



**Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Department of Social & Policy Sciences**

MSc International Development

**MSc International Development with
Economics**

**MSc International Development with
Conflict and Humanitarian Action**

**MSc International Development,
Social Justice and Sustainability**

**Programme Handbook
2022/23**

This Handbook is available online or in alternative formats.
Please contact sps-pg-admin@bath.ac.uk if required.

16/9/2022

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ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

This is the 2022-23 Handbook for the Department of Social and Policy Sciences for students on the MSc International Development programmes.

The contents of this Handbook are accurate at the time of publication 20th September 2022, but information contained within may sometimes be subject to change after this Handbook has been issued.

The Important Links and Information section of this Handbook includes links to information online about both the topics covered in this Handbook and other key topics. It is important that you familiarise yourself with the online information as well as the contents of this Handbook.

Information about the structure of your programme (which units you take when, which units are compulsory etc), as well as key unit information (including learning outcomes, synopsis and assessment), for the upcoming academic year can be found online in the Unit and Programme Catalogues (see **Unit and Programme Catalogues** in this Handbook and www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues). You will also receive details about unit content and assessment via the University's online learning environment, Moodle.

You will be informed, normally by your Director of Studies or Unit Convenor, of any further changes that will affect your programme or a unit. See also **Unit and programme changes 3** in this Handbook.

While this Handbook signposts information about regulations for students, it does not have regulatory status itself, and the Regulations available online (Regulations for Students: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/regulations> and Assessment Regulations: www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/new-framework-for-assessment) are the most up-to-date and take precedence over the contents of this Handbook. It is your responsibility to take the time to familiarise yourself with the Regulations.

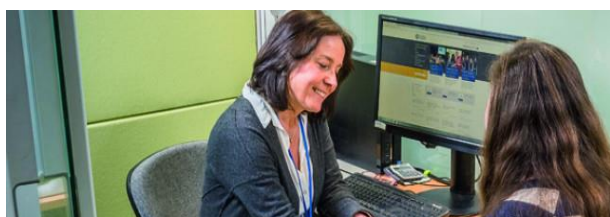
If in doubt about what applies to you, or if your circumstances change, please contact your Director of Studies [Dr Jennifer Golan, jmdg21@bath.ac.uk] for advice.

IMPORTANT LINKS AND INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION ONLINE

This Handbook is an accompaniment to important information available to all students on the University's website. It is expected that you will familiarise yourself with the online information signposted below.

If you cannot find the information you are looking for in this Handbook or on the web please contact sps-pg-admin@bath.ac.uk in the first instance.



CORE UNIVERSITY SERVICES AND INFORMATION

Student Support Services

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/student-support/>

Students' Union Advice and Support Service

www.thesubath.com/advice/

Personal Tutoring

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/personal-tutoring/

Student wellbeing

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/engagement-monitoring-for-student-wellbeing/>

Library and Study Spaces

<https://library.bath.ac.uk/home>
www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/where-you-can-study-on-campus-and-in-the-city

IT advice, guidance, and support

www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/digital-data-and-technology/

Careers Service

www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/careers-service

Health and Safety

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/student-health-and-safety
www.bath.ac.uk/guides/be-safe-on-campus-and-in-bath/

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/

Updating your personal details

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/keep-your-contact-details-up-to-date/
www.bath.ac.uk/guides/change-your-name-gender-and-pronouns-as-a-current-student/

Data Protection

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/data-protection-guidance

Tackling harassment: support and report

www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/support-and-report/

SU Code of Practice and membership

www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/code-of-practice-for-the-students-union-su

Climate Action Framework

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/climate-action/>

Dissatisfaction with a University service or facility (Complaints)

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/student-complaints-policy-and-procedure

ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS OF STUDENTS

International students

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/international-support-service/>
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/student-immigration-service/>
www.bath.ac.uk/topics/visas
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/student-tier-4-visa-handbook/>
www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/studying-at-bath-as-an-erasmus-exchange-or-visiting-student

Care-leavers

www.bath.ac.uk/publications/university-and-leaving-care/

Estranged students

www.bath.ac.uk/publications/university-and-estranged-students/

Disabilities, long-term illness, and specific learning difficulties

<http://go.bath.ac.uk/disability-service>

Refugees

www.bath.ac.uk/publications/university-and-refugees/

Students with caring responsibilities

www.bath.ac.uk/publications/university-and-young-adult-carers/

Pregnancy and maternity

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/getting-advice-if-you-are-pregnant-while-studying-or-have-a-young-child/

SUPPORTING YOUR LEARNING

Your Programme

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/your-programme

Year Dates and Timetables

Changes to programmes and units

How your programme and learning experience are enhanced

Registration

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/registering-with-the-university

Timetabling

www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/timetabling-and-room-bookings/

Programme and unit catalogue

www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/

Student Representation and Engagement

www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/student-engagement-shape-your-university

Regulations for students

<http://go.bath.ac.uk/regulations>

Exams and assessments

www.bath.ac.uk/topics/exams-and-assessments/

Assessment guidance for students

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/assessment-guidance-for-students/>

Skills Support and Development

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/skills-centre/>

<http://go.bath.ac.uk/my-skills>

www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/get-ahead-with-skills-at-bath

Placement handbook (for students on a placement)

<http://go.bath.ac.uk/placements-information-for-students>

Withdrawing from or suspending your studies

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/suspending-your-studies-or-leaving-the-university

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT WELCOME 2022/3

You have chosen to study a subject that really matters and can make a difference in our world. We are all convinced that the social sciences can shed important light on issues that are important in our lives such as gender, race, poverty, climate change, criminal justice, welfare and social care. The pandemic is another global challenge that has led to major upheavals in all aspects of our lives. Our social sciences expertise is needed more than ever!

You are a member of one of the strongest social sciences department in the country. You are here because you deserve to be, and you should be proud of your achievements so far. We are certainly proud of you all and we hope that the year ahead helps you to grow as learners and as people.

