

Policy on Compensation Scheme

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Policy on Compensation Scheme

Scope

1. To maintain academic standards and to ensure consistency of procedures and equitable treatment of students, the University operates a complimentary compensation scheme for all taught degree programmes.
2. Except where not permitted for reasons of professional accreditation or specific Programme Regulations, the University compensation scheme shall apply to all years of taught programmes provided the total number of credits under consideration amounts to a minimum of 60. A maximum of 20 credits may be compensated for every 120 credits considered. Where the total credit load under consideration exceeds 120 credits, eligibility for compensation shall be determined with reference to all credits (i.e. all credits will be included in the calculation of the credit weighted average).
3. The compensation scheme will not normally apply in Honours and Integrated Masters final years.

Compensation

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 assessments at a second or subsequent attempt shall not be eligible for compensation unless any previous attempts have been formally discounted.
5. A student shall not be permitted to attempt the re-sit in any module for which credits have already been awarded, except for the circumstances outlined in paragraph 10.
6. Modules with non-numerical marking schemes are not eligible for compensation and shall also be discounted from the calculation of the credit weighted average, although their credits may be counted to meet the 120-credit curriculum eligibility criterion.
7. Modules of 30 credits or more 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 of 20 credits or less are eligible for compensation and shall also be included in the calculation of the credit weighted average.
8. Compensation may not be applied to modules where the mark has been reduced as an outcome of an investigation under the Student Discipline Procedure.

9. For 4th and 5th year UG degrees, final honours and integrated master's degree awards may be made using a credit block award, which has a compensation mechanism built into the process. Where this is the case, this policy does not apply.
10. Where Programme Regulations or Departmental 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. A student shall be permitted to take a resit assessment for a module in which a 'Pass by Compensation' had already been achieved to fulfil a specific programme requirement e.g. in situations where a student selects a principal subject that requires a Pass in particular modules.
11. Compensation shall normally be applied at the first meeting of the Boards of Examiners where the student has attempted at least 60 credits (or multiples thereof) when the student's first attempts at the assessments of the curriculum are being considered. The credit weighted average is based on the 60 credits being considered. If compensation is being considered at the second meeting of the Board of Examiners, the credit weighted average may be based on those 60 credits alone or on those 60 credits plus the 60 credits considered at the previous Board, i.e. the over the full 120 credits, ensuring the decision is in the best interests of the student.

Undergraduate Compensation

12. A 'Pass by Compensation' shall be awarded to a maximum of 20 credits where a student has failed one or more modules at first attempt and (a) obtained a credit weighted average at the first attempt of at least 45%; and (b) obtained a mark in the range 30%-39%. In the event of a student who is eligible for compensation obtaining marks in this range for modules totalling 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 is at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, ensuring the decision is in the best interests of the student.

Postgraduate Compensation

13. A 'Pass by Compensation' shall be awarded to a maximum of 20 credits where a student has failed one or more modules at first attempt and (a) obtained a credit weighted average at the first attempt of at least 55%; and (b) obtained a mark in the range 40%-49%. In the event of a student who is eligible for compensation obtaining marks in this range for modules totalling 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 is at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, ensuring the decision is in the best interests of the student.
14. 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 credit weighted average mark for calculation of compensation.

15. In the event of a student taking a resit assessment for a module already Passed by Compensation at the first diet, 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.