

REGULATIONS FOR TAUGHT MASTERS DEGREES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING IN OR AFTER THE 2009/10 ACADEMIC YEAR

These regulations are approved by the Academic Board / the Graduate School Board of Examiners. Last updated: August 2019

General

1. These Regulations apply to all persons who have registered for a programme of study leading to a degree of Master of Arts, Master of Laws, Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Policy, Master of Research or Master of Science at the School and to those who have registered for any part of such a programme. These regulations are subject to the General Academic Regulations for postgraduate students.

Programmes of Study

2. Programmes and the assessments associated with them shall be so organised as to fall into one or both of the following categories:
 - 2.1 a period of full-time study, the length of which shall be prescribed in the individual programme regulations but which shall normally be not less than one calendar year. Students will attempt assessments at the end of that period;
 - 2.2 a period of part-time study of between two and four years, during which students will be assessed in accordance with the individual programme regulations.
3. The minimum length of the period of study is set out in the individual programme regulations. The normal maximum period of registration for Taught Masters programmes will be as defined within the General Academic Regulations. The normal maximum period of registration for Executive MSc programmes will be six years. Failure to achieve an award within the maximum period of registration allowed will result in de-registration.
4. If a student is taking a full-time programme of 12-months' duration or longer, they may be allowed to spend a maximum period of six months on project work under appropriate supervision at an organisation or institution approved by the School. The criterion for approval shall be that the external organisation or institution shall have a function relevant and suitable to the field of study. Such external project work will be at the discretion of the School, provided that it is allowed under the individual programme regulations. Part-time students may be allowed to undertake such external project work for an equivalent period. If a student is taking a full-time programme of less than 12-months' duration, they will not be allowed to undertake project work outside the School unless permitted by the individual programme regulations.
5. A full-time student will normally register for courses up to the value of four full units in each year. A part-time student will normally register for courses to a value of three full units or fewer. This may vary according to the relevant programme regulations. Courses must be chosen to comply with the programme regulations concerned.

Assessment

6. Unless indicated otherwise in the individual programme regulations, each programme shall include submission of a significant piece of individual work.
7. A dissertation, where indicated in the scheme of assessment, will be assessed on one occasion only in each year. The date for submission will be set out in the programme regulations. A student may re-submit the dissertation early provided they meet one of the two following criteria:
 - 7.1 the student has failed their programme because of a failed dissertation and has failed no other courses;
 - 7.2 the student has not completed their programme, has deferred their dissertation submission and has completed all other courses.

The early re-submission date for such students will be set by the relevant Department.
8. A student who does not at their first attempt successfully pass the assessment or part of the assessment for which they have been entered and who has not been awarded a degree may resit that assessment on one occasion only and in accordance with paragraph 34 of the General Academic Regulations.

Illness and Other Exceptional Circumstances

9. In only the most exceptional cases where the exceptional circumstances are sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question, Sub-Boards may recommend to the Graduate School Board of Examiners that:
 - (i) the student's result(s) in the affected assessment(s) be discounted, and that they be allowed to resit¹.
 - (ii) the student's result(s) in the affected assessment(s) not be discounted, but that they be allowed an exceptional additional attempt¹.



- (iii) the student be awarded a degree, or higher class of degree. Sub-Boards may not make this recommendation for a student who has made no attempt at a summative assessment, as set out in the General Academic Regulations.
10. The Graduate School Board of Examiners shall be the sole authority in deciding whether to uphold such recommendations.

The Award of a Degree

11. A student awarded a degree will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Schedule to the Regulations for Taught Masters Degrees

The powers of the School set out in these Regulations shall be exercisable as follows:

| Regulation | Powers exercisable by |
|------------|--|
| 9, 10 | The appropriate Sub-Board of Examiners |

Footnote

¹Sub-Boards of Examiners may also recommend under paragraphs 9 (i) and (ii) that the student may, where relevant and appropriate, progress into the next year of study.

See the [Calendar](#) for further information about Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations.