

UWE Bristol Bar Training Course Regulations 2026/27

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UWE Bristol Variant Academic Regulations 2026/27 – Bar Training Course

A: General Context

1. Purpose of the Academic Regulations

- (i) These Variant Academic Regulations (the Regulations) provide the framework of rules for academic provision that leads to credit or awards made in the name of UWE Bristol (the University).
- (ii) The Variant Regulations underpin the management of academic standards and are designed to ensure fairness and consistency in the way in which decisions are made.
- (iii) As a degree-awarding body, the University has responsibility to ensure that its Regulations are robust so that students and the public can have confidence in the standards of its academic provision.
- (iv) Academic Board has responsibility for overseeing these Variant Regulations and ensuring that they align with UK Higher Education sector requirements including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).
- (v) Users of these regulations are advised to read these Variant Regulations alongside the Bar Standards Board's [Bar Qualification Manual](#), '[The Professional Statement](#)', and other documentation on its '[Training & qualification](#)' webpages.

2. Equality Act 2010

- (i) The Regulations operate in accordance with the University's responsibility to comply with the Equality Act 2010.
- (ii) The University will make [reasonable adjustments](#) to the learning and assessment process in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, as authorised by the Bar Standards Board.
- (iii) The Regulations will be made available in accessible formats.

3. Variations to the Regulations

- (i) These Variant Regulations apply instead of the standard UWE Bristol Academic Regulations in respect of the Bar Training Course (all versions, including PGDip and LLM versions, and both full-time and part-time versions).
- (ii) These Variant Regulations may also be varied or suspended (in part or in full) where emergency local, national or global events occur which may impact on the integrity of the assessment process. In such cases, actions will be taken to ensure that students will not be unfairly disadvantaged and/or can progress or be considered for an award.

- (iii) Academic Board is responsible for the approval of any variations or suspension of the Variant Regulations, and these will be documented in the appendices as well as communicated to students.

4. Language of Delivery and Assessment

- (i) The provision will be delivered and assessed in English.

5. Relationship between the Regulations, University Policies and Terms and Conditions

- (i) The University also has [policies](#) that should be read in conjunction with these Regulations.
- (ii) The Terms and Conditions set out the basis upon which the University offers its provision to students. Terms and Conditions also exist for provision that is delivered by a partner institution and awarded by the University.
- (iii) In agreeing to the Terms and Conditions, a student is signing up to these Regulations.
- (iv) The University reserves the right to make changes to modules and programmes while a student is undertaking their studies. The Terms and Conditions set out how students will be involved in, or informed of, any changes.

6. Review of these Regulations

- (i) Academic Board is responsible for regular review of these Regulations to ensure that they remain relevant and in line with sector and/or legislative requirements. Changes may also be made as a result of feedback from students, staff, external examiners and professional bodies.
- (ii) Students will be involved in any review of the Regulations, including through student representatives on Academic Board and/or student representation on any sub-committees or working groups that are set up to review Regulations.

7. Changes to these Regulations

- (i) Any changes to the Regulations arising from a review (see Regulation A6) will normally take effect from the start of the following academic year. Only exceptionally, including in emergencies (see Regulation A3), will changes take effect in-year.
- (ii) Students will be informed in writing of any changes to the Regulations.

B: Admission and Registration of Students

1. Admission

- (i) The University website sets out the general admissions requirements, including minimum qualifications and English Language requirements.

- (ii) The Bar Standards Board prescribes Academic and English language requirements which the University must observe (see Part 3A of the Bar Qualification Manual).
- (iii) Each taught undergraduate or postgraduate programme may have additional specific admissions requirements that will be contained in the approved Programme Specification and published on the University website.
- (iv) The University Admissions Policy confirms the process by which an applicant can appeal an admissions decision, as well as the process for making a complaint.
- (v) The University reserves the right not to admit an applicant who has previously been excluded.