In making plans for the new academic year, our priority has always been safety. We will continue to keep this as a priority throughout the year. This means that we need to look out for each other, keep in contact with each other, and care for each other. I would therefore encourage you all to stay in touch with staff in the department – we want to know that you are safe.

2022-23 will open new opportunities and challenges for us all. Let's work together to face those challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that come our way.

Dr Sarah Moore (Head of Department)



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT 2022/23

The Department of Social and Policy Sciences includes staff from the disciplines of social policy, sociology, social work and international development. All academic staff are active in research, both in collaboration with each other and with colleagues from other universities and research centres. This provides an opportunity for work around common interests in the application of social sciences to the understanding of substantive policy issues and the policy process itself, both in the UK and in other countries.

Internal messages are usually sent by **email** and you should make a point of checking your university email account every day. **You must ensure that your email inbox does not become full otherwise emails cannot be sent to you and you therefore run the risk of missing important information.**

Our Taught Programmes Team is responsible for all aspects of administrative support for all taught programmes in the Faculty, ensuring that services are efficient, effective and adapt

to changing circumstances. They provide students with support and advice from registration to graduation and work alongside academic teaching staff in our departments.

Duties include:

- managing administrative processes of the Faculty's taught programmes
- acting as a central point of contact for staff and students seeking advice
- offering programme-related operational support for academic teaching staff in departments

It is important that you get to know the administrators who look after your particular programme, as they can often provide invaluable guidance on various aspects of the programme.

Taught Programmes Team hub office: Economics and Social Policy Sciences

How to contact us in person

The Taught Programmes Team hub office is open between 9am and 4pm from Monday to Friday for in-person enquiries.

We ask that students and staff do not enter the office unless you are invited in. Please use our hatch for student and staff enquiries.

We are currently operating 'hybrid working' in the team which means that we will work some of our time on campus in the office and some of it from home each week.

How to contact us remotely

You can contact us using our shared mailboxes with your enquiries. We are happy to take your calls on Teams if you would like to talk to us, however we may not be able to answer immediately if, for example, we are in a meeting. You can use our shared mailboxes to email us and book in a time when we can call you back.

Do you have an urgent enquiry?

If your enquiry is urgent, we advise sending an email to the relevant shared mailbox which will be monitored between 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday.

KEY CONTACTS/STAFF LIST

Programmes	Teams call/Phone	Mailbox
All postgraduate MSc & MRes Social & Policy Sciences Programmes	Catherine Adams: 01225 38 6817 Sandra Swaby: 01225 38 3643	sps-pg-admin@bath.ac.uk
Director of Studies, MSc International Development programmes	Dr Jennifer Golan.	jmdg21@bath.ac.uk
Practicums/Dissertations Coordinator	Dr Aurelie Charles	A.Charles@bath.ac.uk

IMC/Extensions	Dr Beth Jaynes	sps-imc-ext@bath.ac.uk
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ABOUT YOUR PROGRAMME

Our four MSc programmes in International Development provide a choice of flexibility and breadth, or the chance to pursue a particular interest in greater depth.

Our innovative learning approaches promote in-depth investigation of particular cases and issues. These will draw out connections and contradictions between different actors and analytical perspectives, across global, regional, national and local scales.

All students have the opportunity of a placement, leading to a work-based project, will provide hands-on experience to complement classroom-based learning.

You will leave the course with:

- a critical understanding of the concepts and approaches used in international development and humanitarian action, and their strengths and limitations
- practical skills in research, analysis and communication and an understanding of how these can be applied in work for social, economic and environmental justice in both global North and global South
- the ability to analyse the complex interaction of social, economic, political and environmental factors in shaping problems and proposed solutions
- rich experience of working with people from a wide range of disciplinary, professional and national backgrounds.

PROGRAMME AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/humanities-social-sciences-postgraduate-programme-specifications-2022-23/>

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION: STRUCTURE OF YOUR PROGRAMME

The structure of your programme year for 2022/23 can be found in the 2022/23 Unit and Programme Catalogues (see below). The content of the Programme Catalogues is correct for teaching being delivered in 2022/23 at the time of publication. Programmes and units may be subject to reasonable change (see **Unit and programme changes** in this Handbook).

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Information on later years of your programme will be provided separately

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/humanities-social-sciences-postgraduate-programme-specifications-2022-23/attachments/msc-international-development-2022-23.pdf>

UNIT AND PROGRAMME CATALOGUES

This is where you will find details about all years of your programme as well as details about individual units for the current academic year.

The Catalogues also provide links to the relevant areas of the University's assessment regulations, showing how these are applied to this programme of study.

For the online Catalogues, please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

(<https://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/2022-2023/sp/sp-proglist-pg.html>)

See also the section in this Handbook on **Assessment**.

YOUR TIMETABLE

Using MyTimetable, you can access your personal timetable and download it into an electronic calendar.

Your teaching on campus and any Live Online Interactive Learning (LOIL) sessions you may have will show in your timetable. Links to LOIL sessions can also be accessed through the relevant unit page on the University's online learning environment, Moodle.

When you start your units, you will be able to access associated online material at a time that suits your schedule.

MyTimetable updates regularly, so should there be a change to your timetable, it will be reflected in MyTimetable.

Full information is available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

PHYSICAL STUDY SPACE – 2022/23

As in previous years, you will have access to drop-in and bookable study space on campus and in the city for individual or group study. Information on how to book and any usage guidelines or requirements are available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

OPTION CHOICES

If your programme has option choice then information about how and when to choose your option units can be found online (please refer to **Important Links and Information**). If applicable, you will receive an email notification at the relevant point in the year when online unit selection is available. If you need to discuss your option choices, please contact your Director of Studies.

RESEARCH ETHICS

All MSc International Development students will receive training in research ethics and will be briefed on the department's research ethics policy as they prepare for their dissertation/practicum.

PLACEMENTS

The University is committed to enhancing students' vocational outcomes and learning experiences by supporting placements. We have a dedicated placements team to support and guide you through the process of applying for, securing and successfully completing a placement.

