

Registry Services Briefing Note: RS/07/01

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New Undergraduate Regulations (URF)

Background

In June 2006 Academic Board agreed that from September 2007 the majority of new undergraduate students will be subject to the new Undergraduate Regulatory Framework. The only courses that will operate outside the framework will be:

From September 2008 all undergraduate courses will be subject to the URF. The full regulations are available from the Registry Services web pages – www.worcester.ac.uk/registry

Summary of main changes

Levels

The numbering of levels will change for all students and modules as follows:

Current Level	New Level	FHEQ Framework
Level 1	Level 4	C (Certificate)
Level 2	Level 5	I (Intermediate)
Level 3	Level 6	H (Honours)
Level 4/M	Level 7	M (Masters)

During the summer, all records (including historic records) will be recoded to reflect these changes and will therefore be applicable to all returning students.

At this time module codes will **not** be changing to reflect the new level numbers and all the existing protocols of 1,2,3 and 4 (for level M) should continue to be used. We will revisit this decision over the next 12 months.

Direct Admission to Level 5 or 6

A student admitted to either Level 5 or 6 in September 2007 will be subject to the OLD regulations.

A student admitted to Level 6 in September 2008 will be subject to the OLD regulations.

Two types of courses

- (i) Courses available as single honours along with joint, major, minor

These courses should be designed to provide the opportunity for students to take two 'free choice' modules (equivalent to 30 credits) at each of Level 4 and Level 5.

(ii) Single subject course only

These courses should be designed as far as possible to provide the opportunity for students to take 'free choice' modules at Level 4 and Level 5. Any reduction in the opportunity for students to take free choice modules at Level 4 and Level 5 must be educationally justified.

There is no requirement for Free Choice modules at Level 6.

Balance of Subjects for Major/Minor

The new regulations reduce the number of modules students are required to pass at Levels 5 and 6 in the minor subject from five (75 credits) to four (60 credits) – 30 credits at each level.

Associate Subject

This is no longer a requirement for new single honours students.

Taking modules at different levels

9th Level 4 Module

The regulations permit students to take one additional (15 credit) level 4 module whilst studying at Level 5. This is not a right as not all undergraduate courses outside of the UMS will permit this flexibility.

Modules at Level 6 whilst studying at Level 5

The regulations permit students to take a maximum of one 15 credit module at Level 6 whilst studying at Level 5. This is a reduction from two 15 credits modules as allowed in the current UMS regulations. This is not a right as not all undergraduate courses outside of the UMS will permit this flexibility.

Grades

A new grade H has been introduced.

Reassessment

Students will have a maximum of FOUR attempts to pass a module. All students will have the automatic right to reassessment regardless of the number of failure during the year. The reassessment pattern is as follows:

1.	First Attempt
2.	Reassessment
3.	Retake
4.	Reassessment

There are some restrictions available for modules associated with professional placements.

All reassessment will be capped at a minimum pass grade (D-).

This regulation is applicable to all returning UMS students.

Condonement

An Exam Board will no longer be able to condone a non-mandatory failure at grade E where all other 105 credits have been passed.

This regulation is applicable to all returning UMS students.

Classification

The two classification methods used in the UMS will be adopted by all undergraduate degree courses. At Academic Board in October 2007 it was agreed that performance in the Level 6 Independent Study will no longer affect the classification a student can achieve. The new URF regulations have been updated to incorporate this change.

This regulation is applicable to all returning UMS students.

Revision History

14 November 2007: Revised classification details added.

5 July 2007: further details regarding level added.