

# Marking and Assessment Boycott: Progression and Award Contingencies for Undergraduate Programmes

Academic Year 2022/23

**Updated 16th August 2023:**

Changes:

- Reaching 60 credits where blind double marking is involved (new Part F)
- Removal of rules for PGT programmes (these are located in a different document)
- Awarding marks where a student gains a lower mark on a precautionary resit (new Part G)
- Progression and Award decisions at Reassessment Boards (new Part H)

## **Summary**

This document sets out adjustments to the [Guide to Assessment](#) and the Progression and Award rules within it, that have been approved by the [University's Institutional Exam Board](#), 16th August 2023.

Sections of the Guide to Assessment referenced and impacted upon in each section are set out in greyed textboxes.

## **Key Principles**

- Where a student has to resit or has first sit entitlement, decisions will not be made about the impact of the MAB until these are completed.
- We expect that all assessments not marked during the MAB will be marked in due course unless there are exceptional reasons why this cannot be the case. Similarly, we expect that feedback will be provided to students that will support progression through their programme of study.
- For some programmes, there may be a need to continue to adhere to standard policies to ensure that Programme Learning Outcomes and PSRB requirements of programmes are met.
- Wherever possible we will work within our existing guidance and policy, for example when considering marking practices and provision of feedback.
- Progression and award adjustments will be made on the basis of completed modules (i.e. those that have been fully assessed whether following waiver of assessment components or not) rather than accrual of credits from completed modules and assessment components on modules that have not been completed.
- Students should be assessed on activities they have undertaken.

## **Summary of key adjustments**

The full proposed amendments to existing Award and Progression Rules and other aspects of the Guide to Assessment are set out in more detail below but, in summary, the key adjustments are:

- Waiver of assessment components - up to and including 50% of a module's assessment components can be permanently or provisionally waived so long as relevant PLOs and PSRB requirements have been or can still be met for the programme
- Undergraduate Awards:
  - Students with 80 or more credits will receive a provisional award (which can be updated but not to the disadvantage of the student).
  - Students with 60 or more credits will receive a provisional unclassified award (which, again, will be updated when marks are available)
  - Students with fewer than 60 credits will not receive any award until further marks are obtained but may participate in the graduation celebration.
- Undergraduate Progression (including IM progression):
  - Students with 80 or more credits will progress without risk
  - Students with fewer than 80 credits can progress at risk. They will be informed about the risks and may choose to proceed or take leave of absence.

### **Scope**

The provisions set out below apply to undergraduate and graduate (but not postgraduate) programmes during the academic year 2022 to 2023. Foundation certificate, York Online and apprenticeship programmes are currently outside the scope of these provisions.

### **A: Waiver of assessment components (all programmes)**

Exceptional Circumstances affecting Assessment Policy, EC5.1 ('Outcomes available in response to Exceptional Circumstances')

1. Where a single module mark compromises multiple assessment marks, assessments consisting of up to and including 50% of the module mark may be waived where the marks are, or are likely to be unavailable due to the MAB. The module mark will be composed of, and full credit for the module will be awarded on the basis of the remaining assessed elements.
2. Waiver of assessments may be:
  - a. Permanent (i.e. the waived component will not be reassessed and the remaining marks will form the full and final grade for the module);
  - b. Provisional (i.e. it is intended that the waived component will be marked at some later point; or
  - c. Partial through replacing (permanently or provisionally) graded assessment of the component with pass/fail assessment of it.
3. Waiver of module marks should only be approved if programme learning outcomes and PSRB requirements have already been, or can still be, met for all students through other assessments, and if waiving those assessments is not likely to substantially disadvantage students' learning and development.
4. Any such decision must be approved by the Chair of the Board of Examiners and agreed by the relevant Associate Dean and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Assessment.

## ***B: UG General provisions***

### **Scope of these adjustments**

1. Where a student has a full set of assessments marked, their outcome will be determined in the normal way using the standard rules under the Guide to Assessment.
2. Where any module credits are missing due to the marking and assessment boycott ('MAB'), the following rules will be applied as set out below.

### **Failure and reassessment**

3. Where a student has failed any modules, they will be required to resit all such modules (including those that could potentially be compensated) before any decision is made about award.
4. The following restrictions on limits of reassessment set out in the Guide to Assessment continue to apply for all students:
  - a. 'Reassessment Limitations' (U2.3.1); and
  - b. 'Thresholds for Reassessment' (U2.4)

### **Calculating credits for assessment and award purposes**

5. References to 'credits' for the purposes of award and progression contingency rules below refer to credits for fully completed modules rather than to the credit weighting for individual assessment components. Insofar as a student has completed some but not all assessments in a module (and missing assessments have not been waived under Part A above) those assessment credits will not be used for calculating progression and award. Only when all assessment components have been marked (or waived) and a final decision has been made about whether a student has completed the module, will the credits for that module be used in calculating progression and award.