2. Registration

- (i) Admission to a programme will require a student to:
 - Register with the University for the award they intend to study.
 - Re-register when they start a subsequent year of study.
- (ii) Once registered on a programme, a student may choose to:
 - Interrupt their registration for a maximum of one academic year at a time, subject to any requirements of the programme. This means that a student will not participate in any activities during that interruption period and that they plan to return to resume their studies at an agreed time. A student choosing to interrupt will not lose any permitted assessment attempts. Further interruptions may be considered subject to meeting requirements of Regulation B3. Any period of interruption continues to count towards the maximum registration period as set out in Regulation B3.
 - Permanently withdraw their registration at any time. Voluntary withdrawal will not be recorded as a failure on a student's transcript.
- (iii) The University may undertake the following actions with regards to attendance:
 - Withdraw a student where there is insufficient evidence of their engagement with the programme; see item 10 below for what constitutes 'insufficient' for Bar Training Course programmes. This means that:
 - (1) Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and timetabled activities.
 - (2) There is discretion, to be used exceptionally, to allow attendance at re-scheduled or alternative classes, but only where this will not materially and adversely affect the learning environment or outcomes of any student. Attendance at an alternative class must be agreed with tutors in advance of class and will not be permitted for the sole purpose of convenience. Attendance at an alternative class will nonetheless amount to nonattendance but will assist the student in showing that s/he has made up the missed work.

- (3) There are very limited personal circumstances where non-attendance at the scheduled session (to mean large group sessions, small group sessions, and formative assessment exercises, whether in person or online) may be excused. The personal circumstances are limited to non-attendance at scheduled classes for reasons of:
 - (a) Mini-pupillage;
 - (b) Marshalling;
 - (c) Pupillage interview;
 - (d) Representing the University at a competition;
 - (e) Pre-arranged pro bono work.
 - (4) In these circumstances, provided the student can demonstrate evidence of the exempted circumstance above and can attend an alternative class, the absence from the scheduled class will not count as an absence.
 - (5) Illness is NOT an exempted circumstance.
 - (6) Being inadequately prepared for a scheduled session, or lateness of more than 5 minutes, or failure to fully participate in a session will count as non-attendance.
 - (7) Interventions designed to support, encourage and improve attendance are part of standard programme practice;
 - (8) Overall attendance that falls below 90% will result in the student being required to attend a meeting with a member of the School teaching or management team;
 - (9) Where attendance on a specific **module** falls below 80%, of total number of sessions for that module, the Head of School or their nominee will determine whether that student will be entitled to sit the assessments. This includes both University and BSB centralised assessments.
 - (10) 'Insufficient' for the purposes of these Regulations occurs where overall **programme** attendance falls below 80% (of the total number of sessions between September-May). When this occurs, there is a presumption that the student will be withdrawn from the programme. Attendance will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the Head of School or their nominee will withdrawal not occur.
 - Suspend the registration of a student arising from a decision under the Fitness to Study, Student Conduct, or Professional Suitability policies.
 - Exclude or expel a student arising from a decision made through the Fitness to Study, Student Conduct, Professional Suitability or Academic Conduct policies.
- (iv) A student will not normally be permitted to re-register onto the next level of a programme, or retake any modules, where they have any outstanding tuition fees.

3. Minimum and Maximum Registration Periods

- (i) The minimum registration periods for an award are provided in Appendix 1.
- (ii) For students registering on the Bar Training Course the maximum registration period is 5 years from the date of enrolment. Students will be required to withdraw after 5 years, and the Examination Board will determine whether any award is to be conferred in accordance with these Regulations. Where students transfer to UWE, the 5 years runs

from their registration date of their first BTC programme (elsewhere), not their registration with UWE.

- (iii) Students may enrol on a maximum of 180 credits in a standard academic period (LLM) or 120 credits (PGDip).

4. Accreditation of Learning

- (i) A student may be exempted from a module/s of a programme if they have already met the learning outcomes through prior certified study. This can be achieved through Accreditation of Learning (AL) - Recognised prior certified study completed at UWE Bristol or another Authorised Education and Training Organisation ('AETO') as defined by the Bar Standards Board.
- (ii) Applications for AL can be made at the point of admission or in-year.
- (iii) AL requests will be considered by designated staff who have the appropriate subject and/or professional expertise. The prior learning or experience must match the learning outcomes of the module/s and be at least of the same academic level.
- (iv) For taught degree programmes the following limits and conditions apply:
 - A student may receive AL for a maximum of two-thirds of the total credit required for a university award.
 - If the credit was achieved at UWE Bristol and the student is proceeding to a higher-level award, this limit does not apply.
 - If a student has already accepted an award, they may reuse a maximum of 20% of the credits achieved towards another award at the same level, or lower.
 - Where a student has failed one or more modules elsewhere, they cannot register onto the UWE Bar Training Course to retake those modules and have other modules recognised as accredited learning. In this instance, the only option is for a student to register afresh for the full award.
 - Note the point from which the 5 years' maximum registration regulation applies in Regulation B3(ii), above.
- (v) Marks will only be transferred where they have been originally awarded by UWE Bristol, with the exception of the Litigation modules, for which marks will be transferred. In all other cases, only credit will be transferred. Credit and marks may be used once only and must be applied only to a single award. Where credit is being reused without associated marks, the original award does not need to be surrendered. The highest outcome classification that students registering with accredited learning credits can achieve is 'Competent' (see D9(iii) below), unless the accredited learning is solely made up of Litigation modules, in which case the outcome is not capped.
- (vi) Recommendations to recognise AL will be made to the relevant Examining Board for decision. The Board will record the outcome of the decision and be responsible for applying any approved AL credit to the student's profile and record.

