

Appendix 11: Postgraduate taught programmes leading to Master

1. This appendix relates to the detailed assessment criteria to be applied in respect of compulsory or optional/elective units (but excluding extra-curricular units) for Master-aiming programmes for any of the following purposes:
 - Monitoring progress at any moment in a programme.
 - Progression decisions at any stage completion points.
 - Progression decisions after supplementary assessment.
 - Monitoring for satisfactory completion of a programme.
 - Making awards.

2. The following abbreviations and rules apply in these detailed criteria (for fuller descriptions see: Appendix 2: Definitions):
 - DAP = designated alternative programme.
 - DEU = designated essential unit; can only be passed $\geq 40\%$.
 - DPA = dissertation/project average.
 - DPC = dissertation/project credits.
 - OPA = overall programme average.
 - OSA = overall stage average.
 - PPR = programme progression requirement (min 40%)
 - PRU = programme required unit.
 - SRU = stage required unit.
 - TSC = taught-stage(s) credits.
 - TSA = taught-stage(s) average.
 - P1 = “passed 1st attempt” and means $\geq 40\%$.
 - C1 = “condonable 1st attempt” and means $\geq 35\%$ in units that are not DEUs.
 - P2 = “passed 2nd attempt” - see Appendix 7.
 - C2 = “condonable 2nd attempt” in units that are not DEUs – see Appendix 7.

3. In all cases, the Board of Examiners for Programmes must require that all the normal rules of assessment in Part 4 be met as set out in this appendix, unless after due consideration of any individual mitigating circumstances it determines to relax the normal parameters as permitted in the relevant provisions of the IMCA document:

See: Individual Mitigating Circumstances & Assessment: Principles & Procedures within & outside the New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations, <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/imc/>.

Persistent generic PGT rules, for Master eligibility

4. Two **persistent generic PGT rules** may never be broken, and a student who breaks either or both will no longer be eligible to achieve the current award aim (Master). Consideration for a lesser award from a designated alternative programme (DAP) may be possible. These two rules apply continuously throughout the student’s study, though any formal decision arising from their application must be recommended by a Board of Examiners for Programmes to the appropriate Board of Studies. The ability to meet the terms of either rule may depend upon the other rule. The two rules are as follows:

- a. **Compensation of condonable failures rule:** marginal failure marks of 35%-39% in other than designated essential units (DEUs) in no more than 20% of the taught stage credits (TSC) will be condoned (C1 or C2) and will not stop a student from continuing study for the current award aim (Master).
 - b. **Maximum retrieval rule:** no more than 18 credits for taught units (TSC) towards a Master award may be retrieved after failure by means of passing supplementary assessment (P2 or C2).
5. A third **persistent generic PGT rule** may never be broken, and a student who breaks it will no longer be eligible to achieve the current award aim (Master). Consideration for a lesser award from a designated alternative programme (DAP) may be possible. This rule applies to any unit of the dissertation/project type (DPC), and any formal decision arising from its application must be recommended by a Board of Examiners for Programmes to the appropriate Board of Studies. The rule is as follows:
 - a. **Dissertation/project retrieval rule:** no failure in a dissertation/project unit (DPC) below the bottom limit for marginal failure (defined as unit marks in the range 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 not exceeding twelve months from the determination of the original failure and must be judged to have passed (P2) to allow eligibility for the current award aim (Master).

Generic PGT progression rules

6. Two generic PGT progression rules must be met in order to permit consideration for the current award aim (Master). They must be met by the end of the programme, though Stage completion requirements, if set for specific programmes (below) could require remedial action sooner, and the Persistent generic PGT rules, for Master eligibility (above) could limit the scope for meeting these requirements. The two rules are as follows:
 - a. **DEUs rule:** Each designated essential unit (DEU) must be passed (P1 or P2).
 - b. **No bad-fail rule:** All taught-type units (TSC) required by the programme's structure as counting towards the award (PRUs) must be passed (P1 or P2) or be condoned marginal failures (C1 or C2).

