

Amendments to UPR SA14 (Student Withdrawal Regulations) for 2016/17

This paper summarises the proposed amendments to UPR SA14 for the 2016/17 academic year.

1. Introduction of a maximum period of registration on a programme

The University currently imposes no maximum period for the registration of a student on a taught programme of studies. A number of Schools have reported problems with this (lack of) regulation. There are a small number of students returning to studies year after year on the basis of accepted serious adverse circumstances. The Programme Board would prefer to withdraw some of these students with an appropriate exit award, on the basis that they are not likely to ever achieve their final intended award. Other Schools are also concerned that the currency of the credit achieved by some long-term students is reduced with time, particularly following the periodic review of a programme. Finally, for the purposes of accreditation many Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) impose a maximum period of study of between 6 and 8 years on our students. The following amendment to UPR SA14, section D3.9 has therefore been approved:

3 UNIVERSITY-INITIATED WITHDRAWAL

3.2 Academic Withdrawal

3.2.4 Failure to complete a programme within the maximum period of registration

A Programme Board has discretion to withdraw a student from a programme with the maximum possible interim award if the student has failed to achieve their final intended award within a period of eight (8) years for undergraduate programmes or five (5) years for postgraduate taught programmes.

2. Interim awards and progression

There are interim awards on the student record system that have been offered to students but, even after a number of years, have not yet been accepted by them. This leaves the student without an award and the University with a number of uncompleted records. The following amendments to UPR SA14, section 3 have therefore been approved, to:

- provide students who do not respond to the offer with the award they are entitled to;
- increase the number of awards achieved;
- resolve the number of unconfirmed awards on the student record system;
- reduce the workload for investigating historic records to backdate the conferment of interim awards from previous years.

3 UNIVERSITY-INITIATED WITHDRAWAL

3.4 If a student withdraws from their programme of studies (or is withdrawn by the University without the option of continuation) before achieving their final intended award, the maximum possible interim award will be conferred upon them by the programme board of examiners.