter of the final assessment, or a maximum of 40 credits, except that the percentage score in any such course may not normally be below 40%. **Taught courses** in which a mark of Fail may not be condoned will be specified in the programme specification**. A Fail in the dissertation/ research project cannot be condoned for the award of a Taught Masters degree**. A mark of Fail will be condoned at the first attempt if an award can be made unless there are extenuating circumstances which would warrant a further attempt at the assessment for one or more courses in line with Section 14 or there is requirement from a Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body for students to pass all courses for the award. The examiners will not normally condone failure in credits leading to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate. | 13 |
| Sections 16 (3) and 17 | *The following paragraph in Section 16 has been amended to reiterate the point made in Section 10 (2) about students on Tier 4 visas. The whole of Section 17: Formal Warning procedure has been rewritten to remove some of the detail on steps to be followed in issuing formal warnings. The process remains the same.*  **Academic grounds for termination of registration**   1. A Head of Department or School may make a recommendation to a Vice-Principal to terminate a student’s registration for a programme on any of the grounds set out in paragraph (1) (c – e) above, in the absence of a satisfactory and adequately documented reason for the failure(s). In such cases the Head of Department or School will follow the formal warning procedure set out in Section 17 of these regulations. **For students holding a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa, the College has obligations placed on it to report non-attendance to UK Visas and Immigration and may terminate a student’s registration without following the formal warning procedure.** | 14 and 14-15 |