This document shows in normal typeface the sections which have the force of regulation. *All sections in italic script are guidelines.*
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UNDERGRADUATE ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Sections in normal typeface are regulations and sections in italics are guidelines.

This document should be read in conjunction with Registry’s Examination information; the University’s Assessment Principles; External Examiners: Code of Practice; and the Glossary of Terms defined by the Senatus. See:
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/staff/assessment/assessment-regulations
www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Codes/CoPExternalExaminers.pdf

UNIVERSITATE DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

Any member of staff who requires guidance on examination procedure additional to that given below may consult his or her Head of College or his or her nominee, their College Office, the University’s Academic Services section (on behalf of the University Secretary) or the Registry (650-2214). On behalf of the University Secretary the Registry exercises general oversight of procedure relating to the provision of question papers, registration for degree examinations, the receipt and notification of results, examination timetabling and the provision of accommodation. The University Secretary and his or her nominees have authority to make urgent decisions relating to assessment issues.

Where reference is made below to ‘the relevant Dean’ or ‘the relevant committee of Senatus’, this should be taken as being the Dean or Committee with responsibility for undergraduate matters.

1. APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS AND DUTIES OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

The Examiners

1.1 The examiners for the various subjects of study in the degree(s) shall be

(a) those Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers and such other staff in the University as each College may from time to time approve who conduct courses of instruction qualifying for the degree(s) and who are appointed to act as examiners in accordance with such procedure as shall be prescribed by the Senatus Academicus from time to time;

(b) such Honorary Professors and Honorary Fellows (and, in the Scottish Agricultural College, Honorary Senior Lecturers and Honorary Lecturers and, in the Edinburgh College of Art, such Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers or Lecturers conducting the recognised courses in the subject, and, in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, such Honorary Professors and others upon whom the College has conferred honorary status, and, in the Moray House School of Education, teachers and senior staff from partner schools) as are appointed to act as examiners in accordance with such procedure as shall be prescribed by the Senatus Academicus from time to time; and

(c) such other Internal and External Examiners as are appointed on the recommendation of the Senatus Academicus in accordance with such procedure as shall be prescribed by the University Court; provided that every student shall be examined in each subject by at least two Examiners, of whom one shall be an External Examiner.
Markers

1.2 The Head of School has responsibility for approving the appointment of individuals who are not members of staff, and who are not covered by section 1.1 above, who contribute to the marking process, e.g. graduate tutors marking tutorial, laboratory or examination work. Such markers are not members of the Board of Examiners and the Convener of the Board of Examiners has responsibility for ensuring the quality and standards of their marking.

Involvement in Assessment

1.3 No member of the academic staff of the University, External Examiner, or marker shall be involved in the conduct of any form of assessment, or of any examination, in which she/he may reasonably be regarded as having a strong personal interest because of a current or previous relationship to or close friendship with a student.

1.4 If in doubt as to what course professional integrity requires, she/he shall consult the relevant Dean and Head of the College who may bring the case to the attention of the Principal or the relevant committee of Senatus.

External Examiners

Appointment of External Examiners

1.5 An External Examiner must be a person both competent and having the requisite experience to examine the course or programme at the level at which it is taught.

1.6 External Examiners must normally be resident in the United Kingdom.

1.7 An External Examiner should not be appointed from a department in a university where a member of staff from the inviting university subject discipline is known to be serving as an examiner, unless this imposes difficulties in obtaining the services of an External Examiner. In cases of doubt, the Head of College or his or her nominee shall determine what constitutes a discipline. External Examiners must not be close relatives of any member of the inviting School (see also 1.3 and 1.4).

1.8 No person who has held an appointment on the teaching or research staff or who has been a student of the University, or who has been granted honorary status in the University, is eligible to act as an External Examiner until a period of four years has elapsed since the termination of the appointment or the status. In exceptional circumstances this rule may be waived by the relevant committee of Senatus.

1.9 No External Examiner may hold office for a longer period than five consecutive years. An External Examiner is not eligible for re-appointment beyond a total of five years until she/he has ceased to hold that office for not less than one year. In exceptional circumstances this rule may be waived by the relevant committee of Senatus.

1.10 Subject to these conditions, External Examiners may be appointed either for a specified period of years or on a year-by-year basis.

1.11 If an External Examiner seeks early termination of his/her contract, this must be negotiated with the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, on behalf of the College. Where possible, a report should be obtained from the External Examiner on the reasons for termination. If, in exceptional circumstances, a School wishes an early termination of an External Examiner's contract, this should be negotiated with the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, on behalf of the College. A report on the reasons for termination must be obtained from the School and the External Examiner. The Head of the College has the authority to appoint a replacement External Examiner.
Duties of External Examiners

1.12 Draft degree examination papers and additional information needed by External Examiners to evaluate the assessment regime for students must be sent to External Examiners for comment. Use of email for transmission is normally not permitted. It may be used only in exceptional circumstances and subject to the Convener of the Board satisfying himself/herself that appropriate security measures have been taken.

1.13 External Examiners have the right to see all degree examination scripts and any other coursework including other invigilated examination scripts contributing to the assessment. Where it is agreed that External Examiners will see a selection of scripts or other written work, the principles governing the selection must be agreed in advance and External Examiners should consider borderline cases. The guiding principle is that External Examiners should have enough evidence to determine that internal marking and decisions are of an appropriate standard and are consistent. Borderline cases are those which relate to the decisions of the Board of Examiners on pass/fail boundaries, progression or, in the case of final year students, the classification or award of a degree.

1.14 All main meetings of honours Boards of Examiners and final award meetings of Boards of Examiners for the BVM&S and the MBChB must have at least one External Examiner present. The only exception would be in the case of programmes or courses with very small numbers of students (typically less than 5) where this requirement can be waived on application to the relevant College Committee with good cause shown, and provided the External attended at least one main meeting of the Board during their period of office. All External Examiners have the right to attend meetings of all relevant Boards of Examiners and must attend at least one Board of Examiners meeting during each academic year to enable them to comment on the assessment process. External Examiners should approve the examination results and the process of examination which produced the results presented. This approval must be minuted. If any External Examiner does not approve the results, then the Head of College, after consultation with the External Examiner, and then with the Principal or another Vice-Principal, has delegated authority from Senatus Academicus to approve the results or convene a reconvened Board of Examiners. After exercising such authority, the Head of the College must fully report the circumstances, including the views of the External Examiner, to the Principal. (See also 9.2.)

1.15 Non-honours Boards of Examiners meetings and resit and reconvened Boards of Examiners do not require the presence of an External Examiner but at least one External Examiner must contribute, ideally by video- or tele-conferencing and otherwise by email or fax. External Examiners should be involved in the scrutiny of scripts and should have access to assessed coursework as appropriate. External Examiners should approve the examination results and the process of examination which produced the results presented. This approval must be minuted. (See also 9.3.)

