

LTC14D228

Title: The consideration of the New Academic Model for Postgraduate Taught Courses
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Issue

LTC, at its meeting on 28 March 2012, endorsed the proposal to introduce the New Academic Model for postgraduate taught programmes in 2014/5. However, the Chair of LTC announced in his statements at the meeting of LTC on 5 December 2012 that the introduction of the New Academic Model for postgraduate taught masters programmes was 'indefinitely postponed until further notice' as the University needed to clarify a number of issues in relation to recruitment and marketing before embarking on significant regulatory changes. He noted though that this should not prevent the University implementing good practice/ improvements in relation to other areas of postgraduate taught provision;

<http://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/7769968/lcmins051212a.pdf/72bb0f15-e85a-4a2d-813d-29d376ea902c>

This 'indefinite postponement' needs to be reconsidered, initially with particular reference to the regulations for PGT modules taken by Integrated Masters students, who are under the new Bachelors and Integrated Masters (BIM) regulations. The pressing need is to consider whether or not it would be appropriate to align the regulations governing the postgraduate markscheme and module levels to those of the undergraduate markscheme. This is because in 2016/7 integrated masters students studying under BIM regulations will be studying at level 7/Masters level, and their level 7 modules will be regulated in the same way as the other BIM modules. As these modules will also be available on MSc courses, we do not want to run two sets of regulations, and two sets of module codes, so we are proposing that they are covered by one set of regulations.

Recommendation

- (i) LTC is asked to consider the recommendation that PGT module coding and markschemes are changed to bring them in line with those for the undergraduate modules, specifically:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. From 2016/7 that all PGT modules follow the agreed module coding for BIM modules, including the allocation of level 7 to replace level M in the coding structure2. From 2016/7 that all PGT modules follow the BIM UG markscheme in which marks within 0.5% of the pass mark are treated as a pass.3. From 2016/7 that students who have failed a module are reassessed in all failed components the module rather than the 'synoptic' reassessment in place now. |
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- (ii) LTC is asked to endorse that other aspects of the NAM with respect to postgraduate taught programmes, as detailed in the 'proposals' be discussed at TPPG and LTC early in 2015/6.

Resource Implications

There will be some administrative resource required to set up the new codes and markschemes.

Risk Implications

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Timing of decisions

Approval of this particular issue at this LTC meeting will allow the Planning Office and LTS to work on markschemes and module re-coding, so that everything is ready when we come to the module update process early in 2015/6, for delivery in 2016/7.

Further Information

Caroline Sauverin, Head LTS (Systems)

Proposals

1. Markscheme

- a. All marks will be recorded and displayed to two decimal places. For the purposes of progression, module marks will be treated as if rounded to the nearest integer ie module marks within 0.5% of a pass mark will be awarded a pass; ***This is a change to the current CMF regulations***
- b. The pass mark must be achieved at the module level. These modules are identified with a 'pass on aggregate' marks scheme. *This is no change to the current CMF regulations*
- c. Where there is a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement to do so, each individual component of the module may be required to be passed in order to pass the module; such modules are identified with a 'pass all components' marks scheme. *This is no change to the current CMF regulations*
- d. Where appropriate, individual modules or components may be assessed on a Pass/Fail or Distinction/Pass/Fail basis. *This is no change to the current CMF regulations*

2. Reassessment

- a. Students eligible for reassessment will be offered a reassessment opportunity in all failed components of the failed module normally in the form of the original assessment. Any exceptions to this may be made only with the approval of the Learning and Teaching Committee of Senate. ***This is a change to the current CMF regulations***
- b. Marks achieved for each reassessed component will be used in place of the original (failed) component marks to recalculate an overall mark for the module as follows:
 - (i) The module mark for any module passed by reassessment will be capped at the pass mark (50%) for 'Pass on Aggregate' mark schemes;
 - (ii) The component mark for any component passed at reassessment on a 'Pass all Components' mark scheme will be capped at the pass mark (50%).

This is no change to the current CMF regulations

3. Module Coding for PGT modules based on the coding agreed for BIM modules:

In order to bring the module coding structure for Masters modules into line with BIM and the FHEQ levels, we suggest that the module codes change as follows:

Character	1 -3	4	5	6-8	9
Use	School	*Hyphen or sector	FHEQ level	Sequence Number	Admin Use – eg period of delivery, type of module **(see below)
Example	BIO	-	7	001	A

New Code: BIO-7001A (example – this would be the 4th allocated code for an autumn-semester module at level 2/5 in BIO)

Current code equivalent: BIO-M101

**Character 4 would normally be a hyphen, but where Schools are sectorised, this can continue to be used as a sector identifier.*

***Character 9 would solely be for admin use as detailed to identify, for example, when the module was delivered, as follows:*

A	Autumn Semester
B	Spring Semester
Y	Year Long
X	Spanning two academic years
D	Term 1
E	Term 2
F	Term 3 (and Summer Semester)
G	Term 1 and 2 together
H	Term 2 and 3 together
S	International Summer School

This would be planned by LTS teams, in consultation with the Schools, so that any sectors or other identifiers Schools wish to have in their codes can be considered.

Summary of recommendations:

- (i) From 2016/7 that all PGT modules follow the agreed module coding for BIM modules, including the allocation of level 7 to replace level M in the coding structure
- (ii) From 2016/7 that all PGT modules follow the BIM UG markscheme in which marks within 0.5% of the pass mark are treated as a pass.
- (iii) From 2016/7 that students who have failed a module are reassessed in all failed components the module rather than the 'synoptic' reassessment in place now.
- (iv) Discussions on other aspects of the PGT regulations in respect of other NAM aspects take place next academic year, 2015/6. These aspects include, but may not be limited to:
 1. Automatic right to reassessment removed
 2. Students must pass all modules (ie removal of Condoned Fail)
 3. Minimum module size of 20 credits
 4. Reduction in the number of exams
 5. Reduction in summative assessment
 6. Close monitoring of attendance
 7. Simplification of classification of distinction/merit, including rounding up of marks within 0.5% of a classification.