

**2017 / 2018**

**GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR  
POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS ON  
PROGRAMMES LEADING TO THE AWARDS  
OF MA, MFA, MMus, MSc and MRes  
(including where applicable, linked Postgraduate  
Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate)**

**2017/2018**

**GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS  
PROCEEDING TO THE AWARDS OF MA, MFA, MMus, MSc AND MRES  
(including where applicable, linked Postgraduate Diploma and  
Postgraduate Certificate)**

*[These Regulations are to be read in conjunction with the individual Programme Scheme and with the General Regulations and the Goldsmiths Credit Framework]*

**1. Aims**

**1.1 General Aims**

To provide students with opportunities to demonstrate, and receive academic credit for, the knowledge and skills appropriate to postgraduate study in their chosen programme/discipline and to undertake a substantial piece of independent work at the Master's stage.

**1.2 Educational Aims**

All approved programmes within the scheme must demonstrate the following:

1.2.1 The development, to the level required for a postgraduate award, of a body of knowledge and skills appropriate to the area of study and reflecting current developments in that area.

1.2.2 The development, to the level expected of a postgraduate award of students' intellectual and creative powers; their cultural awareness; their understanding and judgement; their problem solving skills; their ability to communicate; their understanding and application of research skills; their ability to see relationships within what they have learned; their ability to perceive the ethical implications of their subject of study; and their ability to perceive their area of study in a broader perspective.

1.2.3 Every programme of study approved within the scheme must demonstrate as appropriate the progressive achievement of these aims, and a more specialised and focused subject matter than would be found in an undergraduate programme.

1.2.4 Each student's programme of study must stimulate an inquiring, analytical and creative approach, encourage independent judgement and critical self-awareness.

**2 Definition**

2.1 The Master's degree is intended for award on the satisfactory completion, including formal examination, of a prescribed programme of full-time study

beyond the bachelor's degree level of at least one calendar year (180 credits) or its equivalent in part-time study, normally between two and five years unless the Academic Board has otherwise determined.

- 2.2 The Postgraduate Diploma (where specified in programme title) is intended for award on the satisfactory completion, including formal examination, of a prescribed programme of full-time study beyond the bachelor's degree level of at least two thirds of an academic year full-time (120 credits) or its equivalent in part-time study.
- 2.3 The Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits) is intended for award on the satisfactory completion, including formal examination, of a prescribed programme of full-time study beyond the bachelor's degree level of at least one third of an academic year full-time (60 credits) or its equivalent in part-time study.

### **3 Publication of Regulations and Amendments**

- 3.1 No amendment to the method of examination will be approved by the Academic Board, within seven months of the date of the examination.

### **4 Regulations for Credit Transfer**

- 4.1 A student may be exempted from part of a programme of study for a taught postgraduate degree and may be exempted additionally from part of the examination prescribed for a taught postgraduate degree in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.5 below
- 4.2 A person who has obtained a qualification at M (Masters) level, deemed relevant to the programme of study, may be granted exemption from modules and examinations in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in the regulations for the degree for which he/she is registered.
- 4.3 Acceptability for credit transfer of work undertaken in other institutions does not confer right of entry to any programme within the College. Decisions on admission, including decisions on crediting previous periods of study and examinations, remain at the discretion of the department in consultation with the department of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance.
- 4.4 If a student is to graduate from Goldsmiths College, he/she must:
  - (i) demonstrate he/she has achieved the prescribed learning outcomes for the award;
  - (ii) be assessed for the award under the auspices of the College;
  - (iii) have studied for a minimum of one third of the normal period of full-time or part-time study prescribed for the programme concerned and that this includes the final stage of the programme and assessment.
- 4.5 Applications for credit transfer will be considered in the context of approved modules and programmes of the College in order to ensure that all students are assessed in reference to learning outcomes specified for the award. To

this end the modules and / or module assessment and the modules to be followed at the College, must together equate to an approved programme in terms of the amount, level and currency of work and the coverage of topics, including any core elements.

