

University of Aberdeen

University Court

Proposed Changes to Resolution: Changes to Regulations of Various Degrees

Notice is today, Monday 26 May 2025, hereby given under the terms of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 that at its meeting of 30 April 2025, the University Court, on the recommendation of the Senatus Academicus, resolved to send to the Business Committee of the General Council and make available to any other body or person having an interest, the enclosed Draft Resolution.

Proposed Changes

The Court has agreed to formally consult, as required by statute, on changes to the Resolution [Changes to Regulations of Various Degrees]. Copy with proposed changes below.

Comments to the University Court

Any other body or person having an interest who wishes to comment on the proposals should lodge such representations (in writing) by Tuesday 24 June 2025 with Mr Bruce Purdon, Clerk to the Court, b.purdon@abdn.ac.uk, Directorate of Planning and Governance, Regent Walk, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3FX.

DRAFT RESOLUTION NO x OF 2025 [CHANGES IN REGULATIONS FOR VARIOUS DEGREES]

After consultation with the Senatus Academicus, the University Court, at its meeting on < > passed the following Resolution:

1. On the recommendation of the Senatus Academicus, the following changes to Degree Regulations are hereby approved.
2. This Resolution shall come into force on the fifteenth day of September, two thousand and twenty-five, but the requirements under it shall also be binding on students proceeding for the first time to First Degree study from the Access HE programme, or from Programme Year 0 of the MA or BSc with Foundation Studies.
3. The University may award the degrees of Master of Arts (MA) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Secondary Education with STEM Subjects. The MA and BA will be subject to the regulations as set out in the General Regulations for First Degrees and the relevant Supplementary Regulations.
4. The Supplementary Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education with STEM Subjects will be superseded by the Supplementary Regulations for the Degree of Master of Arts in Secondary Education with STEM Subjects, upon successfully achieving the professional accreditation.

1. GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR FIRST DEGREES

Regulation 16.1

In the existing regulation, after 'equivalent.', insert 'The Senatus Academicus will normally only permit candidates to progress in instances where they have no more than one additional course outstanding, valued at either 15 or 30 credit points.'

- 16.1** Studies for each degree are arranged to extend over a number of programme years, each of which for a full-time student normally occupies two terms. Except with the permission of the Senatus Academicus or where Regulation 17.1 applies candidates may not progress:
- a. from programme year 1 to programme year 2 unless they have accumulated, by award or recognition, or been exempted from, at least 90 credit points at level 1 [including those courses required to enter programme year 2 for the degree programme for which they are currently registered]; or
 - b. from programme year 2 to programme year 3 unless they have accumulated, by award or recognition, or been exempted from, at least 210 credit points at levels 1 and 2 [including those courses required to enter programme year 3 for the degree programme for which they are currently registered]; or
 - c. from programme year 3 to programme year 4 of an Honours degree programme where the degree programme for which they are registered allows, unless they have achieved at least 330 credit points by the end of level 3, including those courses required to enter programme year 4 for the degree programme for which they are currently registered and any courses at levels 1 and 2 which were outstanding at the time of progression to programme year 3.
 - d. in all cases, unless they have satisfied such further requirements governing progression

between programme years as may be prescribed in the Supplementary Regulations governing award of the degree programme for which they are registered.

Exceptionally, the Senatus Academicus may allow candidates to progress with less than the number of credit points stated, if it is satisfied (a) that they would have obtained the necessary credit points to progress save for medical or other good cause; (b) that they are capable of satisfying the progression requirements of the next programme year within two further terms of full-time study or the equivalent. Notwithstanding regulation 16.1 (a)-(c), the Senatus Academicus will normally only permit candidates to progress in instances where they have no more than one additional course outstanding, valued at either 15 or 30 credit points.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

Regulation 6

In the existing regulation, after 'minimum of' insert 'two supervisors (the supervisory team)',.

In the existing regulation, after 'one', delete 'main', and insert 'of whom is designated lead'.

In the existing regulation, delete 'They will be part of a supervisory team.'