## ***C: UG Awards<sup>1</sup>***

Part 22 ('Overview of the Modular Scheme' of the Guide to Assessment.  
Part 24 ('University Award Requirements')

The standard award rules will be adjusted as follows:

### **Students without 120 but more than 80 assessed credits**

1. Where a student has secured 80 or more credits from completed modules, an 'Award with provisional classification' can be made unless:
  - a. Any still outstanding module credits are necessary to meet PSRB requirements; or
  - b. The student has failed any modules that cannot be compensated.
2. An Award with Provisional Classification is a classified award based on a final year stage average calculation that might be adjusted once the marking and assessment boycott (MAB) has been resolved and further marks are secured.
  - a. The classification will be based on the standard weighting between stages of study as set out in the Guide to Assessment<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This section also applies to Graduate Senior Status Awards.

<sup>2</sup> U3.2

- b. The stage average for the final year of study (i.e. the year affected by the MAB) will be calculated based on an average of marks from all fully and finally assessed modules available at the time of the Award Board at the end of Term 3.
- c. The final year stage average used for classification will be revised when marks missing due to the MAB are secured. When so revised, the student's final year stage average cannot be decreased.

#### **Students with fewer than 80 credits**

3. If a student has secured at least 60 credits from completed modules, has at least some module marks missing due to the MAB and does not have any failed modules, they will be eligible for a Provisional Non-classified Award.
  - a. A Provisional Non-Classified Award is a guarantee of at least an Ordinary Degree under the Guide to Assessment.<sup>3</sup>
  - b. A Provisional Non-Classified Award can be upgraded to an Award with Provisional Classification (and then to a full degree award) once missing module marks are secured.
4. If a student has secured fewer than 60 credits, an award decision will not be possible. The student's decision will be held pending further marks. The student will be entitled to participate in the graduation celebrations but no award will be conferred at that ceremony.
5. Where any missing module assessments are subsequently marked at a fail, the student will be entitled to resit those failed modules or be compensated for them under the standard progression and award rules for their programme in order to secure a classified or unclassified degree award.

#### **First class with distinction awards**

6. First class with distinctions will only be awarded to undergraduate students based on a full set of module marks.

### ***D: UG Progression<sup>4</sup>***

22.2 ('Stage Requirements')  
 U2 ('Progression in Undergraduate Programmes')  
 G5 ('Progression in Graduate Senior Status Bachelors Programmes')

The standard progression rules will be adjusted as follows:

#### **Students without 120 but at least 80 assessed credits**

1. If a student has secured at least 80 credits from completed modules and holds no fails, they will be entitled to 'Pass for the Purposes of Progression' to the next stage of study as follows:
  - a. The student will be entitled to undertake the next stage of study irrespective of whether or not they fail any modules affected by the MAB .

<sup>3</sup> GTA, Part 24, U3.4, G5.3.4 (It seems that Senior Status programmes have no Ordinary degree although there is reference to a 'lower credit volume award' in 5.3.4 so I think the same principle should apply).

<sup>4</sup> This also applies to Graduate Senior Status awards

- b. A provisional stage average will be calculated based on the completed modules.
- c. The stage average will be recalculated once all module marks have been obtained, and the better of the two stage averages will be used in degree classifications.
- d. If, once marked, the student has failed any modules affected by the MAB, they will (irrespective of the actual module mark) be entitled to either:
  - i. Accept compensation of the module and receive a module mark of at least 30; or
  - ii. Resit the module during the subsequent academic year and, if they pass, receive a module mark of up to 40.
- e. Where the student is missing credits in modules with PSRB requirements or which assess programme learning outcomes that have not been or which cannot be assessed anywhere else during the student's study, the Board of Examiners may instead decide that any such student will instead progress at 'low risk' as set out below.

#### **Students with fewer than 80 credits**

- 2. Where a student has secured fewer than 80 credits from completed modules, they may be entitled to 'Provisionally Progress' as set out below:
  - a. 'Provisional Progression' means that the student will be entitled to proceed to the next stage of study but this progression will be reviewed under these rules or the normal progression and award rules as appropriate when marks from modules affected by the MAB are obtained.
  - b. Whether a student provisionally progresses and how the associated risk is communicated to the student will depend on the average mark they have secured on:
    - i. Where a student's credit-weighted average grade is 60% or higher, they will be entitled to progress at 'low risk';
    - ii. Where a student's credit-weighted average grade is between 40% and 59%, they will be entitled to progress at 'medium risk';
    - iii. Where a student's credit-weighted average grade is between 10% and 39%, they will be entitled to progress at 'high risk'; and
    - iv. Where a student's average grade is under 10%, or where no credits are available, they will not be entitled to provisionally progress.
  - c. In each case of provisional progression, the student will be informed in writing about the outcome, the anticipated level of risk of progression (as set out above) and provided guidance on what the risks of progression are. The student will then have a choice to:
    - i. Progress to the next stage subject to the risks identified; or
    - ii. Take a leave of absence.
  - d. Where missing marks become available once the student has progressed and the student has failed any modules, they will be entitled to reassessment or compensation in accordance with the usual rules under the Guide to Assessment subject to the following:

- i. Provision must be made for the reassessment of the module during the academic year 2023/24 and should take place as soon as reasonably and fairly practicable.
  - ii. Students should always be given at least 3 weeks' notice of any reassessment and should be given the opportunity to retake any assessment at a time when they are not expected to take a significant quantity of learning or other assessment.
  - iii. The taking of a number of additional assessments during a subsequent academic year should be considered an exceptional circumstance entitling a student who has progressed at risk to at least one 'sit as if for the first time' opportunity under these rules for each module that has to be reassessed.
- e. Where a student is provisionally progressed, it may be necessary to waive prerequisite requirements for assessments in the subsequent year where a student either has not yet had that prerequisite module marked or the student has outstanding resit requirements for that module, but has undertaken the teaching.

### ***E: Integrated Masters Progression***

22.2 ('Stage Requirements')

U2.1.2a ('Supplementary progression requirements')

1. Where a student is missing module credits due to the MAB , progression decisions will be made on the same basis as for undergraduate modules as specified in section D subject to the following adjustments:

***Students with 80 or more credits***

- a. Where a student has 80 or more completed module credits at the end of stage 2, they will be entitled to 'Pass for the Purposes of Progression' onto stage 3 of the integrated masters programme at no risk if their average across fully marked stage 2 modules is 55 or higher.
- b. Where a student has 80 or more completed module credits at the end of stage 3, they will be entitled to 'Pass for the Purposes of Progression' onto stage 4 of the integrated masters programme at no risk if their credit weighted average of all stage 2 modules and all fully marked stage 3 modules is 50 or higher.

***Students with fewer than 80 credits***

- c. Where a student has fewer than 80 completed module credits at either stage 2 or stage 3, they will be entitled 'Provisionally Progress' as specified at D(2) above subject to the following:
  - i. Students at the end of stage 2 should additionally be given the option to transfer onto a Bachelor's programme (at the same level of risk) instead of proceeding onto the integrated masters.
  - ii. Students at the end of stage 3 should additionally be given the option (if such an option exists on the relevant programme) to accept a provisional

Bachelor's award (if they are eligible for one under Part C above) instead of progressing onto stage 4 of the integrated masters programme.

- iii. A student who chooses to proceed onto stage 3 or 4 of the Integrated Masters as outlined at (i) and (ii) above does so 'at risk' and may be required if it subsequently transpires when all their modules are assessed that they do not have not met the stage average requirements specified under U2.1.2a of the Guide to Assessment to:
  - Transfer onto the Bachelor's programme (if on stage 3 of their programme) or
  - Withdraw and accept a Bachelor's award (if on stage 4 of their programme)

### ***F: Awarding module credits on a pass fail basis for students under 60 credits due to boycott***

1. This rule applies where all three of these conditions apply:
  - a. An assessment component that is normally blind double marked or second marked has marks missing due to the MAB and the Board of Examiners has concluded that using a single mark and moderation cannot result in the determination of an appropriate grade.
  - b. Not awarding a mark for this module would lead to a student ending up with fewer than 60 credits in the final year of their programme
  - c. The student has no outstanding module credits missing due to failure, deferral or the use of exceptional circumstances processes
2. Where this rule applies, if the assessment component has been marked by a single marker and subject to moderation or review, in accordance with the Guide to Assessment, the student may be awarded a pass for the purposes of credit if the total grade for the module is 40 or higher.
3. Any student who gets an award of module credits under this provision will not be eligible for a stage average calculation (and so a final year student will not be eligible for a graded award) even if this brings the student to 80 or more credits.
4. Where a student passes a module under this provision, the student cannot subsequently fail the module. If subsequent assessment and grading leads to a total module mark of less than 40, the student will instead be awarded a module mark of 40.
5. The application of this rule to any assessment is subject to approval by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Assessment and the relevant faculty's Associate Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students.

### ***G: Situations where a student took precautionary resits for a module that might have been compensated and gains a lower mark on the resit***

1. This rule applies where a student:
  - a. obtained a module mark within the compensable fail range for their programme and year,

- b. took a resit as a precaution because compensation rules could not be applied for that assessment due to missing module marks resulting from the MAB; and
  - c. obtained a resit mark lower than the mark of the first sit of the assessment.
2. Where this rule applies, the first sit mark will be used for determining the stage average and in any award calculations.