The contact details for your Placements Manager and Placement Tutor for the Practicum can be found at:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/faculty-of-humanities-social-sciences-placements-team/>

If you have any queries or concerns, then please contact the placements team.

Students have the option of completing a dissertation or practicum (work-based project). The practicum involves an 8-week work placement. The process for identifying placement opportunities will be explained to students early in Semester 1. Students who opt to write a dissertation can still organise a placement. This may or may not be linked to a previously agreed dissertation topic. All placement students must have a named placement manager within the host organisation and be approved by the Director of Studies. Where placements require work that is incidental to the programme then the Director of Studies may grant an extension to the deadline for their dissertation and arrange a transfer to part-time registration.

UNIT AND PROGRAMME CHANGES 2022/23

All programme and unit changes are managed through formal University processes. This is to ensure that changes are academically appropriate, properly supported and are made in a way that safeguards the interests of students.

We continually look for ways to develop and improve our programmes, aimed at enhancing your learning experience and maintaining high academic standards and quality. Such changes could be, for example, to update content to reflect latest developments in a particular field of study, or to respond to student feedback on delivery and/or assessment. Students who would be affected by proposed changes are consulted about them, either via their Staff/Student Liaison Committee or directly, depending on the nature of the change.

In addition, it is sometimes necessary to make changes due to unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances. The need to adapt to circumstances created by the global pandemic was a significant example of this.

This could also be for reasons such as:

- the accrediting body requiring changes to be made to the course, or,
- being unable to run an option unit because too few students selected it.

When this happens, we always try to ensure that the impact on students is minimised and that those affected are informed of the changes at the earliest opportunity.

Information on how we assure the quality and standards of your programme of study is available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

GIVING FEEDBACK ON YOUR PROGRAMME TO THE UNIVERSITY

The University is committed to continually improving its practice and aims to engage students as active partners in their education (The University of Bath Strategy 2021 to 2026). The three main ways in which your feedback will be sought will be through:

- Staff / Student Liaison Committees (SSLCs)
- surveys and evaluations
- the Students' Union.

Full information is available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

ASSESSMENT

Full information is available online. For signposts to important information on many aspects of assessment, please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

You will be informed of the deadline to submit your assessment by your unit convenor, and this information will also be on the Moodle page for the unit. It is your responsibility to submit your coursework in the correct format by the deadline. You will also find your marks and feedback on the Moodle page.

See Annex 2 for Dissertation/Practicum guidelines and submission procedures.

LATE SUBMISSION OF COURSEWORK

To ensure fairness to all students, you will be expected to hand in all assessed coursework and dissertations/projects by a specified date and time, and there are penalties for submitting work after the specified deadline. If there are valid circumstances preventing you from meeting a deadline, your Director of Studies may grant you an extension to the specified submission date. Forms to request an extension are available from the Department.

Please note that:

- if you submit a piece of work after the submission date, and no extension has been granted, the maximum mark possible will be the pass mark
- if you submit work more than five working days after the submission date, you will normally receive a mark of 0 (zero), unless you have been granted an extension.

It is not usually possible to mark coursework anonymously if it is submitted after the deadline.

It is important that you speak to your Director of Studies as soon as possible if you become concerned about your submission deadlines.

WORD COUNTS

Coursework tasks will normally have a word limit or word range. This, and the penalty for non-compliance, will be confirmed when you receive an assignment.

You should check with your Director of Studies if you have questions about word counts and penalties.

SPS Departmental word count policy:

It is your responsibility to find out the maximum permitted length for each piece of work. The following penalties will be incurred if the word limit is exceeded:

- The marker(s) will stop reading the work once the student has exceeded a word limit (or the upper figure of a word range) by 10%.
- For the purpose of calculating the word count, footnotes are included, whereas abstract, contents pages, executive summaries, tables, figures, appendices and reference lists/bibliographies are excluded

FEEDBACK ON ASSESSMENT

During your course, you will receive feedback on your assessed work. This feedback may take different forms, depending on the subject and type of assessment. You will be informed of the timing and nature of the feedback you will receive on each assessment, including whether the piece of work itself will be returned to you. For exam-type assessment, you may receive general feedback relevant to all who took the assessment rather than individual feedback. You can discuss feedback you receive on assessments alongside your performance and progress in your studies at meetings with your Personal Tutor.

The SPS Department Feedback Policy is available on the Programme Moodle page under 'Unit Assessment Information' <https://moodle.bath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=58149>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University has a wide range of resources available to you to help you understand the importance of academic integrity and how you can enhance your academic writing and practice.

All students will be unable to progress beyond the next progression point in their studies until they pass the University's Academic Integrity Test. The test has a pass mark of 85% but you can take the test as many times as you need to.

When you submit your assessment, you will be expected to make a declaration that the work is your own and, where you have re-used your own work and/or used other sources of information, that you have referenced the material appropriately. The University uses a plagiarism detection service (currently Ouriginal), which searches the web and databases of reference material and content submitted by other students, to identify duplicated text. Where practical, all summative assessment is submitted to this service to check for similarities as an initial indicator of whether work has been plagiarised and an assessment offence committed.

Submission of your assessment to the Plagiarism Detection Service - Data Protection statement

The Plagiarism Detection Service complies with European Data Protection legislation. When you registered with the University, you gave it permission to process your personal data for a variety of legitimate purposes. This includes allowing the University to disclose such data to third parties for purposes relating to your studies. The University, at its sole discretion, may submit the work of any student to the Plagiarism Detection Service (in accordance with Regulation 15.3e) and may make, or authorise third parties to make, copies of any such work for the purposes of:

- 1) assessment of the work
- 2) comparison with databases of earlier work or previously available works to confirm the work is original
- 3) addition to databases of works used to ensure that future works submitted at this institution and others do not contain content from the work submitted.

The University will not make any more copies of your work than are necessary, and will only retain these for so long as remains necessary, for these purposes.

