



## Assessment Governance Review 2013/14

The Assessment Governance Review 2013/14 reconsidered a number of academic regulations and policies to ensure that these were broadly in line with sector norms. The central issue under review was eligibility for award, as benchmarking had shown that QMUL's requirements were rather lenient when set against those of comparable institutions. Other items included reassessment arrangements, and discretion in classification.

The Review was coordinated by the Assessment Governance Task and Finish Group, which completed a benchmarking exercise and then received agreement from Senate in December 2013 that a review was required. Initial recommendations were sent for consultation with Schools, Institutes, the Students' Union, and Student Services. These were also considered by Senate (March 2014) and the Vice-Principal (Teaching & Learning)'s Advisory Group (February and May 2014). More than 20 responses were received, and the Group used feedback to reconsider the proposals. The final recommendations were considered by Senate in June 2014 without amendment save for the implementation dates for certain proposals. The majority of proposals will come into effect from 2015/16 as further work is required to prepare for the changes.

The full set of approved policies, including the implementation dates, is given below. Further background on the consultation is available in Senate papers [SE2013.29a](#), [SE2013.41](#), and [SE2013.56](#).

## Summary of approved policies

### **A: Eligibility for award (UG)**

*Implementation date: 2015/16 (new cohorts only)*

To achieve the intended award, a student must meet any programme or pathway requirements, and:

- take the specified number of credits;
- pass a minimum of seven-eighths of those credits;
- achieve a College Mark of  $\geq 40.0$  ( $\geq 50.0$  for level seven awards and where otherwise specified);
- pass a minimum of 90 credits at or above the level of the award (individual award regulations may specify higher requirements).

See the appendix for rules by award (discussions are ongoing as to whether the rules will apply to the FdCert and GradDip).

### **B: Progression (UG)**

*Implementation date: 2015/16 (new cohorts only)*

To progress to the next developmental year, a student must meet any programme or pathway requirements, and:

- Fail no more than 1/8 of credits across the whole programme;
- Fail no more than 30 credits in any one developmental year (15 for 120 credit programmes and MSci/MEng);
- Maintain a weighted average mark (weighted according to the relevant award's year weightings) of  $\geq 40.0$  (or higher where specified, e.g. MSci and MEng).

See the appendix for rules by award.

### **C: Condoned failure (PGT)**

*Implementation date: 2015/16 (new cohorts only)*

Examination boards may normally condone failure in the taught component of modules up to the value of 30 credits (or 15, for PGCert), where:

- i. the failed module is not designated as core; *and*,
- ii. the student has achieved a module mark of 40.0 or higher; *and*,
- iii. the average mark achieved across all modules is 50.0 or higher.

Exceptions: LLM (and CCLS programmes on LLM regulations), MSc Mathematics, MSc Astrophysics, MCLinDent.

### **D: resit registration**

*Implementation date: 2014/15 (all students)*

Students should be automatically registered for resits, but should have the option to decline these resits.

Postgraduate students may elect to decline resits and accept an award by condoned failure. However, the default recommendation shall be for these students to take up their resits.

Students should not be charged additional fees for resits.

**E: locking academic levels to academic years**

*Implementation date: 2015/16 (new cohorts only)*

In each developmental year, students should be required to take at least 75 per cent of their credits at or above the academic level equivalent to that developmental stage. This is equivalent to 90 credits per year for most UG programmes.

Module diets can be used to set more stringent requirements where desired.

Exceptions (with higher requirements): MSci/MEng final years, where students must already take 120 credits at level 7.

**F: minimum credits passed at the level of the award**

*Implementation date: 2015/16 (new cohorts only)*

Students must pass a minimum of 90 credits at the level of the award in order to be eligible for award. Individual award regulations may specify other requirements.

Schools/Institutes should note that if a student takes only the minimum 90 credits at the level of award then they must pass all of them. Module diets can be used to require students to take more than 90 credits at the level of the award to minimise this risk, where desired.

**G: Ordinary Degree**

*Implementation date: 2015/16 (new cohorts only)*

Introduce a new undergraduate exit award, the Ordinary Degree, with award regulations requiring students to pass a minimum of 270 credits including a minimum of 60 at level six.