C: University Awards

1. Types of Awards

- (i) The University may grant Bar Training Course awards upon successful completion of a programme delivered by the University.
- (ii) New types of Bar Training Course awards may be approved by Academic Board and with approval of the Bar Standards Board.
- (iii) Bar Training Course awards may also be discontinued by Academic Board where these are no longer running and where arrangements have been made for currently registered students in accordance with the Terms and Conditions and Student Protection Plan, and with the agreement of the Bar Standards Board.

2. Conferment of Award

- (i) An award will be conferred on a student when:
 - Assessment results have been confirmed by the Examining Board; and
 - The requirements of a programme have been met successfully; and
 - All tuition fees owing to the University have been paid; and
 - There are no ongoing processes under the Behaviour and Health Policy.
- (ii) Academic Board has responsibility for the conferment of awards.
- (iii) The awards that may be conferred by the University under these variant regulations for the Bar Training Course are set out in Appendix 2.

3. Interim Awards

- (i) A student will be eligible for an Interim Award if:
 - They have completed the necessary academic requirements for the interim award as specified in the Programme Specification; and
 - They are not eligible to progress to a higher-level award; or
 - They withdraw from the higher-level award.
- (ii) A student will be eligible for a default award where they have met the academic credit requirements of a professional programme but have not met specific professional body requirements. Default awards do not entitle the student to practise and are not endorsed by the professional body.

4. Revocation of Awards

- (i) The University may revoke an award where it is found that a graduate has engaged in:
 - The most serious breach of academic conduct;

- Serious criminal activity
- Any other circumstance that brings the University's reputation into disrepute.

D: Framework for the BTC Programmes

1. Programmes

- (i) To be considered for an award, a student must successfully complete the requirements of the programme for which they are registered, which are detailed in the approved Programme Specification.
- (ii) Academic Board determines the process by which a programme is designed and approved.
- (iii) Each programme is made up of approved modules at level 7 FHEQ.
- (iv) Each module has a specific number of notional learning hours which includes timetabled learning activities, independent study and assessment. Principles for the structure of modules are set out in the Enhancement Framework.
- (v) Credit is awarded where a module has been successfully completed. Credit is offered at specified FHEQ levels with an allocated number of notional learning hours.
- (vi) One unit of credit is equal to 10 notional learning hours.
- (vii) Programmes may be approved with a programmatic approach to assessment, whereby teaching and assessment are separated into distinct modules. In such circumstances, the Programme Specification will set out how assessment modules link to learning outcomes from teaching modules, how outcomes are calculated, and where credit is awarded.
- (viii) The number of credits required for each award is set out in Appendix 2.

2. Module Enrolment

- (i) The modules available to a student will be set out in the Programme Specification. Some programmes will have compulsory and/or core modules, on which a student must enrol.
- (ii) A student can enrol on modules for which they meet the requirements. Requirements will be outlined in the Module Specification and enrolment will be subject to the following:
 - the availability of the module, including where there is a limit on places (optional modules);
 - they are not attempting to improve their classification by enrolling on additional modules to replace marks (optional modules);
 - restrictions imposed following a decision made under a Behaviour and Health Policy.

3. Transfer or Withdrawal from a Module

- (i) Subject to the requirements set out in the Programme Specification, there is no right to transfer to a different optional module. A student may only transfer to a different optional module at the discretion of the Programme Leader and subject to the availability of space and resource.
- (ii) Subject to the requirements set out in the Programme Specification, a student may be permitted to withdraw from a module. Withdrawal must take place before one quarter of the teaching has been delivered or before the date of the first assessment, whichever is soonest. The module will then be removed from the student's transcript and record. Where a student withdraws from a module after this time, it will count as a first failed attempt for that module.