1.16 Interim Boards of Examiners meetings do not require the involvement of an External Examiner but recommendations of interim Boards are provisional until ratified by a Board of Examiners with an External Examiner involved.

1.17 Conveners of Boards of Examiners should ensure that, as part of the formal proceedings of the Board, External Examiners are invited to comment on the structure, content, teaching and examinations of the courses which they examine.
2. CONSTITUTION OF BOARDS OF EXAMINERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONVENER OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

2.1 Each course shall be subject to a Board of Examiners. Degrees, diplomas and certificates are awarded by the Senatus on the basis of Board of Examiner recommendations. Each honours programme of study shall have a Board of Examiners responsible for recommending the award of the degree and determining the classification of the degree.

2.2 At least one External Examiner shall be appointed for all courses; the number of External Examiners being determined by the diversity of the academic work contributing to the course or the award of the degree. It shall be the responsibility of the Head of the College or his or her nominee to ensure that all elements of courses which contribute to the award of a degree from the University are represented by at least one External Examiner.

2.3 Where any External Examiner is taken ill during the examination period, or is unable to attend due to other unforeseen circumstances, the Head of the College shall have the authority to appoint a replacement External Examiner.

2.4 Names of proposed members of the Board of Examiners are subject to the approval of the College (or the Head of the College or his or her nominee or a Committee of the College acting under delegated powers). The list of examiners making up each Board shall be certified by the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, and shall be definitive unless an appeal to the Senatus is made by an interested party challenging the composition of the Board.

2.5 Heads of Schools concerned should notify the College Office for a December diet of examinations not later than the preceding 1 November and for later diets of examinations not later than 15 January of the names of those External and Internal Examiners who it is proposed will constitute the Board and these names will be made available from the College Office on request. Where there is more than one diet of examination in any year the Board need not comprise the same examiners for each diet. Any objection to the lists of names of examiners submitted by Heads of Schools should be made in good time before the relevant exam diet to the Head of College or his or her nominee. Complete final lists of examiners are maintained by the relevant College Office and are available for inspection by members of staff.

2.6 Where only one School is concerned with an examination or where one School clearly has a predominant interest the Convener of the Board of Examiners is normally the Head of that School or his or her nominee. Where more than one School is concerned the composition of the Board shall reflect the contribution of the Schools to the work under examination, and the Heads of Schools concerned nominate one of the internal examiners as Convener. In the case of any disagreement, the Convener is nominated by the relevant Heads of College.

2.7 The Convener of the Board of Examiners has responsibility for: the security of and arrangements for setting papers; examining and marking scripts; processing and storing marks and grades; and the submission of results to Registry. Information may be processed or stored only on computers designated by the Convener of the Board of Examiners. The Convener approves the content of examination papers taking account of the comments of External Examiners. The Convener receives and is responsible for: correspondence on behalf of the Board; ensuring that the minutes of the Board of Examiners’ meetings are an accurate record of the meeting and the approved results; and that copies of the minutes are sent to the College Office.
3. **ASSESSED WORK**

3.1 At the start of each course and on entry into the honours component of a degree programme students should be given a clear statement of how and when each of their courses is to be assessed, including penalties for late submission, which specifies what pieces of coursework are or are not to be counted in the final assessment or classification, and what weighting is to be assigned to the various components of the assessment scheme. This statement should include information about any methods which the Board of Examiners may choose to use for standard setting, which may be used to moderate results or marks. Passing a course or degree programme will require attainment of the learning outcomes and may require a specified level of performance or attendance in some or all elements. This statement should specify how assessed work may be taken into account by resit Boards of Examiners. The statement should specify procedures to be followed if a student does not attempt, or does not complete, all their assessed coursework. The statement should include a comment that appropriate reasonable adjustments can be made for disabled students. (See also Sections 5.5 and 13)

3.2 A Board of Studies and the relevant College Committee set the assessment and satisfactory performance requirements for a course and must normally approve significant assessment changes before students enter a course or the honours components of a degree programme. If, in exceptional circumstances, it is necessary to change the assessment requirements or arrangements after students have entered a course or the honours component then the College Office must be consulted and the approval of the relevant College Committee obtained. Before the approval of the relevant College Committee can be given, written evidence of the results of consultation with the students must be submitted.

3.3 Students should be made aware that marks for assessed coursework are provisional and may be modified when considered at the Board of Examiners meeting in that year. (See also 10.4 to 10.8)

3.4 Oral examinations may only be used as part of the assessment of a specific component of the programme, such as a dissertation or practical skill, or in special circumstances, such as when a student has for some reason been unable to complete a written paper. The selective use of oral examinations for helping a Board of Examiners come to a final conclusion about a student, e.g. on borderlines, is not permitted. Any waiver of this rule requires the approval of the relevant Committee of Senatus. If oral performance is to be assessed the students should be aware of how it is to be assessed, and special efforts should be made to involve a number of staff in making the assessment.

3.5 Coursework which is used for assessment should be of a type that could be made available for the use of an External Examiner and should be made available in the case of final honours year examinations. If limited use is made of assessment types which cannot be made available, this should be made explicit to the External Examiner in advance and included in the statement to students. If a School wishes to assign more than 50% of the marks to coursework, then the External Examiner should have the opportunity, whenever appropriate, to be involved in the assessment of that coursework.

3.6 Boards of Examiners should set requirements at resit that are as demanding as those made of students at the first attempt. Boards of Studies and relevant College Committees specify the number of attempts permitted for a course. Students will be informed about the requirements to pass the course at a further attempt, where this attempt is permitted:

(a) Where a student has performed satisfactorily in the in-course assessment this mark will be carried forward and the student need only resit the degree examination(s).
(b) Where a student has performed satisfactorily in the degree examination(s) but not in the in-course assessment then the examination mark(s) will be carried forward and the student need only resit the in-course assessment (see 3.6(d) below).

(c) Students who have not performed satisfactorily in either the in-course assessment or the degree examination(s) will need to resit the examination(s) and the in-course assessment (see 3.6(d) below).

(d) Students may be offered an opportunity to repeat the in-course assessment or equivalent work during the vacation or to take a specific resit examination which covers the relevant learning outcomes. If repetition of the in-course assessed work is not possible in the vacation, the student, with the permission of the relevant Head of School, may be allowed to repeat the coursework alone in the following year. Students not receiving such permission may be permitted by the relevant Head of School to repeat the course, including examination, in the following year.

3.7 Students are only permitted one assessment attempt for courses at Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework level 9 and above, except where subsequent attempts are necessary to satisfy professional requirements and have the approval of the relevant Committee of Senatus, or where the student is taking the course as part of the non-honours years of their degree programme, including the Ordinary and General (non-Honours) final year. Where such level 9 and above resits are permitted the provisions of section 3.6 apply.