**H: classification of exit awards**

*Implementation date: 2015/16 (new cohorts only)*

All undergraduate exit awards should be awarded on a pass/fail basis. Where honours degrees were used as exit awards (BSc, BEng, BSc (Eng)) these should be classified as usual.

All postgraduate exit awards should be classified on the Pass/Merit/Distinction scale.

**I: Foundation Degree exit award**

*Implementation date: 2014/15 (new cohorts only)*

The standard exit award for the FdA and FdSc should be the CertHE rather than the FdCert.

**J: FdA, FdSc, and DipHE year weightings**

*Implementation date: 2014/15 (new cohorts only)*

Change the FdA, FdSc and DipHE (as an intended award) year weightings from 1:2 to 1:3.

**K: late summer resits**

*Implementation date: 2015/16*

Introduce late summer resits for all undergraduate and postgraduate taught students.

This will initially be on a trial basis, and will be reviewed annually. In 2014/15, School and institutes may opt in to use late summer resits by contacting ARCS as soon as possible in the 2014/15 academic year (these cannot be used for finalists in 2014/15).

*Exceptions: MBBS and BDS, which follow a different academic calendar.*

**L: consultation on practice examinations**

*Implementation date: 2014/15*

A consultation exercise to explore ways to familiarise students with examinations and marking schemes in advance of the May examination period.

**M: borderline policy**

*Implementation date: 2014/15 (all students)*

Adopt a borderline classification policy, as follows, in place of the existing discretion policies:

1. Students with College Marks within one per cent of a borderline (except at the pass/fail border) shall be determined to fall within the 'zone of consideration';
2. Students with College Marks within 1.5 per cent of a borderline and with significant extenuating circumstances in the final year not taken into account elsewhere may be determined to fall within the zone of consideration. However, if this approach is taken then the extenuating circumstances may not also be used as a reason to raise the classification itself;
3. All students falling within a zone of consideration shall be considered as possible cases for application of the borderline policy;
4. Students falling within the zone of consideration and with at least half of their final year credits (half of all credits at PG level) with marks at the level of the upper classification (or higher), shall be raised to the higher classification. The dissertation/project does not have to be among the credits at the higher level;
5. Students falling within the one per cent zone of consideration and not meeting the requirements of point 4, but with significant extenuating circumstances in the final year not taken into account elsewhere shall be raised to the higher classification provided the SEB is confident that – without the effect of the extenuating circumstances – the student would have achieved the higher classification.

Schools and Institutes should ensure that there is no reference to the word 'discretion', and that there is no mention of previous policies in student handbooks, etc, for 2014/15.

## Appendix

### New undergraduate award rules (2015/16 and later cohorts)

#### **LLB, MBBS, BDS**

No changes to the regulations on progression or eligibility for award.

#### **BA, BSc, BSc (Econ), BSc (Eng), BEng**

##### **Progression**

To progress from one developmental year to the next, a student must:

- i. meet all programme and pathway requirements;
- ii. fail (after resit) no more than 30 credits in any one developmental year;
- iii. maintain an average mark of 40.0 or higher, calculated across all credits taken to date and weighted to the appropriate point on the scale 1:3:6 (years one:two:three);
- iv. take and pass modules as follows:
  - a. foundation year to year one (where applicable): take 120 credits, including a minimum of 90 at level 3. Pass modules to the value of at least 105 credits.
  - b. years one to two: take 120 credits, including a minimum of 90 at level 4. Pass modules to the value of at least 90 credits.
  - c. years two to three: take 120 credits, including a minimum of 90 at level 5. Pass modules to the value of at least 195 credits.

For programmes with a compulsory year abroad or placement year, the progression requirement from the year abroad or placement year to the next developmental year shall be to take and complete modules to the credit value prescribed in the appropriate programme regulations. Individual programme regulations may specify exceptions to this rule.

##### **Eligibility for award**

To be eligible for the award of BA, BSc, BSc (Econ), BSc (Eng), or BEng, a student must:

- i. meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;
- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);
- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 40.0 or higher.