Stage completion requirements, if set for specific programmes

7. Where a programme is not divided into stages, the student may continue with study subject only to the limits of the Persistent generic PGT rules, for Master eligibility (above), and must aim to meet all other requirements by the end of the programme.
8. Where a programme is divided into stages, the programme regulations may specify additional requirements, which must be complied with before the stage could be deemed to have been successfully completed. The Persistent generic PGT rules, for Master eligibility (above) could limit the scope for meeting these requirements. These rule types are as follows:
 - a. **SRUs rule:** All units required for successful completion of a stage must be passed (P1 or P2, including DEUs where appropriate) or condoned after marginal failure (C1 or C2) before progression can be permitted.
 - b. **TSA rule:** If there is a taught stage which must be completed successfully before progression to the dissertation/project stage is allowed, the requirement specified in the programme regulations (minimum 40%) for the taught stage average (TSA) must be met.
 - c. **DPA rule:** The dissertation/project unit (or the average for them if there are more than one) (DPA) must be at least 40% (P1 or P2) for satisfactory completion of the requirements for that stage (or group of units of that type) (DPC).

Supplementary assessment requirements, as set for specific programmes

9. Normal arrangements for supplementary assessment are set out in Appendix 7: Supplementary assessment. Unless otherwise specified in programme regulations, the timing of the period for examinations is as set out in para. 11 of Appendix 7: Supplementary assessment. Programme regulations will specify the timing and periods for all other forms of supplementary assessment. Any reassessment or supplementary examination requirement must be fulfilled within two years of the original failure; re-submission of marginally-failed dissertation/project assessments should normally be within 12 months of notification of failure.
10. Supplementary assessment is only appropriate if it can allow an opportunity for retrieval of failure without breaking either the Maximum retrieval rule (see para. 4.b above) or the DPA rule (see para. 8.c above). Supplementary assessment which is required for stage completion (see para. 7 above) must take place before progression can be determined/permitted.
11. The rules associated with supplementary assessment are as follows:
 - a. Units passed (P2) after supplementary assessment are assigned a maximum mark of 40%.
 - b. Units condoned after marginal failure (C2) in supplementary assessment are assigned a mark in the range 35%-39%.
 - c. DEUs for which supplementary assessment is undertaken must be passed (P2).

Additional generic PGT completion requirements, as set for programmes leading to specified awards

