

SECTION III

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR TAUGHT GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

GENERAL

The general regulations outlined in Section 1 apply as appropriate in addition to the following regulations specific to taught programmes.

1 Programmes of instruction leading to the higher degrees of B.D., D.Ch.Dent., D.Clin.Psych., D.Couns.Psych., D.Ed., LL.M., M.A.I., M.B.A., , M.Ed., M.Phil., M.Phil.(Ecum.), M.Phil.(Peace Studies), M.Sc., M.Sc.(Mgmt.), M.St., M.S.W., Postgraduate Diplomas (P.Grad.Dip. and H.Dip. (Ed.) Primary Teaching) and Postgraduate Certificates (P.Grad.Cert.) are provided in approved subjects listed in this Calendar Part III. In all cases applications are competitively assessed and candidates who meet the minimum admission requirements set out in this Calendar Part III are not automatically awarded entry.

2 All Masters programmes have the option of an exit Postgraduate Diploma. Such P.Grad.Dip. programmes are, for completeness, listed under the appropriate Faculty entry. In Trinity, an exit award is one which:

- a. Is linked with a parent taught Masters programme.
- b. Has a title reflecting that of its parent Masters programme.
- c. Is a Postgraduate Diploma at Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- d. Has no point of entry separate to its parent Masters programme, i.e., students apply for entry to the appropriate Masters programme.

3 Students may be conferred with a P.Grad.Dip exit award upon leaving the Masters programme following either voluntary withdrawal from the programme, or following failure of the research element of the programme. A P.Grad.Dip is awarded on condition that the student has passed all taught elements of the course, to a minimum value of 60ECTs.

4 Students who have opted to receive a P.Grad.Dip. may apply to submit subsequently for the corresponding Masters degree. Following completion of the Masters requirements the student will inform the Registrar of their intention to rescind the P.Grad.Dip. and have the credit obtained during the P.Grad.Dip. integrated into the Masters degree. The student will be required to submit the original P.Grad.Dip. and/or any duplicates that have been issued. The time limit for applying to complete the credits required for the Masters degree will normally be up to 5 years following completion of the P.Grad.Dip. In exceptional circumstances, a longer time limit may be considered by the Dean of Graduate Studies. This arrangement is not available to those students who exit with the P.Grad.Dip. as a consequence of failing to attain the pass requirements of the Masters.

5 Students who have opted to receive a P.Grad.Cert. may apply to submit subsequently for the corresponding P.Grad.Dip. and/or Masters degree. Following completion of the P.Grad.Dip. or Masters requirements the student will inform the Registrar of their intention to rescind the P.Grad. Cert. and have the credit obtained during the P.Grad.Cert. integrated into the P.Grad.Dip. or Masters degree. The student will be required to submit the original P.Grad.Cert. and/or any duplicates that have been issued. The time limit for completion of all possible credits of the framework pathway (P.Grad.Cert to Masters) will normally be 8 years from the date of initial registration for the pathway.. In exceptional circumstances, a longer time limit may be considered by the Dean of Graduate Studies. This arrangement is not available to those students who exit with a P.Grad.Dip. as a consequence of failing to attain the pass requirements of the Masters degree.

6 All Postgraduate Diplomas may be awarded at two levels (i) Postgraduate Diploma and (ii) Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction.

7 All taught Masters Degrees may be awarded with Distinction. The award of a taught Masters with Distinction shall require the achievement of a distinction for the dissertation but may include additional conditions as specified by the programme committee. A distinction cannot be awarded if a candidate has failed any credit during the period of study. Criteria for the award of a distinction for the dissertation shall be approved by the relevant [Director of Teaching and Learning](#) (Postgraduate).

ATTENDANCE, REGISTRATION, EXTENSIONS

ATTENDANCE

8 Graduate students on taught programmes must normally attend College or one of its affiliated institutions whenever instruction is scheduled for their programme in the College. In certain cases, all or part of a programme may be undertaken outside of the physical confines of the College or one of its affiliated institutions and graduate students are under the same obligation as above to attend for instruction. However, the above requirements for physical attendance are relaxed, as appropriate, for distance learning and e-learning programmes. In the case of these programmes, attendance at the venue to which the material is delivered is equated to attendance at College or one of its affiliated institutions at the time of delivery.

Students must take part fully in the academic work of their class throughout the period of their programme.

The requirements for attendance at lectures and tutorials are published locally and vary between the different taught programmes. The onus lies on graduate students to inform themselves of the dates, times and venues of their lectures and other forms of teaching by consulting these timetables.

Where a graduate student is undertaking a dissertation as part of a taught programme, the regulations in relation to attendance are those outlined in Section 2 (above).

