

Changes to University Legislation for the 2025-26 cohort.

This note includes information regarding changes to academic and student University Legislation (i.e. Regulations, Codes of Practice, Policies and Guidance), which were approved by the relevant University Committee.

It shows changes that were made prior to the publication of the 2025-26 cohort legislation, and, retrospective changes that were made following the publication of the 2025-26 cohort legislation. *[NB: in line with CMA guidance, all 2025-26 cohort legislation documents were published on 9th December 2024].*

If a piece of University Legislation is not listed then please assume it was rolled forward between years (i.e. no changes were made).

Changes made prior to publication:

1. University Regulations

a. Regulation 7 – Assessment, Progression and Award

- Sections 7.4.1 (g) and 7.4.2 (d) have been updated. These updates were made to provide further clarity / correct erroneous text.

b. Regulation 8 – Student Conduct

- Section 8.3.7 has been inserted. Sections 8.1.2, 8.2.1, 8.3.2, 8.3.5, and 8.10.5 have been updated. The insertion and updates were made to: add further clarity to points / reflect current practices (8.2.1, 8.3.2, 8.3.5); make more transparent how this Regulation interacts with the Code of Practice on Student Concerns and Complaints (8.1.2, 8.10.5); and set out what students can expect in relation to reasonable adjustments (8.3.2, 8.3.7).

2. Codes of Practice

a. Code of Practice on Academic Appeals

- Sections 1.6 and 1.9 have been inserted (with subsequent numbering updated). Sections 2.5 and 2.7 have been updated. The insertions and updates have been made to add further clarity to the process, with particular reference to: appropriate forms of evidence (1.6, 2.5); assessing eligibility (2.7); and available support (1.9).

b. Code of Practice on Admission of Students

- Numerous sections have been updated, with all updates being made / approved before the CMA (Competition and Markets Authority) guidance / deadline for publication of the 2025-26 cohort legislation. The updates can be summarised as follows:
 - Index of points has been updated with additional numerical references added to aid ease of use.
 - Addition of new section 8 (“Expectations of Applicants”), which consolidates existing expectations / responsibilities of applicants (moved from other sections), and adds

Expectations of Applicant Behaviour (approval received from Legal for wording and underlying process).

- Addition of personal statement of research proposal generated by artificial intelligence to fraud policy in section 8.4.
- Section 5.3 updated to provide information / links for general Undergraduate requirements and English Language requirements.
- Section 7.12 updated to remove outdated Pathways to Birmingham requirements and hyperlink to current information.
- Section 6.18 updated to reflect changes to Fee Status rules.
- Accreditation of Prior Learning separated from previous section (6) and created as new section 10.
- Various sections renumbered to accommodate above changes.
- URLs (the addresses of webpages) replaced with hyperlinks to improve accessibility.

c. Code of Practice on Leave of Absence Procedure

- Sections 9.2 and 10.1 have been updated. These updates were made to reflect current practice / provide further clarity.

d. Code of Practice on Misconduct and Fitness to Practise Committee

- Sections 6.7 and 6.8 have been deleted (as they are no longer accurate / relevant). Sections 1.9, 1.10, 2.4, 2.9, 3.5, 3.15, 4.6, 6.2, 7.3, and 7.4 have been inserted (with subsequent numbering updated). Sections 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.9, 3.10, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 6.1, 6.3, 6.5, 6.6, 7.2, 7.6, 8.1, 8.2, A.1, A.7.1, A.7.5, A.8.4, A.9.2, B.1, and D.3 have been updated. The majority of these updates were made to provide further clarity to points / confirm existing practices (1.1, 1.9, 1.10, 2.4, 2.9, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.9, 3.10, 3.12, 3.13, 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, 6.6, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6, 8.1, 8.2, A.1, A.7.1, A.7.5, A.9.1, A.9.2, B.1). Other updates were made, following consultation with Committee Members, Chairs, and Legal Services, around the constitution and process followed during committees. These updates were made to make committees smoother and quicker and thereby to speed up outcomes for students (3.6, 3.12, 3.13, 4.6, 4.7, 6.2, 6.6, 7.3, 7.4, A.8.4, B.1, D.3). In addition, updates were made to allow legal representation at committees to reflect external legal advice and Universities UK and OIA (Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education) guidance (3.14, 3.15).

e. Code of Practice on Student Immigration Duties

- Appendix 1.1 (g) has been inserted (with subsequent numbering updated). Sections 1.1, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2.4 (b), 4.3.1, 4.4, 6, 7, Appendix 1.1 (a) and 1.2 have been updated. The insertions and updates were made to provide further clarity, correct grammatical errors, and reflect current / provide up to date Home Office rules and / or requirements.

f. Code of Practice on Supervision and Monitoring Progress of Postgraduate Researchers

- Sections 2.16, 2.27, 4.4 and Appendix A (9.3) have been updated. These updates were made to provide further clarity (2.27), convert a URL to a hyperlink (2.16), and reflect the new name of University Graduate / Doctoral School (4.4 & AA [9.3]).

3. Policy Documents

- a. No substantive changes were made to any 2025-26 Policy documents prior to publication.

4. Stand-Alone Guidance Documents

- a. No substantive changes were made to any 2025-26 Guidance documents prior to publication.

Changes made following publication:

5. University Regulations

- a. No substantive changes have been made to any 2025-26 Regulation documents since their publication.

6. Codes of Practice

- a. No substantive changes have been made to any 2025-26 Code of Practice documents since their publication.

7. Policy Documents

- a. No substantive changes have been made to any 2025-26 Policy documents since their publication.

8. Stand-Alone Guidance Documents

- a. No substantive changes have been made to any 2025-26 Guidance documents since their publication.

In case of queries, please contact:

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