

# UWE Bristol

# Academic Regulations

# 2025/26

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# UWE Bristol Academic Regulations 2025/26

## A: General Context

### 1. Purpose of the Academic Regulations

- (i) The 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). This includes provision that is offered directly by the University, as well as that which is offered by partner institutions that leads to a University award.
- (ii) The 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 Regulations and ensuring that they align with UK Higher Education sector requirements including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).

### 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.
- (iii) The Regulations will be made available in accessible formats.

### 3. Variations to the Regulations

- (i) Variations to the Regulations are permitted in the following circumstances:
  - Specific requirements of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies
  - Awards that are made with partner organisations, subject to the approval of Academic Board.
- (ii) The 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 regulations, and these will be documented in the appendices as well as communicated to students.

#### **4. Language of Delivery and Assessment**

- (i) All academic provision will be delivered and assessed in English, except where competency in another language is being taught or assessed.

#### **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) 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.

- (iii) Admission to a research degree will be subject to the requirements set out in Regulation E5.
- (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 their 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) Additional registration processes for research degree candidates are set out in Regulation E6.
- (iv) The University may undertake the following actions:
  - Withdraw a student where there is insufficient evidence of their engagement with the programme.
  - 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.
- (v) 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 a programme for the first time ON or AFTER 1st August 2022 there is a maximum registration period.** The duration of each taught programme is set out in the Programme Specification and will be determined by the specific assessment regulations for that award, including any Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body requirements.
- (iii) **For students registering on a programme for the first time which commenced ON or AFTER 1st August 2022, the maximum registration period for each taught programme will be determined by its length:**
- Up to one year programme – three years maximum.
  - Programme longer than one year – three additional years to normal duration.
- (iv) For all students, the following maximum credit limits apply:
- Full-time undergraduate students will normally enrol upon 120 credits in a standard academic period but may take up to a maximum of 150 credits.
  - Part-time students will normally enrol on a maximum of 90 credits in a standard academic period.
  - Students on postgraduate taught awards, or on undergraduate awards that are delivered in an accelerated mode of delivery, may enrol on a maximum of 180 credits in a standard academic period.
  - Students may enrol on additional modules to those valid for their award subject to the maximum.
- (v) The minimum and maximum active study periods for research degree programmes are set out in Appendix 1.
- (vi) In exceptional circumstances, the Deputy Registrar may agree limited extensions to a student's maximum registration period.

#### **4. Accreditation of Learning and Experiential 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 or relevant experience. This can be achieved through:
- Accreditation of Learning (AL): Recognised prior certified study completed at UWE Bristol or another recognised higher education institution or awarding body.
  - Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL): Recognised learning gained through professional, voluntary, or other experience, which is ratified by an internal UWE Bristol assessment.
- (ii) Applications for AL can be made at the point of admission or in-year. Applications for AEL can only be made in-year for registered students, unless AEL has been approved as an entry requirement for a course.

- (iii) AL and/or AEL 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/AEL 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.
- (v) For research degree programmes the following limits and conditions apply:
  - For MPhil, PhD and DPhil awards, AL/AEL credit may be used to meet part or all the structured training requirements.
  - For Professional Doctorates, a maximum of two-thirds of training requirements may be met through AL/AEL, unless the previous credit was awarded by UWE Bristol.
- (vi) Marks will only be transferred where they have been originally awarded by UWE Bristol. In all other cases, only credit will be transferred. Credit and marks may be used once only and must only be applied to a single award. Where only credit is being reused, without associated marks, the original award does not need to be surrendered.
- (vii) Recommendations to recognise AL/AEL 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/AEL credit to the student's profile and record.

## C: University Awards

### 1. Types of Awards

- (i) The University may grant awards to individuals in the following circumstances:
  - Upon successful completion of a programme delivered by the University.
  - In collaboration with another institution as set out in the respective Academic Agreement.
  - For programmes that are designed and delivered by another institution but lead to an award of the University.
  - Honorary awards (see Regulation C6).
  - Aegrotat and Posthumous awards (See Regulation C4 and C5).
- (ii) New types of awards may be approved by Academic Board.
- (iii) 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.

## **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 are set out in Appendices 1, 2 & 3.

## **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.

## **4. Default Awards**

- (i) A student will be eligible for a Default Award where:
  - They have achieved the academic credits required for the award as outlined in the Programme Specification; but
  - They have not met the additional professional, statutory or regulatory requirements needed for the award to be professionally recognised.
- (ii) Default Awards do not entitle the student to practice in the relevant professional field.
- (iii) These awards are not endorsed by the associated professional body and do not substitute for a professional accredited qualification.

## **5. Aegrotat Awards**

- (i) In exceptional cases, a student may be considered for an aegrotat award where their personal circumstances mean that they will not be able to complete the required assessments.
- (ii) Aegrotat awards can be considered where evidence from previously assessed work confirms that they would have achieved the necessary standard for that award.
- (iii) An aegrotat award is not classified.
- (iv) The University will consult with a student (or nominee) before an aegrotat award is recommended.

- (v) Academic Board will be advised of any aegrotat awards.

## **6. Posthumous Awards**

- (i) The University may grant a posthumous award to a registered student who has died.
- (ii) Where a student has completed all the assessments, they will be awarded a degree at the applicable classification or equivalent. The student will otherwise be awarded an aegrotat degree.
- (iii) The University will liaise with the next of kin about the posthumous award, including arrangements for graduation.
- (iv) Academic Board will be advised of any posthumous awards.

## **7. Honorary Degrees**

- (i) The University may grant honorary degrees at undergraduate, Master's and doctoral levels.
- (ii) The award of an Honorary Master's degree will normally be reserved for persons of distinction whose achievements or attainments are of substantial significance or importance.
- (iii) The award of an Honorary Doctorate will normally be reserved for persons of distinction whose achievements or attainments are of outstanding significance or importance, and who have demonstrated exceptional achievement and distinguished service to the University, to the educationally disadvantaged, and/or in areas of special concern to the University.
- (iv) Academic Board will establish a committee that will have delegated responsibility for approving nominations for the award of honorary degrees. The committee may also establish more specific criteria for the honorary degrees to be awarded in a particular year or at a particular ceremony.
- (v) Honorary degrees will normally be conferred at a graduation or other suitable public ceremony.

## **8. 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.
- (ii) The University may also revoke honorary degrees for similar reasons.

## D: Framework for Taught 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. Each programme may include modules at different FHEQ levels.
- (iv) Each module has a specific number of notional learning hours which includes timetabled learning activities, independent study and assessment. Time on placement or professional practice is included, where these settings form part of the approved programme. 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 Appendices 2 & 3.

### 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;
  - they are not attempting to improve their classification by enrolling on additional modules to replace marks;
  - restrictions imposed following a decision made under a Behaviour and Health Policy.

- (iii) A student must enrol for the modules they intend to study normally within 14 calendar days, unless otherwise defined in the Programme Specification.
- (iv) A student may enrol on a module without registering for a programme.

### **3. Transfer or Withdrawal from a Module**

- (i) Subject to the requirements set out in the Programme Specification, a student may transfer to a different module normally within 14 calendar days of the initial module beginning.
- (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) 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.
  - Where a student's agreed learning plan includes additional time for assessments, as a reasonable adjustment made in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
  - A student is exempted through accredited learning or accredited experiential learning.
- (v) There may be exceptional circumstances where a student has attempted an assessment task, but the mark is subsequently removed in agreement with the student. These include:
  - Where a student is taken ill during an examination.
  - Where there is clear evidence that a student has not been in a reasonable position to make an advance judgement of the impact of their personal

circumstances (e.g. death of a family member) on their usual ability to engage in an assessment.

