



September 2016

Dear External Examiner

During 2015/16 the University sought your views on proposed changes to the Academic Framework. Based on this, and in consultation with staff and students, the University has approved the new Academic Framework regulations for students starting on programmes validated for delivery from September 2016. Current students [who entered prior to September 2016] will be governed by existing regulations.

The outcomes of the Academic Framework Review comprise:

- That External Examiners will approve all summative assessment tasks, and for Undergraduate Programmes this includes **Level 4**.
- The involvement of External Examiners in the moderation process, and for Undergraduate Programmes this now includes **Level 4**.
- For 'Boards of Examiners' [previously 'Assessment Boards'], at least one External Examiner is required to attend for each programme under consideration. Ideally, all External Examiners will attend the relevant Board of Examiners.

The requirement for External Examiners to attend the Boards of Examiners means that there is no expectation of attendance at module-level moderation meetings. However, External Examiners will continue to be fully engaged with the process of moderation through other mechanisms.

To reflect these changes the standard External Examiner fee will be increased to £500 and, where appropriate, additional External Examiners will be appointed to large programmes. This fee is set in line with sector norms following a benchmarking exercise.

The following provides a summary of the key changes to the Academic Framework:

- Semesterisation of modules and decimal credit sizes for modules;
- Increased pass mark for Level 7 to 50%;
- All summative assessments must be attempted before credit can be released;
- Compensation will no longer be allowed;
- Students will be permitted to progress if they have achieved 120 credits or have an Exceptional Second Referral in no more than 20 credits or a module deferral(s) in no more than 20 credits or are to undertake referral with attendance in no more than 20 credits in the following year;
- All Level 6 marks for Bachelor Awards and all Level 7 marks for UG Masters awards will be included in the degree classification algorithm;
- All full-time undergraduate programmes must provide opportunities for study abroad;
- Placement modules will be credit-bearing and will be assessed on a pass/fail basis;
- Ordinary degrees will be discontinued as exit awards;

- There will be no assessment waivers, and the maximum extension period will be 15 days; and
- There will be a new tariff for calculating the penalties for Academic Misconduct.

The new Academic Framework regulations can be found at <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/academic-quality-and-regulations>

The new 2016-17 Guidance for External Examiners along with a podcast explaining the changes will be available from September 2016. You will be contacted with the relevant links.

If you have any queries about the new Academic Framework, please don't hesitate to email:

academicframeworkqueries@ljmu.ac.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing work as an External Examiner to the University, and your invaluable contribution to the maintenance of academic standards and quality of the University's taught portfolio of programmes.

Kind regards



Liz McGough

Academic Registrar



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