3.8 Late coursework need not be accepted without good reason being given for its late submission. If it is accepted late with good reason being provided, then no penalty will be exacted. If it is accepted late without good reason being provided, it will be recorded as late and a penalty may be exacted. For coursework that is a substantial component of the course and where the submission deadline is more than two weeks after the issue of the work to be assessed, that penalty should be a reduction of the mark by 5% of the maximum obtainable mark per working day (e.g. a mark of 65% on the common marking scale would be reduced to 60% up to 24 hours later). This would apply for up to five working days (or to the time when feedback is given, if this is sooner), after which a mark of zero should be given. The original unreduced mark should be recorded by the School and the student informed of it. Such work, if completed satisfactorily before feedback is issued, should be regarded as completed when completion alone is a criterion for success. Any School wanting to use a different penalty must obtain approval from the College, which must be reported to the relevant committee of Senatus for information. Schools will only grant extension of submission dates in exceptional circumstances on the basis of published criteria and procedures.

3.9 Boards of Examiners receive and confirm marks for students.

4. EXEMPTIONS POLICY – removed as of 2007/08

University policy and assessment practice has been changed such that from academic year 2007/08 exemptions are no longer applicable to any undergraduate programme or course.

5. EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

5.1 It is the student’s responsibility to ascertain his/her assessment deadlines, including examination times and locations.

5.2 Examinations may be scheduled outside normal University teaching hours.
5.3 Students may not appear for degree examination at times other than those prescribed, or at a place other than the designated one, except in cases of serious illness, injury or disability, or on grounds of religious scruples or unavoidable overlapping of examination hours, or in other exceptional circumstances, and in each case only with the express approval of the Head of the College concerned, or of his or her nominee, after consultation with the University Secretary. A student who is permitted to appear for examination at a time other than that prescribed may be required at the discretion of the Head of the College concerned, or his or her nominee, to answer a set of questions specially prepared for the purpose.

5.4 Students will only be allowed to sit examinations away from Edinburgh in the most exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the relevant committee of Senatus.

5.5 If required, specific reasonable adjustments will be made to enable disabled students to sit examinations, including any written, practice or oral examination, continuously assessed coursework or dissertation which counts towards the final assessment. Approval of specific reasonable adjustments should follow the normal approval routes (see 3.1, 3.2). Arrangements for degree examinations must be approved in advance by the Registry (650 2214), and the Disability Office (650 6828) for dyslexic students, and reported to the examiners. The Registry require to have notification of specific examination arrangements for dyslexic students well in advance of examination weeks and specific deadlines apply (see [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/registry/forms-info/dyslexia](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/registry/forms-info/dyslexia)). For all other disabled students the Registry must see and accept a medical certificate or similar documentation relating to the student or be satisfied that an acceptable certificate will be produced. Such students should discuss their requirements with their Director of Studies and/or the Disability Office at the earliest opportunity.

5.6 If, through failure at an earlier diet, a student has examinations in two classes which are examined at the same time, this should be notified through their Director of Studies to the Registry as soon as possible. A student in this situation is normally required to defer one examination to the next diet. This ruling may be waived by the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, in the case of a student about to enter the third year of an Honours curriculum who might be seriously handicapped as a student for Honours by carrying forward a subject extraneous to the curriculum; in such cases, the procedure outlined in 5.3 above should be adopted.

6. CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS

6.1 Invigilation of degree examinations is undertaken by authorised staff on the basis of arrangements made from time to time by the University Secretary, or Registry acting on his/her behalf. Examinations that contain practical or oral elements will continue to be invigilated solely by members of academic staff and may be conducted jointly with an External Examiner.

6.2 The Examination Hall regulations are publicised to students annually. [www.docs.sasq.ed.ac.uk/registry/exams/ExamHallRegs.pdf](http://www.docs.sasq.ed.ac.uk/registry/exams/ExamHallRegs.pdf)

7. MARKING

7.1 The Convener of the Board of Examiners is responsible for co-ordinating arrangements for marking assessed work and ensuring that all examiners are aware of their responsibilities and of the University's common marking scheme. More than one examiner should be involved in marking a student's work that contributes to the overall assessment. The principle is that no marker is able to influence unduly a student's overall assessment result but there is no requirement for all work to be double marked.
7.2 It is a student’s responsibility to ensure that his or her submitted assessed work is legible. If markers consider work to be illegible they must consult the Convener of the Board of Examiners.

a) Where there are issues of disability impairing ability to write legibly, the Convener, in consultation with the College and the Disability Office, can decide whether the work should be marked normally or whether the disability justifies transcription. If transcription is not justified and the work is completely illegible, a zero will be awarded.

b) Where there are no issues of disability, the Convener in consultation with the College should ensure that the work is marked normally so far as is possible. If the work remains completely illegible, a zero will be awarded.

In either situation the case should be drawn to the attention of both the relevant College authority (e.g. Dean of Undergraduate Studies) and the External Examiner.

7.3 The original versions of examination scripts may not be sent outside the United Kingdom.

7.4 Where practicable, examination papers and assessed coursework should be marked anonymously.

7.5 Boards of Examiners decide how marks are held, and to how many decimal places, during the internal processing of the marks for a course.

7.6 Assessment outcomes should not be determined solely by automatic processing.

8. COMMON MARKING SCHEME

8.1 The marking scheme below in Table 1 is to be used for all undergraduate degree assessment for programmes other than the BVM&S and the MBChB in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1: FOR DEGREE ASSESSMENT, excluding the BVM&amp;S and the MBChB:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HONOURS</th>
<th>NON-HONOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours Class</td>
<td>Mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>40-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Fail | 30-39 | E      |
|      | 20-29 | F      |
|      | 10-19 | G      |
|      | 0-9   | H      |

Marginal Fail
Clear Fail
Bad Fail
Classification of results
Column 1 applies to all final honours assessment that is classified and is to be used for the overall classification of honours degrees. The notation in columns 1, 2 or 3 may be used for the classification of each paper or discretely identified unit of assessment employed by the Board of Examiners in determining the overall classification.

Publication of results in European Diploma Supplements (see also section 10.18)
The notation in columns 2 and 3 is to be used by Boards of Examiners to enable implementation of the provisions of section 10 below. Both forms of notation must appear on the transcript issued on the authority of the Board of Examiners, though grades A1, A2 and A3 should all be recorded on the European Diploma Supplement simply as ‘A’. The Board should use the notation in column 1 only in reporting the overall classification of the degree in the final Supplement.

8.2 Colleges and Schools are free to amplify, but not alter, the overall description of grades (Column 4) for the further guidance of their students, where this is thought to be helpful.

8.3 The marking scheme to be used for professional examinations in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies ONLY is as follows:

ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES:
examinations leading to the BVM&S:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark %</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-49</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Marginal Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-45</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Clear Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-34</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Bad Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table applies to all assessments for non-honours examinations including all professional degree examinations in Veterinary Medicine. The notation and description in those columns are to apply both to the overall result and to individual units of assessment contributing to the overall result (see section 10 below).