PART-TIME REGISTRATION

9 Part-time registration is available for certain taught programmes. Students may not normally transfer from the part-time to the full-time

register for such programmes once already registered.

EXTENSIONS

10 Graduate students on taught programmes who in any term have been unable, through illness or other unavoidable cause, to attend the prescribed instruction satisfactorily, may be granted credit for the term by the [Dean of Graduate Studies](#) acting on the advice of the Programme Co-ordinator/Director, but must perform such supplementary exercises as the Dean of Graduate Studies may require. The onus rests with each individual graduate student to inform the Programme Co-ordinator/Director of their illness; graduate students must therefore make themselves familiar with the College and programme regulations regarding absence from lectures or examinations through illness. Graduate students on taught programmes who find themselves incapacitated by illness from attending lectures (or other forms of teaching) should immediately see their medical adviser and request a medical certificate for an appropriate period. Such medical certificates should be given to the Programme Co-ordinator/Director, as appropriate. It is the Programme Co-ordinator/Director who normally makes representation to the Dean of Graduate Studies on behalf of their postgraduate student.

11 Students unable to complete their taught programme in the required time must apply in writing to the Dean of Graduate Studies, with the support of their Programme Co-ordinator/ Director for permission to re-register on a continuation year. If the request is approved, the graduate student must pay the relevant annual tuition fees and levies/charges.

ELIGIBILITY TO SUPERVISE RESEARCH COMPONENTS OF TAUGHT MASTERS PROGRAMMES

12 Within a Postgraduate Taught Programme, the configuration of supervision of students during the research element of the programme should follow the options specified in the Framework for Postgraduate Taught Supervision approved by Council in April 2024.

- (i) A principal supervisor must be appointed for all students undertaking research as part of their taught Masters programme. The Principal Supervisor must be a Professor, Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer or Senior Research Fellow, including those with Research and Clinical titles. Members of the academic staff on contract may be a Principal Supervisor, but in such cases a Co-Supervisor must also be appointed from among the permanent academic staff; A Co- Supervisor is not required for members of staff on contracts of indefinite duration or contracts which extend beyond the maximum period of the student's registration (i.e., 2 years for a Masters).
- (ii) A record confirming supervision arrangements for each student should be created and maintained by the Programme Director. If changes occur, this record should be updated to reflect the new supervision arrangements.
- (iii) It is not necessary for other categories of supervisors to hold any specific academic qualification, although normally a supervisor appointed to oversee a postgraduate research project will have at least a Masters level qualification.
- (iv) External supervisors should be fully informed about the roles and responsibilities of supervision and the nature of their engagement with the University. Schools should apply measures to ensure transparency about the terms of engagement in supervision to postdoctoral researchers, the External Support Supervisor, the Subject Matter expert, and/or Supervising academic from other university.
- (v) Exceptionally, and only after consultation with the Dean of Graduate Studies, other categories of individuals may be nominated to one of the supervisory roles.

EXAMINATIONS, ASSESSMENT AND PROGRESSION

ABSENCE FROM EXAMINATIONS

13 Postgraduate students who consider that illness may prevent them from attending an examination (or any part thereof) should consult their medical advisor and request a medical certificate for an appropriate period. If a certificate is granted, it must be presented to the student's Programme Co-ordinator/Director within three days of the beginning of the period of absence from the examination. Such medical certificates must state that the student is unfit to sit examinations. Medical certificates will not be accepted in explanation for poor performance; where an examination has been completed, subsequent withdrawal is not permitted. Further details of procedures subsequent to the submission of medical certificates are available in programme handbooks or from Programme Co-ordinators/Directors.

14 Postgraduate students who consider that other grave cause beyond their control may prevent them from attending an examination (or any part thereof) must consult and inform their Programme Co-ordinator/Director. The Programme Co-ordinator/Director will then make representations to the [Dean of Graduate Studies](#) requesting that permission be granted for absence from the examination.

15 The acceptance of medical disability is entirely at the discretion of the Dean of Graduate Studies, who may ask for a report from the medical officers in charge of the [Student Health Service](#). The report will be strictly confidential to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

SPECIAL EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS

16 Students who may require assistance in examinations must discuss their needs with the Programme Co-ordinator/Director in advance of the examination so that special arrangements – such as dictation to an amanuensis – may be provided if feasible and appropriate. Such arrangements are made locally by the Programme Co-ordinator with the relevant Office(s) in College.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING SUPERVISION

17 Complaints about the adequacy of supervision of dissertations on postgraduate taught programmes should normally first be made to the course director. If the course director is unable to resolve the issue, or where the course director is the Supervisor, the student should contact the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) is unable to resolve the problem, or is the Supervisor, the student may make a formal complaint in writing to the Dean of Graduate Studies or, if the Dean of Graduate Studies is also the Supervisor, to the relevant Faculty Dean. The Dean of Graduate Studies or Faculty Dean, following consideration of this complaint may make such directions as s/he believes to be appropriate. Complaints about the adequacy of supervision will not be considered once a dissertation has been presented for examination.