## **5 Registration Procedure**

### *5.1 Registration for an Award*

- 5.1.1 Students will normally register and pay the fee for the highest award available to them within the scheme.
- 5.1.2 Intermediate awards are granted to those students who, having achieved the learning outcomes attached to the lower award:
  - (a) Fail to achieve the required standard at the next stage
  - or
  - (b) Decide to cease their studies before they become eligible for the higher award.
- 5.1.3 Students who are granted the intermediate award consequent to failing to achieve the required standard at the next stage will not normally be permitted to re-register for the remainder of the programme.
- 5.1.4 Students who are granted the intermediate award, having decided to cease their studies before becoming eligible for the higher award, may re-register for the higher award after a period of not less than a year and not more than three years has elapsed.

## **6 Applications for Exemptions**

- 6.1 Applications to the Academic Board by students for exemption from any of the Regulations will be made via their Head of Department to the Pro-Warden (Learning, Teaching and Enhancement). No application shall be entertained by the Board unless recommended for support by the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Committee.

## **7 Entry to Degree Examinations**

- 7.1 Entries to the examination and any examination fee payable for a Master's degree must be made in accordance with instructions issued by the Department of Student Services.
- 7.2 Candidates are bound by the Regulations in force at the time of their entry to the examinations. Students enter for examinations annually.

## **8 Assessment**

### **8.1 Examination**

- 8.1.1 Schemes of examinations shall be prescribed in the individual Programme Scheme and for Master's programmes shall include the submission of a significant piece of individual work in the form of an essay, report, dissertation or project, or equivalent final substantive piece of work unless the Academic Board has determined otherwise.
- 8.1.2 To be eligible for a Postgraduate award a candidate must satisfy the examiners in all parts of the examination prescribed for the programme. The pass mark is 50%. Unless otherwise specified in the individual Programme Scheme, a candidate must be examined in each module on the first occasion that the examination is held after the completion of that module.
- 8.1.3 The examination for each written paper shall take place on one occasion each year (unless otherwise specified in individual Programme Schemes).
- 8.1.4 For the award of the Master's degree, examiners shall have the discretion to award a mark of merit or distinction to a candidate who has shown exceptional merit or distinction for the programme. The criterion for the award of merit is that a student has obtained an overall weighted average mark (based on credit value) of between 60% and 69%. The criterion for the award of distinction is that a student has obtained an overall weighted average mark (based on credit value) of at least 70%.
- 8.1.5 The awards of Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate are made without classification.

### **8.2 Deferment**

- 8.2.1 Deferment of any part of the examination, including submission of the report/dissertation or equivalent final substantive piece of work may be granted for reasons judged adequate in the particular case by the College. The Chairperson of the relevant Examination Board shall be empowered to grant deferrals having taken had regard to the currency of learning.
- 8.2.2 A candidate wishing to defer shall make the application in writing in the first instance to the Chairperson of the relevant Examination Board.
- 8.2.3 The outcome of the request for deferrals shall be conveyed in writing to the student by the College Assessments Officer and be reported at the next meeting of the Examination Board.

### **8.3 Re-entry**

- 8.3.1 If a candidate fails or does not submit for a module for which he/she has entered, the examiners may determine that he/she on re-entry will not be required to repeat other modules which he/she may have already passed.
- 8.3.2 A candidate who does not at his/her first entry successfully complete the examination or part of the examination for which he/she has entered may, subject to the agreement of the Head of Department when such re-entry would involve further attendance at the College, re-enter that examination on **one** occasion. Unless otherwise specified in the individual Programme Scheme such re-entry will be at the next following examination except when the College has granted permission for a candidate to defer re-entry until the examination in a

subsequent year. The mark awarded at such examination shall be capped at the pass mark for the module.

#### **8.4 Progression**

8.4.1 Eligibility to proceed from one year to the next for part time students shall be specified in the individual Programme Scheme.

8.4.2 Eligibility to proceed from the assessment related to the Postgraduate Diploma, to the assessment related to the Master's degree, shall (if appropriate) be specified in the individual Programme Scheme.