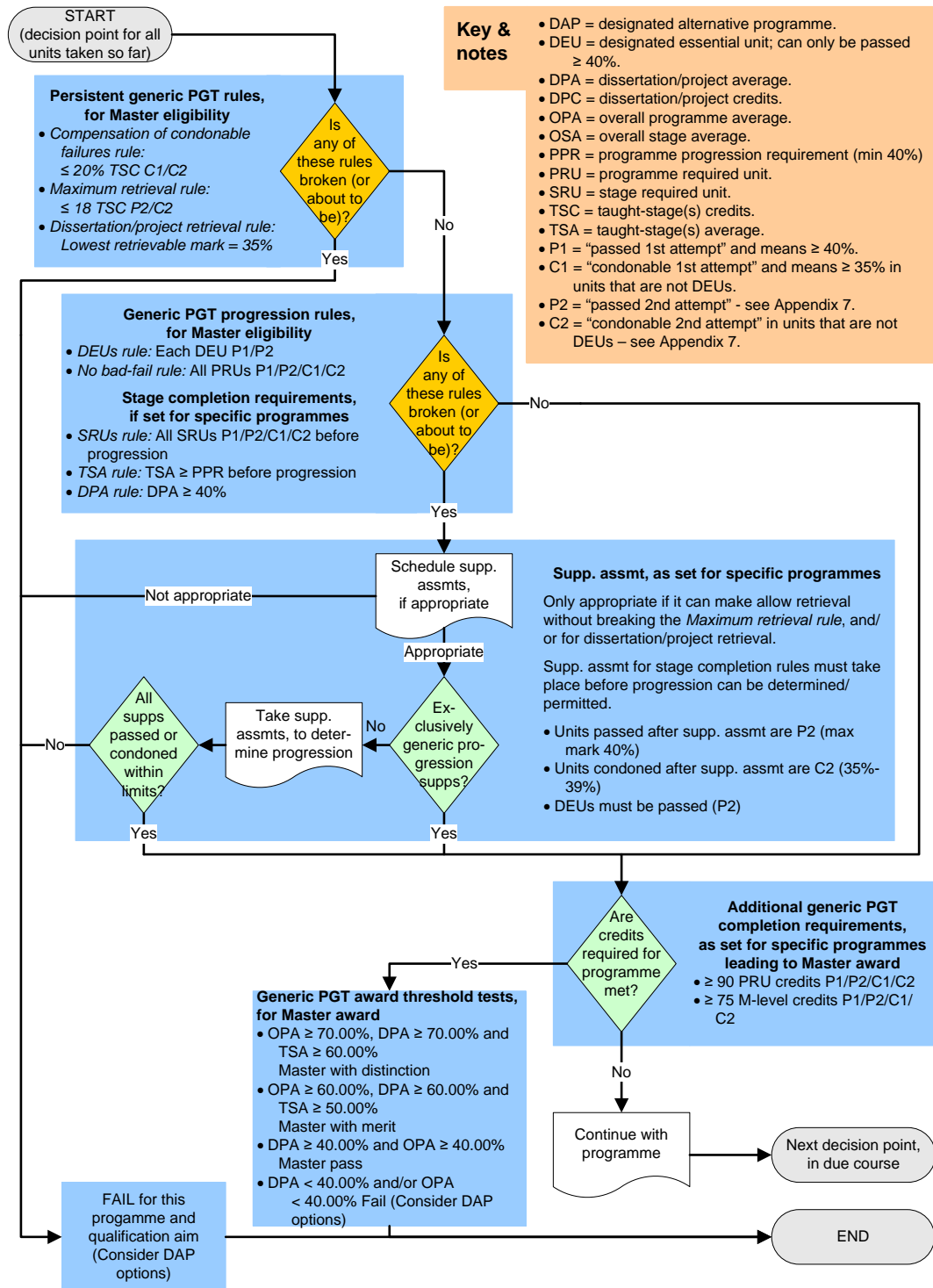
12. Programme regulations may set the credit requirements for satisfactory completion of a programme, arising from the programme structure and units specified, subject to the three Persistent generic PGT rules, for Master eligibility (outlined above) and two minima which apply to all PGT Master programmes:
 - a. The minimum overall credit requirement for the award of Master is 90 credits which have been passed (P1 or P2) or condoned (C1 or C2).
 - b. The minimum credit-level requirement for the award of Master is 75 credits at Master level which have been passed (P1 or P2) or condoned (C1 or C2).

Generic PGT award threshold tests for specific awards

13. Upon satisfactory completion of the programme:
 - a. Provided the student:
 - Has neither had to retrieve failure (P2 or C2) in taught units (TSC) worth more than 18 credits, nor had marginal failure condoned (C1 or C2) in units worth more than 20% of the taught-type total (TSC) for the programme, nor failed any designated essential units (DEUs); *and*
 - Has been awarded credit by having passed (P1 or P2), or through the condonement of marginal failure (C1 or C2) in, all of the units (always at least 90 credits overall of which at least 75 must be at M-level) required for the specific programme;
 - b. The following award criteria will be used in sequence:
 - The degree of Master with distinction will be awarded to a student who has all of: (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%.

- The degree of Master with merit will be awarded to a student who has all of: (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%.
 - The degree of Master will be awarded to a student who has a dissertation/project average (DPA) of at least 40.00% and an overall programme average (OPA) of at least 40.00%.
- 14.** If the criteria for the award of Master are not met, and the programme provides for an exit award for Postgraduate Diploma and/or Postgraduate Certificate, tests for those awards may be made using the criteria set out in Appendix 12: Postgraduate taught programmes leading to Postgraduate Diploma and/or Appendix 13: Postgraduate taught programmes leading to Postgraduate Certificate respectively. Otherwise, a student who has an overall programme average (OPA) below 40.00% will fail.
- 15.** The above decision-making process is illustrated as a flowchart below in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Postgraduate taught programmes leading to Master



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