

SENATE

Title of paper: Key changes to University Regulations 2026/27

Main purpose of the paper: For information

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Purpose of the paper

To update Senate on changes to the published [University Regulations for 26-27](#), as approved by University Education Committee on 1 July 2026.

The changes are presented to Senate for information as they have been approved by UEC in accordance with Senate's Delegation of Powers and Authority delegates power to UEC to approve "changes to University regulations and associated procedures that raise no substantive issues of academic precedent or principle".

Relation to strategy and values

Education for Life Strategy

Recommendations:

Senate is asked to note the approved changes.

Consultation to date (including any previous committee consideration and its outcome):

University Education Committee 1 July 2026

Information Classification:

- ☐ Strictly Confidential – Information that is deemed of higher risk if inappropriately disclosed. This includes information defined as 'Special Category' information in the UK GDPR.
- ☐ Confidential – Sensitive information that could cause harm to the University if disclosed and should be limited to specific groups within the University. Includes personal data and commercially sensitive information.
- ☒ Internal – Information intended for use by internal colleagues or trusted third parties.

Key changes to University Regulations 2026/27

The following are specific changes of principle to note for 2026/27

Minor amendments to update policy title changes:

- Assessment, Feedback and Marking
- Annual Monitoring and Review replaced with Continuous Programme Review

I. General Regulations for Taught and Research Programmes

C. Student Conduct

The following have been updated to remove Personal Tutor to replace with Academic Adviser.

28. As a registered student you will have a **named Academic Adviser**. The purpose of **Academic Advising is to provide you with ongoing, personalised support for your academic progress and personal development**. Students who are not fully registered on a programme of study (e.g. leave of absence) will not have access to the same level support. In such cases you should contact the academic unit office in the first instance.
29. You may request a change of **Academic Advisor**. You should **follow your academic unit's process to request this change, which usually involves contacting the Director of Academic Advising or academic unit office**.

G. Credit, **Validity, Accumulation and Transfer**

- ~~52. As a student under the CATS scheme you may only study modules of 10 credits or more.~~
54. As a CATS student you will not normally be assigned an **Academic Adviser**. You should use the Module Leader as your first point of academic contact, but schools should also nominate a member of staff to deal with personal and academic enquiries from CATS students, to ensure that support is available.

III Progress Regulations for Taught Programmes

H. Provisions for Interruptions/Suspension of Progress

Exclusion for Delayed Progress

35. a) If you are an undergraduate student who is two years overdue in passing any stage, whether you are a full-time or a part-time student; or

- b) If you are a full-time undergraduate student who is three years in arrears with **completing** ~~progress in your degree programme~~; or
- b) If you are a full-time postgraduate taught student following a one year programme and you are more than one year overdue; or
- c) If you are a full-time postgraduate taught student following a programme lasting longer than one year and you are more than two years overdue; or
- d) If you are a part-time postgraduate taught student and are more than two years overdue

you will be automatically excluded from further study unless given express permission by the Personal Extenuating Circumstances Committee.

IV Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes

I. Principles of Discretion

29. The Board of Examiners has the discretion to override the normal regulations to pass you, in the whole (or any part) of the assessment, at any stage. Your case will be considered on its own merits, but students in similar circumstances must be treated in a consistent manner, however, discretion must not be used to your disadvantage. Where the Board of Examiners exercises discretion the reasons for the decision must be recorded in the minutes.

30. Despite your results, whilst taking account of any requirements for professional accreditation, the Board of Examiners may, in its ultimate discretion (and where applicable):

- a) Deem you to have passed specific modules – including core modules;
- b) Deem you to have passed the stage of a programme;
- c) Deem you to have progressed to the next stage of a programme, despite not meeting a specific progress regulation or examination regulation;
- d) Make you an award or a higher award, or decide on a higher degree classification, subject to any restriction specified elsewhere in the regulations (including the Rules for Boards of Examiners).