Please note that, if at any time the University submits any of your work to the Plagiarism Detection Service, the service will be provided with, and will retain, certain personal data relating to you – for example, your name, email address, programme details and the work submitted. Such data may be transferred by the Plagiarism Detection Service to countries worldwide (some of which may not be governed by EU data legislation) in order for the work to be checked and an originality report generated in accordance with the proper workings of the Plagiarism Detection Service. Personal data is retained indefinitely by the Plagiarism Detection Service upon submission of work. You may ask for your personal data to be removed by contacting the University's Data Protection Officer.

PENALTIES FOR ASSESSMENT OFFENCES

Academic misconduct can be described as 'the use of unfair means in any examination or assessment procedure'. Any student who is found to have used unfair means and therefore committed an assessment offence will be penalised. Potential types of assessment offence include plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion or unauthorised collaboration, contract cheating (including impersonation), fabrication or falsification, or breaching of examination regulations. Penalties for assessment offences depend upon the severity of the offence but may include failure of the assessment, unit or part of a degree, with no provision for reassessment or retrieval of that failure. Severe cases of academic misconduct, for example, contract cheating could lead to an Inquiry Hearing or disciplinary proceedings. Claims of inadvertence or ignorance will not be accepted as a basis for mitigation of a penalty.

If you are accused of an assessment offence, the Students' Union's welfare services are available to support you. You have the right to appeal against the outcome of the investigation.

Important information on academic integrity, the Plagiarism Detection Service, assessment offences and penalties, and support, as well as the Academic Integrity Test itself, is available online.

If you have any access problems, then please contact the PGT Team: sps-pg-admin@bath.ac.uk in the first instance.

IF CIRCUMSTANCES IMPACT ON YOUR ASSESSMENT ATTEMPT

Individual Mitigating Circumstances (IMCs) are the conditions which temporarily prevent you from undertaking assessment or significantly impair your performance in assessment. As such, the measure of their severity is not about impact on you, but the impact on your affected assessment. Full information about IMCs is available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook. **It is strongly advised that you become familiar with the available guidance and related regulations.**

ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

Assessment and marking processes at the University are designed to ensure that assessment of your work is fair and consistent, and that academic standards are appropriate and comparable between the University and other higher education institutions. This is achieved in a number of ways.

Marking: Assessments you will complete during your programme are marked according to:

- *marking criteria (or assessment criteria)* - these are the knowledge, understanding and skills that students should demonstrate in the assessment. They are based on the learning outcomes being assessed
- *marking schemes* - these are detailed descriptions of how specific numbers of marks should be assigned against individual components of an answer within the assessment task
- *grade descriptors* - these are descriptions of the levels of achievement required in order to get a result within a given band of marks (e.g. 70% or more).

Anonymous marking: The University has adopted a principle of anonymous marking in order to protect students and staff from bias, and the perception of bias, in the marking process. It applies to all assessment where practicable. It is not possible to mark all coursework anonymously as in some types of assessment the student can be easily identified by the marker (e.g. presentations, group work, laboratory work) or it might not be practical, or in the student interest, to do so. You will be informed when your coursework is to be marked anonymously.

Moderation: Both the setting and the marking of assessments are independently checked through a process known as moderation to ensure that questions test the learning outcomes and are set at the right standard, and that marking is consistent and fair.

Boards of Examiners: Assessment decision-making at the University is the responsibility of Boards of Examiners established at three levels: assessment outcomes go first to *Boards of Examiners for Units*, then *Boards of Examiners for Programmes*, then finally to *Boards of Studies*. Boards of Studies confirm decisions relating to student progression, re-assessment, and the final award. **The assessment marks you are given initially by markers are therefore provisional up until the point when they have been confirmed by the Board of Studies (BoS) for your programme.** An official release date is set when your confirmed results will be made available to you via SAMIS (the University's student records system). An academic

appeal can only be made in relation to a confirmed result (see the section in this Handbook on **Academic Appeals**).

Scaling: All marks for a unit are reviewed at a meeting of a Board of Examiners for Units which will verify that the assessment process has been conducted appropriately and that the marks are an accurate reflection of the standards achieved. A Board of Examiners can decide to recommend a change to the provisional marks, based on evidence that there was a problem with the assessment which means the initial marks do not reflect the standards achieved by students. This adjustment is known as scaling and under these circumstances the marks of all affected students will be changed.

External Examiner: An External Examiner is someone from another University or professional organisation who is qualified and experienced in the field of study. At least one External Examiner is appointed for each programme or group of programmes. The role of External Examiner is an important one in assuring that assessment processes are fair, academic standards are appropriate, and supporting the development of your programme. External Examiners review draft assessment and samples of assessed work, and attend Boards of Examiners. They are members of Boards of Examiners.

Once a year, the External Examiners will provide a written report. University staff, including the Head of Department and Director of Studies, will look at these reports and a response will be made to the External Examiner's comments. External Examiner reports and responses are made available to students. Staff/Student Liaison Committees (SSLCs) also discuss External Examiner reports as part of routine monitoring activity.

The External Examiner for your programme is **Dr. Vasudha Chhotray Associate Professor, School of International Development, University of East Anglia**.

It is not appropriate for students to make direct contact with External Examiners. If you are dissatisfied with the process or outcome of an assessment and are considering whether to raise this either informally or formally, the sections of this Handbook on **Academic Appeals** and **Dissatisfaction with a University Service or Facility (Complaints)** give some more information about the University's procedures for student complaints and academic appeals. The University's mechanisms for student representation are designed to enable students to engage with the quality management process through which the University considers and responds to External Examiners' comments and suggestions.

Full information is available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The University's New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations: Phases 2 & 3 for postgraduate taught programmes ('NFAAR-PGT') specifies the rules governing students' progression from one stage of their programme to the next as well as for the award of degrees. The rules cover all areas of assessment, including supplementary assessment and the extent to which failure may be condoned.

If at any time you are in doubt about how NFAAR-PGT provisions apply to your work, please consult your Director of Studies.

