

# PPA3. PG - Masters Programmes - Rules for Progression and Award

## 1. Definitions

### 1.1 Module mark

Following completion of all assessments for a module, the total mark will be calculated to the nearest integer on a scale of 0-100. This integer mark is used for all subsequent calculations.

### 1.2 Module credit

All modules have a credit value. Students will be awarded the credit by achieving the module pass mark or through compensation.

### 1.3 Module pass mark

The module pass mark is 50 for M-level modules. For H-level modules, the pass mark is 40.

### 1.4 Marginal fail

An M-level module failed by a margin of 10 marks or fewer.

### 1.5 Outright fail

An M-Level module failed by a margin of more than 10 marks. A fail on a "pass/fail" module is also treated as an outright fail.

### 1.6 Capstone project module (CPM)

The large-credit project/dissertation module.

### 1.7 Taught stage

The part of the programme comprising non-CPM modules.

## 2. Award criteria

### 2.1 Award of Masters

Award of the Masters degree requires that a student has been awarded all required credits for both the taught modules and the CPM (where applicable).

### 2.2 Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert).

- A. A student who has been awarded 60 credits as part of the programme, but fewer than 120 credits, will be considered for a PGCert.
- B. A student who has been awarded 120 credits in the taught stage, but does not wish to proceed to the CPM, will be considered for a PGDip.

- C. A student who, having completed the Masters programme, has not gained sufficient credit to meet the criteria for award of Masters degree, but has been awarded at least 120 credits on the programme (which can include the CPM), will be considered for a PGDip.

## 3. Compensation

### 3.1 Criteria

If a student fails one or more modules in the taught stage, they may still be awarded the credit, as long as, for taught-stage modules:

- A. there are no more than 40 failed credits;
- B. there are no outright fails;
- C. the rounded credit-weighted mean over all modules taken in the stage (including failed modules) is at least 50.

### 3.2 Compensation of taught modules

Compensation is only allowed between taught modules. The CPM cannot be compensated and the CPM mark cannot be used to compensate taught modules.

### 3.3 Non-compensatable Modules

Compensation is not possible for any module designated as a “pass/fail” module, or as a “non compensatable” module.

## 4. Reassessment of taught modules

### 4.1 Reassessment for credit

If a student has failed one or more modules, and cannot be awarded the credit through compensation, they may, subject to the conditions below, be offered a reassessment opportunity. The purpose of reassessment for credit is to enable the student to be awarded the credit for failed modules, either through passing the module or meeting the criteria for compensation.

### 4.2 Reassessment Limits

Students will only be offered a reassessment opportunity for failed module(s) if the total number of failed credits in the taught stage does not exceed 60 credits. Reassessment for a module is only allowed on one occasion.

### 4.3 Student Choice

If a student is offered a reassessment opportunity for a module and elects not to take the opportunity, the first attempt module mark will be used to calculate their progression towards an award. It is not possible for a student to revoke that decision or choose to take the reassessment at a later date.

### 4.4 Not-for-credit reassessment

Where a student has been awarded all the credits, but some modules have been compensated, they may be offered a reassessment opportunity in those compensated modules, as long as they have not previously been offered such a reassessment. This “not-for-credit” reassessment is

optional and the results have no impact on the student's progression, award mark or degree classification

## 5. Reassessment of capstone project module (CPM)

### 5.1 Marginal Fail of CPM

In the case of a marginal fail of the CPM, reassessment is permitted. In this case, the student will be given the opportunity to make amendments to enable them to reach a pass threshold. The mark for the resubmitted CPM will be capped at the pass mark (50). There will only be one such reassessment opportunity.

### 5.2 Outright Fail of CPM

In the case of an outright fail of the CPM, there is no reassessment opportunity.

## 6. Treatment of module marks after reassessment

### 6.1 For the purpose of awarding the module credits

The module mark(s) capped at the pass mark following reassessment will be used to determine if the student passes the module(s).

### 6.2 For the purpose of compensation

If, following reassessment, the student has still failed one or more taught modules, the compensation rules will be applied. For this purpose, the module reassessment mark will be used.

### 6.3 For the purpose of the award of merit or distinction

The following applies only for the purpose of calculations for the award of merits and distinctions. Where the reassessment is taken, the module mark following reassessment capped at 50 for M-level modules will be used.

## 7. Merits and distinctions for Masters degrees

### 7.1 Principles

- A. Calculations for this purpose are always based on the marks obtained during the student's best attempt at the assessment (capped at pass mark where a reassessment has taken place).
- B. Decisions on the award of merits or distinctions are performed numerically, based on module marks, without any further academic judgement.

### 7.2 Merit

To be eligible for the award a Masters degree with merit, the student must have achieved:

- A. a rounded credit weighted mean of at least 60 over all modules, and
- B. a mark of at least 60 in the Capstone Project Module (where applicable).

### 7.3 Distinction

To be eligible for the award a Masters degree with distinction, the student must have achieved:

- A. a rounded credit weighted mean of at least 70 over all modules, and
- B. a mark of at least 70 in the Capstone Project Module (where applicable).