8.4 The marking scheme to be used for the MBChB is as follows:

MEDICINE:
examinations leading to the MBChB, excluding the old MBChB Year 5 (2002/03):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark %</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Marginal Fail (can be compensated where appropriate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This scheme applies to all examinations related to the MBChB (and excludes Honours BSc courses, the intercalated Bachelor of Medical Sciences programmes and teaching and assessment undertaken for courses in other Colleges). There is the potential for exemption
for specific items of assessment. These exemptions are agreed in advance by the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine and the Senatus Academicus.

8.5 The standards and criteria for entry into honours applying in each curriculum should be determined and published.

8.6 The award of Merit, which is used by some Schools, is linked to the common marking scale, grade A representing First Class Merit and grade B Second Class Merit.

9. BOARD OF EXAMINERS MEETINGS

9.1 The Convener of the Board of Examiners is responsible for: giving reasonable notice of meetings; ensuring that the recommendations of the Board are approved by the appropriate examiners; and ensuring that a minute, which is an accurate record of the meeting and the approved results, is produced. The minute is a confidential document, although information on a particular student may need to be disclosed to that student under the Data Protection Act and generic information may need to be disclosed under Freedom of Information. \textit{Inter alia}, the minute should record the names of the persons attending the meeting, relevant individual circumstances raised at the meeting or considered by a Special Circumstances Committee and the outcome of subsequent discussion, and the discussion and outcomes for any borderline students. Details of any modification of marks should be recorded together with the reasons for these. Comments by the External Examiner(s) about the examination of the course, the performance of the students in general, and their approval of results agreed by the Board of Examiners should also be minuted.

9.2 All members of the Board of Examiners should attend meetings of the Board but, provided reasonable notice of a meeting has been given, a main meeting is properly constituted and empowered to act if no fewer than half of the internal examiners or, in exceptional circumstances and by prior written agreement with the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, and the Convener of the Board, representatives nominated and authorised by them, and, in the assessment of Honours examinations at least one External Examiner, are present. No Board may have fewer than two internal members present. In addition, in the case of Joint Honours examinations, each subject discipline must be represented and whenever practicable an External Examiner from each subject should be present. (See also Regulation 1.14.)

9.3 For a meeting of a reconvened or resit Board of Examiners, the quorum is not less than half of the internal members of the Board of Examiners. No Board may have fewer than two internal members participating. In the case of small Boards of Examiners, it may be necessary to appoint nominees or proxies for members of the original Board unable to participate in the reconvened or resit Boards. The Head of the College, or his or her nominee, and Convener of the Board must approve the nomination of such representatives. Any decision reached by a reconvened or resit Board of Examiners must be approved by at least one External Examiner. (See also Regulation 1.15.)

9.4 The Convener of the Board may at his or her discretion invite any person who has been involved in the teaching or assessment of the work under consideration by the Board to be present \textquoteleft in attendance\textquoteright{} (without voting rights) at the meeting of the Board even where the person concerned has not been appointed to the Board or is not eligible for appointment to the Board.

9.5 The College has responsibility for ensuring that students have met the requirements for senior honours and graduation, on the basis of information provided by Boards of Examiners. The provisions of this section also apply to Ordinary or General (non-Honours) final year students and to students entering their first or only honours year from 2004/05. Students registered for an Ordinary or General (non-Honours) degree may be awarded the
degree if they attain at least 240 credits at levels 7 and 8 or above, attain at least an additional 80 credits from the 120 credits in the Ordinary or General final year, are awarded an aggregate pass for the Ordinary or General final year and satisfy any other specific requirements for the degree programme:

(a) The junior honours year Boards of Examiners have the responsibility to decide which students can progress to the next year of study. Progressing students must attain at least 80 credits and be awarded an aggregate pass for the 120 credits of junior honours study and must satisfy any other specific requirements for the degree programme. The Board of Examiners may propose to the College that an award of an Ordinary or General degree be made to students who have attained at least 80 credits at level 9 and above and been awarded an aggregate pass for the 120 credits of junior honours study but who do not satisfy the other specific honours degree requirements.

(b) The senior honours year or intercalated year Boards of Examiners have the responsibility to decide which students can graduate or, in the case of undergraduate Masters degrees, progress to the next year of study. To graduate or progress students must attain at least 80 credits and be awarded an aggregate pass for the 120 credits of senior honours or intercalated study and must satisfy any other specific requirements for the degree programme. The Board of Examiners may propose to the College that an award of an Ordinary or General degree be made to students who do not achieve these requirements, on the basis of their junior honours achievements.

(c) The undergraduate Masters year Boards of Examiners have the responsibility to decide which students can graduate. To graduate students must attain at least 80 credits and be awarded an aggregate pass for the 120 credits of undergraduate Masters study and must satisfy any other specific requirements for the degree programme. The Board of Examiners may propose to the College the award of an Honours degree to students who do not achieve these requirements, on the basis of their senior honours achievements.

9.6 The Board of Examiners at its main meeting for assessment of students in their final year is responsible for deriving the classification for award of an honours degree. For students who entered their first honours year in or after 2004/05, within a year the assessment weighting of a course within a year is proportional to its credit value. For students entering their first honours year in or after 2005/06 degree class is assigned by calculating the mean of marks of the individual courses, weighted by the number of credit points of each course, with the exceptions as outlined in (a) to (c) below.

(a) For degrees with two honours years, including degree programmes with an obligatory period of residence/study abroad, the classification is based on performance in both honours years, which are equally weighted except for:

(i) modern language degree programmes with a prescribed period of residence abroad where credit points for language acquisition through residence are aggregated with those associated with the language learning in the final year and where the classification is based on two honours years in line with this aggregation;

(ii) degree programmes where students can opt to spend a period of residence/study abroad, where for students who entered their first honours year in or after 2005/06, credits will be allocated for the study abroad but these are weighted zero in the final classification;

(iii) the MA in International Business, where the classification for these students is based solely on the final honours year; and
(iv) the MA with Honours in American Studies where, for students who entered their first Honours year in 2006/07, the classification is based solely on the final honours year.

(b) Intercalated honours degrees have a one-year honours component and their classification is based solely on the honours year.

(c) Integrated Masters degrees have three honours years and their classification is based on all these years, which are weighted respectively 20:40:40 (in percentage terms), with the exception of the MChem and MChemPhys degrees “with Industrial Experience” and “with a Year in Europe”, which are weighted 20:20:60. (See also section 3.1)

9.7 The Board of Examiners should agree marks as final in the year in which they are obtained. The final honours year Board of Examiners should not revise marks agreed by the Board of Examiners for non-final honours years. The Board of Examiners, in determining final classifications and awards, may exercise discretion by taking into account additional relevant information.