This section highlights areas of the University's assessment framework for the type of programme you are undertaking. It explains the regulations that govern your assessment and outlines how the University makes decisions concerning your progression through your programme and award. Complete information is available in the NFAAR-PGT document.

The full NFAAR-PGT, and definitions of terms used in it, are available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

YOUR PROGRAMME AND HOW YOU ARE ASSESSED

Within a programme of study, there are *compulsory units* (i.e. those units in a programme which must be taken by every student registered on the programme), and there may also be *optional units* (i.e. those units students may choose from a range of options).

In the Programme and Unit Catalogues, there are links to the relevant appendices of the NFAAR-PGT which state exactly how the assessment rules operate for each stage of your programme.

The following points will help you to understand how the assessment rules relate to your specific programme, such as pass marks, averaging of marks and dealing with any failures:

Firstly, there are several references below to the persistent generic rules on the extent of any failures of units permitted overall. The rules are that you can only (1) fail and retrieve units, or (2) marginally fail units and have them condoned, **within set limits**. Breaking these rules results in failure of the programme.

- Your programme has Designated Essential Units (DEUs) which you must pass to gain the award you seek; even marginal failure in these units cannot be condoned.
- Your programme is divided into stages, but does NOT have Stage Required Units (SRUs) that must be passed before being permitted to progress to the next stage. This means that, if you are required to undertake supplementary assessment, it will only have to be completed before the end of the programme. You must also never break one of the persistent generic rules.
- Should you fail to qualify for the award of the degree of Master, you may be considered for the award of a related Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate (subject to your having met the requirements for one of those awards).

The normal pass mark for a unit is 40%. In some units, you might need to achieve a threshold mark in one or more component assessments in order to pass the unit overall. Particular rules apply to failure of units of the 'Taught type', or in the 'taught' stages. They are as follows:

- If you fail any DEUs, you will have to undertake supplementary assessment – unless you have failed so many DEUs that you fail outright or the attempted retrieval would break the rule on how much failure can be retrieved.
- If you fail any non-DEU units badly (i.e. achieve less than 35%), you will have to undertake supplementary assessment – unless you have failed so many units that you fail outright or the attempted retrieval would break the rule on how much failure can be retrieved.
- If you fail only non-DEU units marginally (i.e. achieve 35%-39%), you might be able to progress without supplementary assessment. Whether you do progress will depend on the total credit value of the failed units.

Dissertation/Project units have their own special rule on failure: only cases of marginal failure (i.e. 35%-39%) will be given permission for attempted retrieval through supplementary assessment, and any resubmission that is permitted for marginal failure must be made within a specified period. Ultimately, you must pass a Dissertation/Project unit (or have an average of at least 40% for them if there are more than one) for satisfactory completion of the requirements for Dissertation/Project elements.

Your unit results are combined as follows to make overall assessment/award decisions:

- The Taught Stage(s) Average (TSA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units required to contribute to the taught stage(s), or by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units defined as of 'Taught type' required to contribute to the programme.
- The Dissertation/Project Average (DPA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for the unit(s) required to contribute to the Dissertation/Project stage(s), or by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for the unit(s) defined as of 'Dissertation/Project type' required to contribute to the programme.
- The Overall Programme Average (OPA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units required to contribute to the programme.

CALCULATING YOUR DEGREE OUTCOME

A Board of Examiners will decide at appropriate points whether you are continuing to meet the requirements for the programme (including not breaking persistent generic rules whereby you can only fail and retrieve, or marginally fail and have condoned, units within set limits), and/or whether you have met all the requirements for your target award or any alternative that might be available. The outcomes will depend on both your performance in individual units and your overall performance. Generally, if you pass each of your units, you will progress and, in due course, be recommended for an award.

If you fail units beyond certain credit values, or you fail some too badly, you might break one of the persistent generic rules whereby you can only fail and retrieve, or marginally fail and have condoned, units within set limits, and this will result in failure of the programme - without any opportunity for supplementary assessment. (Further information on supplementary assessment is provided below.)

The criteria for making awards with distinction or with merit are described in the relevant NFAAR-PGT rules (paras. 78-80).

Supplementary assessment

‘Supplementary assessment’ is the term normally used for an opportunity given to a student to retrieve failure before starting the next stage of a programme, or by the end of the programme if it is a single-stage programme or the failed units are not Stage Required Units (SRUs).

Academic year dates, including the supplementary assessment period, can be found online. See **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

Each unit’s method of supplementary assessment is shown in the online Unit Catalogue.

At supplementary assessment, students will normally have the opportunity to gain credit for units then successfully passed and to have the mark gained reported to them for feedback purposes, but a maximum mark of 40% will be awarded and used in the Overall Stage Average, the Overall Programme Average, the Taught Stage(s) Average, and any award calculation.

If you pass all your supplementary assessments, you will be able to progress onto the next stage of your programme and/or, as appropriate, be considered for an award. If you do not pass them all, the outcome will depend on your overall performance including consideration of the rules about passing particular types of units and the persistent generic rules (as set out above).

ACADEMIC APPEALS

If you wish to submit a request for an academic appeal you should refer to Regulation 17 (Conduct of Student Academic Reviews and Appeals), which outlines the process and grounds for an appeal against formal Board of Studies decisions.

You are also strongly advised to read the online guidance on Appeals provided by the Academic Registry. Independent advice about academic appeals is offered by the Students’ Union Advice and Support Centre.

Full information is available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

CORE UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS

All registered students of the University are subject to the University’s Regulations for Students. The Regulations contain rules and other important information about being a student at the University of Bath, including regulations governing the payment of fees due to the University, student discipline, fitness to study and those governing attendance, conduct and progress in studies. They also form part of the formal contract between you

and the University. **You are strongly advised to read them carefully as they contain a lot of important information.**

For a link to the full Regulations for Students, see **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

ACCESSING UNIVERSITY EMAIL

You will need to use your University username and password to access your University email account. Your username also forms your email address (**username@bath.ac.uk**).

