

REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**SECTION 6 - PROGRAMMES OF STUDY****Executive Brief**

Sets out the requirements, such as credit requirements and minimum / maximum duration, for all categories of Programmes of Study offered by the University.

Section 6. Programmes of Study

6.1. Programmes of Study¹

6.1.1 Programme Approval

- 6.1.1 (a) The Senate or delegated authority shall approve the introduction of all programmes of study.
- 6.1.1 (b) The University shall normally recruit and admit Students to a programme of study only once the programme has been approved; however, in circumstances where a programme has not yet received the approval of Senate, and enrolment has already commenced, this may be approved by the Pro-Vice Chancellor (normally PVC Education), with the decision being communicated to Senate by circulation.

6.1.2 Taught Programmes

Introduction

- 6.1.2 (a) A programme consists of a set of modules, which together have a defined set of learning outcomes including intellectual and practical skills, and which a Registered Student must complete to the satisfaction of a Board of Examiners in order to be eligible for the Award. Certain programmes may also include professional training and other elements, which a Registered Student must complete to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners.
- 6.1.2 (b) A Registered Student may be awarded only one University qualification following completion of a programme.

Modules

- 6.1.2 (c) Modules shall only be advertised and have Registered Students registered upon them once they have been approved by the Senate or delegated authority.
- 6.1.2 (d) All modules must be defined by level and credit value. The level of a module is an indicator of the relative complexity, depth of study and the learner autonomy involved in the module, and the demands made by the module. It does not necessarily coincide with the stage or year of the programme in which the module is taken. Level criteria shall be approved by the Senate or under delegated authority.
- 6.1.2 (e) The University defines levels on the following progressive scale:
- Level F Foundation Level.
 - Level C Certificate Level. Equivalent to undergraduate year 1, mapped to level 4 as outlined in the [Office for Students' Sector-recognised standards](#) (OfS

¹ Please note the term "programme" is interchangeable with the word "course" (i.e., both terms mean the same thing at the University of Birmingham). Generally speaking, "programme" is used on internal documentation, with "course" being used on external documentation.

SRS), and the [Quality Assurance Agency's Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(FHEQ\)](#).

- Level I Intermediate Level. Equivalent to undergraduate year 2, mapped to level 5 as outlined in the OfS SRS and FHEQ.
- Level H Honours Level. Equivalent to undergraduate year 3, mapped to level 6 as outlined in the OfS SRS and FHEQ.
- Level M Masters Level. Mapped to level 7 as outlined in the OfS SRS and FHEQ.
- Level D Doctoral Level. Mapped to level 8 as outlined in the OfS SRS and FHEQ.

- 6.1.2 (f) Only one level may be assigned to a module, although there may be occasions when it is possible for some or all of the content to be delivered in common for modules at different levels. In these instances, the modules will be clearly differentiated by separate learning outcomes and either separate assessment or the same assessment but with the application of separate marking criteria, and will also be identified by separate module code numbers.
- 6.1.2 (g²) The credit values of modules shall be expressed in multiples of 10 credits up to a maximum of 60 credits, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate or under delegated authority. As exceptions to this clause: study undertaken as a year abroad / year in industry may be defined in terms of a single module of 120 credits. Module credits should normally be split evenly between semesters.
- 6.1.2 (h) All modules shall have a module specification which shall include: the Principal Academic Unit (PAU); its title, code number, level, and credit value; the programmes on which this module is available; any pre-requisites, co-requisites and / or prohibited combinations; the form of delivery and the term(s) in which it is delivered; an overview of the content; the learning outcomes; and the means of assessment.
- 6.1.2 (i) A pre-requisite module is a module that a student must have taken in a previous academic session in order to be eligible to register on the later, higher-level module. A pre-requisite module does not, by definition, need to be passed, rather, it needs to have been attempted³. Should a Principal Academic Unit (PAU) want to make it a requirement of a particular module that it must be passed (for example, this might be necessary because the knowledge cannot be obtained elsewhere during the year, failure of the module will have detrimental effect on further study, or is required for Professional Accreditation purposes), they can do so by noting this on the programme specification and module specification.
- 6.1.2 (j) Co-requisite modules are modules on which students have to register in the same academic session (i.e., a student cannot be registered on one without the other). A co-requisite module does not, by definition, need to be passed, rather, it needs to have

² This requirement does not apply to Distance Learning or Research Degree programmes.

