

Summary of Updates to Regulations 2017

There are two updates to regulations that need to be agreed by Academic Board. See also the 'Summary of changes for OU Regulations for Validated Awards_June 2017' for other amendments that will apply from September 2017 to students who have enrolled (or re-enrolled) on OU programmes.

1. The Assessment Policy for Open University Programmes
 - a. Has been updated to reflect the '**Substantial Change**' in section 17. This includes the new paragraph 17.5.3 (*Regulations for validated awards of the Open University (2015)* [updated]) relating to progression with trailing assessments
– see paragraph 1 of the 'Summary of changes for OU Regulations for Validated Awards_June 2017' document, and **Box 1**, below.
 - b. Has been updated to reflect a **clarification** in section 17.3.1(d) (*Regulations for validated awards of the Open University (2015)* [updated]) relating to the capping of marks for resits
– see paragraph 23 of the 'Summary of changes for OU Regulations for Validated Awards_June 2017' document, and **Box 2**, below.

Box 1 – Regulation 17.5.3

17.5.3 With the approval of the Board of Examiners students may be eligible to progress to a higher stage of a programme without having completed the requisite 120 points of the lower stage, may exceptionally be allowed to do so provided that each of the following conditions are met:

- (a) A minimum of 80 points at the lower level have been successfully completed including passes in all designated core modules;
- (b) All requirements for academic prerequisites for the higher level modules are met;
- (c) The Examination board have approved progression following a successful application for extenuating circumstances, and results are still pending in the student's profile;

Box 2 – Regulation 17.3.1

17.3.1 Resit provision is subject to all the following conditions:

- (a) A student may resit the failed assessment components of a module only once. Where there are extenuating circumstances, the Board of Examiners has discretion to decide whether a further assessment opportunity shall be permitted, unless explicitly prohibited in the rules for the programme, as approved in the validation process and programme specification.
- (b) A student who does not complete the resit by the date specified shall not progress the programme, except in cases where the process for allowing extenuating circumstances has been followed.
- (c) Resits can only take place after the meeting of the Board of Examiners or

following agreement by the Chair and the External Examiner of the Board.

- (d) A student who successfully completes any required resits within a module shall be awarded the credit for the module and the result for the individual assessment component capped at the minimum pass mark for the module.
- (e) A student shall not be permitted to be reassessed by resit in any module that has received a pass mark, or in a component that has received a mark of 40% or above.
- (f) The resit will normally be carried out by the same combination of written examination, coursework etc. as in the first attempt.

2. The Unfair Practice Policy and Procedure

- a. Has been updated to reflect the outcome of a case reported to the Board of Examiners in Semester 2, 2016/17. Appendix 3 has been amended, as the specific case highlighted that Penalty 3 (for a Points total of 415) was unreasonably punitive. The case in question highlighted that there were other factors affecting this student’s ability to successfully complete their assessments and that instead of supporting the student to achieve their award, applying penalty 3 (see Box 3, below) would effectively remove any opportunity that the student would have to gain an award.

Furthermore, Penalty 4 has been updated to bring it in line with this revised approach. This would include withdrawing the student but allowing them to retain any credits they had already achieved. Although they would be not allowed to return complete their programme here, they would be able to take their transcript and RPL onto a programme elsewhere (given that the other HE provider would accept them with a history of Unfair Practice).

Box 3 – Appendix 3 of the Unfair Practice Policy and Procedure 2016/17

Appendix 3 – Penalties (2016/17)		
Points		
		Penalty 1
280 - 329	All actioned by DUPLO at an Unfair Practice Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal warning • Assignment task/s awarded 0% - resubmission of assignment task/s required, with no cap on mark • Referral to Academic Skills Team for referencing and plagiarism support • Record made on Promonitor • Copy of outcome letter sent via email to student, marker and Quality Manager
		Penalty 2

330 - 379		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment task/s awarded 0% - resubmission of assignment task/s required but mark capped at Pass • Referral to Academic Skills Team for referencing and plagiarism support • Record made on Promonitor • Copy of outcome letter sent via email to student, marker and Quality Manager
		Penalty 3
380 - 524		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module awarded 0% - no opportunity to re-sit, and credit lost • Withdrawal from institution but credits retained • Record made on Promonitor • Copy of outcome letter sent via email to student, marker and Quality Manager
		Penalty 4
525+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module awarded 0% - no opportunity to resit, and credit lost • Withdrawal from institution with credits lost • Record made on Promonitor • Copy of outcome letter sent via email to student, marker and Quality Manager

Box 4 – UPDATED Appendix 3 of the Unfair Practice Policy and Procedure 2017/18

Appendix 3 – Penalties (2017/18)		
Points		Corresponding Outcome
		Penalty 1
280 - 329	All actioned by DUPLO at an Unfair Practice Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal warning • Assignment task/s awarded 0% - resubmission of assignment task/s required, with no cap on mark • Referral to Academic Skills Team for referencing and plagiarism support • Record made on Promonitor • Copy of outcome letter sent via email to student, marker and Quality Manager
		Penalty 2
330 - 379		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment task/s awarded 0% - resubmission of assignment task/s required but mark capped at Pass • Referral to Academic Skills Team for referencing and plagiarism support • Record made on Promonitor • Copy of outcome letter sent via email to student, marker and Quality Manager
		Penalty 3

380 - 559		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment task/s awarded 0% - resubmission of assignment task/s required but <u>module</u> mark capped at Pass • Referral to Academic Skills Team for referencing and plagiarism support • Record made on Promonitor • Copy of outcome letter sent via email to student, marker and Quality Manager
		Penalty 4
560+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module awarded 0% - with no opportunity to resit • Withdrawal from institution with any credits already achieved retained • Record made on Promonitor • Copy of outcome letter sent via email to student, marker and Quality Manager