9.8 Boards of Examiners must consider students whose marks are borderline for progression, award or classification purposes. Borderline marks are defined as marks from two percentage points below the class or grade boundary up to the boundary itself, e.g. 58.00% to 59.99% for a 2.2. Boards of Examiners must publish in advance the factors that will be taken into account for borderline decisions, which can include:
(a) cases in which a student has performed better in courses at a higher level;
(b) cases where the amount of credited assessed work to be used for classification is less than the norm (e.g., where credits have been awarded for progression purposes only in recognition of special circumstances); and
(c) profiles of performance. (See section 3.1)

9.9 Boards of Examiners confirm the credit allocation from Universities abroad.

Anonymity

9.10 Anonymity should be retained until, in the opinion of the Board of Examiners, the best interests of the students are no longer being served. Where students have to attend oral examinations or perform or otherwise present some of their work, or on courses or programmes taken by small numbers of students, anonymity may be unachievable. Where possible, however, anonymity should be breached only for those examiners directly involved in the relevant assessment, and marks should be re-encrypted for presentation at the Board of Examiners’ meeting.

Special Circumstances
(See guidance at www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Policies/Special_Circumstances.pdf)

9.11 Any personal circumstances which are clearly beyond the student’s control and for which there is sufficient documentary evidence to show that these circumstances may have adversely affected a student’s performance in an assessment, should be reported and should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Special Circumstances Committee, regardless of the impact on the student's marks, grades or classification. The minutes of the Board of Examiners must record cases where special circumstances were taken into account and minute the outcome. Responsibility for producing the documentary evidence rests with the student.

9.12 Directors of Studies should be alert to the possibility that evidence will be submitted and be ready to pass it in confidence to relevant Special Circumstances Committees or to the Convener of the Board of Examiners. Where such information has to be presented, this should not be circulated to the Board of Examiners but rather brought to the Board’s attention by the Convener of the Special Circumstances Committee or the Convener of the
Board of Examiners in as concise a form as is consistent with clarity, preferably still retaining the anonymity of the student.

9.13 The Board of Examiners should take account of any personal circumstances and of the student’s general academic record, when determining the classification of a Final Honours degree. However, it is not within the power of a Board of Examiners to recommend the award of a degree without substantial evidence of attainment to at least the lowest level required for the award of Honours at that class of degree. Boards of Examiners may not be generous in cases of failure other than within the limits already set out in these regulations.

Decisions of Boards of Examiners

9.14 The internal and External Examiners must concur in the mark and grade to be awarded to each student or, in the case of a Final Honours examination, in the class of degree to be awarded.

9.15 Once the Board of Examiners has decided on the final marks, grades and if appropriate class of degree for each student, the students’ names must then be substituted for their examination numbers. There must then be a final check of the results before the list is agreed and recorded in the minutes. Only in the event of detection of an error, which was not detectable when examination numbers were used, could changes be made to the marks, grades or class of degree at this stage. Any such change should be recorded in the minutes.

9.16 More than one person should be involved in checking the calculation of the marks and ensuring the accuracy of their transfer to Registry. When marks for courses are finalised, before they are returned to Registry and released to students, they must be rounded to an integer, i.e. with no decimal places. Any mark which is xx.50 or above is rounded up and any number which is xx.49 or below is rounded down, e.g. 59.50% is rounded to 60%, 59.49% is rounded to 59%. Individual Honours course marks must be rounded before return to Registry and the rounded marks must be used in calculating the overall mean mark to be used in classification. The overall mean mark is not rounded.

9.17 The results of degree and certificate assessment must be notified to the Registry (or in the case of MBChB examinations in Medicine, the College Office) following procedures determined by Registry. Results must be confirmed by at least one internal examiner (normally the Convener) and by at least one External Examiner. Examination results for the summer (May) examinations should reach the Registry as soon as possible and certainly not later than 14 days before the date of graduation, to give enough time for the preparation and printing of the graduation programme. In the case of autumn (August) examinations, results should be submitted as soon as possible and not later than 10 days before the start of the next semester.

9.18 Although a Board of Examiners may not certify that a student for a degree is entitled to receive the degree, it has full power to decide upon the classification of Honours in an Honours examination. In the case of General degrees, the College Office, and not the Board of Examiners, decides upon the award of the degree with merit.

9.19 Decisions by a Board of Examiners, once certified in writing, are final except that:

   (a) a Board of Examiners may, at the instance of any of its members, review a decision if information relevant to that decision, but unavailable at the time the decision was made, comes to light or if any error having a material bearing on that decision or an error in the written certification of that decision has been made; if the Board is satisfied that there are grounds for varying the decision the Board shall forthwith report its recommendation to that effect to the University Secretary (or to Registry, acting on
his/her behalf), who may either report the recommendation to the Senatus or exceptionally will refer it to the relevant committee of Senatus for decision.

(b) where an error is discovered in the assessment or marking of any examination or any component of an examination or in the calculation, recording or notification of the result of any examination or any component thereof or in the classification of any degree or in any process connected with any of these matters, the University shall forthwith correct that error and amend its records to show the correct result or classification and that whether or not the result or classification has been published or otherwise notified to the student. The University shall notify the student of the corrected result or classification as soon as practicable and shall also correct any reference or statement which may have been provided by the University whether to the student or to a third party. Having been notified of the corrected result or classification the student shall return to the University any documentation which may have been issued to the student notifying the original result or classification which has been corrected. The student shall have no claim against the University for any loss or damage which may have been incurred by the student as a result of any error which may have been made.

(c) a student has the right of appeal provided by Section 16 below.

(d) any member of Senatus may request Senatus to refer for investigation any matter concerning examinations.

(e) in proved cases of substantial and significant copying, plagiarism or other fraud, the Senatus has the power to reduce the classification of, or to revoke, any degree it has already awarded, and to require the degree, diploma or certificate scroll to be returned. (See Section 14)

10. THE RELEASE OF ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

10.1 In this Section of the Regulations “marks” includes grades where appropriate.

10.2 All discussion at a Board of Examiners’ meeting is confidential, and no comments or remarks should be reported to any students, whether or not they are unattributed. Under normal circumstances the views of a particular examiner should not be made known to a student. However, if a student makes a request under the Data Protection Act, information recorded in the minutes on that particular student may need to be disclosed.

10.3 Other than with the permission of the student concerned, members of staff should not make available information about marks to persons or bodies outside the University except when necessary in the context of a reference. The award of merit is not confidential.

Marks for individual units of assessment

10.4 Students are entitled to obtain the mark or grade for each paper or other discreetly identified unit of assessment employed by the Board in reaching its final mark for the assessment. Such marks will be made available to the student on request through the Directors of Studies, or through another member of the academic staff nominated by the Board of Examiners, together with guidance on the meaning of the marks or grades. There is no obligation to provide this information under these Regulations if the request is made more than one year after the date of the assessment.

10.5 The Board of Examiners will approve a single mark for each unit of assessment for which marks are to be released; the released marks will be the final marks used by the Board of Examiners when determining the overall result for the course. In each case, the student will be informed of the status of the marks released and be reminded that the Board of
Examiners, in determining the final marks, may have exercised discretion by taking into account additional relevant information.