- (vi) In such circumstances, the student will be permitted to sit the assessment task as a first attempt at a later date.

## **5. Requirements to Pass a Module**

- (i) To pass a module at Level 3-6 and achieve the credit, a student must pass all assessment tasks with:

- A minimum of 40% for each numerically assessed task.
- Or a 'pass' for each Pass/Fail task.

The overall mark will be the average of the tasks that have a numerical mark, with a weighting as defined in the Module Specification. Where all tasks are Pass/Fail, the module outcome will be Pass/Fail.

- (ii) To pass a module at Level 7 and achieve the credit, a student must pass all assessment tasks with:

- A minimum of 50% 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.

- (iii) All marks and grades are subject to moderation. Final confirmed marks will be provided to students after the moderation process and following the meeting of the Examining Board (see Regulation D26).
- (iv) 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. The only exception is where this is allowed by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body and set out in the approved Programme Specification.

## **6. Failure of a Module**

- (i) A student will fail a module if they do not achieve the requirements to pass as set out in Regulation D5.
- (ii) A student will be provided with an automatic opportunity to resit the specific assessment task/s that they failed. This will apply provided this is their first attempt and unless the assessment task relates to the assessment of competency in a practice setting, in which case the opportunity for a resit/retake is decided by an Examining Board.

- (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.
- (v) A student will be awarded the mark they achieve in the resit for the specific tasks they have previously failed. The first sit mark will be disregarded.

## **7. Failure of a Module Resit**

- (i) Where a student fails the resit, the following alternative outcomes will apply, depending on the requirements set out in the Programme Specification:
  - The student may retake the overall module in which the assessment/s was failed.
  - The Examining Board may offer for the module to be compensated (see Regulation D8).
  - The student may enrol on an alternative module to replace the failed module, where this is permitted by the requirements of the programme.
  - The student may be withdrawn from the programme if the failed module formed a compulsory part of the programme and/or where Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body restrictions do not permit any further opportunity.
- (ii) Where a module retake is permissible, this will mean:
  - The student is expected to engage in all module delivery and assessment tasks. As stated in the Terms and Conditions, the University may vary module delivery and requirements from time to time. A student should therefore not expect that the module retake will always be the same as the previous experience.
  - The student will be entitled to a first sit and a resit of assessment tasks on the same basis as set out in Regulation D6.
- (iii) The resit opportunity within a module retake will normally be the final opportunity that a student has to pass the module.
- (iv) A student will normally be withdrawn from the programme if they fail the resit opportunity of the module retake.
- (v) A student will only be eligible for consideration of a further attempt on an exceptional basis, for example, where their personal circumstances have affected their studies and contact has been made with the University support services, or equivalent. This decision will be made at the discretion of the Deputy Registrar, or their nominated Examining Board.

## 8. Compensation

- (i) Compensation is the process which can be applied to allow a student to progress at programme level, despite failure of a module. Credit can be awarded for the module where it can be demonstrated that the module's learning outcomes have been met elsewhere in the programme. Where compensation is agreed, a student can proceed without further reassessment.
- (ii) Compensation may be considered by an Examining Board where a student has failed a module and:
- Has achieved the necessary overall pass mark for the programme level (40% for Levels 3-6 and 50% for Level 7); and
  - It can be demonstrated that the student has met the published learning outcomes for that module elsewhere in the programme; and
  - It is permissible in the Programme Specification, including within the rules of any Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body.
- iii) Compensation can be permitted at first sit:
- For Levels 3 and 4, where it is deemed a student is sufficiently prepared to progress to the next level of study, based on achievement of the learning outcomes at first sits across the level.
  - Where compensating credit would allow a student to complete their target award.
- In all other circumstances, compensation can only be applied at resit.
- iv) Where compensation is permissible, the Examining Board may offer to award the remaining credit to the student. The student may accept this offer, retaining the numerical mark achieved in that module assessment/s resit, or decline it in favour of a module retake, where this is permitted.
- v) An Examining Board can award compensation as follows:
- To a maximum of 30 credits at Level 3.
  - To a maximum of 30 credits at Level 4.
  - To a maximum of 45 credits at Level 5 and 6 combined.
  - To a maximum of 30 credits at Level 7.

## 9. 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 D26.
- (iii) A student cannot progress to the next level if they have failed more than 30 credits at the previous level. **This regulation does not apply to students who registered on a**

**programme for the first time which commenced before 1st August 2022.**

## **10. 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.

## **11. Arrangements for Awards Classifications**

- (i) ***Transitional arrangements for awarding classification may be in place for students depending on their programme start date:***
  - A. Where a student commenced their **undergraduate programme of study BEFORE 1st August 2022**, their degree classification will be determined by the algorithm as stated in the Academic Regulations published in the year they commenced the programme.
  - B. Where a student commenced **an undergraduate 480 credit programme BEFORE 1st August 2023**, their degree classification will be determined by the algorithm as stated in the Academic Regulations published in the year they commenced the programme.
  - C. Where a student commenced **their postgraduate programme of study BEFORE 1st August 2024**, their degree classification will be determined by the algorithm as stated in the Academic Regulations published in the year they commenced the programme.
- (ii) Where a module does not carry any marks, it will not contribute to the classification, including where:
  - credit that has been awarded through the AL/AEL process
  - credit that has been awarded as a non-numerical value, i.e. 'Pass'

## **12. Requirements for the Award of an Undergraduate Degree**

- (i) To be considered for an undergraduate degree award, a student must:
  - Have passed Levels 4, 5 and 6 in accordance with the Regulations

- Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The University awards its degrees as follows:
- First Class: 70% or higher.
  - Second Class (Upper Division) (2.1): 60% to less than 70%.
  - Second Class (Lower Division) (2.2): 50% to less than 60%.
  - Third Class: 40% to less than 50%.
  - A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.
- (iii) The award classification is calculated as follows:
- All credits at Level 6 and the best 100 credits at level 5 are included.
  - Marks for Level 6 credits are weighted three times those at level 5.
  - Marks used at Level 5 are the best overall module marks achieved at that level.

### **13. Requirements for the Award of the Integrated Bachelor's/Master's degree**

- (i) To be considered for an Integrated Bachelor's/Master's award, a student must:
- Have passed Levels 4 to 7 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with a Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- (iii) A merit will be awarded when a student achieves an overall average mark of at least 60% across 210 credits at Level 6 or above. This average will be calculated based upon:
- A. The marks achieved for all Level 7 modules; and
  - B. The highest marks for Level 6 modules that together with A. make up the required credit total.
- (iv) A distinction will be awarded when a student achieves an overall average mark of at least 70% across 210 credits at Level 6 or above. This average will be calculated based upon:
- A. The marks achieved for all Level 7 modules; and
  - B. The highest marks for Level 6 modules that together with A. make up the required credit total.
- (i) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

### **14. Requirements for the Award of the Non-Honours Degree**

- (i) To be considered for a Non-Honours Degree, a student must:
- Have passed Levels 4 to 6 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.