In circumstances where a programme is PSRB accredited, paragraphs 29 and 30 can be overruled by PSRB requirements provided that there is undisputed written evidence within the accrediting PSRB regulations specifying alternate rules for discretion or an equivalent action, as described by the PSRB. Boards of Examiners will apply the requirements of the accrediting PSRB regulations consistently across all programmes for which the PSRB accreditation applies.

J. Reassessment

Postgraduate Taught Programmes

34. If you fail modules on a taught postgraduate programme you are entitled to one reassessment for each taught module failed at the first attempt provided that:

- a) No more than ~~60~~ 80 credits of the taught element is failed at the first attempt on a 180 credit master's programme or a postgraduate diploma programme;

- b) No more than ~~20~~ 60 credits of a postgraduate certificate is failed at the first attempt.
37. If you are a Master's or Postgraduate Diploma student who fails more than ~~60~~ 80 credits, or a Postgraduate Certificate student who fails more than ~~20~~ 60 credits, at the first attempt of the taught element of the programme, you will not be permitted to continue without explicit consent of the Board of Examiners (see also Regulation V.H.103(d)).
- ~~38. If you are a Postgraduate Diploma student taking further credit to 'top-up' a previously awarded Postgraduate Certificate (entry award), you can only be reassessed in 20 credits of the additional 60 credits taken to gain the higher award.~~

V Specific Progression and Classification Rules for Different Types of Taught Programmes

E. Undergraduate degrees – specific rules on progression and classification

Principles of Compensation

36. At Stages 0, 1 and 2 of degree programmes (and at Stage 3 where the final stage is Stage 4) you will, on assessment and on any reassessment, be deemed to have passed all modules at the stage and to be eligible to progress to the next stage of the degree programme, notwithstanding the fact that you have obtained marks of less than 40 in one or more modules for that stage, provided that each of the following conditions for compensation is met:
- a) The stage average is at least 40;
 - b) No single mark for any module of Levels 4-6 is below 35;
 - c) No single mark for any Level 7 module assessed is below 40;
 - d) The modules for which marks lie between 35 and 39 (Levels 4-6) or 40- 49 (Level 7) do not include core modules and have total credit value of no greater than 40 (out of the 120 credits studied).

The modules in d) above are deemed to be passed by compensation.

~~In circumstances where a programme is PSRB accredited, paragraph 36 can be overruled by PSRB requirements provided that there is undisputed written evidence within the accrediting PSRB regulations specifying alternate rules for compensation or an equivalent action as described by the PSRB. Boards of Examiners will apply the requirements of the accrediting PSRB regulations consistently across all programmes for which the PSRB accreditation applies.~~

F. Specific Progression and Classification Rules for Integrated Master's Programmes

Principles of Compensation

64. At Stages 1, 2 and 3 of degree programmes you will, on assessment and any reassessment, be deemed to have passed all modules at the stage, even though marks of

less than 40 have been obtained in one or more modules of Levels 4-6 and/or marks of less than 50 in one or more Level 7 modules for that stage, provided that each of the following conditions for compensation are met:

- a) The stage average is not less than 40;
- b) No single mark for any module of levels 4-6 is below 35;
- c) No single mark for any level 7 module is below 40;
- d) The modules for which marks lie between 35 and 39 (levels 4-6) or 40-49 (level 7) do not include core modules and have total credit value no greater than 40 (out of the 120 credits studied).

The modules in d) above are deemed to be passed by compensation.

If you pass all modules, including modules passed by compensation, and meet the threshold requirements in V.F.63, you will pass the stage and will be eligible to progress to the next stage of the programme.

In circumstances where a programme is PSRB accredited, paragraph 64 can be overruled by PSRB requirements provided that there is undisputed written evidence within the accrediting PSRB regulations specifying alternate rules for compensation or an equivalent action as described by the PSRB. Boards of Examiners will apply the requirements of the accrediting PSRB regulations consistently across all programmes for which the PSRB accreditation applies.