³ Failing a pre-requisite module would not have implications for progression, unless a student did not meet the progression requirements as defined in Regulation 7.3, nor would a student be required to wait for a resit opportunity before registering on the higher-level module.

been attempted⁴. Should a Principal Academic Unit (PAU) want to make it a requirement of a particular module that it must be passed, they can do so by noting this on the programme specification and module specification.

- 6.1.2 (k) Students may substitute modules undertaken during a semester abroad at an overseas institution for University of Birmingham (UoB) modules. Such modules shall be of a level that is broadly comparable with UoB modules and in content shall contribute to a coherent programme of study.
- 6.1.2 (l) The Head of the PAU, or their nominee, has the discretion to decide whether or not a student shall be permitted to undertake specific modules at a “host” institution (i.e. where they will be spending their period of study abroad). In reaching this decision they will consider the appropriateness of level and content of the replacement modules. The decision of the Head of the PAU, or their nominee, shall be final.

Programme Specifications

- 6.1.2 (m) A programme shall have a programme specification which shall include the information prescribed by the Senate or by a delegated authority.
- 6.1.2 (n) The specific requirements for every Award of the University approved by the Senate or under delegated authority are detailed in the programme specification. Programme specifications must include, as appropriate, the reference number, title, level and credit value of the modules to be completed, clearly indicating which modules are compulsory or optional, together with any information about other additional elements which may be required for the award (i.e. the programme requirements). The programme specification shall specify the duration of the programme. Where a programme is to be delivered in several different modes, the programme duration for each mode shall be specified.
- 6.1.2 (o) The programme specification must indicate specific modules which must be passed and any other requirements for progression between stages and/or for successful completion of the programme.
- 6.1.2 (p) The main content of programmes at the University will be in the form of credit bearing modules. Where additional cross-modular or extra-modular requirements for progress are considered appropriate by a programme team, approval should be sought through the School and College as for modules.
- 6.1.2 (q) Programmes may include modules consisting wholly or in part of work-based learning. Such modules shall be specified in the programme specification.

Availability of Programmes

⁴ Failing a co-requisite module would not have implications for progression, unless a student did not meet the progression requirements as defined in Regulation 7.3.

- 6.1.2 (r) Details of the programmes and modules available to Registered Students, the programme requirements, and methods of assessment shall be published by Academic Services on the University website.

Specific Provisions

- 6.1.2 (s) The following provisions apply to undergraduate programmes of study.
- (i) For each Award of the University, a Registered Student shall attempt the full number of credits as outlined below:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Number of credits to be attempted</u>
University Certificate; University Diploma; Advanced Certificate	60 credits
Certificate of Higher Education; BPhil	120 credits
Diploma of Higher Education; Foundation Degree, LLB for Graduates, BD	240 credits
Bachelor's degree	360 credits
Bachelor's degree with an additional year in industry or year abroad; Undergraduate Master's degree ⁵	480 credits
Undergraduate Master's degree (with additional year in industry or year abroad)	600 credits

The credit numbers listed are exclusive of any foundation year taken as part of the award. Registered Students enrolled on Foundation Year programmes shall attempt 120 credits at level 0/F during the foundation year.

- (ii) Exceptions to the credit values listed shall be agreed by the Senate or under delegated authority and shall be specified in the programme specification.
- (iii) For a degree with one named subject area in its title, Registered Students on Bachelor's degrees are required to attempt a minimum of 260 credits in that subject area, and Registered Students on Undergraduate Master's degrees are required to attempt a minimum of 340 credits in that subject area⁶.

⁵ Undergraduate Master's degrees must include at least 120 credits at level M

⁶ In certain cases, some of these credits may be in a named sub-area of the overall subject area and, in such cases, the minimum credit requirements for named major / minor subjects, outlined in 6.1.2(s)(iv), apply as appropriate.



