

Framework, changes to regulations and no detriment for 2022-23

August 2023

1. Framework for the application of Exceptional Academic Regulations (as revisited August 2023)

Principles and purpose

The purpose of this supplementary framework is to support students for whom the College is currently unable to determine an outcome for the 2022-23 academic year due to the impact of the marking and assessment boycott upon the confirmation of marks for their programme of study. It is to be applied where there is insufficient information for the provisions detailed within the Exceptional Academic Regulations to be applied by Boards of Examiners.

To ensure the fair and consistent consideration of student profiles, this document sets out the methodology for the application of additional criteria in determining provisional outcomes.

The methodology is intended to continue to provide assurance of the academic standards across Goldsmiths awards; support students' interests during this exceptional period of industrial action; and put in place safeguards against the risk of student academic failure.

It has been agreed by Chair's Action on behalf of Academic Board that the Exceptional Academic Regulations (EARs) which were implemented in May 2023 should be revisited, in the light of the ongoing impact of the Marking & Assessment Boycott (MAB) and given the urgency of the situation for students and the College, ahead of the new academic year.

As part of the proposal to revisit the EARs, it was agreed that the following criteria could be considered in relation to individual students' award or progression decisions, where no decision has yet been possible due to the MAB:

- a) volume of assessment failure and non-submission without approved ECs at the current level of study
- b) performance in assessment elements in modules with missing marks/credit
- c) academic profile at lower level(s) of study
- d) whether the student is trailing credit from one or more failed modules at a lower level
- e) whether the student is at the final attempt for a non-compensatable module
- f) whether the student is at the final attempt for more than thirty credits
- g) remaining time within maximum registration period

This paper provides the framework and methodology for the application of those criteria.

There have also been recent discussions concerning a "No Detriment" policy. In order to apply the criteria listed above and the framework described below, and communicate next steps clearly to students and colleagues, it is necessary to agree the parameters of such a policy at this point. Those parameters are also presented here for Academic Board approval by Chair's Action.

Framework

The criteria agreed above will be applied in students' best interests in the following sequence, and with the following parameters:

1. **Performance in assessment elements in modules with missing marks/credit:**
Where it can be shown that students have passed elements of a module totalling at least 60% of the assessment weighting for the module, a provisional module outcome can be determined as per 5.32 of the Exceptional Academic Regulations, provided there is no evidence that any assessment element has not been submitted.
2. **Volume of assessment failure and non-submission without approved ECs at the current level of study:** Progression or award decisions to be determined on the basis of students having passed a minimum of 30 credits at the current level of study, with a minimum mean mark of 60% having been awarded for those credits, and with no fail marks present.

3. **Academic profile at lower level of study / Whether the student is trailing credit:** Progression or award decisions to be made where a student has passed 60 credits or more at a previous level of study *and* has passed 60 credits or more at the current level of study.

Where the above criteria do not apply, the remaining criteria listed above ((e) - (g)) can be used to guide the appropriate decision or recommendation for the student.

Additionally:

- Where applicable, such as to address the scenario where a student is prevented from progressing due to trailing credits that would otherwise be compensatable at a later point, compensation may be applied at students' earlier attempts at a module (suspending paragraph 3.7 of the Progression & Award for Students on Taught Programmes Policy for the period of the current application of Exceptional Academic Regulations).
- any student required to interrupt their study in 2023/24 will have that year of study discounted from their period of maximum registration (suspending paragraph 3.5.2 of the Goldsmiths Academic Manual for the period of the current application of Exceptional Academic Regulations)
- any student required to repeat their studies in 2023/24 due to being severely impacted by the MAB with less than 60cr profile will have that year of study discounted from their period of maximum registration (suspending paragraph 3.5.2 of the Goldsmiths Academic Manual for the period of the current application of Exceptional Academic Regulations)

The section below describes how these criteria will be applied to students at different stages of their study.

Cohorts for Consideration

The following confirms what will be considered depending on the student's profile to give a provisional award or progression, where possible.

- Full-time students in first year of study at Goldsmiths
 - There is no evidence that any assessment element has not been submitted.
 - There must be a minimum of 30cr passed with a weighted average mark of at least 60% from the marks that are available at that level (excluding Level 3 due to progression requirements) with no fail marks we can consider a provisional progression.

- Where there are fails or absences on the record the student will be required to repeat.
- Where there is a minimum of 60% of the assessment elements passed for a module, a provisional module outcome can be determined as per 5.32 of the Exceptional Academic Regulations
- Students with 15cr or less will not be able to receive a provisional progression/award – where appropriate the student will be advised to interrupt their studies.
- For students on final attempts for one or more modules will not be able to receive a provisional progression/award.
- Students trailing credits over more than one level
 - There is no evidence that any assessment element has not been submitted.
 - Where there is a minimum of 60% of the assessment elements passed for a module, a provisional module outcome can be determined as per 5.32 of the Exceptional Academic Regulations
 - Where there are fails or absences on the record the student will be required to repeat.
- Continuing students with less than 60cr passed at current level
 - There is no evidence that any assessment element has not been submitted.
 - Where there is a minimum of 60% of the assessment elements passed for a module, a provisional module outcome can be determined as per 5.32 of the Exceptional Academic Regulations
 - Minimum of 30cr passed with minimum mean mark of 60% - no fail marks.
 - Where there are fails or absences on the record the student will be required to repeat.
 - Students with 15cr or less will not be able to receive a provisional progression/award – where appropriate the student will be advised to interrupt their studies.
 - For students on final attempts for one or more modules will not be able to receive a provisional progression/award.