## ***H: Modifications for Reassessment Boards***

### ***Waiver of assessment components***

1. Where marks are missing due to the MAB at the time of the reassessment board, the Board of Examiners should reconsider waiver of assessment components for missing marks and may do so for affected students even if such marks were not waived for other students for the original assessment.

### ***Students who have failed modules not affected by MAB***

2. Where a student has failed any module at the time of the summer reassessment board and that failure is **not** wholly or partially due to the MAB (i.e. where all components of the module have been marked), the standard progression or award rules under the Guide to Assessment will apply to the student. This provision applies even if the student also has other modules that have been affected by the MAB. If such a student may be eligible for compensation based on the marks of the failed modules (i.e. the marks being 30 or higher) and the number of failed module credits (i.e. no more than 40), then their stage average for the purposes of compensation will be based solely on marks for modules that have not been affected by the MAB.

### ***Progression of students at the reassessment board***

3. This rule applies where a student (other than in the final year of their programme) has 80 or more (but fewer than 120) credits at the time of the summer reassessment board and where the missing credits are wholly or partially due to the MAB:
  - a. Where assessments have not been marked but a student has sufficient marks to merit compensation for a module (i.e marks of 30 or more in each such module), the standard compensation rules should be applied, but the stage average for such purposes will be based only on modules that have not been affected by the MAB. If marks for the assessment subsequently become available at some point after compensation has been awarded, the student will be entitled to the higher of the two marks obtained (i.e. for the original assessment or the reassessment) for the purposes of calculating the stage average.
  - b. If the only reason for missing credits is a combination of assessment failure and the effects of the MAB in the same module (for example, where a student has failed an assessment worth 50% of the module marks and the other 50% assessment has not yet been marked), the student will be entitled to 'Provisionally Progress' at 'low risk' as specified by Part D.2.b.i of the rules above.



- c. If all of the missing module credits are due to non-marking of the MAB affected assessments , then the student will be entitled to Pass for the Purposes of Progression as set out in Part D.1 of the rules above.
4. This rule applies where a student (other than in the final year of their programme) has fewer than 80 credits at the time of the summer reassessment board and where the missing credits are wholly or partially due to the MAB:
  - a. If the student has failed any modules that have been fully assessed (i.e. which are not affected by the MAB), the standard rules about progression under the Guide to Assessment will apply.
  - b. If the student could not achieve a pass or become eligible for compensation even when any marks missing due to MAB become available, the standard rules about progression under the Guide to Assessment will apply.
  - c. In all other situations (including situations in which the student carries fails on assessments but where full marks for that module are not available due to the MAB), the student will be entitled to 'Provisionally Progress' as specified by Part D.2 of the rules above.

***Award for students at the reassessment board***

5. This rule applies where a student in the final year of their programme has 80 or more (but fewer than 120) credits at the time of the summer reassessment board and where the missing credits are wholly or partially due to the MAB:
  - a. Where assessments have not been marked but a student has sufficient marks to compensate for a module (i.e marks of 10 or more in each such module), the standard compensation rules should be applied but the stage average for such purposes will be based only on modules that have not been affected by the MAB. If marks for the assessment subsequently become available at some point after compensation has been awarded, the student will be entitled to the higher of the two marks obtained (i.e. for the original assessment or the reassessment) for the purposes of calculating stage and award averages.
  - b. If any of the missing module credits are due to failure of the module or of an assessment component in a module and any reassessment opportunities have been exhausted but some credits are also missing due to the MAB, the student will be entitled to a Provisional Non-Classified Award as set out in Part C.3 of the rules above.
  - c. If all of the missing module credits are due to non-marking of the MAB affected assessments , then the student will be entitled to an Award with Provisional Classification as set out in Parts C.1 and C.2 of the rules above.
6. This rule applies where a student in the final year of their programme has fewer than 80 credits at the time of the summer reassessment board and where the missing credits are wholly or partially due to the MAB:
  - a. If the student has failed any modules that have been fully assessed (i.e. which are not affected by the MAB), the standard rules about progression under the Guide to Assessment will apply.

- b. If the student could not achieve a pass or become eligible for compensation even when any marks missing due to MAB become available, the standard rules about award under the Guide to Assessment will apply.
- c. In all other situations (including situations in which the student carries fails on assessments but where full marks for that module are not available due to the MAB):
  - i. If the student has at least 60 credits, they will be entitled to a Provisional Non-Classified Award in accordance with C.3 of the rules above
  - ii. If the student has fewer than 60 credits, an award decision will not be possible.