- (iv) A degree with more than one named subject area in its title may include (a) major subject(s) and/or minor subject(s). On a Bachelor's degree, a Registered Student is required to attempt a minimum of 160 credits in a major subject area, and 100 credits in a minor subject area. On an Undergraduate Master's degree, a Registered Student is required to attempt a minimum of 220 credits in a major subject area and 120 credits in a minor subject area.
- (v) Each Undergraduate programme comprises a number of stages, at the completion of which a formal decision is taken as appropriate on progress to the next stage or on the award of the qualification⁷. Each stage normally consists of modules amounting to 120 credits (taken, in the case of full-time Registered Students, within a single University session) except stage 3 of an Undergraduate Master's degree, which consists of 240 credits (taken, in the case of full-time Registered Students, over two University sessions).
- (vi) Subject to programme requirements approved by the Senate or under delegated authority, modules taken for a Bachelor's degree with honours (360 credits or 480 credits) or an Undergraduate Master's degree (480 credits) shall normally:
- at stage 1 be at level C;
 - at stage 2 be at level I, but may include up to 20 credits at level C;
 - at stage 3 of a 360 credit Bachelor's degree with honours be at level H, but may include up to 20 credits at level C or I;
 - at stage 3 of a 480 credit Bachelor's degree with honours be at level H, but may include up to 20 credits at level C or I;
 - at stage 3 of a 480 credit Undergraduate Master's degree include 120 credits at level H and 120 credits at level M, but may include up to 20 credits at level C or I in place of 20 level H credits, and up to 20 credits at level I or H in place of 20 level M credits.
- (vii) Where an additional year of study abroad / in industry / in a different subject discipline is included in the programme to which a Registered Student has been admitted, the year abroad / in industry / in a different subject discipline shall be regarded, for purposes of credit and progression, as an additional stage between stages 2 and 3. The year abroad / in a different subject discipline must be assessed and passed, but will not normally contribute to the final degree classification, weighted mean mark or grade point average (i.e. it is marked as pass / fail). The year in industry must be assessed and passed, and will normally contribute to the final degree classification, weighted mean mark and grade point average. The additional year abroad / in industry / in a different subject discipline shall comprise 120 credits in order to denote the notional learning hours undertaken. Where exceptions are necessary (for

⁷ Progression requirements are noted in Regulation 7.3.1 (a), and Award requirements are noted in Regulation 7.3.1 (b).

example, for years leading to separate qualifications) they must be specifically approved by the Senate or delegated authority.

- (viii) The programme specification for a programme leading to an Undergraduate degree shall designate one or more modules at Stage 3 to “dissertation / research project components”, which shall (individually or as a collection of related modules, normally with a total minimum credit value of 40 credits) provide (a) research project(s) appropriate to the subject area and level.
- (ix) Programmes leading to a Foundation Degree qualification should normally include work-based or experiential learning modules of at least 20 credits at each of levels F, C and I.
- (x) In exceptional circumstances, modules may, for sound academic reasons, require inputs outside the normal University Session.

6.1.2 (t) The following provisions apply to postgraduate taught and graduate taught programmes.

- (i) For each Award of the University, a Registered Student shall attempt at least the full number of credits as outlined below:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Number of credits to be attempted</u>
Taught Postgraduate Degree	180 credits ⁸
Postgraduate Diploma; Graduate Diploma	120 credits
Graduate Certificate	60 credits
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits
Postgraduate Microcredential	10 credits

- (ii) The programme specification for a programme leading to a taught postgraduate degree shall provide for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate upon completion of appropriate modules, unless the Senate or delegated authority permits an exception.
- (iii) Programmes shall consist wholly or mainly of level M modules but may consist partly of credit at levels C, I or H. The maximum total number of credits from modules at levels C, I or H which may contribute to a taught postgraduate degree, postgraduate diploma or postgraduate certificate shall be as follows:
 - Taught Postgraduate Degree - 30 credits
 - Postgraduate Diploma - 30 credits

⁸ Programmes may have a ‘specialism’ in brackets after the degree title if 100 credits have been attempted (i.e., 40 credits of taught modules and the dissertation) in a specialist area of the overall degree subject area.

- Postgraduate Certificate - 20 credits

- (iv) The programme specification for a programme leading to a Taught Postgraduate Degree shall designate one or more Level M modules to be “dissertation components” which shall (individually or as a collection of related modules with a total credit value of 60) consist of a research project and a substantial piece of written work or such other work as may be accepted by the Senate or delegated authority as equivalent. The “dissertation components” should normally be attempted after a Registered Student has attempted 120 taught credits (the 120 credits should normally include research methods training⁹).