4. Module Assessment

- (i) Each module has assessment requirements that a student must pass to meet the learning outcomes, receive the credit and pass the module overall.
- (ii) There will be one or more assessments to be passed per module. Each assessment is called a task.
- (iii) Overall assessment requirements will be set out in the Module Specification and further details, including tasks, submission methods and deadlines, will be provided to students at the start of a module.
- (iv) Users should note the programmes are assessed in accordance with the [Curriculum and Assessment Strategy](#) assessment framework, as approved by the Bar Council through the Bar Standards Board, and in accordance with these Regulations, and the UWE BTC Assessment Competency Mapping document (which matches the required threshold standards against the content and delivery of each module on the BTC).
- (v) A student will fail an assessment task if they do not participate or submit the piece of work by the published deadline. The exceptions to this will be:
 - A late submission window of 48 hours from the submission deadline in which a student will not receive a penalty, for modules not regulated by the Bar Standards Board, and where provided for in the assessment brief.
 - Where a student's agreed learning plan includes additional time for assessments, as a reasonable adjustment made in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
 - In respect of modules regulated by the Bar Standards Board, adjustments are only effective where agreed by the Board.
 - A student is exempted through accredited learning.
 - Where the student gives notice, within the published timeline and in the required format, that they intend to defer the assessment.

- Where a student gives notice that they intend to defer an assessment they will be expected to undertake the assessment at the next available opportunity as provided for in the UWE BTC Assessment Schedule, unless the student gives a further notice, again within the published timeline and in the required format, that they intend to defer the assessment.

Personal circumstances

- (vi) 'Fit to sit' principle: By attending an assessment, a student declares themselves fit to sit that assessment. Where that student is aware of their unfitness to prepare for and/or sit an assessment, for medical or other reasons, but the student nonetheless proceeds to take the assessment, they will be deemed to have been fit to do so and will not, save in the circumstances referred to below, be able to claim for personal circumstances.
- (vii) Where a student:
 - a. is affected by unforeseen circumstances beyond their control after starting but before the end of the assessment; or
 - b. the student is subsequently diagnosed as having been suffering from a condition at the time of the assessment of which they were unaware; or
 - c. at the time of sitting the assessment the student was suffering from a 'condition' which impaired their ability to make a rational judgement as to their ability to take the assessment,
 these may amount to 'personal circumstances' which create an exception to the fit to sit regulation.
- (viii) A student may submit a claim for personal circumstances to the Personal Circumstances Subcommittee of the Examining Board (see D12 below) where they:
 - Are prevented by illness or other good cause from attempting any assessment on the course; or
 - (Subject to the 'fit to sit' principle noted above) believe that their performance in any such assessment is significantly and adversely affected by such illness or other good cause.
 This provision applies whether the assessments in question are first, second, or final attempts.
- (ix) Personal circumstances are unforeseen, unexpected, and significantly disruptive, and beyond a student's control and must relate to a specific piece of assessment or examination rather than being problems of a kind that affect a year as a whole or parts of it.
- (x) A student must support any claim for personal circumstances by appropriate independent and proximate evidence to the satisfaction of the sub-committee. In respect of claims involving a medical character, such evidence should include certified medical evidence or other reliable evidence.

- a. Medical evidence shall normally be deemed reliable if it is from a medical practitioner which includes details of: Whether the report is based solely on the student's own account of their medical condition; precise details of the medical condition; the extent to which that condition would have affected the student's

preparation for and taking of the relevant assessment; the dates for which the student would have been so unfit; the date by which the student would have been fully fit to prepare for and undertake the relevant assessment.

- (xi) Examples of Circumstances which are likely to and unlikely to be accepted for personal circumstances are listed in Appendix 3.
- (xii) Time limits for claims of personal circumstances:
 - It is the responsibility of the student to bring personal circumstances to the attention of the sub-committee within 14 calendar days after the assessment(s) concerned.
 - If details of personal circumstances are submitted more than 14 days after the assessment(s) concerned, the student must satisfy the sub-committee that there was good reason for the delay in submission. If a personal circumstances application is submitted after publication of the relevant results, the student must satisfy the sub-committee that there were personal circumstances to account for the delay. The sub-committee may refuse a claim for personal circumstances which is submitted late without any, or any adequate, explanation for the late submission.
 - Where a student has a reasonable adjustment agreed with UWE's Disability Service then the student will not be entitled to rely on the related disability, caring responsibility, pregnancy, or other matter, in any personal circumstances application where the impact has already been accounted for by those reasonable adjustments.

