

FRAMEWORK AND REGULATIONS FOR INTEGRATED MASTER'S AWARDS

Introduction

1. The following paragraphs provide the framework and regulations for Integrated Master's courses at the University of Suffolk that lead to the following awards:

- Integrated Master of Arts (MAi)
- Integrated Master of Science (MSci).

2. All Integrated Master's courses are required to have a related honours degree course to which students can transfer if they do not meet the progression requirements outlined in these regulations. Named awards (including named exit awards¹) for which students are eligible are those which are identified at the point of validation. Qualification titles should convey accurate information about the level, nature and subjects of study. The appropriate use of the prefix Master of Arts or Master of Science will normally be determined at validation.

3. The academic standards of all University of Suffolk awards should be aligned with the levels and qualification descriptors outlined in [Part A of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#) and the accompanying [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#) (FHEQ). Relevant QAA subject benchmark statements should also be taken into consideration in the design and ongoing development of courses. Alignment with these external reference points will be considered as part of course validation and re-approval processes, and through quality monitoring mechanisms. At least one appropriately qualified and experienced external examiner will be appointed to each course, in accordance with the *External Examiners Policy* and with any additional appointment criteria as determined at the point of course validation.

4. These regulations apply to all Integrated Master's courses offered at the University of Suffolk. Any exceptional exemptions or variations to these regulations for individual courses (for example to meet the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) in relation to assessment) are subject to approval by the Quality Committee via the submission of a variation request form. For new courses, approval for the variation should be sought prior to the course validation event. A central record of all approved variation request forms is maintained by

Structure and timing of course delivery

5. For most Integrated Master's courses, the academic year (hereafter described as an academic session) will be divided into two semesters, normally with 12 weeks of teaching and the remainder of the semester used for assessment purposes. Except where placements, field study, bridging and/or access modules are provided, all teaching and assessment will be carried out within the designated academic session. The structure and timing of the delivery of teaching and assessment will be approved at the point of validation for individual courses and laid out in the Student Handbook for the course.

6. Courses are managed by Course Committees constituted within the terms of reference of the *Management of Courses Policy*, which also defines the role and responsibilities of Course Leaders.

Modules and credit

7. Academic and professional study will be organised into modules, with modules 13()-36.it263 Tm[)]g

that an exit award will automatically be awarded if they have met the requirements for such an award as outlined in paragraph 86 below, regardless of maximum periods of registration for the relevant award). A student's period of registration may be extended beyond the maximum by the relevant Assessment Board, in liaison with the Academic Registrar, only in exceptional

course). Mandatory modules at Level 4 cannot be condoned (there is no condonement at any other level).

- (b) Requisite modules: these are modules that students must take as part of their programme of study (for example because there is no optionality built into the programme at that level), but it is not compulsory that they pass the module (i.e. if they fail the module, they may be able to take an alternative module within the validated programme to make up the credit deficit). Requisite modules at Level 4 can be condoned (there is no condonement at any other level).
- (c) Optional modules: these are modules which students can select to complete as part of their overall programme of study. Where optional modules are an integral part of a course, students will be required to select a specified number of optional modules from a prescribed list. Choice will be subject to availability and academic guidance from the Course Leader(s) concerned. It is not compulsory that students pass the module (i.e. if they fail the module, they may be able to take an alternative module within the validated programme to make up the credit deficit). Optional modules at Level 4 can be condoned (there is no condonement at any other level).

20. The mandatory, requisite and optional modules that must be taken and, where relevant,

28. Where the requirement for satisfactory completion of a period of study outside the University of Suffolk is in addition to the assessment regulations outlined in this document, any additional requirements should be subject to approval through the variation request process outlined in paragraph 4 above.

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Award	Credit requirement	Maximum credits via RP(E)L
Integrated Master's	480 credits at Level 4 or above, including: at least 360 credits at Level 5 or above; and at least 240 credits at Level 6 or above; and at least 120 credits at Level 7	240 credits (including not more than 60 credits at Level 6 or above)

32. In addition to meeting these credit requirements, students are required to successfully pass all mandatory modules set out for an award in order to be eligible for the award.

33. Students must not accumulate in excess of 480 credits for an Integrated Master's Degree, except where required as a consequence of a course change or similar circumstance approved by the Course Leader.

Assessment of individual modules

34.

59. Continuation or repetition of deferral status will be considered only if the relevant Assessment Board is advised by the Extenuating Circumstances Panel that it has received what it deems to be further acceptable evidence of extenuating circumstances.

60. If the relevant Assessment Board approves a deferral and believes that it is in the student's best interest to repeat the module with attendance (for example if they have not had adequate opportunity to engage fully with the learning activities associated with the module), marks for components successfully completed at an earlier stage will normally be carried

Degree classifications

77. In order to achieve the intended award, a student must meet the credit requirements outlined in paragraph 31 above and successfully pass all mandatory modules set out for the award.

78. For the Integrated Master's degree, the Assessment Board may recommend the award of the degree with Merit or with Distinction, where all Level 7 modules have been passed at first attempt without any referrals, and in accordance with the classification methodology outlined below.

79. Degree classification will normally be based upon student achievement in the following, using an arithmetic average of marks weighted according to the credit value of the modules to determine an overall mark for each level of study:

- (i) the best 100 credits at Level 7 (which must include the Level 7 dissertation or research project module); and
- (ii) the best 100 credits at Level 6 or above (which may include remaining credit at Level 7 not used in the Level 7 calculation)
- (iii) the best 100 credits at Level 5 or above (which may include remaining credit at Level 6 not used in the Level 6 calculation).

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80. Where the credit size of a module which is counted towards the 100 credits of best marks at each level would give a credit total greater than 100, only the relevant portion of credit needed to complete the 100 credit total is counted. Pass / fail modules (i.e. with no marks awarded) and modules achieved by

Level 5 or above and at least 120 credits at Level 6 or above; and if they have successfully completed all mandatory modules at Levels 4, 5 and 6 and a dissertation or research project module at Level 6. The degree classification will be determined in accordance with the *Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards*, based on the student's performance at Level 5 and Level 6.

87. Ordinary Degrees, Postgraduate Certificates and Postgraduate Diplomas may not be awarded as exit awards.

88. Where a student has been requested, in writing, to confirm their status as a current student but no reply has been received by the date specified in that correspondence, they will be 'deemed to have withdrawn' and be considered for an exit award as outlined above.

89. Where a student is required by the Assessment Board to withdraw from the course, the Board will automatically recommend the highest award for which she/he is eligible. Exit awards

will be determined in accordance with current admissions requirements and the *Recognition of Prior Learning Policy*.

Aegrotat award

93. An Aegrotat award at Bachelor's degree level may be recommended when the Assessment Board does not have enough evidence of the student's performance to recommend the award for