Intercalated Programmes

- 6.1.2 (u) An intercalated programme is a programme onto which registered students are enrolled whilst still also enrolled on their primary programme of study, which may be at the University of Birmingham or at another institution. Registered students enrolled on an intercalated programme suspend their registration on their primary programme of study. Intercalated programmes will only be available to registered students who are enrolled on a relevant programme, as defined by the programme specification of the intercalated programme.

6.1.3 Research Degree Programmes

- 6.1.3 (a) The University defines its research degree programmes as follows:

- (i) (i) One year Master of Arts//Science by Research (MA/MSc by Res)

A programme, normally of one year's duration, in which the key activity is undertaking research, combined with appropriate research training (which may be credit-bearing). Registered Students must produce a thesis containing research work of merit.

- (ii) MMus

A programme, normally of one year's duration, of training in research with an emphasis on the acquisition of research skills. The programme comprises 60 credits of taught modules from a notional 180 credits for the programme and a research project.

- (iii) One year Master of Research (MRes)

A programme, normally of one year's duration of training in research with an emphasis on the acquisition of research skills. The programme comprises between 30 and 60 credits of taught modules from a notional 180 credits for the programme, together with one or more research report(s) or a thesis.

⁹ If research methods training is to be included in the “dissertation components”, the research methods training must be assessed separately / individually.

(iv) Two-year Master of Philosophy (MPhil)/Master of Letters (MLitt)

A programme, normally of two years' duration, in which the key activity is undertaking research, combined with appropriate training which may be credit-bearing. Registered Students must produce a thesis containing original work of merit, worthy of publication. The training is expected to involve no more than the equivalent of 20 to 50 credits spread over the two years from a notional 360 credits for the programme.

(v) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

A programme, normally of three years' duration, in which the key activity is undertaking research, combined with appropriate training. Registered Students must produce a thesis which makes an original contribution to knowledge, worthy of publication in whole or in part in a learned journal. The programme may include the equivalent of up to 120 credits of research training spread over a notional 540 credits for the three years of the programme.

(vi) Doctor of Philosophy with Integrated Study (PhD with Integrated Study)

A programme, normally of four years' duration, which integrates research with taught postgraduate work in a range of skills and subject focused modules, up to a maximum of 180 credits. Registered Students must produce a thesis which makes an original contribution to knowledge, worthy of publication in whole or in part in a learned journal.

(vii) Professional Doctorate (ClinPsyD, EdD, ThD, EdPsychD, SocSciD, Foren.Psy.D, HScD, HScD(Clin), DPT, App.Ed, Child Psy.D, DPharm, DAgriFood and ForenClinPsyD)

A programme, normally of three years' duration, which integrates taught postgraduate work and/or professional practice with research within a programme of 540 credits. Registered Students are assessed by a combination of written examinations and/or project report(s), dissertation or thesis which collectively make an original contribution to knowledge, worthy of publication. The programme comprises no more than 180 credits of taught modules.

(viii) Doctor of Engineering (EngD)

A programme, normally of four years' duration which integrates research with taught postgraduate work up to a maximum of 180 credits. Registered Students must produce a thesis which makes an original contribution to knowledge, worthy of publication in whole or in part in a learned journal.

(ix) Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)

A part-time programme, normally of two years' duration which may include taught postgraduate work up to a maximum of 180 credits. Registered

Students must produce a thesis which makes an original contribution to knowledge, worthy of publication in whole or in part in a learned journal or equivalent.

(x) Doctor of Medicine (MD)

A full-time or part-time programme, normally of two years' duration for the full-time programme or four years' duration for the part-time programme, which may include taught postgraduate work up to a maximum of 180 credits.

Registered Students must produce a thesis which makes an original contribution to knowledge, worthy of publication in whole or in part in a learned journal.

(xi) Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

A part-time programme, normally of four years duration, which integrates taught postgraduate work and/or professional practice with research within a programme of 540 credits. Registered Students are assessed by a combination of written examinations and/or project report(s), dissertation or thesis which collectively make an original contribution to knowledge, worthy of publication. The programme comprises no more than 180 credits of taught modules.