- (ii) The award may be given with Pass or Distinction.
- (iii) A distinction will be awarded where a weighted average of 70% or more is achieved across all modules at level 6 which are valid for the award.
- (iv) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

#### **15. Requirements for the Award of the Foundation Degree**

- (i) To be considered for a Foundation Degree award, a student must:
  - Have passed Levels 4 to 5 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- (iii) A merit will be awarded when a weighted average of 55% or more is achieved across any combination of modules at level 5 or above which are valid for the award and total 100 credits or more.
- (iv) A distinction will be awarded when a weighted average of 70% or more is achieved across any combination of modules at level 5 or above which are valid for the award and total 100 credits or more.
- (v) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

#### **16. Requirements for the Award of the Diploma in Higher Education**

- (i) To be considered for a Diploma in Education award, a student must:
  - Have passed Levels 4 to 5 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with Pass or Distinction.
- (iii) A distinction will be awarded where a weighted average of 70% or more is achieved across any combination of modules at level 5 or above which are valid for the award and total 100 credits or more.
- (i) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

#### **17. Requirements for the Award of the Certificate in Higher Education, Certificate in Education Learning and Skills or Certificate in Education Skills for Life**

- (i) To be considered for a Certificate in Higher Education, Certificate in Education Learning and Skills or Certificate in Education Skills for Life award, a student must:
  - Have passed Level 4 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.

- (iv) The award may be given with Pass or Distinction.
- (ii) A distinction for a Certificate of Higher Education, a Certificate in Education Learning and Skills or a Certificate in Education Skills for Life will be awarded where a weighted average of 70% or more is achieved across any combination of modules at level 4 or above which are valid for the award and total 100 credits or more.
- (iii) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

#### **18. Requirements for the Award of Certificate**

- (i) To be considered for a Certificate award, a student must:
  - Have passed Level 4 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with Pass only.
- (iii) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

#### **19. Requirements for the Award of the Foundation Certificate**

- (i) To be considered for a Certificate award, a student must:
  - Have passed Level 3 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with Pass only.
- (iii) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

#### **20. Requirements for the Award of the Graduate Diploma**

- (i) To be considered for a Graduate Diploma award, a student must:
  - Have passed Level 6 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- (iii) A merit will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 60% is achieved across all modules at level 6.
- (iv) A distinction will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 70% is achieved across all modules at level 6.
- (v) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

## **21. Requirements for the Award of the Graduate Certificate**

- (i) To be considered for a Graduate Certificate award, a student must:
  - Have passed Level 6 in accordance with the Regulations
  - Achieved the overall credit for the award.
- (ii) The award may be given with Pass or Distinction.
- (iii) A distinction will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 70% is achieved across all modules at level 6.
- (iv) A student who achieves less than 40% will fail.

## **22. 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 Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- (iii) A merit will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 60% has been achieved across all modules at level 7.
- (iv) A distinction will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 70% has been achieved across all modules at level 7.
- (v) A student who achieves less than 50% will fail.

## **23. 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 Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- (iii) A merit will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 60% has been achieved across all modules at level 7.
- (iv) A distinction will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 70% has been achieved across all modules at level 7.
- (v) A student who achieves less than 50% will fail.

## **24. 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 Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- (iii) A merit will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 60% has been achieved across all modules at level 7.
- (iv) A distinction will be awarded where a weighted average of at least 70% has been achieved across all modules at level 7.
- (v) A student who achieves less than 50% will fail.

## **25. Borderline Marks**

- (i) An Examining Board may award one classification higher than that which is determined by the calculation where a student's overall mark is less than or equal to 0.5% below the next higher classification.

## **26. 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.

## **27. 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.

# **E: Framework for Research Degree Programmes**

## **1. Candidates**

- (i) An individual registering for a research degree award will be referred to in these Regulations as a postgraduate research degree candidate (PGR), or candidate.
- (ii) Candidates (including those who are members of staff) will have the rights of students as set out in the Terms and Conditions.

- (iii) There are additional terms and conditions for postgraduate research degree candidates, and these are set out in the individual agreement sent to each candidate with the offer of a place.

## **2. Programmes**

- (i) To be considered for an award, a candidate must successfully complete approved supervised research (including, where required, taught modules of study) and satisfy the relevant requirements set out in these Regulations.
- (ii) Academic Board determines the process by which a research degree programme is designed and approved.
- (iii) The relevant Examining Board will confirm assessment outcome decisions and grant postgraduate research degree awards on behalf of Academic Board. The College Postgraduate Research Committee will monitor progression trends and the enhancement of postgraduate research degree candidates' experience.
- (iv) A 'Designated Person' is the appointed individual with responsibility for overseeing decisions at the local level regarding the delivery of research degrees, progression arrangements, and support for PGR candidates.
- (v) A College Escalation Panel may be convened to review the conduct and regulatory aspects of an individual PGR candidate's assessment, ensuring fairness and compliance with university procedures. Panel membership and responsibilities are detailed in the Doctoral Academy Handbook.
- (vi) A College Escalation Panel does not review student complaints or appeals. These are managed through separate processes as outlined on the UWE website. Where items being considered by an Escalation Panel become the subject of a student appeal or complaint, further investigation will not be undertaken until the final report and actions have been concluded by the Escalation Panel and approved by the relevant exam board.

## **3. Descriptors**

- (i) The design and approval of a research degree programme will comply with descriptors published by the University, which align to the [UK Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies](#)

## **4. Types of Research Degree Study**

- (i) The following research degrees are available to study:
- Master of Philosophy (MPhil); full-time and part-time.
  - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); full-time and part-time.
  - Professional Doctorate; full-time and part-time.
  - Master of Philosophy by Publication (MPhil); part-time.
  - Doctor of Philosophy by Publication (DPhil); part-time.

- (ii) Professional Doctorate Awards approved by the University are listed in Appendix 1.
- (iii) The MPhil/PhD award is achieved through successful completion of:
  - A written thesis (which may include research outputs); or
  - A written thesis and creative practice.
- (iv) The Professional Doctorate award is achieved through successful completion of:
  - Taught elements; and
  - Research of relevance and its application to defined areas of professional practice presented in written thesis format.
- (v) The MPhil/DPhil by Publication award can be achieved through successful submission of:
  - Evidence of scholarship through a collection of published work; and
  - A critical commentary.
- (vi) Final assessment for all types of MPhil and Doctoral study will also include a viva voce examination.
- (vii) The University may also award Higher Doctorates of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) and Doctor of Science (DSc). The specific Regulations relating to these awards are set out in Regulation E22.

## **5. Applications and Entry requirements**

- (i) Proposed research can be in any field of study in which the University has the expertise and resource to offer supervision. The proposal must be undertaken through a category of study as set out at Regulation E4 and have the potential to meet the requirements of the qualifications descriptors for that award (Regulation E3).
- (ii) For the MPhil, PhD and Professional Doctorate awards, applicants will normally hold a minimum of a 2.1 Honours degree or equivalent. English Language requirements will be published on the University's website.
- (iii) Applicants for Professional Doctorate programmes are normally expected to evidence experience of relevant professional practice and access to a suitable professional context in which to conduct their research.
- (iv) To apply for study by published research, applicants must either:
  - Be employed by the University or by an affiliated academic institution for a minimum of one year, with at least six months remaining on their contract; or
  - Have a close association with the University as agreed by Vice-Chancellor or nominee and in accordance with requirements published by the University.

## 6. Registration Periods

- (i) General registration requirements are set out in Regulation B2.
- (ii) Normal minimum and maximum active study periods and the maximum periods of registration are set out in the Appendix 1.
- (iii) A candidate must demonstrate satisfactory progress for registration to continue as set out in Regulation E13 and E14.
- (iv) A candidate may apply to make the following changes relating to their registration:
  - Research project.
  - Supervisory team.
  - Mode of attendance.
  - Registration status.
  - Milestone deadlines.
  - PhD to MPhil transfer.

Candidates who wish to transfer from one award to another, regardless of level, must reapply to register on the new award and withdraw from the original award if their application is successful.

