

POLICY ON COMPENSATION SCHEME

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1.3	Policy on Compensation Scheme.	Assessment and Feedback Working Group	Senate	From academic year 2019-20
1.4	Policy on Compensation Scheme.	Quality Assurance Committee	Minor revision	1 st February 2022

Version 1.4

the place of useful learning

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Rationale

In order to maintain academic standards and to ensure consistency of procedures and equitable treatment of students, the University operates a complimentary compensation scheme for Undergraduate, Integrated Masters (IM), and postgraduate taught degree programmes.

1. Compensation

- 1.1 Except where not permitted for reasons of professional accreditation, the University compensation scheme shall apply to all years of full-time, part-time and distance-learning undergraduate programmes and all years of postgraduate taught programmes provided the total number of credits for the modules under consideration amounts to a minimum of 120 for full-time students, and pro-rata for part-time students.
- 1.2 For 4th year and 5th year UG degrees, final honours degree awards may be made using a credit block award, which has a compensation mechanism built into the process. Where this is the case no additional method of compensation will be applied.
- 1.3 In respect of part-time study, compensation shall only be applied at the point on the programme at which a student has completed modules that exceed a multiple of 60 credits. In the following table, the total number of credits that can be compensated should be adjusted accordingly, i.e. normally 10 credits of compensation per 60 credits attempted. Alternatively, if a part time student is on a programme which does not include 10 credit modules (or includes a mixture of 10/20 credit modules), a maximum of 20 credits of compensation can be applied over 120 credits. This could be awarded in their first year (provided they have taken 60 credits and have the CWA required for compensation), which would then exclude them from being given further compensation in the second year. In this circumstance all 60 credits must be awarded with numerical marks (not pass/fail). If awarded in their second year, at least 100 credits over both years must be awarded with numerical marks with a maximum of 20 credits as pass/fail.
- 1.4 Compensation shall only be applied to a student's first attempt at a module unless the student is re-attending the year and taking a full curriculum. A student taking examinations at a second or subsequent attempt shall not be eligible for compensation in that session unless any previous attempt is formally discounted.

Undergraduate compensation	Postgraduate Compensation
To be eligible for compensation at undergraduate level, a student is required to obtain a credit weighted average of module marks at the first attempt of at least 45%.	To be eligible for compensation at postgraduate level, a student is required to obtain a credit weighted average of module marks at the first attempt of at least 55%.
An undergraduate student who has achieved a credit weighted average of at least 45% but has failed one or more modules shall be awarded a 'Pass by Compensation' in modules totaling up to 20 credits where the marks obtained are in the 30%-39% range.	A postgraduate student who has achieved a credit weighted average of at least 55% but has failed one or more modules shall be awarded a 'Pass by Compensation' in modules totaling up to 20 credits where the marks obtained are in the 40-49% range

	(or 30-39% range if the module is a level 4 module).
In the event of a student who is eligible for compensation obtaining marks in the range 30-39% for modules totaling more than 20 credits, then normally the highest fail marks shall be 'Passed by Compensation'. However, the final decision regarding which mark will be compensated shall be at the discretion of the relevant Board of Examiners.	In the event of a student who is eligible for compensation obtaining marks in the range 40-49% (30-39% for a level 4 module) for modules totaling more than 20 credits, then normally the highest fail marks shall be 'Passed by Compensation'. However, the final decision regarding which mark will be compensated shall be at the discretion of the relevant Board of Examiners.

- 1.5 Modules where marks are returned as a P or F are not eligible for compensation, and shall also be discounted from the calculation of the credit weighted average. A maximum of 20 credits of P or F credits may be counted to meet the 120 credit curriculum eligibility criterion. Where more than 20 credits have been returned as P or F, students will not normally be eligible for compensation.
- 1.6 At UG and IM level, individual dissertation and group project modules that are 40 or more credits are not eligible for compensation, although their credits may be counted to meet the 120 credit curriculum eligibility criterion for compensation to be applied to other modules. All other modules are eligible for compensation, providing they are 20 credits or less, and shall also be included in the calculation of the credit weighted average. This does not prohibit any final award arrangements that may involve a block credit award, as defined by specific exam board conventions (see section 2.2).
- 1.7 At PG level, individual dissertation and group project modules that are 40 or more credits are not eligible for compensation and are discounted from the calculation of the credit weighted average for compensation, although they may subsequently contribute to the credit weighted average for award. All other modules are eligible for compensation, providing they are 20 credits or less, and shall also be included in the calculation of the credit weighted average.
- 1.8 If a mark is returned as 'A' for absent or 'NQ' for Not Qualified this will count as zero and will be included in the average mark for calculation of compensation.
- 1.9 Where programme regulations or Departmental/School requirements specify that a Pass in a particular module is required for progress, then a 'Pass by Compensation' shall not be sufficient to fulfil this requirement. Similarly where a programme is professionally accredited, it may be exempt from the compensation scheme to fulfil the requirements of the accrediting body. A student shall be permitted to take a resit assessment for a module in which a 'Pass by Compensation' had already been achieved in order to fulfil a specific programme requirement i.e. in situations where a student selects a principal subject that requires a Pass in particular modules.

- 1.10 In the event of a student taking a re-sit assessment for a module already Passed by Compensation at the first diet for the reasons given in 1.12, then both marks e.g. UG June board = 30% (Pass by Compensation) and UG September resit board = 78% shall be recorded on the student's record, academic transcript and the respective June and September examination schedules. The credits for this module will only contribute once to the student's credit total.
- 1.11 Compensation shall normally be applied at the first meetings of Boards of Examiners where the student has attempted the required number of credits for compensation to be applied (see Sections 2.1 and 2.2) only, that is, when the student's first attempts at the examination of the curriculum are being considered. In cases where a student has not obtained all of the credits for the modules in the programme curriculum they were taking at the first meeting of Boards of Examiners, then re-sits in all failed modules (i.e. those not passed or not passed by compensation) should be attempted at the next available diet of examinations.
- 1.12 A student shall not be permitted to attempt the re-sit in any module for which credits have already been awarded (unless a pass is required for progress or professional accreditation).
- 1.13 In the event of a professional body providing written confirmation that it would not accredit a programme operating the University compensation scheme, then the programme concerned may be exempted from the scheme and an alternative scheme installed compliant with the regulations of that professional body.