- (b) All Registered Students shall be required during their research programme to undertake training in research methods and/or skills relevant to their needs, which may include discipline-based courses. The nature, timing and extent of training which the Registered Student is to undertake will be determined by agreement with the supervisor(s) within the range specified for each programme above.
- (c) Principal Academic Units may grant exemption from specified research training where a Registered Student is able to demonstrate relevant prior experience or acquisition of expertise.

6.1.4 Research Degree Programmes with Taught Elements

- 6.1.4 (a) The Professional Doctorate (including the EngD), PhD with Integrated Study, MMus and MRes) are programmes consisting of a set of modules and a set of one or more reports. The modules have a defined set of learning outcomes including intellectual and practical skills which a Registered Student must complete to the satisfaction of a Board of Examiners in order to be eligible for the Award.
- 6.1.4 (b) For these programmes the following regulations in relation to modules and programme specifications shall apply: 6.1.2 (b) to 6.1.2 (o), above.
- 6.1.4 (c) Programmes may include modules consisting wholly or in part of work-based learning. Such modules shall be specified in programme specifications.
- 6.1.4 (d) All modules should be at level M or above, unless there are specific elements of the programme which make lower level study relevant. In this instance, the number of

credits below level M should not exceed 20 credits at Level H or in exceptional circumstances at lower levels. Where any lower level credits are incorporated into a programme this should be added to the programme specification and a rationale given for inclusion.

- 6.1.4 (e) The programme specification for programmes leading to a Professional Doctorate (including the EngD), PhD with Integrated Study, MMus and MRes may provide for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or a Master's degree upon completion of appropriate modules, unless Senate or delegated authority permits an exception.

6.2 Duration of Programmes

The University reserves the right to impose a compulsory LOA where students are suspended on conduct grounds, excluded for tuition fee debt or are suspended on grounds stipulated in the Code of Practice on Health, Wellbeing and Fitness to Study.

6.2.1 Undergraduate Programmes of Study

- 6.2.1 (a) The minimum and maximum periods of study permitted for programmes prescribed for Undergraduate awards of the University shall be the normal period of study as stipulated in the programme specification plus two years.
- 6.2.1 (b) Foundation years, when taken, shall extend the minimum period of prescribed study by a period of at least one year.
- 6.2.1 (c) The period of study required in the University of individual Registered Students may be reduced in accordance with any Regulations which the Senate or delegated authority may approve from time to time.
- 6.2.1 (d) The maximum period within which a Registered Student may complete an award is calculated from the date of first registration to the date of the final award.
- 6.2.1 (e) Notwithstanding the above, there may be occasions where these time limits are necessarily reduced as a result of the requirements for registration imposed by professional bodies. It is the responsibility of the individual Registered Student to keep informed of the time limits set by the relevant professional body.
- 6.2.1 (f) Periods of Leave of Absence shall be excluded from the calculation of the maximum period of registration.
- 6.2.1 (g) Registered Students who do not complete their programme of study within the maximum period of study as set out in Regulation 6.2.1(a) will be deemed to have withdrawn. A Registered Student may be eligible for the award of an alternative qualification based on the marks for modules that the Registered Student has already completed. In individual cases, the Senate or delegated authority may approve applications to extend the maximum period of study in accordance with the Code of Practice on Procedures for Extensions to Study Periods.

6.2.2 Postgraduate and Graduate Taught Programmes of Study

- 6.2.2 (a) The minimum and maximum periods of study permitted for prescribed for postgraduate and graduate Award shall be the normal period of study as stipulated in the programme specification plus two years.
- 6.2.2 (b) Registered Students are normally expected to complete an Award within the period specified in the programme specification.
- 6.2.2 (c) The maximum period within which a Registered Student may complete an award is calculated from the date of first registration to the date of the final Award¹⁰.
- 6.2.2 (d) Periods of leave of absence shall be excluded from the calculation of the maximum period of registration.
- 6.2.2 (e) Registered Students who do not complete their programme of study within the maximum period of study as set out in Regulation 6.2.2(a) will be deemed to have withdrawn. A Registered Student may be eligible for the award of an alternative qualification based on the marks for modules that the Registered student has already completed. In individual cases the Senate or delegated authority may approve applications to extend the maximum period of study in accordance with the Code of Practice on Procedures for Extensions to Study Periods.