- (v) Interruption of active study may be approved where there are valid reasons and supporting evidence. Interruptions will not normally be approved for longer than 12 months.
- (vi) The maximum active study period may be extended where there are valid reasons and supporting evidence but will not normally be approved for longer than 12 months.
- (vii) Withdrawal of registration may be initiated by the candidate or the University at any time in accordance with the published Doctoral Academy Handbook.

## 7. Professional Development and Training

- (i) Candidates are required to undertake an assessed professional development and research skills training programme.
- (ii) The credit requirements for the assessed programme are as follows:
  - MPhil (60 Level M credits).
  - PhD (60-120 credits of which at least 60 are Level M).
  - Professional Doctorate (120-270 credits at Level M).
  - DPhil by publication (60-120 credits of which at least 60 are Level M).

- (iii) Candidates who teach must comply with the requirements of the University's Postgraduate Research Teaching Policy and must undertake the training available that is appropriate to the number of hours that they teach per year.

## **8. Supervision**

- (i) A supervisory team of at least two supervisors will be appointed for each candidate.
- (ii) The supervisory team is responsible for meeting with the candidate regularly, discussing progress made and agreeing any actions and objectives. The full role is set out in the Doctoral Academy Handbook.
- (iii) The supervisory team will include:
  - A Director of Studies who will normally be a permanent member of the University's staff, unless an external Director is approved by the designated person. The Director of Studies will be responsible for the conduct of the candidate's project.
  - At least one person who has completed the University's supervisor training.
  - At least one person who has previous experience of supervising a candidate successfully through all stages of research degree study either at the University or another registered doctoral provider.
- Where the completion experience is with another doctoral provider, this person will provide supporting evidence to the Designated Person prior to the formal appointment of the supervisory team, and will complete the appropriate professional development provided by the University at the earliest opportunity.
- (iv) The composition of the supervisory team is subject to approval by the designated person.
- (v) Internal supervisors (including Directors of Studies and staff who are new to the University even if they have supervisory experience from another HEI) are expected to engage in professional development opportunities, provided or supported by the University. Professional development should take place within an appropriate timescale to ensure supervisors are equipped to select and supervise research candidates effectively from initial meetings to completion.
- (vi) External supervisors based in other HEIs are expected to engage in professional development opportunities, provided or supported by UWE Bristol or their home institution.
- (vii) External supervisors based in non-HE environments are expected to engage in professional development opportunities provided or supported by the University.

## **9. Research Project**

- (i) A candidate must apply for project confirmation by the designated person. Project confirmation must be achieved prior to active data collection and before the deadline of the Progress Review Stage 1 (Progression Examination).

- (ii) The project confirmation application will include the title of the research project, and will provide evidence to demonstrate that:
- All research governance arrangements have been initiated;
  - An outline of the schedule of work has been agreed;
  - The supervision arrangements meet the regulatory requirements at E8;
  - A development needs analysis has been undertaken and a training plan agreed;
  - Where relevant, matters relating to collaboration and funding have been considered.
- (iii) The application will be scrutinised by the designated person and outcomes will be:
- Confirmed – the research can proceed, or
  - Not yet confirmed – further adjustment and reapplication for confirmation is necessary prior to the commencement of active data collection.
- (iv) Should project confirmation not be given initially, the candidate will have the opportunity to adjust the project confirmation form (CP1) and reapply.
- (v) Starting active data collection without project confirmation approval contravenes academic regulations and the UWE Code of Good Research Conduct.
- (vi) Any subsequent major changes to the project during the candidate's registration period will require further scrutiny and confirmation by the designated person.

#### **10. Research Governance, Conduct and Assessment Offences**

- (i) Candidates must comply with the University (and/or the approved equivalent collaborative partner institutions) policies and Code of Good Research Conduct as set out in Regulation A5.
- (ii) The Director of Studies and supervisory team will ensure that candidates have access to information and training on the University's expectations.
- (iii) Allegations of misconduct will be investigated in accordance with the procedures set out in the University's Code of Good Research Conduct and/or the University's Academic conduct policy and academic misconduct procedures.

#### **11. Personal Circumstances**

- (i) Where a candidate has personal circumstances which may be impacting their study, they may submit an appropriate application to support them. This may include circumstances that impact their ability to meet progress review deadlines, progression examinations, the final submission or the viva voce examination.
- (ii) The range of support options for which a candidate may apply is set out in the Doctoral Academy Handbook.

## 12. Stages of Progression

- (i) There are three stages of progression for candidates undertaking research degrees, each is subject to independent review either via the progression examination at stage 1, or via review events at subsequent stages. These stages are:
- Stage 1 (Progression Examination) – At the end of this stage the candidate will be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the examiners that the project is viable for the award on which they have registered, will have made satisfactory progress in line with the initial objectives outlined at project confirmation, and will have defined the detailed objectives, scope and research governance or other requirements of their project going forward.
  - Stage 2 (Progress Review) – The candidate will be able to demonstrate through submitted work chosen from a published set of options that they are making satisfactory progress with their project in line with objectives agreed at the progression examination and are on track to complete and submit for final assessment within the maximum study period allowed. At the end of this stage, the candidate will be provided with formative feedback from an independent reviewer and their Director of Studies who will jointly identify and agree appropriate targets for the final stage of the project.
  - Stage 3 (Progress Review)– The candidate will be preparing to finish their project and will be able to demonstrate through draft material submitted that they have a realistic plan for the completion of outstanding objectives, and submission of their work for final assessment within the maximum study period allowed. Formative feedback from the independent reviewer and Director of Studies will identify what further needs to be done to complete. The agreed level of supervision during the completion period will also be discussed.

## 13. Stage 1 – Progression Examination

- (i) A candidate will have a progression examination to determine if they can progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of their studies. Candidates must have successful confirmation of their project to be eligible for the Stage 1 progression examination (see Regulation E9).
- (ii) The progression examination will comprise:
- A progress report submitted by the candidate
  - Other optional work submitted by the candidate
  - A viva voce examination.
- (iii) Where a candidate is unable to meet the required deadline for the submission of the progress report, they should submit a personal circumstances application (see Regulation E11). Where a candidate does not submit the progress report by the required deadline and without good reason, their registration will normally be withdrawn.
- (iv) The progression examination will be undertaken by two internal examiners who are unconnected with the supervisory team, the work, or the candidate.

- (v) The viva voce examination may take place face-to-face on University premises (or a collaborative partner institution) or, where all parties consent, via an online video conferencing platform approved by the University.
- (vi) The outcome decision of the progression examiners will be ratified by the designated person to confirm due process, and the result confirmed by the Examining Board. The outcomes can be:
  - Pass
  - Resubmission.

The examiners will provide written guidance on remedial work in the case of a resubmission outcome. This will be sent to the candidate with the formal outcome notification by the Examination Board. Remedial work must be reasonable and achievable within the time permitted for the resubmission.

- (vii) Should the outcome recommendations of the examiners not be unanimous, they will submit separate reports to the Escalation Panel appointed for the purpose which will consider both reports and agree an outcome decision. The outcome decision will be confirmed by the Examining Board.
- (viii) A candidate whose resubmitted report is acceptable may not be required to undergo a further viva voce examination at the discretion of the examiners, but a candidate will not be failed at resubmission without the opportunity to defend their resubmitted work at viva. In all other respects the reassessment will be conducted in the same way as for the first assessment.
- (ix) At resubmission the outcomes can be:
  - Pass
  - Fail

There will be no further opportunity for resubmission.

- (x) In the case of a Fail outcome the Examining Board will confirm the decision and the candidate's registration on the award will be withdrawn.
- (xi) A candidate will have the right to appeal a decision of the Examining Board as set out in Regulation D27.