10.6 **Assessed coursework marks which contribute to the overall result for a course:** Schools which use assessed coursework marks which contribute to the overall result for a course normally provide students with the assessed coursework marks at the time that the assessment is marked, as a guide to each student's performance, together with guidance on the meaning of the marks. If such marks are released before confirmation by the Board of Examiners, students must be advised that the marks are provisional and may be modified when considered at the Board of Examiners meeting in that year. (See Section 3)

10.7 **Multiple choice questionnaires:** Students will be provided with the overall mark in multiple choice questionnaire (MCQ) examinations which are processed on computer. If such MCQ examinations form part of assessed coursework, the mark must be provided when marking of the examination is completed.

10.8 **Provisional marks:** Throughout the year, before consideration by a Board of Examiners, marks for examinations and assessed coursework which contribute to the overall result for a course are inherently provisional and have no status until they are approved or modified by the Board. If such marks are released before confirmation by the Board of Examiners, students must be advised that the marks are provisional and may be modified when considered at the Board of Examiners meeting in that year. (See Section 3)

10.9 Course Organisers or their nominees (who may be individuals who are not members of staff but who have been appointed under section 1.2 above) may show and discuss with students their non-honours degree examination scripts for feedback purposes (see 10.8 and 11.1).

10.10 **Non-honours degree examination marks; and professional degree examination marks or grades in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (other than final professional degree examination marks): Overall marks:** The final overall mark agreed by Boards of Examiners for diets of examinations for graduating courses of study will be made available to the student by means of the examination result notification issued by the Registry (except in Medicine, where the overall mark will be issued by the College Office). General guidance on the meaning of the mark may be available from the Directors of Studies.

10.11 **Honours degree examination marks; and final professional degree examination marks in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine: Overall classification:** The final overall classification of honours degrees will be intimated to students in their degree certificates. The professional degrees may be awarded with honours in Medicine, or with distinction in Veterinary Medicine, but are not otherwise classified.

**Publication of Results**

10.12 Students have the right to exclude their name and/or examination results from being publicly announced, with the exception of excluding this information from Registry’s graduation programme.

10.13 Notices of degree examination results may be displayed, provided that the students’ identities are protected through the use of students’ examination numbers. It is the responsibility of the Convener of the Board of Examiners to ensure that results displayed agree with the certified assessment examination results lodged with the Registry (see 10.17). **Notices of Final Honours results which are displayed must be signed by at least one internal (normally the Convener of the Board of Examiners) and one External Examiner and headed: “Final Honours Examination ... for the degree of ... List of Classes determined by the Examiners”.**
10.14 For all non-degree assessment, lists of assessment results may be displayed providing that the students’ identities are protected through the use of students’ examination numbers.

10.15 [As exemptions are no longer applicable (see Regulation 4 above), this provision of the regulations no longer applies]

10.16 Students’ results may not be released over the telephone.

10.17 The assessment results submitted to the Registry are the official results of the University and are notified to students by the Registry on behalf of the Senatus.

European Diploma Supplement

10.18 Registry will provide each graduating student with a European Diploma Supplement shortly after graduation, except for students graduating from the MBChB or Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies programmes. Graduates from these programmes will be issued with their European Diploma Supplements by the College or School Office. The European Diploma Supplement includes a full academic transcript. Further information on European Diploma Supplements and academic transcripts can be found at [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/registry/student-documents/transcripts-certs](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/registry/student-documents/transcripts-certs)

11. RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION OF ASSESSMENT MATERIAL

Assessed material should be destroyed in accordance with the University’s student records retention guidance: see [www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/InfoStaff/RMstaff/RMprojects/StudentRecords/StudentRetSched.htm](http://www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/InfoStaff/RMstaff/RMprojects/StudentRecords/StudentRetSched.htm)

11.1 Degree examination scripts are received by the University in confidence. Degree examination scripts, or copies of such scripts, are not returned to students, however students are entitled to have sight of their examination scripts to assist with their self-reflective learning.

11.2 Schools should balance the need to maintain an adequate documentary record of assessed work, which is necessary to inform decisions of original, resit and reconvened Boards of Examiners, and the need to provide sufficient feedback to students. The documentary account needs to record those types of assessment which cannot be made available to the Board of Examiners (see also section 3.5).

Honours Assessment

11.3 Material which contributes to the final assessment of the degree, including any written examinations, dissertations, essays, laboratory or studio work and projects, should be retained in the School for a suitable period after the Board of Examiners meeting which decides the overall classification or award of the degree.

Assessment other than Honours Assessment

11.4 Material which contributes significantly to the overall assessment of the course, including degree examination scripts, should be retained in the School for a suitable period after the Board of Examiners meeting. This may be the resit Board of Examiners.

Destruction of assessed material

11.5 Examination scripts should be destroyed at the end of the retention period. For students who submit appeals, the retention period will need to be extended until the end of the appeal process. Other material which contributes to the final assessment of the degree or overall assessment of the course may be returned to the student after the expiry of the retention period providing they do not make known the views of a particular examiner (see 10.2). Dissertations may be retained by Schools, who have the responsibility to make them...
available to any enquirer in response to a freedom of information request (unless an exemption applied). Material which is not retained or returned should be destroyed at the end of the retention period.

12. **SUSPENSION FROM HONOURS YEAR**

12.1 A student undertaking an Honours year is not permitted to suspend his or her studies before the completion of the year and of the assessment relating to it except by permission of the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, and on the production of satisfactory evidence of illness or other circumstances beyond the student’s control which justify such a measure. If the student is given permission to suspend his or her studies, he or she shall be told in writing whether part of or the whole of the year, including any material counting towards the assessment of courses which she/he may already have submitted, will have to be repeated. In cases where the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, considers that a significant amount of assessment has already taken place, the student will be considered under the terms of regulation 13.1.

13. **FAILURE TO COMPLETE DEGREE ASSESSMENT ADEQUATELY**

**Honours Degree Assessments**

**Final Year Honours Assessment**

13.1 Assessment is construed in section 13 to include all work, the assessment of which normally contributes to the final assessment of the degree, including any written examinations, dissertations, essays, laboratory or studio work and projects. The “next diet” means the next diet at which that examination is routinely scheduled.

13.2 Where the Board of Examiners is given satisfactory evidence that the performance of a student in assessment for the final year of honours study has been affected for reasons of illness, accident or other circumstances beyond his or her control:

(a) if the student has taken all or a part of the assessment the Board of Examiners will investigate the case and review any evidence of the student’s academic performance during his or her degree programme. If the student has satisfied the specific requirements for the degree and can either be awarded an aggregate pass (see 9.5 above) or the Board can classify the degree robustly, excluding the affected assessment from the classification calculation, the Board may recommend the award of a classed honours degree. If the Board considers that to award such a degree would be to the student’s detriment or it considers that it has insufficient evidence to make a reliable award, the Board will report to the Head of the College or his or her nominee that it has insufficient evidence to make an award.