H. Specific Progression and Classification Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Awards Progression within Taught Postgraduate Programmes

103. In addition to a Board of Examiners meeting at the end of a programme, a meeting of the Board will normally be held at the end of the taught component of a Master's programme to consider progression; the Board may also meet to consider progression at other times if appropriate. Internal members of the Board of Examiners will need to liaise with the external examiner(s) as appropriate.

- a) If you remain eligible for the entry award on your programme, you may continue on the programme;
- b) If you do not remain eligible for the entry award on your programme, taking account of any rights to reassessment, you will not be permitted to continue on the programme;
- c) If you are a Master's student who, at the end of the taught component, is eligible to be reassessed in any failed modules, you will normally also be permitted to proceed to the dissertation without any delay;
- d) If you are a Master's or Postgraduate Diploma student who, when considered at a progression meeting, has failed more than 60 credits at the first attempt and who is not permitted to continue on your original programme, you may nevertheless be permitted to *progress to the dissertation module* or be reassessed solely for the purposes of gaining an exit award; such permission is a matter of discretion for the Board of Examiners. When you are permitted to *undertake the dissertation module* or reassessment, you will not normally be permitted to continue on your original programme, even if successful in the *dissertation module* or reassessments.

In circumstances where a programme is PSRB accredited, paragraph 103 can be overruled by PSRB requirements providing that there is undisputed written evidence within the accrediting PSRB regulations which states that accredited modules can not be compensated.

I The Award and Classification of Master's Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Certificates (entry awards)

107. You are entitled to the award of an appropriate Master's degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate if all the requirements for the award are met and all the modules in the programme are passed (at either first or second attempt).

If you pass all core modules and fail up to 20 credits of non-core modules from the taught stage of the programme (whether after one attempt or two), you will be entitled to the appropriate Master's degree or Postgraduate Diploma, provided that the final programme average is at least 50. If you are on a classified programme (except as provided by Regulation V.H.104) you will be eligible as of right for the award of a pass only; you would be entitled to a Merit or Distinction, as indicated by your final programme average, only if you have passed all modules (at either first or second attempt, or have accumulated no more than 20 credits in condoned fails). The same principle applies to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate if you fail up to 10 credits of non-core modules.

In circumstances where a programme is PSRB accredited, paragraph 107 can be overruled by PSRB requirements providing that there is undisputed written evidence within the accrediting PSRB regulations which states that accredited modules can not be compensated.

Regulations for Research Degree Programmes

- All Postgraduate Dean of Postgraduate Studies references have been updated to Dean of Postgraduate Research in Research Degree Regulations.

VIII Master of Philosophy Progress Regulations

IX Master of Philosophy Assessment Regulations

X Doctor of Philosophy Progress Regulations

XI Doctor of Philosophy Assessment Regulations

- Changes to wording resulting from the introduction of a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy by Distance (effective from the start of the 2026/27 Academic Year).
- Changes to wording resulting from the introduction of a Doctor of Philosophy by Prior Publication (effective from the start of the 2026/27 Academic Year).
- Minor wording and formatting changes throughout the regulation document.

XIII Specific Progress Regulations for Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy by Distance

- New Progress regulations for 'By Distance' research degrees which are a distinct mode of study for a Newcastle University MPhil/PhD where those studying undertake their study away from the University's approved campuses for the entirety of their study (in the UK or internationally) with remote support provided by the University.

XIV Specific Progress Regulations for Doctor of Philosophy by Prior Publication

- New Progress regulations for a Doctor of Philosophy by Prior Publication, which enables a candidate to utilise prior research undertaken and published as a lead author, to produce a summative body of work at the level required for a standard PhD thesis and subsequent award.

XV Regulations for Higher Degrees

- The University has paused the consideration of any new Higher Degree submissions during the 2026/27 Academic Year.