#### **14. Progress Review Stages 2 and 3**

- (i) A review of a candidate's academic progress will be completed at the end of Stages 2 and 3. The review will be undertaken by an independent reviewer and the Director of Studies who will meet with the candidate.
- (ii) Non submission of work for progress review within approved timescales without approved personal circumstances or other good reason will result in loss of opportunity, or at resubmission withdrawal of registration.

- (iii) The outcome decision of the progress review will be ratified by the Designated Person to confirm due process and confirmed by the Examining Board. The outcomes can be:
- Satisfactory progress.
  - Unsatisfactory progress, re-work and resubmit.
- (iv) Where unsatisfactory progress has been made, the reviewers' report must identify the nature of the additional work required to demonstrate satisfactory progress. Additional work or evidence tasks must be reasonable and achievable within the time permitted for resubmission.
- (v) A candidate will not be withdrawn without the opportunity to submit additional work and to have a further meeting with the reviewers.
- (vi) Where the candidate cannot demonstrate satisfactory progress to the reviewers at resubmission, the Examining Board will confirm a Fail outcome and the candidate's registration on the award will be withdrawn.

## **15. Final Submission**

- (i) Submission will take place between the minimum and maximum approved period of active study.
- (ii) In advance of a final submission, the following actions will have taken place:
- The Supervisory Team will have received a full draft of the thesis/critical commentary for comment and will have provided feedback to the candidate.
  - The candidate and their supervisory team will have discussed the format and mode of submission, including for creative practice submissions, and will have gained the approval from the designated person where this varies from the standard arrangements.
  - The candidate and their supervisory team will have discussed the candidate's preference for a face-to-face viva or an online viva subject to examiner agreement.
  - An appropriate examination team will have been identified and appointed.
- (iii) The candidate has ultimate responsibility for deciding on the content and timing of final submission of the thesis and/or creative work within the permitted maximums.
- (iv) Exceptionally an Escalation Panel may approve an alternative to submission by thesis where it is satisfied that a candidate would be seriously disadvantaged on health, disability or other grounds, and where the proposed alternative is capable of being assessed.
- (v) A candidate submitting for an MPhil or DPhil by publication will submit a critical commentary and their collection of published works.

- (vi) The submission will be formatted in accordance with the published requirements and submitted to the designated platform on a closed access basis until an award has been granted. It will be replaced by the final version as approved by the examiners.

## 16. Examiners

- (i) The designated person is responsible for agreeing the appointment of examining panels, on nomination by the Director of Studies.
- (ii) Each examination will be overseen by an Independent Chair appointed by the designated person from the approved list held by the Doctoral Academy on behalf of Academic Board.
- (iii) Student candidates for MPhil, PhD and Professional Doctorates are normally examined by two examiners, of whom one will be external and the other will normally be internal to the University
- (iv) Staff candidates for all research degree awards and external candidates for MPhil/DPhil by Publication, will normally be examined by two examiners who will be external to the University. The same principle applies for staff at an affiliated institution.
- (v) External Examiners will:
- Be independent of the University (or affiliated institution) and any collaborating establishment connected with the research project.
  - Not have acted previously as the candidate's supervisor or advisor.
  - Not engage as an examiner when their own work is the focus of the research being examined.
- (vi) Internal examiners will:
- Be members of staff of the University, of the candidate's collaborating establishment or of the partner institution at which the candidate is registered.
  - Not have been the candidate's Director of Studies, supervisor or advisor
  - Not be appointed if they are also a postgraduate research degree candidate at the University and there is a potential conflict of interest.
- (vii) Individuals acting as a research degree examiner are expected to comply with the published expectations for professional conduct and declaration of conflict of interests, as outlined in the Doctoral Academy handbook.

## 17. Final Examination

- (i) The Final Examination comprises two parts:
- An independent report from each examiner containing a preliminary assessment of the submission.
  - A viva voce examination of the candidate of the submitted work.

- (ii) The location and mode of the viva voce examination will take place in accordance with Regulation E15(ii). The viva will be conducted in English in accordance with Regulation A4(i).
- (iii) All candidates are required to attend a viva voce examination on the date and time specified by the University.
- (iv) Exceptionally, an Escalation Panel convened for the purpose may approve an alternative to a viva voce examination where it is evidenced that a candidate would be seriously disadvantaged on health, disability or other grounds.
- (v) The Independent Chair of the Final Examination will report to the Escalation Panel convened for the purpose any circumstances in which the examiners' outcome recommendations are not unanimous. The Escalation Panel may:
  - Uphold the recommendation of the external examiner (where there is one external examiner); or
  - Appoint an independent external assessor to review the thesis and make an independent report together with an outcome recommendation to the panel. No further viva voce examination will take place within that assessment attempt. The Escalation Panel will consider all reports and agree an outcome decision in accordance with Regulation E18.

#### **18. Outcomes from the Final Examination**

- (i) The range of outcome decisions available to the examiners is set out below. The examiners' outcome decision will be confirmed by the Examining Board.

##### **A: The candidate fulfils the criteria for the award on which they are registered and is recommended for the degree:**

- Without further correction or amendment; or
- Subject to satisfactory correction of presentational/typographical errors within the material (maximum 4 weeks for full-time candidates and 6 weeks for part-time candidates). Corrections to be approved by one or all examiners; or
- Subject to satisfactory minor amendment of the material as indicated by the examiners and which can reasonably be completed within a maximum of 12 weeks for full-time candidates and 18 weeks for part-time candidates. Amendments to be approved by one or all examiners; or
- Subject to satisfactory major amendments. The material submitted displays some deficiencies in content, analysis and/or presentation in areas specified by the examiners requiring additional work which can reasonably be expected to be completed within a maximum of 6 months for full-time candidates and 9 months for part-time candidates. No further viva examination is required, amendments to be approved by all examiners.

**B: The candidate does not currently fulfil the criteria for the award on which they are registered:**

- The candidate is referred for resubmission and reassessment. The candidate does not currently fulfil the Doctoral/MPhil criteria, and the material displays significant deficiencies of content and/or presentation in areas specified by the examiners. The candidate is permitted to revise and re-submit the overall material for the degree and be re-assessed on one further occasion with or without viva voce examination. Revisions indicated by examiners may reasonably be expected to be completed within a maximum 12 months for full-time candidates or 18 months for part-time candidates.

**C: Additional outcomes for PhD or DPhil assessment only:**

- **MPhil with amendments:** The candidate does not fulfil the doctoral award descriptor criteria but does meet the award criteria for MPhil and may be recommended for this award subject to satisfactory amendment of the material in a manner and to a timescale as indicated by the examiners (up to a maximum of 6 months for full-time candidates and 9 months for part-time candidates). No further viva voce examination is required. Amendments to be approved by one or all examiners; or
- **Resubmit and be assessed for MPhil:** The candidate does not fulfil the doctoral award criteria but has the potential to meet the award criteria for MPhil and may revise and resubmit the overall material as indicated by the examiners for assessment for the award of MPhil (within a maximum of 12 months for full-time candidates and 18 months for part-time candidates). A viva voce examination will be required.

**D: Degree not awarded.:**

- The candidate does not fulfil the criteria for the award of any degree and is not permitted to resubmit for reassessment. Unsuccessful candidates for MPhil/ DPhil by Publication are not permitted to apply for a further three years. The examiners will prepare a joint statement on the deficiencies of the work. The outcome decision will be confirmed by the Examining Board who will forward the examiners' joint statement to the candidate. The candidate will be withdrawn from the award.