5. Requirements to Pass a Module

(i) To pass a module and achieve the credit, a student must pass all assessment tasks with:

- A minimum of 60% for each numerically assessed task;
- Or a 'pass' for each Pass/Fail task.

The overall mark will be the weighted average of the tasks that have a numerical mark. Where all tasks are Pass/Fail, the module outcome will be Pass/Fail.

(ii) There will be no compensation for marks below 60%.

(iii) A student who would by reason of the number of marks attained otherwise pass an assessment task in a skills module (that is, all modules except Litigation, and Ethics modules) shall nevertheless be deemed to have failed that task where that student has made a 'fatal flaw'. A 'fatal flaw' shall include:

- a. A significant and grave error of law, procedure, or ethical conduct;
- b. An error in legal or case analysis that is so clearly incorrect that it puts the interests of the client at risk;
- c. An error in legal or case analysis that is so clearly incorrect that it puts the barrister at risk of liability for negligence or a disciplinary hearing.

(iv) All marks and grades are subject to moderation, and external examination by (an) examiner(s) appointed by the Bar Standards Board whose decisions in relation to matters of assessment shall be final. Final confirmed marks will be provided to students after the moderation process and following the meeting of the Examining Board (see Regulation D12).

(v) A student who has passed a module may not take those assessment tasks for a second time with a view to improving their mark/s. However, where a student has passed an assessment component and the Examining Board is satisfied that:

- a. there is clear and sufficient evidence of personal circumstances affecting the student's preparation for, performance in or partial absence from that component; and
 - b. these circumstances contributed to the student achieving a lower mark than was expected,
- the Board shall offer the student the opportunity to repeat the assessment(s) as a deferred first attempt. In such circumstances where a student accepts this offer the mark first obtained shall be voided.

(vi) The law and procedure to be assessed in any assessment (be that first attempt or resit) shall be that prevailing as at 1 October of the preceding calendar year.¹

6. Failure of a Module

- (i) A student will fail a module if:
 - a. They do not achieve the requirements to pass as set out in Regulation D5;
 - b. OR, they fail to attend an assessment having not provided notice as per regulation D4(iv), above, unless an acceptable explanation by way of a personal circumstances application is provided in accordance with regulations D4(v) *et seq*, above.
- (ii) A student will be provided with **two** automatic opportunities to resit the specific assessment task/s that they failed (for a total of three attempts).
- (iii) The University will provide the student with information about the timing of the resit and any associated requirements.
- (iv) A resit will be marked on the same basis as a first sit, using the full marking criteria. However, the mark awarded in the resit for the specific tasks a student has previously failed will be capped at 60%. The first sit mark will be disregarded.
- (v) Students are entitled to a single presentation of programme teaching, and no further teaching will be provided in respect of resit assessment opportunities.

¹ In the April and August of the academic year in which students are enrolled, students will be assessed on the civil litigation syllabus provided by the BSB. The cut-off date for syllabus content will be the date of publication of the April Edition of the White Book (preceding the September of enrolment) being the date to which the material in the White Book for that academic year is up to date. Students assessed will not be tested upon material appearing in the subsequent White Book Supplements.

- (vi) A student will be withdrawn from the programme if they fail the three attempts of the assessment task, subject to claims for personal circumstances (see regulations D4(vi) *et seq.* above). A student who fails the course is not precluded from taking the course again from the beginning (subject to acceptance on a course by an AETO and the student having met any current AETO entry requirements).
- (vii) Where a student has failed one or more assessment tasks and the Examining Board is satisfied that:
 - a. there is clear and sufficient evidence of personal circumstances affecting the student's preparation for, performance in or full or partial absence from the failed task(s), and
 - b. these circumstances contributed to the failure(s),
 the Examining Board shall offer the student the opportunity to repeat the assessment task(s) as a deferred attempt. Where a student accepts this offer the mark first obtained shall be voided.

7. Requirements to Pass a Programme Level

- (i) A student must pass all modules and achieve the credit required to pass a programme level, as set out in Regulation D1(v).
- (ii) The Examining Board is responsible for considering whether a student has met the requirements to pass the programme. The remit of the Examining Board is set out in Regulation D12.