(b) if the student has taken no part of the assessment the Board of Examiners shall bring the case to the attention of the Head of the College or his or her nominee.

13.3 When a case under regulation 13.2 is brought to the attention of the Head of College or his or her nominee, he or she shall report to the Relevant Committee of Senatus with such evidence as has been produced by the student from medical and welfare agencies and, so far as is practicable and appropriate, the views of the student, the Director of Studies and the Convener of the Board of Examiners. The report should also state what coursework, if any, will have to be repeated if the student is required to appear for assessment at a later diet. The relevant Committee of Senatus, after such consultation as it thinks fit, shall recommend to the Senatus either:

(a) that, exceptionally, the student be awarded an unclassed aegrotat degree, or
(b) that he or she be required to take the examination papers at the next diet either after repeating some or all of the coursework or without repeating the coursework, or

(c) in cases involving exceptional hardship, and where the Heads of the Schools involved are prepared to so recommend, that the student be permitted to take specially prepared examination papers at an appropriate diet.

Honours Assessment taken in a Year preceding the Final Year

13.4 Where the award of Honours for an Honours group or programme involves assessment taken in a year preceding the final year of study and where the Board of Examiners is given satisfactory evidence that the performance of a student for such an Honours group or programme has been affected for reasons of illness, accident or other circumstances beyond his or her control (which may include being misadvised to sit assessment whilst the circumstances existed), the Board of Examiners shall investigate the case. If the student has satisfied the specific requirements for the degree the Board may recommend the award of an aggregate pass (see 9.5 above). If the Board considers that to award such a pass would be to the student’s detriment or it considers that it has insufficient evidence to make an award, the Board will:

(a) recommend a relevant concession to the Convener of the Relevant College Committee, e.g. deeming the affected assessment a “null sit” which can be taken again as a first attempt or recommending that when the degree is classified the affected assessment is excluded from the classification calculation; or

(b) recommend to the Convener of the Relevant College Committee that the student be required to repeat the course to which the assessment relates or to submit himself or herself to such assessment elements as the College deems appropriate.

Degree Assessment other than Honours or MBChB examinations

13.5 Where a student has completed part of the assessment counting towards the degree result for the subject (where "assessment" is construed to include all work, the assessment of which normally contributes to the final assessment of the degree, including any written examinations, dissertations, essays, laboratory or studio work and projects), and produces satisfactory evidence that his or her failure to complete the assessment was for reasons of illness, accident or other circumstances beyond his or her control, the Board of Examiners shall recommend one of the following courses of action:

(a) A student who has been unable to present him/herself for the written examination papers counting for a degree examination other than an Honours examination, or has been unable to complete adequately such written examination papers, will normally be expected to present himself or herself for examination at the next diet or, exceptionally, at such special examination as the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, in consultation with the University Secretary, may approve. The Board of Examiners may recommend that such students’ assessments at the next diet be recorded as their first attempt on the transcripts. In cases where it is felt that exceptional hardship would be caused to the student by his or her being required to present himself or herself for examination as stated above, a case may be submitted to the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, who, if he/she judges that such exceptional hardship has been established, may permit the Board of Examiners involved either to operate the provisions of paragraph (b) or (c) below.

(b) Where such a student has completed part or all of the assessed coursework which contributes to the degree result for the subject, the Board of Examiners (if the Head of the College or his/her nominee has signified that the Board may do so in the terms of paragraph (a) above) may award a pass in the course and determine the appropriate mark or grade, if it considers that it has sufficient evidence of the student’s academic
performance. Where a Board of Examiners makes use of the power given in this regulation, the Board must inform the Head of the College, or his or her nominee, and a pass awarded under this regulation must be submitted to the Registry.

(c) Where such a student has completed no part of the assessment counting towards the degree result for the subject (where "assessment" is construed as above), or where the Board of Examiners considers it has insufficient evidence on which to base its decision, the Board (if the Head of the College or his/her nominee has signified that the Board may do so in terms of paragraph (a) above), may recommend to the College the award of a pass in that course; such a recommendation shall be subject to approval by the relevant Committee of Senatus and the Senatus. A pass awarded under this regulation must be submitted to the Registry.

Degree Examinations other than Honours - MBChB

13.6 Where a student, by reasons of illness, accident, or other circumstances beyond his or her control, has been unable to complete an examination and produces satisfactory evidence that his/her failure to complete the examination was for reasons beyond his or her control, the Board of Examiners may award a pass in that examination provided that the student has completed at least part of the examination and the Board of Examiners is satisfied on the basis of the student's performance in that part of the examination that his or her competence is not in doubt.

Posthumous Degrees

13.7 The Senatus may authorise the conferment of posthumous degrees. Each such conferment requires a positive proposal from the College concerned and the relevant committee of Senatus. Normally a posthumous degree is conferred only where the student was qualified to receive the degree at the time of death.

Aegrotat Degrees

13.8 In special circumstances the Senatus may authorise the conferment of aegrotat degrees, which are unclassed. Each such conferment requires a positive proposal from the College concerned and the relevant committee of Senatus. Normally an aegrotat degree is conferred only where the student was nearly qualified to receive the degree and on the grounds of ill health was unable to complete it. Before any proposal is referred to the Senatus, the College must check that the student is willing to receive the degree aegrotat.

14. ACADEMIC BEST PRACTICE AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

14.1 All work submitted for assessment by students is accepted on the understanding that it is the student’s own effort without falsification of any kind. Students are expected to offer their own analysis and presentation of information gleaned from research, even when group exercises are carried out. In so far as students rely on sources, they should indicate what these are according to the appropriate convention in their discipline.

Suspected plagiarism

14.2 Plagiarism is the act of copying or including in one’s own work, without adequate acknowledgement, intentionally or unintentionally, the work of another. It is academically fraudulent and an offence against University discipline. Plagiarism, at whatever stage of a student’s course, whether discovered before or after graduation, will be investigated and dealt with appropriately by the University. The innocent misuse or citation of material without formal and proper acknowledgement can constitute plagiarism, even when there is no deliberate intent to cheat. Work may be plagiarised if it consists of close paraphrasing
or unacknowledged summary of a source, as well as word-for-word transcription. Any failure adequately to acknowledge or properly reference other sources in submitted work could lead to lower marks and to disciplinary action being taken.

**Suspected cheating**

14.3 It is academically fraudulent and an offence against University discipline for a student to invent or falsify data, evidence, references, experimental results or other material contributing to any student’s assessed work or for a student knowingly to make use of such material. It is also an offence against University discipline for students to collude in the submission of work that is intended for the assessment of individual academic performance.

14.4 It is an offence for any student knowingly to make use of unfair means in any University assessment, to assist a student to make use of such unfair means, to do anything prejudicial to the good conduct of the assessment, or to impersonate another student or allow another student to impersonate him/her in an examination. Any student found to have cheated or attempted to cheat in an assessment may be deemed to have failed that assessment and disciplinary action may be taken.