- Finalist students trailing credits from a previous level but with 60cr or more at the current level – preventing them from receiving a provisional award/progression
 - There is no evidence that any assessment element has not been submitted.
 - Determine a decision where previous level of study has 60cr or more passed and 60cr or more passed of the current level.
 - Determine a provisional award where for level 5 there are 90cr or more passed and 60cr or more passed at level 6.
 - Where there is a minimum of 60% of the assessment elements passed for a module, a provisional module outcome can be determined as per 5.32 of the Exceptional Academic Regulations

- Finalists with less than 60cr at the current level passed
 - There must be confirmation that students have submitted for all assessments to be able to consider provisional progression or award
 - Where there is a minimum of 60% of the assessment elements passed for a module, a provisional module outcome can be determined as per 5.32 of the Exceptional Academic Regulations
 - Where there are fails or absences on the record, the student will be required to repeat

As a general reminder, Foundation Year students with progression requirements are provided for under section 8.10 of the Exceptional Academic Regulations, whereby amendments to individual programme requirements may be proposed by Departments for consideration and approval by QSC.

Methodology

This section describes how the framework above will be put into practice.

In cases where no decision in relation to the 2022/23 academic year has yet been possible due to the MAB, Registry colleagues will use the criteria above to reach, where possible, a recommendation. Those recommendations will then be presented by Chair's memo except for the following which will be presented to the panel for further consideration at a meeting.

- Students with less than 30cr achieved at the current level
- Students who have trailing credits of more than one year of study, i.e., level 4 into level 6

- Finalist students with less than 90 credits of the previous year's study to determine provisional award
- Finalist students with less than 60cr at the current level of study, with previous levels passed
- Any other students who we are not able to confirm a provisional progression or award under the framework

The appropriately constituted Panel acting on the delegated authority of the College Board will be constituted as follows:

- **Composition**
 - School Board Chair; External Examiner; Academic Registrar; Deputy Academic Registrar; Regulatory Advisor (Records & Assessments Manager); Pro-Warden Academic (or delegate); an Academic member of QSSC, Secretary (Registry Operations Coordinator)
- **Remit**
 - Cases requiring further consideration which cannot clearly be determined by application of the framework, regarding the aims and principles which guide the development and application of exceptional regulations, namely:
 - (a) maintaining academic standards across college awards
 - (b) minimising disruption to students and
 - (c) ensuring that students are not put at risk of academic failure.

In these instances, the Panel will consider whether the criteria listed as (a) - (g) under "Principles and Purpose" can be used to determine a decision for each student. This may not be possible in all cases.

2. Amendments to Exceptional Academic Regulations

Academic Board is requested to approve the following:

1. To amend the Exceptional Academic Regulations to enable compensation to be applied at a students' earliest attempt at a module by suspending paragraph 3.7 of the Progression & Award for Students on Taught Programmes Policy for the period of the current application of Exceptional Academic Regulations.
2. To amend the Exceptional Academic Regulations to invoke a 'no detriment' clause (as detailed in the separate 'No Detriment' Policy) in relation to both finalist and continuing students.

3. Amendments to Goldsmiths Academic Manual

Academic Board is requested to approve the following:

To approve the suspension of provision 3.5.2 of Goldsmiths Academic Manual for

1. all students interrupting in 2023/24 and those students required to repeat due to being severely impacted by the MAB (fewer than 60 credits in current year), and
2. any student required to repeat their studies in 2023/24 due to being severely impacted by the MAB with less than 60cr profile, such that they will have that year of study discounted from their period of maximum registration

4. 'No detriment' policy

A paper was presented to SMT on 22nd August which proposed the introduction of a No Detriment or Disadvantage policy in relation to the implementation of EARs related to the MAB. The proposal was supported. To enact the revised EARs, we seek Academic Board approval via Chair's Action to adopt a No Detriment policy at this point, as described below:

We undertake that, where provisional decisions in relation to students' progression or awards have been taken under measures related to the Marking & Assessment Boycott, those outcomes will be guaranteed to students within the following parameters:

- Where a decision has been taken for a student to **progress to the next level/stage of study** in the absence of a complete set of marks for the current level, that progression decision will be upheld regardless of any subsequent marks which are received, however:
 - If, when marks are received for work which was previously ungraded, it transpires that students have failed any modules, the corresponding credits will need to be achieved (through retaking or resitting as appropriate, where there are remaining attempts), as per the relevant course regulations, before any eventual award is confirmed
 - (UG) Where a student has no more remaining attempts and where compensation cannot be applied, the student can be considered to continue their studies towards a Pass Degree only
- Where a decision has been taken for a student to be given a **provisional award and classification** in the absence of a complete set of marks/credit for the preceding level, that decision will be upheld regardless of any subsequent marks which are received, however:

- If, when marks are received for work which was previously ungraded, it transpires that students have failed any credits, those credits will need to be achieved (through retaking or resitting as appropriate, where there are remaining attempts), as per the relevant course regulations, before the award can be confirmed, and
- If, when marks are received for work which was previously ungraded, it transpires that the student's award classification is lower than that which was awarded under the provisional calculation (but see below), the higher classification will be *retained*, however the student's final transcript and weighted average will show the confirmed set of marks.
- The only exception to the above is in the unlikely event that a student's eventual calculated award classification is more than one classification point lower than the provisional classification (e.g. where a student is provisionally awarded a 2:1 and their eventual classification is a Third Class Honours): in these instances the College reserves the right to review the classification, and may require the student to undertake further work or assessment in order to retain the provisional classification.