The University will often communicate with you about a range of important matters requiring action from you, including registration, assessment, degree ceremonies, and matters such as tuition fees, via your University email account. It is a University regulation that you access your University email account regularly, even if you are out on placement or study abroad.

You therefore have a responsibility to ensure that your University email account can receive incoming mail and that you read your email regularly.

To increase the security of your University account you will need to set up Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) so you can authenticate your identity and access your email.

Once you graduate or withdraw from your course, you will receive an email stating exactly when your account will be closed. The email will give at least 30 days' notice.

STUDENTS' UNION MEMBERSHIP

All students registered with the University are automatically given membership of the Students' Union; however you have the right not to be a member. Information on opting out of this membership, and the Code of Practice for the Students' Union, are available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

DATA PROTECTION

The University's Data Protection Policy and Guidelines on Data Protection may be accessed via the data protection website (see **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook).

REGISTRATION STATUS

You will be asked to register online at the start of your programme of study and then to re-register at the start of every academic year thereafter until you have completed your programme. It is a requirement that you register when asked to do so, and failure to do so may impact on your access to certain University facilities such as Moodle. Tuition fees for each academic year are payable at registration in full or in instalments.

Regulation 1.1 explains the requirement to register, regulation 1.5 explains that the University reserves the right to terminate the registration of continuing students who do not complete registration in accordance with Regulation 1.1. Regulations 2.4 and 2.10 explain the consequences of non-payment of tuition fees. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT MONITORING FOR STUDENT VISA HOLDERS

Guidance and requirements on academic engagement for students who are Student visa holders, including the University's **Academic Engagement Monitoring Policy for Student visa holders**, and information on when and how to request an authorised absence, are available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

Change in your circumstances

It is important to ensure that the University holds your correct, up-to-date, personal and academic details within SAMIS, the University's student records database. If you change your address – either your semester-time or home address – please update your details online (see **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook).

You can make changes to the data that we hold about your identity including your name, gender, title, and the pronouns you use. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

If you develop or if there is a change to your disability, impairment, long-term health condition or specific learning difficulty, please get in touch with our Disability Service for advice on the support you may be entitled to.

If you are ill or are likely to be ill for more than three days, you must notify your Head of Department. Where you have a planned absence to undergo medical or surgical procedures that requires time off for more than three days, you can apply for a leave of absence from your Head of Department. Your department can arrange in advance for time off study and may be able to consider other options.

If you are considering suspending your studies, transferring from one programme to another, or withdrawing from your programme, please discuss your situation with your Director of Studies. They will be able to advise you on an appropriate course of action.

The financial implications of withdrawing from the University or suspending your studies can be significant. See **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

The Student Money Advice Team in Student Support and Safeguarding and the Student Finance Office will be able to advise you on the implications for fees in your situation and on how to suspend any student funding you are receiving.

If you are an international student holding a Student visa, you should consult the advisers in the Student Immigration Service about the implications of suspending or withdrawing from your programme. See **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

You will need to register any change of academic circumstance, including a change of optional units, with the University. Please speak to your Department or Faculty/School administration who will advise you on how to do this.

Dissatisfaction with a university service or facility (Complaints)

We want to ensure that, if you have a problem concerning the University, it is resolved as quickly as possible. The University is committed to continuing review and improvement, and seeks regular feedback from students. There are student representatives on the University's formal decision-making committees who can raise issues so that they can be dealt with promptly. The University is also committed to providing an environment within which

students are encouraged to raise any matters of concern in an informal manner as soon as they arise. This often removes the need for formal complaints.

It is expected that most complaints can be resolved at an early stage by discussing the matter informally at a local level. If you have a problem concerning the University, you should bring the matter to the attention of an appropriate member of staff, who will aim to resolve it by informal discussion. If you have attempted to resolve matters informally but are not satisfied with the outcome, you may elect to proceed to the next stage by submitting a formal complaint. You may also submit a formal complaint if the issue involved is too complex or serious for informal resolution.

If you do need to make a complaint, there are procedures in place to deal with it, outlined in the University's **Student Complaints Procedure**. These procedures are designed to ensure that your complaint will be dealt with in good faith and that you will not be penalised for complaining.

There are separate procedures for requesting a review of progression or award classification decisions. See the section in this Handbook on **Academic Appeals**.

The University recognises that making a complaint can be stressful. Students are therefore advised to seek advice and support before making a complaint, from Student Support and Safeguarding, or from the Students' Union Advice and Support Centre, whose advice is independent of the University.

Full information is available online. Please refer to **Important Links and Information** in this Handbook.

ANNEX 1 ASSESSMENT AND PROGRESSION REGULATIONS

All Masters Programmes are assessed under the New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulation (NFAAR), details of which can be found in '**The New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations.**' The key aspects are summarised below. Please also see the links provided below for full NFAAR guidance related to each award.

Masters degree (for full details please see: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf>) and also <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/registry.bho/assessment/nfa-briefing-030.pdf>

Awards

Masters degree - a student must achieve:

- at least **90 credits**, at least 75 of these credits being gained at M level;
- both an overall programme average (OPA) of at least 40.00% and a dissertation/project average (DPA) of at least 40.00%.

Masters degree with Merit - a student must achieve:

- (i) an overall programme average (OPA) of at least 60.00%,
- (ii) a dissertation/project average (DPA) of at least 60.00%, and
- (iii) a taught stage(s) average (TSA) of at least 50.00%.

Masters degree with Distinction - a student must achieve:

- (i) an overall programme average (OPA) of at least 70.00%,
- (ii) a dissertation/project average (DPA) of at least 70.00%, and
- (iii) a taught stage(s) average (TSA) of at least 60.00%.

Condoning

Designated Essential Units (DEU) cannot be condoned.

Marks of 35%-39% in non-DEU taught stage credits (TSC) can be condoned.

Maximum of 12 taught stage credits (TSC) (20% of the award)).

Dissertation/project credits (DPC) cannot be condoned.

