

New Taught Postgraduate Modular Scheme: independent study module (ISM): 'marginal fail'

Where a student has failed a Masters' ISM with a mark below 40 there will be no opportunity for reassessment. However, where a student has been awarded a 'marginal fail' mark of between 40 and 49 they will have an opportunity to make amendments which would enable a passing threshold to be reached. The overall mark after resubmission will be capped at 50.

When awarding a 'marginal fail', the guiding principle that markers should use is that the student should be able to undertake the work required to bring this up to pass level:

- without access to the University's physical facilities
- without further supervision
- with no more than two weeks full-time equivalent effort

The sort of revisions that are likely to be considered suitable would include:

- a) editorial corrections, for example
 - i. use of English
 - ii. style
 - iii. spelling
 - iv. grammar
 - v. word limit
 - vi. restructuring
 - vii. referencing
- b) further theoretical analysis/better argumentation
- c) better critical reflection on the work itself (e.g. research methods)
- d) better use of literature

If it is thought that the work required to bring this up to a pass would require more time or support, taking into consideration the above requirements, then an outright fail should be awarded (i.e. a mark below 40).

In awarding a marginal fail there is no expectation that there will be further:

- a) data collection
- b) experiments
- c) extended literature reviews

If a student is required to undertake any of the above in order to pass, then an outright fail should be awarded (i.e. a mark below 40).

For ISMs with component assessments, e.g. a dissertation, practical and viva, reassessment is only possible if the original mark for the dissertation is 40 or above. Only the dissertation component can be reassessed. The (uncapped) mark for the reassessed dissertation replaces the original mark for the dissertation and the ISM mark is re-calculated. If a pass is achieved, the overall module mark is capped at 50 as stated above.

When resubmitting their ISM students will be required to include a cover sheet detailing the changes they have made.

Students will be given up to two months in which to resubmit in recognition of the variation in personal circumstances, even though it is expected that no more than two weeks full time effort will be required. Students will be informed of the resubmission date when they receive their feedback.