6.2.3 Intercalated Programmes of Study

- 6.2.3 (a) A Registered Student on an intercalated programme may suspend his or her registration on his or her primary programme of study for the duration of his or her enrolment on the intercalated programme, including an intercalated programme undertaken at other institutions. The period of the intercalated programme shall not be counted towards the maximum duration of the primary programme of study.
- 6.2.3 (b) Notwithstanding the above, there may be occasions where these time limits are necessarily reduced as a result of the requirements for registration imposed by professional bodies. It is the responsibility of the individual Registered Student to keep informed of the time limits set by the relevant professional body.

6.2.4 Research Degree Programmes

- 6.2.4 (a) The minimum and maximum periods of study permitted for programmes prescribed for research degrees of the University shall be:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Minimum period</u>	<u>Maximum period</u>
One-year MRes	1 year (full-time)	2 years (full-time)

¹⁰ In the case of 'top-up' programmes (i.e. a Postgraduate / Graduate programme where a student is returning to the University to gain higher award than they have previously received, for example, a student who has previously achieved a Postgraduate Diploma is returning to achieve a Taught Postgraduate Degree) the maximum period of study will be worked out by adding together the maximum period of study for the first / previous programme (i.e. first registration) and the maximum period of study for the new / second programme (i.e. final award).



One-year MA/MSc by Research	1 year (full-time)	2 years (full-time)
MMus	1 year (full-time)	2 years (full-time)
Two-year MPhil	2 years (full-time)	3 years (full-time)
Professional Doctorate	3 years (full-time)	4 years (full-time)
PhD	3 years (full-time)	4 years (full-time)
PhD with Integrated Study	4 years (full-time)	5 years (full-time)
EngD	4 years (full-time)	5 years (full-time)
DDS	2 years (part-time)	6 years (part-time)
MD	2 years (full-time)	4 years (full-time)
	4 years (part-time)	6 years (part-time)
DBA	4 years (part-time)	6 years (part time)

- 6.2.4 (b) The maximum period within which a Registered Student must submit all research elements required for the degree for examination and by which all taught elements must have been completed is calculated from the date of first registration.
- 6.2.4 (c) In the case of Registered Students studying on a part-time basis these periods should be extended on a pro-rata basis.
- 6.2.4 (d) The period of full-time or part time study required of a Registered Student on a research programme may, in individual cases, be reduced at the time of admissions by up to one third of the designated full time period of study or the equivalent part time. The Senate or delegated authority may, at its discretion in individual cases, reduce the period of full-time or part-time study when requested after the Registered Student has commenced their registration at the University of Birmingham.
- 6.2.4 (e) The following shall apply in cases where an applicant is currently registered for a research degree at another UK institution and wishes to apply to transfer his or her registration:
- (i) Normally a reduction of up to a maximum of two thirds of the minimum period of registration to take account of the registration period already completed is permitted.
 - (ii) Registration for less than one third of the minimum period of registration will not normally be permitted.

(iii) Requests for transfers from applicants who are at the Thesis Awaited Stage will not be permitted.

(iv) Where an applicant wishes to transfer registration to a research degree programme with taught elements regulation 5.1.2 (b) (ii) will apply.

6.2.4 (f) A full-time Registered Student may be granted permission by the Senate or a delegated authority to study on a part-time basis, or on a full-time basis over a number of separate periods. The Registered Student may combine either or both of these forms of study with full-time study during the programme. When aggregated, the total period of study (including a pro-rata equivalent for part-time study) must equate to at least the minimum period of full-time study as stated in 6.2.3 (a), above and must not exceed the maximum period of time prescribed for the full-time programme.

6.2.4 (g) The Senate or a delegated authority may allow a Registered Student who shows good cause to withdraw temporarily from registration for a period not exceeding twelve months. The Senate or a delegated authority may in exceptional circumstances permit an intermission of one or more further periods not exceeding twelve months each. Such periods shall be excluded when calculating the time limit for the submission of the thesis.

