

DEPARTURES AND VARIATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORK:

BSc (Hons) Social Work

COVER SHEET

To note that Chair's action has been taken to approve a request from the Faculty Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences regarding a variation in regulation whereby Associate Students undertaking the Levels 4 and 5 of BSc (Hons) Social Work in partner Further Education colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College and South West College), have Level 5 contribute in full to the final degree classification at 30% in accordance with the University's standard algorithm rule.

**ASQEC Request for variation to regulations**

**BSc (Hons) Social Work (1768)**

**Context**

There are currently two routes to qualification attainment: a three-year undergraduate degree programme with 63 places at Magee, 45 places in two Further and Higher Education Colleges (30 at Belfast Metropolitan College and 15 at South West College); a two-year accelerated route for relevant graduates with 40 places.

It is the 'three-year' undergraduate route that requires consideration.

Students who attend the Colleges complete Level 4 and Level 5 of the degree at these institutions holding 'Associate Student' status. The curricula and moderation arrangements during these two years are identical across the three institutions. All students then complete the final year of the degree (Level 6) at Ulster University, Magee Campus.

In summary:

- **Belfast Metropolitan College** (1769), Level 4 & 5 (Full-time).
- **South West College** (1764), Level 4 & 5 (Full time).
- **Magee** campus (1768), Level 4, 5 & 6 (Full-time).

Historically, and with Consortium support, Level 5 of the degree has always contributed 25% to the final degree classification regardless of Institutional location. Level 6, at Magee, contributing 75%. Whilst this has been revised in the recent revalidation (February 2020) and the contribution has been aligned with current University regulation – to reflect a contribution of Level 5 (30%) and Level 6 (70%) – the implementation of the new Ulster University degree algorithm means that this calculation of classification is at odds with the University regulations – and so an application is being made for a variation to the regulations to enable Associate students located in the Colleges to have their Level 5 achievement contribute to the final degree classification.

### **Proposed variation**

That Associate students undertaking the full time BSc (Hons) Social Work (1768) and located in partner Further Education colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College and South West College), shall be permitted to have their L5 achievement contribute to the final degree classification in addition to their L6 achievement and calculated at 30% (L5) and 70% (L6).

There are several reasons why this is important:

- Historically, and with Consortium support, Level 5 of the degree has always contributed to the final degree classification regardless of Institutional location and this approach has been successful - providing equity for students in final year.
- The realignment at the recent revalidation now reflects a contribution of Level 5 (30%) and Level 6 (70%) in keeping with Ulster University regulations.
- Adopting this approach since the inception of the programme has not previously created any difficulty.
- The curriculum is identical across the provision and assessment and moderation processes are tightly monitored and consistent across localities.
- This approach has the support of the Regulatory body (the Northern Ireland Social Care Council).

**Current regulation** (as per revalidation – February 2020)

#### **1 CLASSIFICATION OF FINAL RESULT**

- 15.1 The overall Honours classification of successful candidates shall normally be based on the assessment results from all Level 5 and Level 6 modules. Normally Level 5 modules shall contribute 30% and Level 6 modules 70%. The weighting of each module's contribution to the overall mark shall be determined by the module's credit value.

The table at section 18 indicates the contribution of each module to the final award.

For students who are admitted with advanced standing, only Level 5 modules

studied as Registered Students of the University shall be included in the calculation of the final Honours degree result, provided that modules to a value of at least 60 credit points have been so studied.

### Proposed variation

That Level 5 of the BSc (Hons) Social Work completed at Belfast Metropolitan College and South West College contributes to the final degree classification.

Signed:   
Professor Kristian Lasslett  
(Head of School)

Date: 11.8.20

Signed:   
Susannah McCall  
(Ass. Head of school)

Date: 11.8.20

Signed:   
(Associate Dean)

Date: 25.08.20