



## OU Regulations – Effective as of Fall 2023

### Updated Fall 2023 – Revisions to the previous academic regulations (Fall 2015)

The document attempts to briefly review major changes/differences in the 2023 regulatory framework in comparison to the previous one (Fall 2021). We recommend that all students, registered for an OU validated award thoroughly review the **Regulations for validated awards of the Open University for institutions offering Dual awards**.

While these regulations, taking effect December 1, 2018, apply to all new, continuing and readmitted student cohorts on programmes leading to an Open University (OU) validated award, there are a number of clarifications emphasized below which all students should review:

- References to the term “Stage” correspond to “Level”. A Stage of a programme is a collection study consisting of a total of 120 (UK) credits. Stages are usually commensurate with a credit Level (Stage 1 = Level 4, Stage 2 = Level 5 and Stage 3 = Level 6).
- The Open University offers to Deree students the following Validated Awards only (Paragraph 3.0): CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary Bachelor’s degree (Exit Awards only) and Bachelor’s degree with honours [BA (Hons), BSc (Hons)] in a specified subject or field of study degree, for example, BA (Hons) in Psychology.
- References to (post)graduate programmes do NOT apply to the Deree College Graduate School.
- Interruption of Studies (please refer to paragraph 8.1 of the **Regulations for validated awards of the Open University for institutions offering Dual awards**) includes army deferral for the purpose of required national military service. The Committee on Academic Standards and Policies (CASP) remains responsible on behalf of Deree for all petitions in relation to interruption of studies for any reason(s).
- Paragraph 11.2: last sentence changed to “These minima may apply to assessment elements as stated in the wording



of the module specifications, but will apply to modules, stages and qualifications”.

- Late submission of work is penalized according to the number of working days exceeded from the original date of submission (paragraph 13.3).
- Policy for moderation refers to the existing second marking policy (and a third marking policy where necessary) (paragraph 14.4).
- Provision for *viva voce* (oral) examination (paragraph 16.0): Deree’s current assessment policy does NOT allow for this kind of provision.
- The maximum number of retakes allowed in a programme leading to an OU award is ten (10) (paragraph 17.3.1 (a)).
- Retake of a module requires the student to participate in classes to prepare them for the next attempt (paragraph 17.2.5 (iii)).
- Where a validated programme is discontinued, provision has to be made to ensure fair assessment opportunities for all students who have been enrolled (paragraph 17.3).
- References to Level compensation (paragraph 17.4) are NOT applicable (as of OU BoE July 2017). Compensation within a module still applies, i.e. students that score 38/39 in one of the assessments and their overall module calculated grade is at least 40, they may be eligible for assessment compensation. Assessment compensation is valid for the first attempt of that assessment only. Module re-sits and/or retakes are not entitled to be considered for compensation. Such cases will be discussed and decided in the relevant subject board.
- While all references in paragraph 17.5 are entitled “Retakes”, references to partial retakes/repeats are NOT applicable.
- Progression rules change (paragraph 17.5.3): With the approval of the Board of Examiners students may be eligible to progress to a higher Stage (Level) of a programme without having completed the requisite 120 UK points of the lower Stage (Level). They may exceptionally be allowed to do so if the following conditions are applicable:
  - A minimum of 60 UK credits (up to 4 courses) at the lower Level (L4 or L5) have been successfully completed including passes in all designated core modules.



- All requirements for academic prerequisites for the higher-Level modules are met;
- Students will not be allowed to study at Level 6 (L6) before having completed and passed all credits at Level 4 (L4).
- Classification of bachelor degrees will be based on the average mark across all modules within Stage 3 (Level 6) and Stage 2 (Level 5) at a 2:1 ratio, i.e. 2/3 of L6 + 1/3 of L5 (paragraph 19.1).
- Where a student decides to take an Exit Award (for example personal reasons), then s/he is eligible to re-enrol onto the programme at a later point (if it is still offered). However, if a student were withdrawn by the Board of Examiners for exhausting all resit/retake opportunities or for having, more than 10 fails then s/he would not be entitled to re-enrol on the same programme. The student could apply to enrol on a different programme, however this would be up to the College to decide on their suitability and any possible recognition for prior learning (paragraphs 20.2 and 20.3).
- While all transfer credit requests (Recognition of prior learning) are handled by the Validation Office, students must be aware that no credits can be granted for any courses at Stage 3 (Level 6). A student however may be awarded credit for prior learning (RPL) towards the requirements of a named award up to 50% (NOT up to two-thirds) (all Stage 1 and half of Stage 2 modules-courses) of the total credit requirements for that specific award (please refer to paragraphs 22.0 and 22.3).
- The minimum RPL credit claim to be considered is 10 UK credits.
- Prior study to be recognized for RPL must have been completed within a maximum of 10 years before the start of pursuing a registered qualification.
- The College RPL policy is reviewed each year by the end of July.
- DIRECT ENTRY via stage exemption (exemption to stage of a programme without award of OU credit) does NOT apply (paragraph 22.7, see RPL previous above).
- Academic Misconduct-Section E: Reference is made to a number of academic types of misconduct such as plagiarism, collusion, etc and the utilization of AMBeR Tariff (The Academic Misconduct Benchmarking Research). This tariff



in use provides guidelines for defining sanctions in relation to academic misconduct.

- Progress Report (paragraphs 34.1, 34.2, 34.3): Upon completion of each Stage (Level), a letter will be issued to the student upon the student's request. (One may consider this as a "partial transcript").