

LTC15D136

Title: Progression thresholds for Integrated Masters Courses
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Issue

The final report of the QAA's Higher Education Review issued in January 2016 contained the recommendation that the University 'review assessment board regulations and their application to ensure greater consistency and equity of treatment of students'. This paper specifically considers those regulations governing thresholds for Integrated Masters courses.

Recommendation

To approve the proposal below

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications for the University associated with the proposal.

Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with the proposal.

Equality and Diversity

There are no E&D implications associated with this proposal.

Timing of decisions

Approval at this meeting would permit changes to be made to the Award Regulations for 2016/7. Care would be taken to ensure that any student already on courses was not disadvantaged.

Further Information

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Background

With the introduction of the Bachelors and Integrated Masters (BIM) award regulations in 2013 the University standardised the regulations in respect of progression thresholds as far as it was able at the time. The majority of Integrated Masters courses have a progression threshold of 60%, but for MChem it is 50%, and for MEng it is 40% in the first year, moving to 60% for progression at the end of Stage 2 and 3. MPharm has no additional progression

threshold over and above 40%, in keeping with the requirements of the accrediting body the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

At its meeting in June 2015 LTC resolved that issues around progression for Integrated Masters courses with a year abroad be consulted on further, with the outcome being considered at a future meeting of LTC. Although the paper considered by LTC in June 2015 recommended that thresholds were reviewed in 2016/7 this has been brought forward as a result of the HER recommendation. The proposals have been discussed and agreed at SCI FLTQC on 20-4-16 and are now being brought back to LTC for approval.

Unlike Bachelors degree courses, the year abroad in Integrated Masters (IM) courses is not an additional year, but a fully contributing level 6 year, taken before the students study at level 7 on their return to UEA. As such, the modules are marked and count towards the year aggregate and the final classification. The Science Associate Dean and Teaching Directors would like to keep this practice. However, in seeking approval, they have undertaken to review the number of institutions that IM students can go to, their module choice whilst there (and the approval mechanism associated with the choice) and to build up relationships with those institutions so that there is a good understanding of the curriculum and assessment. Conversion scales used to calculate the marks from these limited number of institutions should be published to students on the course.

Recommendation

- That the progression threshold for Integrated Masters courses be 60% at every stage, regardless of whether study is at UEA, abroad or in industry.
- This will apply to all Integrated Masters except MPharm, which will remain at 40%.
- A list of partner institutions for IM degrees and the conversion charts for calculating marks should be published to students by the Schools involved.

Stage Assessment for Integrated Masters Courses (BIM regulation 12.4)

Integrated Masters Courses	End of Stage 1	End of Stage 2	End of Stage 3
Master of Chemistry, Master of Computing Science, Master of Engineering, Master of Mathematics, Master of Natural Sciences, Master of Physics, Master of Sciences	60%	60%	60%
Master of Pharmacy	40%	40%	40%