

DEPARTURES AND VARIATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK: MSc Data Science

COVER SHEET

Presenter: Dr M Black

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below.

To consider a request from the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment for a variation to the standard regulations for master's programmes, for MSc Data Science.

The Faculty is considering including a 120 credit point dissertation option in other Master's degrees. This proposal would also cover those courses.

The Committee should note that until 2007/8 all Level 7 modules contributed to the classification of the final award. The then Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment proposed that its two year Master's (MFA Fine Art and MArch Architecture) should be classified on the basis of the final 120 credit points – the MFA has a 120 credit point module, the MArch one 30 credit point and one 90 credit point module.

In approving the proposed variation to the regulations, the then Teaching and Learning Committee recommended to Senate that all longer Master's degrees (200 or more credit points) should be classified on the basis of the final 120 credit points.

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment Request to ASQEC for Deviation from Standard Regulations

The Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment is planning to offer a 2-year route through several of its masters programmes to attract an international market in countries such as India, where 1-year routes may not be recognised by some employers. Under the proposed alternative structure (which is being implemented as a specialism), students would complete the 120 “taught” level 7 credits in year 1 and then undertake an extended 120 credit, level 7 research-based modules in year 2 (with a summer vacation included).

In relation to the impact on the regulations, the current masters regulations template suggests:

14.2 The assessment results [for all modules (if all at Level 7)] OR [for the final level of the programme (Level 7)] shall determine the overall grading. The weighting of each module’s contribution to the final result shall be determined by the module’s credit value. (See table at section 17.)

[In programmes of more than 200 credit points, replace first sentence with: The assessment results from the final 120 credit points shall determine the overall grading.]

Even though the proposed programme has a total of 240 credits, all such credit is at level 7 and the final 120 would be all based on the extended dissertation. In this context, it seems inappropriate to simply base the overall grading on the dissertation module, completely excluding the taught components (at the same level).

The Faculty would therefore seek a deviation from the standard regulations for all masters programmes that follow the structure outlined above to enable 14.2 in the course regulations to become:

14.2 The assessment results for all modules shall determine the overall grading. The weighting of each module’s contribution to the final result shall be determined by the module’s credit value.

This would enable the grade to be determined based on both the taught modules and the dissertation, whilst also giving a slightly higher “weighting” to the research-based modules given its extended contribution and associated credit. For the purposes of clarity, the following statement is to be retained:

14.4 A mark of 70% or above or 60% or above shall also be achieved in this module in order for the degree to be awarded with Distinction or Commendation respectively.