EXAMINATION OF DISSERTATION

18 Within a Postgraduate Taught Programme, the format of the research output associated with the research element of the programme should be selected by the Course Director from the options specified in the [model framework structure](#) approved by Council in April 2023. In the interest of exposing students to a broad range of research practice, or to offer students choice in the format of research output, more than one format may be employed within a programme. Students should refer to the programme handbook for information on the format of research output(s) required within their programme of study.

19 Graduate students who require an extension on the submission date of their dissertation (on medical or *ad misericordiam* grounds) must contact their Programme Co-ordinator/Director prior to the submission date and must provide documentary evidence to support their case. Such extensions will be at the discretion of the programme committee. Where a programme requires graduate students to undertake an oral examination of the dissertation work, this will take place before the examination board meeting takes place. Dissertations may be graded fail/pass/pass with distinction. Graduate students who have achieved a pass / pass with distinction for their dissertation may, subject to the approval of the programme committee, be granted a one- month extension free of fees for minor revisions / corrections prior to submitting the final hardbound copy of the dissertation. No extensions to this period will be permitted.

20 Where failure of a dissertation is contemplated and an oral examination has not been held as a matter of course, graduate students are entitled to an oral examination. This must take place prior to, or during the examination board meeting. The candidate must be informed of the reason for the oral examination. Candidates who have attended an oral examination as a matter of course may not avail of another. The format of an oral examination is at the discretion of the programme committee.

ASSESSMENT AND PROGRESSION REGULATIONS

21 The following regulations apply in all courses of study leading to the award of a Masters degree or Postgraduate Diploma.

Graduate students must obtain credit for each academic year of their course by satisfactory completion of course requirements as laid down in the relevant course handbook.

To qualify for the relevant postgraduate award, students must, as a minimum,

- (i) achieve an overall pass mark which is normally the credit-weighted average mark for all taught modules taken, and
- (ii) achieve a pass mark in all modules designated as non-compensatable in the course handbook, and
- (iii) In the case of a Masters degree, achieve a pass mark in the research element or dissertation, and

Additional requirements for specific courses are laid down in the relevant course handbook.

Students failing to pass individual taught modules may present for supplemental examination or re-submit required work if and as provided for in the course regulations. Students who, following the supplemental examination or re-assessment, have failed to pass the requisite taught modules as provided for in the course regulations above will be deemed to have failed the course, and may apply to the relevant school for permission to repeat it.

Students on a Masters course who do not achieve a pass mark in the research element or dissertation but achieve a mark within the range of 40-49% (or 30-39%, where the pass mark is 40%) may make one application to the relevant school to repeat this section of their programme. Marks for a new submission will be capped at 50% (or 40 where the pass mark is 40%). Resubmitted research elements must be submitted before the next examination session at a date determined and published by the School. Alternatively, and where this is provided for in the Course regulations, such students may be awarded an associated Postgraduate Diploma.

A thesis Revision Fee will apply for repeated dissertations or research elements. As of May 2023, the fees applicable for EU and Non EU students in each Faculty are as follows:

AHSS: €1,853
HS: €2,174
STEM: €2,174

22 In order to qualify for the award of Masters with Distinction students must have not failed any component during the period of study and must as a minimum, either

- (i) achieve a final overall average mark for the course of at least 70% and a mark of at least 70% in the dissertation or research element, or
- (ii) achieve a mark of at least 70% in the dissertation or research element, and achieve at least 68% in the unrounded overall average mark for the taught modules, where modules amounting to at least half of the credits attaching to the taught modules (normally 30 credits) each have a mark of at least 70%, or
- (iii) in courses in which the modules are assigned grades only, achieve a distinction in the dissertation or research element and distinctions in modules amounting to at least half of the required credit for the taught element of the course.

23 In order to qualify for the award of Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction students must not have failed any component during the period of study and must as a minimum either

- (a) achieve an overall credit-weighted average mark of at least 70% across all modules, or
- (b) achieve at least 68% in the overall credit-weighted average mark and achieve a minimum mark of 70% in individual modules

which together amount to at least half of the required credits for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma associated with the student's registered course or

(c) in courses in which the modules are assigned grades only, achieve the grade of distinction in individual modules which amount to at least half of the required credit for the Postgraduate Diploma.

The following information relates to all examination results:

- i. All postgraduate examination results are published anonymously under a student's registered number.
- ii. Students who successfully complete their programme will have the qualification, where appropriate, awarded under their registered name and within grade.