

COVID-19:

Progression and Classification in non-modular programmes (MBChB, BDS, BVSc)

This document sets out the temporary amendments to the general regulations that govern progression and classification in non-modular undergraduate programmes for the 2019/20 academic year. The additions are shown by red underlined text.

31. Student Progression and Completion - in Non-Modular Programmes (MBChB, BDS and BVSc, including Accelerated Graduate Entry)

The following requirements for progression on the MBChB apply to students who started on the programme before 2017/18. Students who started on the programme in 2017/18 are subject to the requirements for progression provided in the specific programme regulations within Annex 2.

31.1 It is the responsibility of the relevant Faculty Board of Examiners to determine whether a student has satisfactorily completed a unit or element and in doing so has satisfied the requirements for progression from year-to-year and for completion of the programme.

31.2 The teaching and learning in an entire year of study of the programmes is intentionally cohesive and complementary. On this basis students are required to demonstrate, and are subsequently judged upon, the ability to manage a workload at a standard appropriate to the time available. A component part of the teaching will not therefore be assessed in isolation (i.e. outside of the year of study in which it is taught). Any COVID19-related exceptions to this are listed in the programme-specific regulations and/or Standing Orders. For this reason, students on the professional programmes will not normally be permitted to undertake the 'supplementary year'.

31.3 Where a standard set pass mark is used for a summative assessment, candidates' marks will be adjusted for consideration by Faculty Board of Examiners and for subsequent publication so that the overall pass mark equates to 50 on a percentage scale.

31.4 Where extenuating circumstances may have affected the performance of a student in a summative assessment, Section 19 'Extenuating Circumstances' will apply. Extenuating circumstances are only classified if a student requires consideration at the Board of Examiners.

Progression of Students

31.5 Students must achieve a minimum standard by attaining the assigned pass mark for all units and any additional assessment (normally 50 on a percentage scale) and meet any additional criteria, if applicable, to progress to the next year of study. Any COVID19-related exceptions to this are listed in the programme-specific regulations and/or Standing Orders.

31.6 Any additional criteria for progression must be explicitly described in the relevant programme standing orders and unit / programme specification, as appropriate, and communicated to the students in advance of the commencement of their study.

31.7 Detailed progression information is held by programme and year in the Standing Orders for the programme. Standing orders are approved annually by the Faculty Education Director and should

normally be approved by June of the preceding academic year. Standing Orders may be presented to students via the Management of Marks document

31.8 A student who does not achieve the criteria associated with the programme or a constituent unit(s), as specified in the programme's standing orders or regulations, will normally be permitted a second attempt to meet these criteria in order to progress to the next year of study.

31.9 Except for those competency-based assessments which may permit additional attempts, a student who fails to achieve the pass mark for any assessment, or to achieve the specified criteria, at the second attempt will be required to withdraw from the programme with an exit award, if appropriate, unless there are validated extenuating circumstances.

If a Faculty Board of Examiners permits a student to repeat the whole year of the programme in response to validated extenuating circumstances, it may also apply supplementary conditions for progression

31.10 A second attempt need not be in the same form as the original assessment, as long as it: tests the same learning outcomes, does not compromise any competence standards, and applies to the entire cohort of students who are undertaking the assessment.

31.11 Within any unit where a constituent assessment(s) is passed as a second attempt, the recorded mark for the unit will be capped at the minimum pass mark. Where a student repeats the entire year as a second attempt, the recorded marks for all the units are capped at the minimum pass mark, even if the student had passed a unit at the first attempt.

33. Awards and Classification - in Non-Modular Programmes

33.1 The final programme mark is calculated by averaging the weighted individual unit marks. The result of the calculation of both the overall average mark achieved for the year and the final programme mark should be recorded to one decimal point.

33.2 If there is evidence that the performance of a student at the time of examination is likely to have been affected by extenuating circumstances, section 19 'extenuating circumstances', applies.

33.3 Requirements which are inherent to the design of the programme, such as the requirement for the student to pass a particular assessment or component in order to graduate, must be described in the relevant programme specification, and be implemented before these rules are applied.

33.4 The marks gained in all units within the approved programme structure that are undertaken by the student will contribute to the final programme mark. Any COVID19-related change to the normal calculation of the final programme mark will be listed in the relevant student handbook or other designated student-facing document. Where students are given exemption from units of the programme due to accredited prior learning, including from other higher education institutions, marks previously gained for any such units will not contribute to the calculation of the final programme mark.

33.5 Unit marks will be weighted for any calculation of the year and the final programme mark, as described in the relevant programme handbook. Units or elements may also be weighted zero for this calculation. Students must be informed of any weighting in advance of commencement of the year of study.

33.6 Assessments which only test competencies on a pass/fail basis will not contribute to the unit mark and therefore will also not contribute to the year mark or the final programme mark.

33.7 The award of a degree in the non-modular professional programmes is determined by the final programme mark, as follows:

Pass 50 and above

Fail 49 and below

33.8 The classification of a degree is determined by the final programme mark in relation to the overall performance in the cohort, as follows[1]:

- The top 10% of the student cohort on the programme will be awarded a degree with distinction;
- The next 15% of the student cohort on the programme will be awarded a degree with merit;
- All other students that have a final programme mark of 50 out of 100 or more will be awarded a professional degree. The rank of the remainder of students may be published, at the discretion of the relevant faculty Board of Examiners.

33.9 Where programmes decide to award distinctions or merits for individual units, the same method provided in 33.8 will apply.

33.10 No further rules will apply for the calculation of the final programme mark and the award of a degree with merit and distinction following application of these rules.

[1] The professional programmes determine student performance primarily on the attainment of a threshold of competence. For this reason these degrees are not classified. However potential employers require the university to recognise excellence and the simplest, most transparent and justifiable approach is by ranking within a cohort of students. All three programmes have sufficient students each year to minimise the risk of students being disadvantaged by any year effect.

*Approved by the Vice-Chancellor
4 June 2020*