**19. Amendments and Resubmissions**

- (i) The following Regulations apply in relation to pass subject to amendment decisions, or resubmission outcome decisions arising from the Final Examination as set out in Regulation E18.
- (ii) **Outcome A decisions, Pass, subject to...:** If a candidate has fulfilled the criteria for the award subject to corrections, minor or major amendments and these subsequent changes are not considered by the examiners to be satisfactory, the candidate will be given a further 12-week period to make the necessary changes.

Exceptionally, the Escalation Panel convened for the purpose may permit an additional 12-week period if the examiners consider the amendments remain unsatisfactory. There is no automatic right to this additional extension period. If, after the additional period, the requirements have still not been met, the candidate will normally be withdrawn by the Examining Board, and the degree will not be awarded.

- (iii) **Outcome B decision, resubmit for reassessment:** If a candidate has not fulfilled the criteria for the award on which they are registered, one reassessment, with or without a viva voce, will be permitted. Resubmission will be required within 12 months for full-time candidates, and 18 months for part-time candidates, from the date of the formal notification of the outcome of the first assessment.
- (iv) The personal circumstances panel convened for the purpose may permit an extension of the resubmission period where there is good reason.
- (v) The Escalation Panel may require that an additional External Examiner is appointed for the reassessment.
- (vi) In all other respects, the reassessment will be conducted in the same way as for the first assessment as set out at Regulation E17.
- (vii) Following completion of the reassessment the full range of outcome decisions available to examiners including Outcome D, degree not awarded, is as set out at E18., with the following exclusions:
- Outcome B (resubmission for the same degree) is not available.
  - A resubmitting PhD or DPhil candidate may be recommended for the award of MPhil subject to satisfactory amendments but may not be granted a further resubmission to be assessed for MPhil.
- (viii) **Outcome C decisions:** Resubmit and be reassessed for MPhil. A PhD or DPhil candidate who, as an outcome at their first assessment, has resubmitted and been assessed for the award of MPhil may not be given a further resubmission opportunity for MPhil. If an Outcome A decision is not achieved at the reassessment (pass, or pass subject to correction or amendments), a degree will not be awarded, and the candidate will be withdrawn.

## 20. Appeals

- (i) A candidate may appeal against the decision of the Examining Board only on the grounds that there has been material and significant administrative error, or other material irregularity such that the assessment process, and consideration of any mitigating circumstances, were not conducted in accordance with the Regulations.
- (ii) The appeals process is set out in the University's Appeals Policy.

## **21. Deposition of the Final Work**

- (i) All candidates who have been recommended for a degree must deposit their final submission including any amendments required by the examiners, on the University's Research Repository prior to the award being conferred.
- (ii) For the awards of MPhil/ DPhil by Publication, the deposit must include the critical commentary, any research outputs that were published during registration and submitted for the award, and a bibliography listing all publications put forward for the award.
- (iii) Candidates must also comply with the requirements of any approved research data management plan regarding deposition and storage of core research data underpinning their final submission.

## **22. Higher Doctorates**

- (i) The University can award Higher Doctorates as set out in Regulation E4.
- (ii) Higher Doctorates are awarded on the basis of a formally submitted and substantial body of published research outputs of high distinction that indicates a sustained, consistent and significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge or scholarship through research, and a beneficial impact for communities, a sustainable economy and/or society more broadly.
- (iii) The designated Committee or panel appointed by the Committee will consider applications for Higher Doctorates to proceed to examination. The Examining Board/designated Committee will appoint the examiners. The Examining Board will confirm the outcome of the assessment for the award of Higher Doctorates on behalf of Academic Board.
- (iv) An applicant for Higher Doctorates will be leading authorities in their field(s) of study and:
  - A current or previous member of university staff or staff of an affiliated academic institution having held a permanent contract of no less than four years and having held a Doctoral degree for at least four years; or
  - An alumnus of the University of at least seven years and having held a Doctoral degree for at least four years; or
  - An individual with a close, long-standing and significant research association with the University that has resulted in a sustained record of collaborative research of considerable impact upon the advancement of knowledge at the highest level and who is invited to apply by the relevant Head of College or by the Vice-Chancellor. Individuals would normally hold a Doctoral degree and in all other respects would meet the criteria of all other applicants.
- (v) Applications will comprise:
  - A specimen set of research outputs that the applicant wishes to submit in support of their application for the award.

- A statement of the extent of the applicant's individual contribution to each of the outputs submitted where joint authorship or other types of collaboration are involved.
  - Where relevant, a statement confirming which part of the work, if any, has previously been submitted for another academic award.
  - A curriculum vitae and full list of publications and other significant research outputs.
  - A statement of no more than 6,000 words in support of the application which should set out the applicant's view of the nature and significance of the body work submitted in relation to:
    - a) Its contribution to knowledge at the time of publication.
    - b) Its impact and influence on subsequent research and the development of knowledge in the field or fields of study.
    - c) Its impact outside the academic field, to show how it has led to benefits to communities, a sustainable economy and/or society more broadly.
    - d) An indication of the relationship, if any, between the various topics covered by the work.
    - e) The ways in which the submitted work demonstrates a sustained and consistent contribution to advanced scholarship over a number of years.
  - Approval must be given by the designated Committee or panel appointed by the Committee to make an application in any other language than English.
- (vi) Written research outputs submitted within the specimen set may include scholarly texts (journal articles, books, parts of books, conference articles, working papers), research reports, research-informed policy documents (usually of national significance or above), patents (published or in application), translations, and case studies of innovative work at the highest level.
- (vii) Other research outputs submitted within the specimen set may include artefacts, devices, products, exhibitions, performances, compositions, portfolios, designs, software, digital/visual media or other material that provides evidence of original research of significance and impact at the highest level. These outputs should be represented by a written and/or visual record of the output or details of how they can be freely accessed.
- (viii) Higher Doctorate awards will be examined by a minimum of two external examiners who shall be:
- Pre-eminent in the field of study of the submission.
  - Experienced examiners to at least doctoral level (examiner of at least ten doctoral level awards) and preferably at higher doctoral level.
  - Wholly unconnected with the University, the candidate, or their research.
- (ix) The time permitted for the consideration of submitted research outputs by the examiners and submission of examiner reports to the Doctoral Academy will be five months from the date of circulation of the submission to the examiners.
- (x) The examiners will report independently in detail on the extent to which the application satisfies the criteria set out below and on the appropriateness of the specific award

sought by the candidate. They will each make an independent recommendation to the Examining Board regarding the granting of the award:

- That the research work submitted is of high distinction.
  - That it constitutes an original and significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge or to the application of knowledge or to both.
  - That the work and other supporting evidence (curriculum vitae and full publications/research outputs list) has established that the applicant is a leading authority in the field or fields of study concerned, having made a sustained and significant contribution to advanced scholarship as evidenced by, inter alia, an established reputation in an academic community, citation of published work, demonstration of contribution to the public domain and impact outside the academic field e.g. via benefits to communities, a sustainable economy and/or society more broadly.
- (xi) The examination shall be undertaken by reference to the submitted material only; there will be no viva voce. If the examiners' recommendations do not accord the Board may require the appointment of a third external examiner to carry out a further independent assessment of the body of research work submitted.
- (xii) The Board may, at its discretion, invite the applicant to discuss their submitted work with representatives of the Board and/or the designated Committee (normally including those who served on the panel at preliminary consideration and/or the appointed examiners).
- (xiii) Taking into account the recommendations of the examiners, the Board may decide:
- To grant the award of the Higher Doctorate degree, specifying which award is being granted (DSc or DLitt); or
  - Not to grant the award of the Higher Doctorate degree.
- (xiv) There shall be no resubmission opportunity, no option to award a lower level of degree and no opportunity for appeal against the decision of the Board. Unsuccessful candidates may reapply after a minimum period of three years if they remain eligible.
- (xv) While there will be no detailed process for feedback to the candidate, in notifying a candidate of a decision not to grant the award the Board may decide to provide general feedback, or comments that examiners have indicated they particularly wish to be passed to the candidate.
- (xvi) The result of the candidate's assessment and the award granted will be produced and signed by the Chair of the Examining Board and published in the format approved by the University.