**Procedures:** see Plagiarism Guidance webpages at:

[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/staff/discipline/plagiarism](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/staff/discipline/plagiarism)

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15. **UNSATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS BY STUDENTS - PROCEDURE FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY**

Some degree programmes leading to professional qualification include Fitness to Practise considerations. Any issues of unsatisfactory progress in relation to fitness to practise will be dealt with first according to the University’s Fitness to Practice procedures. [www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Guidance/Fitness_to_Practise.pdf](http://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Guidance/Fitness_to_Practise.pdf)

15.1 College Programmes shall contain details of the progress which students are expected to achieve within given periods, and warnings that students are liable to be considered for exclusion if these expectations are not fulfilled.

15.2 Students who on the criteria contained in the College Programmes are regarded as potentially unsatisfactory are notified of this and are normally interviewed before any recommendation for exclusion is made to the College.

15.3 The College is regarded as the final judge of the academic basis for exclusion on the grounds of unsatisfactory progress as specified in the degree regulations. If the College decides to forward a recommendation for exclusion on the grounds of unsatisfactory progress to the Senatus, the student has the right to appeal to the Appeal Committee through the University Secretary, but only if the student can produce substantial evidence which, for good reason, was not made available to the College, or can allege irregular procedure or improper conduct on the part of the College. The appeal is heard by the Appeal Committee on behalf of Senatus.

15.4 Procedure at appeal follows that set out in Section 16. Appeals must be submitted to the University Secretary within two weeks of the College’s decision to exclude the student. On hearing an appeal, the Appeal Committee has the power to vary the original decision, to confirm it, or to require the College progression committee to reconvene to reconsider its decision.

15.5 A student declared to have made unsatisfactory academic progress by the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine in the MBChB or BVM&S programmes is normally excluded from attendance at classes and examinations in these programmes.
15.6 A student who has made unsatisfactory academic progress in other programmes within the College of Humanities and Social Science, the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine or the College of Science and Engineering may be required to withdraw from classes but is entitled to apply to the relevant College for permission to re-enter for examination in order to attempt to recover satisfactory progress status.

15.7 A student deemed to have made unsatisfactory progress under professional Fitness to Practise requirements is normally excluded from all further attendance at classes and examinations leading to the relevant professional qualification, but is entitled to apply to the College for permission to re-enter for examination in a suitable alternative programme not leading to professional qualification.

16. **APPEALS**

16.1 This Section sets out the mechanism and grounds for appeal. For the purpose of this Section, "examination" is understood to include any written, practical or oral examination, continuously assessed coursework or dissertation which counts towards the final assessment.

16.2 Factors which may adversely affect a student’s performance in an examination or in assessed coursework over the year, such as personal illness or the illness of a close relative or partner, must be drawn to the attention of the Examiners in writing by the student as soon as possible and, in any event, before the meeting of the Board of Examiners. (See 9.11 to 9.13.)

16.3 A student may appeal against an examination result on the grounds of:

(a) substantial information directly relevant to the quality of performance in the examination which for good reason was not available to the examiners when their decision was taken. Ignorance of the requirement mentioned in paragraph (16.2) above to report timeously factors which may have adversely affected a student’s performance, or failure to report such factors on the basis that the student did not anticipate an unsatisfactory result in the examination, can never by themselves constitute good reason; and/or

(b) alleged irregular procedure or improper conduct of an examination. For this purpose “conduct of an examination” includes conduct of a meeting of the Board of Examiners.

16.4 Appellants must specify the formal ground or grounds under which they believe their appeal should be considered. They must also specify the basis or bases on which the formal grounds are invoked.

16.5 Any appeal must be submitted in writing to the University Secretary as soon as possible. Only in special circumstances may an appeal from a visiting or final year student or graduate be considered more than six weeks after the results of an examination have been available to the appellant. For other undergraduate appellants only in special circumstances may an appeal be considered more than two weeks after the results of an examination have been available to the appellant. The decision as to whether or not special circumstances exist will be made by the sub-committee referred to in Regulation 16.7.

16.6 The written presentation of the case, which the appellant is required to submit prior to the *prima facie* hearing, should contain all the relevant arguments on the basis of which the appeal is being made. Other than in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Convener, the appellant will not at any point thereafter be permitted to introduce new circumstances into the appeal. The appellant has the opportunity to comment in their
presentation on information provided by the Convener of the Board of Examiners and their Directors of Studies. The final written presentation must be submitted three weeks after receipt of this information by final year students or graduates and one week after receipt of this information for other undergraduate appellants.

16.7 The University Secretary or his or her nominee and two members of the Appeal Committee (who must not be from the School concerned) are empowered as a sub-committee to decide whether or not a prima facie case of appeal is established to be heard by the full Appeal Committee on behalf of the Senatus and/or whether the case should be referred for Convener’s Action (see 16.8).

16.8 If the appeal is considered by Convener’s Action, then it is dealt with by the Convener, Appeal Committee secretary and one other academic member of the Appeal Committee. On considering an appeal by Convener’s Action, the Convener has the power to require the Board of Examiners to reconvene to reconsider the appellant’s results or to refer the case to the full Appeal Committee.

16.9 If the appeal is heard by the Appeal Committee the appellant will be given reasonable notice of the date of the hearing and will be entitled to attend and to be accompanied by one other member of the University of Edinburgh community. The appellant may present his or her case in person or may nominate another member of the University of Edinburgh community to do so on his/her behalf. The Appeal Committee quorum is the Convener and secretary plus three academic staff drawn from the list of eligible nominees. On hearing an appeal, the Committee has the power to vary the original decision of the Board of Examiners, to confirm it, or to require the Board of Examiners to reconvene to reconsider the appellant’s results, adopting any requirements specified by the Appeal Committee. In the case of joint academic and professional qualifications and in courses leading to qualifications such as in social work, where a professional qualification is awarded as an outcome of the University’s examination process, the role of Appeal Committee when hearing an appeal relating to the professional (as opposed to academic) aspect of the qualification is limited to confirming the Board’s decision or to requiring the Board of Examiners to reconvene to reconsider the appellant’s result.

16.10 The decision of the Appeal Committee and any decision of the sub-committee that no prima facie case has been established (see 16.7) are final and only in exceptional circumstances may an appellant appeal the decision on any grounds. The decision as to whether or not exceptional circumstances exist will be made by the sub-committee referred to in Section 16.7.

16.11 Each such action of the Committee must be reported to the Senatus. The Committee is required to report to the Senatus biennially indicating the number of appeals heard by the Committee, the number rejected by the sub-committee, and the grounds for rejection.

17. INTERPRETATION AND ADJUDICATION

17.1 Any dispute arising from these Regulations, whether of interpretation or otherwise, is determined by the relevant committee of Senatus, subject to review by the Senatus.