##### **Academic credit requirements for award**

To be eligible for the award of BA, BSc, BSc (Econ), BSc (Eng), or BEng, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 360 credits, equivalent to 120 credits per developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at each of levels 4, 5 and 6;
- iii. take modules to a maximum value of 150 credits at level 4 or lower;
- iv. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at level 3;
- v. pass modules to a minimum value of 315 credits (excluding modules at level 3)
- vi. Pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 6 or higher.

To be eligible for the award of BA, BSc, BSc (Econ), BSc (Eng), or BEng for programmes with a compulsory year abroad or compulsory placement year (except in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, and the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science), a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 480 credits, equivalent to 120 credits per developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at each of levels 4, 5 and 6;
- iii. take modules to a maximum value of 150 credits at level 4 or lower;
- iv. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at level 3;
- v. pass modules to a minimum value of 420 credits (excluding modules at level 3)
- vi. pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 6 or higher.

To be eligible for the award of BA for programmes with a compulsory year abroad in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 480 credits, equivalent to 120 credits per developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at each of levels 4, 5 and 6;
- iii. take modules to a maximum value of 150 credits at level 4 or lower;
- iv. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at level 3;
- v. pass modules to a minimum value of 315 credits (excluding modules at level 3 and the compulsory year abroad module)
- vi. pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 6 or higher.

To be eligible for the award of BSc, BSc (Eng), or BEng for programmes with a compulsory placement year in the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 390 credits, equivalent to 120 credits per developmental year with the exception of the placement year (valued at 30 credits);
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at each of levels 4, 5 and 6;
- iii. take modules to a maximum value of 150 credits at level 4 or lower;
- iv. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at level 3;
- v. pass modules to a minimum value of 315\* credits (excluding modules at level 3)
- vi. pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 6 or higher.

*\* This may require review, and will be followed up with EECS in 2014/15. The existing requirement of 270 is actually less than three quarters. Seven eighths would be 341.3 credits, so 330 or 345 may be more appropriate in future.*

## **Intercalated BSc and BMedSci**

### **Eligibility for award**

To be eligible for the award of BSc or BMedSci for an intercalated programme, a student must:

- i. meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;
- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);

- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 40.0 or higher.

### Academic credit requirements for award

To be eligible for the award of BSc or BMedSci for an intercalated programme, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 120 credits in one developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 6;
- iii. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at levels 4 or 5;
- iv. pass modules to a minimum value of 105 credits;
- v. pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 6 or higher.

## MEng, MSci

### Progression

To progress from one developmental year to the next, a student must:

- i. meet all programme and pathway requirements;
- ii. fail (after resit) no more than 15 credits in any one developmental year;
- iii. maintain an average mark as designated in the table below, calculated across all credits taken to date and weighted to the appropriate point on the scale 1:3:6:6 (years one:two:three:four);

School	Foundation to Y1	Y1 to Y2	Y2 to Y3	Y3 to Y4
EECS; SEMS; SMS; SBCS: Pharmaceutical Chemistry with Year in Industry only	*	60.0+	60.0+	60.0+
SBCS; SPA	*	*	60.0+	60.0+
Geography	*	*	60.0+	*

*\* agreement on these thresholds is needed, and will be sought in 2014/15. The 'default' of  $\geq 40$  does not seem appropriate.*

- iv. take and pass modules as follows:
  - a. foundation year to year one (where applicable): take 120 credits, including a minimum of 90 at level 3. Pass modules to the value of at least 105 credits.
  - b. years one to two: take 120 credits, including a minimum of 90 at level 4. Pass modules to the value of at least 105 credits in year one.
  - c. years two to three: take 120 credits, including a minimum of 90 at level 5. Pass modules to the value of at least 210 credits across years one and two.
  - d. years three to four: take 120 credits, including a minimum of 90 at level 6. Pass modules to the value of at least 315 credits across years one, two, and three.

For programmes with a compulsory placement year, the progression requirement from the placement year to the next developmental year shall be to take and complete modules to the credit value prescribed in the appropriate programme regulations. Individual programme regulations may specify exceptions to this rule.