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

Award	Minimum Period of Study (Weeks)	Credit Total	Notional Study Time
Honours Degree (including a foundation year)	120 weeks	480 credits	4800 hours
Integrated Bachelor/Masters Degree (including a foundation year)	150 weeks	600 credits	6000 hours
Certificate	15 weeks	60 credits	600 hours
Foundation Certificate	15 weeks	80 credits	800 hours
Certificate of Advanced Professional Studies in Education	15 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Certificate in Professional Development	15 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Certificate in Education Learning and Skills	30 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Certificate of Higher Education	30 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Diploma	60 weeks	200 credits	2000 hours
Diploma in Professional Studies	30 weeks	240 credits	2400 hours
Diploma of Higher Education	60 weeks	240 credits	2400 hours
Foundation Degree	60 weeks	240 credits	2400 hours
Degree	90 weeks	300 credits	3000 hours
Honours Degree	90 weeks	360 credits	3600 hours
Graduate Certificate	30 weeks	60 credits	600 hours
Graduate Diploma	30 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	36 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education	36 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Post Graduate Certificate in Education International Early Years	36 weeks	90 credits	900 hours
Post Graduate Certificate in Education International	36 weeks	90 credits	900 hours
Postgraduate Certificate	15 weeks	60 credits	600 hours
Postgraduate Diploma	30 weeks	120 credits	1200 hours
Masters Degree	45 weeks	180 credits	1800 hours
Masters by Research	52 weeks	180 credits	1800 hours

<b>Award</b>	<b>Minimum Period of Study (Weeks)</b>	<b>Credit Total</b>	<b>Notional Study Time</b>
Masters in Research (MRes)	45 weeks	180 credits	1800 hours
Integrated Bachelor / Master's Degree	120 weeks	480 credits	4800 hours
Master of Architecture (MArch)	60 weeks	240 credits	2400 hours

### Research Degree Awards

<b>Award</b>	<b>Minimum Period of Active Study required to submit for the award (Months)</b>	<b>Maximum Period of Active Study permitted to submit of the (does not include interruption of study)*</b>
Master of Philosophy (MPhil) full-time	18 months	36 months
Master of Philosophy (MPhil) part-time	30 months	48 months
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) full-time	24 months	48 months
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) part-time	36 months	96 months
Professional Doctorate full-time	36 months	48 months
Professional Doctorate part-time	48 months	72 months

The following Professional Doctorate award titles have been approved by the Academic Board:

- Doctor of Biomedical Sciences (DBMS);
- Doctor of the Built Environment (DBEnv);
- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA);
- Doctor of Counselling Psychology (DCounsPsych);
- Doctor of Education (EdD);
- Doctor of Health Psychology (DHealthPsych);
- Doctor of Health and Social Care (DHSC);
- Doctor of Spatial Planning (DPlan);

Doctor of Engineering (DEng).		
Master of Philosophy by Publication (MPhil) part-time	12 months	48 months
Doctor of Philosophy by Publication (DPhil) part-time	12 months	72 months

\*The **MAXIMUM REGISTRATION PERIOD for a research degree** is the maximum length of time a candidate may remain registered on a research degree award of the University. This includes all interruptions of study, extensions, or time out from active study for any other reason. This will normally be double the length of the maximum period of active study permitted to submit for final assessment for the award. All candidates who do not submit prior to the end of their maximum registration period will automatically be withdrawn and not the award made.

## Appendix 2: Undergraduate Awards – Qualification Types and Credit Requirements

Approved award title	FHEQ Level of award	Total credits	Credit requirements at level	Differential levels of award
<b>Foundation Certificate (FdCert)</b>	Level 3	80	80 credits at Level 3 or above The credit should not be used as an intermediate exit award for other final awards.	No differential level of award available.
<b>Certificate (Cert)</b>	Level 4	60	At least 50 credits at Level 4 or above. 10 credits permitted at Level 3.	No differential level of award available.
<b>Certificate in Education Learning and Skills</b>	Level 4	120	At least 70 credits at Level 5 or above. 50 credits permitted at Level 4.	No differential level of award available.
<b>Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)</b>	Level 4	120	At least 100 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	Pass / Distinction.

Approved award title	FHEQ Level of award	Total credits	Credit requirements at level	Differential levels of award
<b>Certificate in Professional Development (CertPD)</b>	Level 4	120	At least 100 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	No differential level of award available.
<b>Diploma (Dip)</b>	Level 5	200	At least 80 credits at Level 5 or above. At least 100 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	No differential level of award available.
<b>Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)</b>	Level 5	240	At least 100 credits at Level 5 or above. At least 120 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	Pass/ Distinction.
<b>Diploma in Professional Studies (DPS)</b>	Level 5	240	At least 100 credits at Level 5 or above At least 120 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	No differential level of award available.
<b>Foundation Degrees</b> <b>Foundation Degree Arts (FdA)</b> <b>Foundation Degree Science (FdSc)</b>  At least 30 credits of work-based learning must be included at Level 1 or above.	Level 5	240	At least 100 credits at Level 5 or above. At least 120 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	Pass / Merit / Distinction
<b>Degree</b> Bachelor of Arts (BA) Bachelor of Science (BSc)	Level 6	300	At least 60 credits at Level 6 or above. At least 100 credits at Level 5 or above.	Pass / Distinction.

Approved award title	FHEQ Level of award	Total credits	Credit requirements at level	Differential levels of award
Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) BBA (Hons) Bachelor of Education (BEd) Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Bachelor of Town Planning (BTP) Bachelor of Architecture (BArch)			At least 100 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	
<b>Degree with Honours</b> Bachelor of Arts BA (Hons) Bachelor of Science BSc (Hons) Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) BBA (Hons) Bachelor of Education (BEd) Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	Level 6	360	At least 100 credits at Level 6 or above. At least 100 credits at Level 5 or above. At least 140 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	Classifications: First Class; Second Class (Upper Division); Second Class (Lower Division); Third Class.
<b>Degree with Honours (including a foundation year)</b>	Level 6	480	At least 100 credits at Level 6 or above. At least 100 credits at Level 5 or above. At least 140 credits at Level 4 or above. 120 credits permitted at Level 3.	Classifications: First Class; Second Class (Upper Division); Second Class (Lower Division); Third Class.
<b>Integrated Bachelor/Master's Degree</b> Master of Business (MBus) Master of Computing (MComp) Master of Design (MDes)	Level 7	480	At least 120 credits at Level 7. At least 100 credits at Level 6 or above.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.