8. Assessment Offences

- (i) The University defines an assessment offence as any action which has the potential to give a student an unfair advantage in an assessment or might assist someone else to gain an unfair advantage, or any activity likely to undermine the integrity essential to scholarship and research.
- (ii) Assessment offences include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, collusion, contract cheating, submitting work that is not your own, falsification, fabrication, research ethics breaches and cheating in controlled condition assessments.
- (iii) The [Academic Conduct Policy and Academic Misconduct Procedures](#) set out the University's approach to the investigation and management of alleged assessment offences, and the various possible outcomes.
- (iv) Where an investigation upholds and awards a penalty for an assessment offence, this outcome will be reported to the relevant Examining Board.
- (v) Where an assessment offence allegation is upheld, a referral will be made to the student's Inn of Court for it to consider whether, by reason of the misconduct, the student is fit to be called to the Bar.

- (vi) Where an Inn of Court, following investigation of an allegation of academic misconduct, decides to withdraw that student's membership of the Inn the Examining Board may, retrospectively if necessary, fail the student and require them to withdraw from the course and/or alter the results record as appropriate.

9. Requirements for the Award of the Postgraduate Diploma

- (i) To be considered for a Postgraduate Diploma award, a student must:
- Have passed Level 7 in accordance with the Regulations
 - Achieved the overall credit for the award
- (ii) The award may be given with 'Competent', 'Very Competent', or 'Outstanding'. The award of Very Competent or Outstanding may be awarded where a student meets the 'weighted average' or 'module performance' criteria, below.

Weighted average criteria

- (iii) Awards will be made where a student's weighted average is as follows:

At least 60%, to less than 70%	Competent
70% to less than 85%	Very Competent
85% and above	Outstanding

Module performance criteria

- (iii) Where a student meets the following criteria, the higher award will be made instead of that calculated for the weighted average approach, above. Where a student meets either criterion below, they will be awarded with the corresponding award.

Criteria	Award
At least 6 Very Competent or Outstanding module assessment task results, in respect of compulsory modules, excluding pass/fail assessment tasks; <i>And</i> A maximum of one of those assessment tasks failed at first attempt, all others having been passed at first attempt.	Very Competent
At least 4 Outstanding module assessment task results, in respect of compulsory modules, excluding pass/fail assessment tasks <i>And</i> All assessment tasks have been passed at first attempt.	Outstanding

- (iv) A student who achieves less than 60% will fail.

10. Requirements for the Award of the Master's Degree

- (i) To be considered for a Master's Degree award, a student must:
- Have passed Level 7 in accordance with the Regulations
 - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with 'Competent', 'Very Competent', or 'Outstanding'. The award of Very Competent or Outstanding may be awarded as follows:
- Only the module marks and module assessment task results for the modules constituting the Postgraduate Diploma will be taken into account. For the avoidance of doubt, the additional modules (both compulsory and optional) studied in addition to the Postgraduate Diploma are not taken into account in determining the classification;
 - The classification is otherwise determined by reference to the criteria noted above, at Regulation D9.
- (v) A student who achieves less than 60% will fail.

11. Requirements for the Award of the Postgraduate Certificate

- (i) To be considered for a Postgraduate Certificate award, a student must:
- Have passed Level 7 in accordance with the Regulations
 - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with 'Competent', 'Very Competent', or 'Outstanding'. The award of Very Competent or Outstanding may be awarded as follows:
- The classification is determined by reference to the criteria noted above, at Regulation D9, with the module result criteria modified as follows:
 - Where there are fewer than 7 assessment tasks (excluding pass/fail), module result criteria is not operable, and the weighted average criteria is used exclusively to determine classification;
 - Otherwise (where there are at least 7 assessment tasks (excluding pass/fail) the determination is as follows:

Criteria	Award
At least 5 Very Competent or Outstanding module assessment task results, in respect of compulsory modules, excluding pass/fail assessment tasks; <i>And</i> A maximum of one of those assessment tasks failed at first attempt, all others having been passed at first attempt.	Very Competent
At least 3 Outstanding module assessment task results, in respect of compulsory	Outstanding

modules, excluding pass/fail assessment tasks	
<i>And</i>	
All assessment tasks have been passed at first attempt.	

- (i) A student who achieves less than 60% will fail.

