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**Academic Standards and Quality Regulations 2022-23**  
**[www.uhi.ac.uk/regulations](http://www.uhi.ac.uk/regulations)**

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All section references refer to the current regulations. The Academic Registrar has oversight of the academic standards and quality regulations and welcomes feedback and suggested improvements from colleagues. If you have any questions or comments, please direct these through Tara Black ([tara.black@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:tara.black@uhi.ac.uk)) in the first instance.

### **ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS AND COVID19**

Academic Council approved a number of exceptional assessment arrangements in June 2020 to support students in the light of unprecedented disruption to learning and teaching due to the COVID19 pandemic. These [exceptional arrangements](#) were applied to progression and award outcomes in AY 2019-20. A separate [‘fair assessment’ approach](#) was applied to progression and award outcomes in AY 2020-21, in light of the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. Both sets of arrangements continue to be relevant for some students who were enrolled in those years, particularly part-time students.

### **SECTION 4 – SUBJECT AREA REVIEW AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICE REVIEW**

- Focus of subject area review is shifted to quality enhancement (QE) rather than quality assurance (QA), and does not replicate the detailed scrutiny of annual monitoring and programme approval / reapproval / modification.
- New subject area review process is introduced in conjunction with reintroduction of mandatory reapproval of degree programmes, to enable detailed scrutiny of programme design and content, learning outcomes, student outcomes, stakeholder feedback etc. Programme approval / reapproval leads to confirmation that academic standards are secure and quality of provision is assured.
- Name of process is changed to subject area review, both to signal a step-change to the process, and to enable flexibility in determining the scope of the reviews. This provides the opportunity to vary the unit of review as appropriate, taking into account relevant internal organizational structures, external environment, size and complexity of provision.
- Subject area review is holistic and considers the trajectory, strategic direction and objectives of the subject area, reviewing data over the last 5-6 years, and action planning for the next period; it is both looking back and looking forwards.
- Subject area review may link more directly to implementation and embedding of institutional policies and initiatives eg LTES / curriculum review / UHI Strategic Plan / Faculty strategic plans
- Subject area review will be more streamlined, with reduced documentation and evidence requirements, shorter self-evaluation document, and improved use of data, signposting to existing evidence. Review events will be shorter (1-1½ days), and with meetings being conducted wholly online.

### **SECTION 8 – PROGRAMME APPROVAL**

- New programmes will be approved for delivery for a defined period, normally five years (but up to a maximum of six years), and will then be subject to re-approval. Operational processes and guidance for reapproval will remain largely as they are currently.
- Reapproval enables detailed scrutiny of programme design and content, aims and learning outcomes, student outcomes, staffing and resourcing, stakeholder feedback etc.

Outcomes will provide robust confirmation, internally and externally, that academic standards are secure and quality of provision is assured.

- Programmes can and should be clustered for purposes of reapproval.
- Approval / reapproval panels act with delegated authority from Faculty Board of Studies, and membership is established by the relevant Dean of Faculty. There is greater flexibility in chairing and panel membership, and a student panel member is required.
- Programme reapproval will inform and be informed by other review processes, including annual monitoring and those associated with curriculum review. As is currently the case, reapproval may be linked with PSRB accreditation.

#### **SECTION 14A - TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE**

- The addition of a Merit classification band for Masters level qualifications (14a.32). A Merit grade at module level is a mark of 60-69%. This mirrors the regulations for a Distinction classification.

#### **SECTION 14C – HIGHER DOCTORATE REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE**

- This is a new section providing regulations and guidance for current or former staff members to gain a higher doctorate qualification from the university.