Approved award title	FHEQ Level of award	Total credits	Credit requirements at level	Differential levels of award
Master of Engineering (MEng) Master of Environment (MEnv) Master of Equine Science (MEqSci) Master of Geography (MGeog) Master of Mathematics (MMath) Master of Planning (MPlan) Master of Science (MSci) Master of Sports Coaching (MSCo)			At least 100 credits at Level 5 or above. At least 140 credits at Level 4 or above. 20 credits permitted at Level 3.	
<b>Integrated Bachelor/Master's Degree</b> Master of Architecture (MArch)	Level 7	240	At least 120 credits at Level 7. At least 100 credits at Level 6 or above.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.
<b>Integrated Bachelor/Master's Degree (including a foundation year)</b>	Level 7	600	At least 120 credits at Level 7. At least 100 credits at Level 6 or above. At least 100 credits at Level 5 or above. At least 140 credits at Level 4 or above. 120 credits permitted at Level 3.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.
<b>Foundation programme</b> Provides a progression route into a specific award or group of awards as set out in the Programme Specification	Level 3	<b>120</b>	120 credits at Level 3	No differential level available.
<b>Graduate Certificate (GradCert)</b>	Level 6	60	At least 40 credits at Level 6 or above.	Pass / Distinction.

Approved award title	FHEQ Level of award	Total credits	Credit requirements at level	Differential levels of award
			20 credits at Level 4 or above.	
<b>Graduate Diploma (GradDip)</b>	Level 6	120	At least 80 credits at Level 6 or above. 40 credits at Level 4 or above.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.
<b>Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (ProfGCE)</b>	Level 6	120	At least 120 credits at Level 6 or above.	No differential level of award available.
<b>Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (ProfGCE)</b>	Level 6	90	At least 90 credits at Level 6 or above.	No differential level of award available.
<b>International Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (iProfGCE)</b>	Level 6	60	At least 60 credits at Level 6 or above.	Pass / Merit / Distinction

### Appendix 3: Postgraduate Taught Awards – Qualification Types and Credit

Approved award title	FHEQ Level of award	Total credits	Credit requirements at level	Differential level of award
<b>Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)</b> <b>Postgraduate Certificate by Research (PGCert)</b>	Level 7	60	40 credits at Level 7. 20 credits at Level 6 or 7.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.
<b>Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)</b>	Level 7	120	At least 60 credits at Level 7. At least 30 credits Level 6 or above. 30 credits permitted at Level 4 or above.	No differential level of award available.
<b>Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)</b>	Level 7	90	60 credits at Level 7 30 credits at Level 6 or above.	No differential level of award available.

<b>Approved award title</b>	<b>FHEQ Level of award</b>	<b>Total credits</b>	<b>Credit requirements at level</b>	<b>Differential level of award</b>
<b>International Postgraduate Certificate in Education (iPGCE)</b>	<b>Level 7</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60 credits at Level 7.</b>	<b>Pass / Merit / Distinction</b>
<b>Postgraduate Certificate Learning and Skills (PGCert L&amp;S)</b>	Level 7	120	At least 40 credits at Level 7. At least 30 credits at Level 6 or above. At least 20 credits at Level 5 or above.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.
<b>Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)</b> <b>Postgraduate Diploma by Research (PGDip)</b>	Level 7	120	At least 80 credits at Level 7. At least 40 credits at Level 6 or above.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.
<b>Master's Degree</b> Master of Arts (MA) Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Design (MDes) Master of Education (MEd) Master of Laws (LLM) Master of Science (MSc) Master of Fine Art (MFA)	Level 7	180	At least 120 credits at Level 7. 60 credits at Level 6 or above.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.
<b>Master's in Research (MRes)</b>	Level 7	180	At least 120 credits at Level 7 60 credits at Level 6 or above.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.
<b>Master's in Teaching and Learning</b>	Level 7	180	180 credits at Level 7.	Pass / Merit / Distinction.

The credit for the Master's, Master's in Research (MRes) and Master's by Research dissertation 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 4: Academic Dress

### Certificate and Diploma

Gown:	Black traditional gown with ruched sleeves gathered with black cord and button
Hood:	Simple shape in black, part lined in plain red
Hat:	Black mortar board or Oxford soft hat

### Foundation Degree

Gown:	Black traditional gown with ruched sleeves gathered with black cord and button
Hood:	Simple shape in black, red trim
Hat:	Black mortar board or Oxford soft hat

### Bachelor's/First Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma

Gown:	Black traditional gown with ruched sleeves gathered with black cord and button
Hood:	Simple shape in black, fully lined in red brocade
Hat:	Black mortar board or Oxford soft hat

### Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma

Gown:	Black traditional gown with ruched sleeves gathered with black cord and button
Hood:	Simple shape in black, fully lined in red brocade and with red brocade ribbon on top edge
Hat:	Black mortar board or Oxford soft hat

### Integrated Master's

Gown:	Black traditional gown with ruched sleeves gathered with black cord and button
Hood:	Simple shape in plain red, fully lined with red brocade
Hat:	Black mortar board or Oxford soft hat

### Master's Degree

Gown:	Black traditional gown with long hanging sleeves and fronts trimmed with red brocade
Hood:	Simple shape in plain red, fully lined with red brocade
Hat:	Black mortar board or Oxford soft hat

### Honorary Master's

Gown:	Black traditional gown with long hanging sleeves and fronts trimmed with red brocade
Hood:	Simple shape in plain red, fully lined with red brocade
Hat:	Black velvet Tudor bonnet with red cord and tassel

### Doctor of Philosophy, Professional Doctorate, Professional Practice Doctorate

Gown:	Red panama cloth traditional gown with fronts and sleeves trimmed with grey silk
Hood:	Simple shape in plain red, fully lined with grey silk

Hat: Black cloth Tudor bonnet with red cord and tassel

#### **Honorary Doctorate**

Gown: Grey panama cloth traditional gown with fronts and sleeves trimmed with red brocade

Hood: Simple shape in grey panama, fully lined with red brocade

Hat: Black velvet Tudor bonnet with grey cord and tassel

#### **Honorary Fellow of the University**

Gown: Red panama cloth traditional gown with fronts and sleeves trimmed with grey silk

Hood: No hood

Hat: Grey velvet Tudor bonnet with red cord and tassel

#### **Higher Doctorate**

Gown: Red panama cloth traditional gown with fronts and sleeves trimmed with grey silk

Hood: Simple shape in plain red, fully lined with grey

Hat: Grey velvet Tudor bonnet with red cord and tassel

The Academic Dress of the senior officers of the University is:

#### **Vice-Chancellor**

Gown: Black with fronts and sleeves trimmed and decorated in red and silver

Hat: Black mortar board with silver cord and tassel

#### **Chair of the Board of Governors**

Gown: Black with fronts and sleeves trimmed and decorated in red and silver

Hat: Black mortar board with silver cord and tassel

#### **Pro-Chancellor**

Gown: Black with fronts and sleeves trimmed and decorated in silver

Hat: Black velvet Tudor bonnet with silver cord and tassel

#### **Chancellor**

Gown: Black brocade with gold facings and sleeves trimmed in gold

Hat: Black velvet Tudor bonnet with gold cord and tassel

## Version history

Version	Date	Summary of changes	Author
v1.0	1/8/2025	Annual changes to academic regulations for 2025/26	Student Voice and Academic Policy Manager

## Document Details

Document name:	UWE Academic Regulations 2025/26
Version number:	v 1.0
Equality Analysis:	Phase 1 – New Academic Regulatory Framework - Undertaken in 2019/2020 academic year. Phase 2 – Changes to the UG and PGT Degree Classification Algorithm – Undertaken in 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years.
Approved by (committee and date):	Academic Board May 2025
Effective from:	1/8/25
Next review date:	1/8/26
Senior Policy Owner:	Deputy Registrar
Policy Author:	Student Voice and Academic Policy Manager
Overseeing committee:	Academic Board
Compliance measures:	Monitor compliance with regulations and review and update through approval of Academic Board as needed.
Related policies, procedures and codes of practice:	All academic policies and procedures.
Related legislative and/or regulatory requirements	The UWE Bristol Academic Regulations ensure that the university meets the standards and expectations set by the Office for Students.