6.2.4 (h) In individual cases, the Senate or delegated authority may approve applications to extend the maximum period of study in accordance with the Code of Practice on Procedures for Extensions to Study Periods. If an extension is granted, the Senate or delegated authority will also decide whether the Registered Student should be normally registered or in Thesis Awaited Status. If an extension is not granted the Registered Student must submit the thesis within the prescribed maximum period of study or be judged to have withdrawn.

6.3 Delivery

6.3.1 Quality Assurance and Enhancement

6.3.1 All programmes shall be subject to the University's quality assurance system.

6.3.2 Monitoring of Progress and Support/Supervision Arrangements

Registered Students following taught programmes of study

6.3.2 (a) All Registered Students shall be monitored and informed of their individual academic progress as per the relevant Code of Practice.

6.3.2 (b) All Registered Students, irrespective of the number of credits completed within a University session, shall have their academic performance formally reviewed by a Board of Examiners at least once within every University Session.

6.3.2 (c) Provision for Registered Student development and support within Principal Academic Units/Colleges shall be as described in the relevant Code of Practice.

6.3.3 Registered Students Following Research Degree Programmes

- 6.3.3 (a) Heads of Principal Academic Unit or his or her nominee shall be responsible for the co-ordination of arrangements for supervision of Registered Students on research degree programmes.
- 6.3.3 (b) A lead supervisor shall be appointed for each Registered Student and Registered Students shall have access to additional academic supervisory support.
- 6.3.3 (c) It shall be the responsibility of the Head of Principal Academic Unit or his or her nominee, in consultation with the supervisor, to ensure that arrangements are put in place for the supervision of Registered Students during the supervisor's study leave or other periods of absence from the University, or if the supervisor leaves the institution.
- 6.3.3 (d) A mentor responsible for pastoral support should normally be appointed for each Registered Student. Mentors should normally be appointed from the same or cognate discipline and must be independent of the supervisory team.
- 6.3.3 (e) Registered Students registered under provision for split location postgraduate research study (see the Code of Practice on Split Location of Postgraduate Research Studies) shall be supervised and monitored by a University supervisor.
- 6.3.3 (f) Supervision arrangements, including eligibility criteria for supervisors, shall be as specified in Code of Practice on Supervision and Monitoring Progress of Research Students.
- 6.3.3 (g) Registered Students and supervisors are required to keep in regular and sufficient contact by arrangement, in accordance with the Code of Practice: Supervision and Monitoring Progress of Research Students.
- 6.3.3 (h) Principal Academic Units/Colleges shall have clear and transparent procedures for monitoring and reviewing the progress of research Registered Students in accordance with the Code of Practice on Supervision and Monitoring progress of Research Students. Registered Students shall be informed in writing of these arrangements.
- 6.3.3 (i) Principal Academic Units shall establish a Progress Panel that shall have overall responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the progress of research Registered Students.
- 6.3.3 (j) The academic progress of every Registered Student shall be formally monitored at least once in each University session. A formal report of these progress reviews shall be forwarded to the Progress Panel.
- 6.3.3 (k) Each Principal Academic Unit Progress Panel shall meet at least once in each University session to discuss Registered Students' progress and make recommendations as appropriate. These recommendations shall be transmitted via the Head of Principal Academic Unit or his or her nominee to the Senate or a delegated authority for ratification.



- 6.3.3 (l) If concerns about a Registered Student's lack of progress arise at any time these shall be conveyed to the Chair of the relevant Progress Panel and Head of Principal Academic Unit or his or her nominee immediately, without waiting for a formal meeting of the Progress Panel. The Chair of the Progress Panel and Head of Principal Academic Unit or his or her nominee shall then instigate action as deemed appropriate.

6.3.4 Student Demonstrators and Student Teaching Assistants

- 6.3.4 The delivery of learning and teaching by Student Demonstrators and Student Teaching Assistants shall be governed by the Code of Practice on the Teaching and Academic Support of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Students by Postgraduate Teaching Assistants and Undergraduates.

6.4 Student Complaints

- 6.4.1 The University recognises the need for students to be able to express their dissatisfaction, which can be raised via the concerns and complaints procedure.
- 6.4.2 Students who raise concerns or complaints through the concerns and complaints procedure may do so without fear of recrimination.