Retrieval (supplementary assessment)

Taught-stage credits (TSC) – maximum of 18 credits for taught units (TSC) may be retrieved after failure by supplementary assessment.

Dissertation/project credits (DPC) - can only be retrieved if the fail mark is in the range 35%-39%.

A student will be permitted **one attempt only** to retrieve a failed unit. Unit marks will be capped at 40% on retrieval.

Postgraduate Diploma (for full details please see: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-12.pdf>)

Awards

PG Diploma - a student must achieve:

- at least **60 credits**, at least 48 of these credits being gained at M level;
- overall programme average (OPA) of at least 40.00%.

PG Diploma with Merit - a student must achieve:

- overall programme average (OPA) of at least 60.00%.

PG Diploma with Distinction - a student must achieve:

- overall programme average (OPA) of at least 70.00%.

Condoning

Designated Essential Units (DEU) cannot be condoned.

Marks of 35%-39% in non-DEU taught stage credits (TSC) can be condoned.

Maximum of 12 credits (20% of the award) can be condoned.

Retrieval (supplementary assessment)

Maximum of 18 credits for taught units (TSC) may be retrieved after failure by supplementary assessment. A student will be permitted **one attempt only** to retrieve a failed unit. Unit marks will be capped at 40% on retrieval.

Progression to Masters from Diploma

Programme Progression Requirement (PPR):

This programme does not have a programme progression requirement

Postgraduate Certificate (for full details please see: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-13.pdf>)

Awards

Although normally comprising semester 1 units, units can be selected from either semester unless specific units are required under the specific programme regulations. Important: This needs to be clarified with each DoS.

PG Certificate a student must achieve:

- at least **30 credits** with at least 24 of these credits being gained at M level;
- overall programme average (OPA) of at least 40.00%.

PG Certificate with Merit

- overall programme average (OPA) of at least 60.00%.

PG Certificate with Distinction

- overall programme average (OPA) of at least 70.00%.

Condoning

Designated Essential Units (DEU) cannot be condoned.

Marks of 35%-39% in non-DEU taught stage credits (TSC) can be condoned.

Maximum of 6 credits (20% of the award) can be condoned.

Retrieval (supplementary assessment)

Maximum of 12 credits for taught units (TSC) may be retrieved after failure by supplementary assessment. A student will be permitted **one attempt only** to retrieve a failed unit. Unit marks will be capped at 40% on retrieval.

ANNEX 2 DISSERTATION AND PRACTICUM GUIDELINES

Introduction

Dissertations and the practicum report, compared to coursework that you may have produced previously, test your ability to develop a more sustained argument, as well as providing you with the opportunity to analyse a chosen question in more detail.

The dissertation/practicum accounts for one third of the whole MSc programme - being a 30-credit unit, this equates to approximately **500 hours work**.

The importance of the dissertation/practicum cannot therefore be over emphasised given that it is worth one third of the programme, it should equate to the TOTAL amount of work undertaken in one of the taught semesters (contact time *and* private study). Students must therefore expect to be fully occupied on their dissertation/practicum report over the whole of the summer.

Specific Guidance for Dissertations

Students are advised to commence thinking about possible dissertation topics early in the programme, but to then develop these ideas as the programme develops.

A well designed dissertation should comprise a clear, original, interesting and answerable research question or problem which is:

- Focussed and clear;
- Answerable;
- Addressing one main question, not many;
- Related to a topic which has sufficient existing material i.e. a literature;
- Interesting and challenging;
- Draws from, and relates to, issues raised in the taught component of the degree programme;
- Original in the evidence brought to bear on a particular debate.

Specific Guidance for Practicum Reports

A successful MSc practicum report will, in addition to the elements listed in the Indicative Marking Criteria, include:

- Section 1 must contain an accurate, succinct and substantive summary of what the student actually did while on placement. You have the option of providing appropriate supporting material in an appendix (not included in the word count).
- In section 2, a discussion of how key themes or topics covered in the academic programme were applied or helped to understand issues encountered during the placement. This section should include some critical reflection on gaps in knowledge or skills but should not simply provide a critical review of the academic programme.

- In section 4, a clear statement of the question or problem that is to be explored; (it is anticipated that this question/problem would relate to issues raised during the taught part of the programme);
- In section 4, a critical literature review (not just a summary of the relevant literature)
- A critical awareness of the limitations of their work; (including an awareness of the methods used in preparing the report and their strengths and weaknesses);
- A discussion of the implications of their work for development policy and/or practice.
- **Please note that 75% of the final mark will be determined by section 3. The more descriptive sections (1 and 2) will constitute 25%. The fourth criteria listed in the marksheet (clarity of expression/presentation/structure) will be applied to all sections.**

Supervisors

Dissertation/Practicum Supervisors will be identified for each student. Students should consult regularly with their dissertation/practicum supervisors. It is the responsibility of the student to agree a programme of work, which should include dates of appropriate consultation with supervisors.

Whilst every effort will be made to identify a supervisor for your particular area of interest, it may not be possible to identify a supervisor if a topic is chosen that does not fall within the research interests of our academic staff. Students may therefore be asked to select another topic for which supervision can be provided.

Dissertation and Practicum Supervision Guidance

Department of Social and Policy Sciences

The following guidelines have been developed to provide a more uniform approach to the supervision and marking of masters-level dissertations and practicum reports across programmes, and to ensure that staff and students know what is expected of them.

Dissertations and practicum reports are a test of the students' ability to independently pursue a topic in some depth. Supervision must therefore be viewed as purely guidance. Generally, supervisors will discuss the following matters with the student: choice of topic, including its feasibility and disciplinary content; sources of information; outline of dissertation/practicum report; general substance and structure of argument; timetable for completion, and; writing style. They will review plans and outlines, and may read elements of the draft dissertation or practicum report.