### Eligibility for award

To be eligible for the award of MEng or MSci, a student must:

- i. meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;
- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);
- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 50.0 or higher.

### **Academic credit requirements for award**

To be eligible for the award of MEng or MSci, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 480 credits, equivalent to 120 credits per developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at each of levels 4, 5 and 6;
- iii. take modules to a minimum value of 120 credits at level 7;
- iv. take modules to a maximum value of 150 credits at level 4 or lower;
- v. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at level 3;
- vi. pass modules to a minimum value of 420 credits (excluding modules at level 3)
- vii. pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 7.

## **Intercalated MSci**

### **Eligibility for award**

To be eligible for the award of MSci for an intercalated programme, a student must:

- i. meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;
- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);
- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 50.0 or higher.

### **Academic credit requirements for award**

To be eligible for the award of MSci for an intercalated programme, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 120 credits in one developmental year;
- ii. take modules to the value of 120 credits at level 7;
- iii. pass modules to a minimum value of 105 credits.

## **CertHE**

### **Eligibility for award**

To be eligible for the award of CertHE, a student must:

- i. Meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;

- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);
- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 40.0 or higher.

### **Academic credit requirements for award**

To be eligible for the award of CetHE, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 120 credits in one developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 4;
- iii. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at level 3;
- iv. pass modules to a minimum value of 105 credits (excluding modules at level 3)
- v. pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 4 or higher.

## **DipHE, FdA, FdSc**

### **Progression**

To progress from one developmental year to the next, a student must:

- i. meet all programme and pathway requirements;
- ii. fail (after resit) no more than 30 credits in any one developmental year;
- iii. achieve an average mark of 40.0 or higher, calculated across all credits taken to date);
- iv. take and pass modules as follows:
  - a. Years one to two: take 120 credits, including a minimum of 90 at level 4. Pass modules to the value of at least 90 credits.

### **Eligibility for award**

To be eligible for the award of DipHE, FdA, or FdSc, a student must:

- i. meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;
- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);
- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 40.0 or higher.

### **Academic credit requirements for award**

To be eligible for the award of DipHE, FdA, or FdSc, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 240 credits, equivalent to 120 credits per developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at each of levels 4 and 5;
- iii. take modules to a maximum value of 150 credits at level 4 or lower;
- iv. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at level 3;
- v. pass modules to a minimum value of 210 credits (excluding modules at level 3)

- vi. pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 5 or higher.

## **FdCert**

### **Eligibility for award**

To be eligible for the award of FdCert, a student must:

- i. meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;
- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);
- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 40.0 or higher.

### **Academic credit requirements for award**

To be eligible for the award of FdCert, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 120 credits in one developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 3;
- iii. pass modules to a minimum value of 105 credits;

## **GradCert**

### **Eligibility for award**

To be eligible for the award of GradCert, a student must:

- i. meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;
- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);
- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 40.0 or higher.

### **Academic credit requirements for award**

To be eligible for the award of GradCert, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 60 credits in one developmental year;
- ii. take modules to the value of 60 credits at level 6;
- iii. pass modules to the value of 60 credits at level 6;

## **GradDip**

### **Eligibility for award**

To be eligible for the award of GradDip, a student must:

- i. Meet the requirements for the approved programme for which they are registered;

- ii. meet the requirements for the duration of registration;
- iii. take the required total credit value for the award (see below);
- iv. meet the minimum credit value at the level of the award (see below)
- v. not exceed the maximum credit value at the lowest level for the award (see below);
- vi. meet the progression requirements at the end of each developmental year, and be in the final developmental year;
- vii. achieve a minimum College Mark of 40.0 or higher.

### **Academic credit requirements for award**

To be eligible for the award of GradDip, a student must:

- i. take modules to a total value of 120 credits in one developmental year;
- ii. take modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 6;
- iii. take modules to a maximum value of 30 credits at level 5 or lower;
- iv. pass modules to a minimum value of 105 credits (excluding modules at level 3)
- v. pass modules to a minimum value of 90 credits at level 6 or higher.