

Quality Handbook

Student Guide to the Regulations

This document is a brief guide to the University's Academic Regulations. The regulations themselves can be found at <https://my.sunderland.ac.uk/display/AQH/Academic+Regulations>

The regulations apply to all students on taught programmes across the University. Some programmes may have certain approved programme-specific regulations which may differ from the University regulations; details of these should be in your programme handbook.

These regulations come into force in 2015/16 for all students. For the classification regulations (Foundation degrees, Honours degree borderlines, Masters degrees), students who are already enrolled on the existing regulations will have their classification based on whichever was the better result for the student, the new regulation or the old. This provision will apply for 2015/16 only. However Assessment Boards may use their discretion to use this provision in 2016/17 and 2017/18 when dealing with students who have taken up to two years longer over their studies than the normal duration of the programme.

The major features of the Regulations are as follows. Please note that this is a user-friendly guide: the definitive statements expressed in the Regulations are what will govern your academic study.

Your programme handbook should contain details of any programme-specific regulations, and you can discuss any queries that you have over the Regulations with your programme leader or your academic tutor.

SUBMITTING WORK AND ATTENDANCE. You should take very important note of the emphasis placed in these Regulations upon the importance of you submitting work.

Failure to submit work can mean that you are not able to pass a module you might have otherwise passed, that you are not eligible at the end of the year for good performance in modules to compensate poorer performance, and that you are not able to trail one failed module into the next year. The result of this might mean that you have to change to part-time study to catch-up with a module that you have not passed.

You should also note the requirements in the Regulations to attend your classes, labs and other sessions.

PASSING A MODULE. At all levels, you need to achieve 40% overall in order to pass a module. Some programmes may have programme specific regulations which require you to pass all elements of that module, or to achieve a certain minimum in

them, as well as averaging 40% overall. If you fail to submit even just one element, you will not be able to pass the module.

COMPENSATION BETWEEN MODULES (Undergraduate only). Modules in which you perform well can compensate for a module in which you have performed less well. In this case, provided you have achieved at least 35% in the module, and an average of 45% or more in the others, and you have submitted all assessment, you will receive a compensated pass. This compensation operates for 20 credits by right, and Assessment Boards have the option by discretion to compensate up to a further 20 credits, in any combination (e.g. one 30 credit module, two 20 credit modules etc). There is no compensation between modules in postgraduate programmes.

REFERRAL AND RETAKES. If you fail a module, you will be referred (that is, have to retake the assessment) in those elements which you did not pass. When you take your referrals, your mark for those elements retaken is capped at 40%, whatever you achieve. Your overall module mark is calculated as normal by averaging all assessments, those passed first time and those referred, according to whatever weighting they have been given.

If you fail assessments for a second time, you must repeat the module with attendance, that is, take it again from scratch attending all the teaching and sitting all of the assessments, regardless of whether you passed any or not the first time around. No marks are carried forward, and your overall module mark is capped at 40%.

If you have only 10 or 20 failed credits that you must repeat, and you have submitted all assessments in the referrals for that module even if you did not pass them, the Board has the discretion to allow you to proceed to the next Stage of the programme and to retake this module alongside those from the next Stage. This is known as 'trailing' a module.

DEGREE CLASSIFICATION.

Honours degree

Your degree will be classified by a weighted mean average of your best scoring 100 credits at each of Stages 2 and 3. If this is between 100% and 70% you achieve a First, between 69.99% and 60% an Upper Second ('Two One'), between 59.99% and 50% a Lower Second ('Two Two'), and between 49.99% and 40% a Third.

The mean of your Stage 2 best 100 credits will count for 20% of the overall total, and the mean of your Stage 3 best 100 credits will count for 80% of the overall total. This means that your Stage 2 assessments do contribute significantly to your overall end classification. (Students on integrated Masters' degrees such as the MPharm are classified on all of the 120 credits at each of Stages 2, 3 and 4, weighted 10%, 30%, 60% respectively).

If your final mean average is within two percent of a classification boundary (48.00-49.99%, 58.00-59.99%, 68.00-69.99%) it is deemed to fall within a borderline. If your final average is within the borderline but half or more of your Stage 3 credits are at the higher classification above the borderline, you will be moved up to that classification. So if your final average is 68.67% (an upper second), but you have 60

credits in which you have scored 70%, 72% and 70%, you would be moved to a first class award.

Foundation degree

Your degree will be classified by a weighted mean average of your best scoring 100 credits at Stage 2. If this is above 70% you will achieve a Distinction, between 60% and 69.99% a Merit, and between 40.00% and 59.99% you will achieve a pass.

If your final mean average is within two percent of a classification boundary (58.00-59.99%, 68.00-69.99%) it is deemed to fall within a borderline. If your final average is within the borderline but half or more of your Stage 2 credits are at the higher classification above the borderline, you will be moved up to that classification. So if your final average is 68.67% (a merit), but you have 60 credits in which you have scored 70%, 72% and 70%, you would receive a Foundation degree with distinction.

Masters degree

Your degree will be classified by a weighted mean average of all of your credits at Masters level (level 7). If this is above 70% you will achieve a Distinction, between 60% and 69.99% a Merit, and between 40.00% and 59.99% you will achieve a pass.

If your final mean average is within two percent of a classification boundary (58.00-59.99%, 68.00-69.99%) it is deemed to fall within a borderline. If your final average is within the borderline but your dissertation or project mark is at a higher classification above the borderline, you will be moved up to that higher classification. So if your final average is 68.67% (a merit), but you achieved 71% in your dissertation, you would receive a Masters degree with distinction.

PROGRESSION. Each stage of a standard undergraduate programme has 120 credits per Stage. You are required to achieve all of these 120 credits by passing modules before you are permitted to take modules at the next Stage.

Progression must be agreed by the Programme Assessment Board. This includes the provision to allow a student to trail a failed module to the next Stage. Please refer to the Referral and Retake section above.