- (i) **It is the students' responsibility to make contact with his/her supervisor**, to develop a research plan and a timetable for the research and the writing up. **Students are recommended to arrange an early meeting with their supervisor.**
- (ii) Supervisors will make themselves available and normally warn students ahead of time if they will be away so that arrangements for adequate supervision can be made in advance.
- (iii) Where a meeting involves the discussion of written work for the dissertation or practicum report, students should ensure that this work is submitted at least three days prior to the meeting to enable supervisors to read it properly, to get the most from the discussions.
- (iv) Students can only expect supervision – including reading of draft material – **up until the end of July.**
- (v) **Supervisors will not be available during August** (unless they have not been available in July). **It is therefore of the utmost importance that students start to work on their dissertation or practicum report in early June.**
- (vi) Supervisors are expected to give a maximum of five hours direct supervision (meetings, telephone, e-mails) for a single dissertation or practicum reports, and read drafts only once.

Supervisors are not responsible for the quality of the dissertation or practicum report. In other words, **the supervisor cannot 'approve' the work** (and he/she should not be asked to do so) and will not be regarded as having given any warranty or even suggestion that the work is of a particular standard. Just as it is the students' own responsibility to ensure that sufficient time is left for typing of the dissertation or practicum report, it is up to the student to ensure that they make the most effective use of their supervisor.

DON'T FORGET that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they know and understand what constitutes plagiarism and to avoid any plagiarism in her or his dissertation or practicum report.

Dissertation and practicum word counts

For normal assignments there is a +10% rule (you can go 10% over the word count). The dissertation and practicum reports are **an exception to this rule** - the word limit for the dissertation is 12,500 words and for the practicum report it is 8,000 words and you should not go over this.

The word count includes footnotes but **excludes** the bibliography (or reference list) and abstract, contents pages, tables (including table titles), figures, appendices. [Please note that we don't expect an abstract for the practicum report, and you are under no obligation to include figures, tables, appendices so this is just if you want to – if you are uncertain about what to include please discuss your specific case with your supervisor].

The penalty for non-compliance with the word limit is the same as for coursework, see Chapter in the handbook on Word Counts.

Dissertation structure

Dissertations and practicum reports must contain a **title page (available on Moodle)**, stating your name, date, and title of the dissertation. The dissertation should include a **table of contents** and a **bibliography**, but not an index. Tables may be placed in appendices or in the text as desired.

The **bibliography** must follow the conventions of the Harvard System on the use of quotations and footnotes - see advice at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/guides/references.html>. Footnotes should be kept to a minimum and placed at the end of each chapter.

An **abstract** of the dissertation is not obligatory; however, we encourage students to provide an abstract as demonstration of good research practice. The abstract should be no more than 250 words, give a brief summary of the main findings and the structure of the dissertation and be placed after the title page and before the table of contents.

Marking range	(1) Knowledge and understanding of relevant ideas and methods	(2) Ability to apply relevant ideas and methods to specific problems or issues	(3) Originality, including ability to reflect critically on relevant knowledge and methods, and to develop clear and original arguments.
80% or more. Outstanding performance that fulfils and exceeds designated learning outcomes	Evidence of an exceptionally high grasp of key ideas/concepts. Knowledge and understanding of material beyond that stipulated in the unit.	Near perfect application of relevant ideas and methods. Incisive analysis of empirical material, leading to strong and accurate conclusions.	Highly original with evidence of exceptional critical insight.
70-79% Excellent performance relative to designated learning outcomes	Unusually high level of knowledge and understanding of material stipulated in the unit. Evidence of wide, independent and relevant reading.	Relevant ideas and methods applied clearly and correctly, with appropriate inferences drawn. Evidence of excellent use of examples to illustrate points and to justify arguments.	A high degree of analytical and critical ability, originality and insight.
60-69% Very good performance relative to designated learning outcomes	Evidence of the ability to identify and understand key ideas/concepts. Very good understanding of relevant knowledge, with evidence of relevant wider reading. Evidence of ability to answer all parts of the question.	Clear understanding of relevant ideas and methods, with mostly correct application. Evidence of appropriate use of examples/empirical material to illustrate points and to justify arguments. No significant weaknesses in competence in the subject	Strongly argued, with critical thought, independent analysis, argument, and/or application of theory.
50-59% Good performance relative to designated learning outcomes	Some evidence of ability to identify key ideas and issues. Demonstrates some understanding of relevant concepts, with some evidence of relevant reading.	Evidence of the ability to describe a subject in an organised way, with some attempt at analysis. Demonstrates knowledge of the subject, with limited explanation or discussion of the material presented: may indicate a narrative or cataloguing approach. Competent application of relevant ideas and methods to empirical material. . Some evidence of ability to select appropriate examples to illustrate points and to justify arguments. Conclusions arrived at through analysis, rather than just a statement of a position.	Well argued with logical organisation to the answer. Clear evidence of some “value-added” through application of empirical data, critique and/or logical exercise of independent judgement. .
40-49% Satisfactory performance in designated learning outcomes	Demonstrates some ability to communicate identifiable facts and concepts. Some knowledge of the material provided and identifies relevant issues, but without evidence of wider reading. May reveal some gaps in knowledge and understanding.	Knowledge of relevant ideas and methods, but weaknesses in their use. Evidence used is relevant and addresses the question set or proposed. But limited ability to argue logically and to organise an answer, or select appropriate examples to discuss points.	Evidence of basic analytical ability or appreciation of the subject. Demonstrates the ability to write descriptively about a subject, but with little or no attempt to generalise or to discuss.
30-39% Fail – no credits awarded.	Only partial knowledge and understanding of key concepts and ideas. Shows poor comprehension of the basic facts and principles. Prone to inaccuracy and tendency to irrelevance.	Failure to identify and use appropriate ideas and methods. Arguments lack adequate illustration or empirical support, or empirical material is purely decorative. Failure to address the question clearly enough.	No critical thought.
<30% Fail - no credits awarded	Little or no evidence of the ability to communicate identifiable facts and concepts. There may be some relevant knowledge, but it demonstrates a poor understanding of the subject.	The answer may be totally or largely irrelevant to the question. Empirical material incorrect or incorrectly used.	No evidence of critical thought.