12. Examining Boards

- (i) The Examining Board is the body which may act on behalf of Academic Board in awarding credit, granting an award or amending an improperly executed decision. The responsibilities of the Examining Board are set out in the University's Examining Board Code of Practice.
- (ii) The Personal Circumstances Sub-committee is a sub-committee of the Examining Board which has the power to make final and binding decisions about applications by candidates for personal circumstances to be considered; save that in any case where it considers it appropriate to do so it may ask the Examining Board to make the decision. Its membership is:

Director of Learning & Teaching, or his/her nominee (Chair);
Associate Director for Student Journey and Programme Enhancement (Professional Law programmes);
Programme Leader for the BTC;
Assessments Officer for the BTC;
Any other member of BTC teaching staff, on appointment by the Chair.
One External Examiner (from the pool appointed by the Bar Standards Board).

Its quoracy is 3 persons, to include the Chair.

13. Appeals

- (i) A student may appeal against the decision of an Examining Board only on the grounds that there has been material and significant administrative error or other material irregularity, as set out in the University's Appeals Policy.
- (ii) The appeals process is set out in the University's Appeals Policy.

Appendix 1: Minimum and Maximum Periods of Study for a University Award

Award	Minimum Period of Study (Weeks)	Credit Total	Notional Study Time
Postgraduate Certificate	15 weeks	60 credits	600 hours
Postgraduate Diploma	30 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Master's Degree	45 weeks	180 credits	1800 hours

Appendix 2: Postgraduate Taught Awards – Qualification Types and Credit

Approved award title	FHEQ Level of award	Total credits	Credit requirements at level	Differential level of award
Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)	Level 7	60	60 credits at Level 7	Competent / Very Competent / Outstanding
Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)	Level 7	120	120 credits at Level 7	Competent / Very Competent / Outstanding
Master's Degree Master of Laws (LLM)	Level 7	180	180 credits at Level 7	Competent / Very Competent / Outstanding

The credit for the Master's and any other credit accumulated beyond the total required for a Postgraduate Diploma must be obtained by study and assessment under the Academic Regulations.

Appendix 3: Example circumstances likely to and unlikely to be accepted as 'personal circumstances'

Circumstances that would normally justify personal circumstances include:

- Serious personal injury, such as a broken limb, or a medical condition requiring hospital attention or one with an incapacitating effect
- An acute illness affecting the time available, so that a reasonable person would have been unable to carry out the assessment task as required
- Being the victim of a serious crime, such as robbery, burglary or a violent assault during the period immediately preceding the assessment
- The serious illness or death of a close relative: such as a parent, child, sibling, spouse, partner, grandparent (or other in appropriate cases) reasonably proximate in time to the assessment(s) affected
- Unforeseen and unavoidable and imposed work pressures serious enough to interfere with the student's study or ability to meet an assessment deadline or sit an examination
- Unforeseen and unavoidable serious difficulties with caring arrangements
- Transport difficulties of an unpredictable and uncontrollable nature, where alternative arrangements could not be made (with independent evidence)

Circumstances unlikely to be accepted:

- Non-serious domestic or personal disruptions such as moving house, holidays and weddings
- The illness of a distant relative
- Financial problems or difficulties with housing
- Inadequate arrangements for baby-sitters, child-minders or other domestic or work situations
- Foreseeable transport difficulties, road works or private transport break downs
- Computer problems such as disc corruption, photocopying or printing problems
- Problems with handing in work by the given deadline
- Any claim not supported by reliable evidence (e.g. a letter from a 'flatmate')
- Confusion over time, date or location of the examination on the part of the candidate when this has been clearly notified, and not posed any problem to other students
- Cases where medical certificates are retrospective, i.e. dated/issued after a student has completely recovered from the illness claimed
- Pre-examination anxiety or stress within common levels and unsupported by medical evidence
- Pre-booking a holiday when the assessment dates are known in advance

Version history

Version	Committee approval and date	Summary of changes	Author
v1.1	4 August, 2026 - Academic Board	Adoption of standard UWE formatting; adoption of as much standard Academic Regulations as possible; clarification of existing variant regulations.	Mark Coombs, Director of Learning & Teaching, Bristol Law School Delyth James, Associate Director, Enhancement of the Student Academic Journey (Professional Law) Emma Handslip, Programme Leader, BTC Karen Thorpe-Williams, BTC Assessments Officer
v1.0		N/A - first approved version	