6. Every candidate admitted shall undertake a programme of supervised research and training for a period to be specified in accordance with Regulation 8(ii). A programme of research may be in any field of study, provided that the programme: is capable of leading to scholarly research, which may include appropriate creative work, and can be assessed by the presentation of a dissertation and an oral examination. Every candidate will have a minimum of two supervisors (the supervisory team), one of whom is designated lead~~main~~ supervisor, appointed under Regulation 8(iii) for the purpose. ~~They will be part of a supervisory team.~~ There must always be one clearly identified point of contact for the student. All research students must complete the required programme of mandatory training and undertake regular skills and training audits throughout their prescribed period of study to determine research, transferable and generic skills requirements. Students in receipt of funding from any of the UK Research and Innovation funding bodies must, in addition, undertake a skills audit at the beginning of their programme of study which is to be completed by month six of study. Candidates admitted to European doctoral programmes must comply with additional requirements regarding overseas study, non-UK external examiners, an oral and submission of a thesis summary in a second language prescribed for the relevant doctoral degree, and on completion of their degree will be awarded the *European Doctorate* certificate in addition to their PhD of the University of Aberdeen. The Senatus Academicus will ensure that the requirements of both Aberdeen and European research degree regulations, as regards admission, supervision, progress and examination, are met.

Regulation 16

In the existing regulation, for '13' substitute '15'.

16. The Senatus Academicus may on application by candidates for the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, or Doctor of Engineering, or Master of Philosophy reduce the period specified under Regulation ~~13~~15, provided that:

- (i) no application to reduce the period of study may be submitted until a thesis is submitted for examination;
- (ii) for full-time candidates the period shall not be reduced to less than 24 months (PhD, EngD) or 12 months (MPhil);
- (iii) for part-time candidates the period shall not be reduced to less than 48 months (PhD, EdD, EngD) or 24 months (MPhil);
- (iv) for the degrees of Doctor of Medicine– not less than 18 months full-time or 24 months part-time;
- (v) for part-time candidates for the degree of PhD (by publication) the period shall not be reduced to less than 3 months.

The period specified for those part-time candidates who are currently employed as members of the teaching and/or research staff of the University may be reduced similarly, allowing such candidates to submit after not less than 36 months (PhD, EngD), 24 months (MPhil) or 12 months (in the case of any other Master's degree), as appropriate.

Regulation 18

In the existing regulation, before 'MPhil' insert '(iii)'.

In the existing regulation, before 'Other' insert '(iv)'.

In the existing regulation, for 'make' substitute 'must submit a thesis plan giving target dates for completion of each chapter making'.

18. Extensions can be granted up to a maximum of 12 months in the first instance, but the combined period of supervised study and Extension Period will not normally exceed the following:

- (i) PhD, EdD (part time only) 48 months (for previously full-time students) or 84 months (for previously part-time students)
- (ii) EngD 60 months (for previously full-time students) or 96 months (for previously part-time students)
- (iii) MPhil, MD or ChM 36 months (for previously full-time students) or 60 months (for previously part-time students)
- (iv) Other Master's 24 months (for previously full-time students) or 36 months (for previously part-time students)

Students submitting an application for an extension within the above time frames, following the completion of their supervised study, must be able to demonstrate evidence of progress in their research and must submit a thesis plan giving target dates for completion of each chapter making ~~make~~ clear the feasibility of submitting their thesis within the period of extension being sought.

Applications for an Extension to the period off study must normally be made at least 3 months in advance of the termination of period of study.

Regulation 21

In the existing regulation, after 'following' delete 'local'.

21. The research required by Regulation 8 shall, for full-time candidates, be conducted in the University of Aberdeen or in one of the following ~~local~~ institutions:

A Unit within the University whose director is a member of the University
Marine Directorate
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), Aberdeen
NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Hospitals of the Grampian Health Board
Hospitals of the Highland Health Board in Inverness
Regional Centres of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
James Hutton Institute
Trinity College Bristol with Bristol Baptist College

The project for the degree of Doctor of Engineering shall be undertaken in an approved industrial location.

Regulation 24

In the existing regulation, after 'the' ~~delete~~ 'local'.

24. Of the persons appointed to supervise the candidate's research at least one shall be a Professor, Reader, Senior Lecturer or Lecturer currently employed by the University, and if the candidate's research is conducted in one of the ~~local~~ institutions named in Regulation 21, at least one shall be a member of the staff of that institution. Of the persons appointed to supervise, normally, one will be appointed as lead supervisor. The lead supervisor will, normally, be an employee of the University. For candidates undertaking their studies within the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition (MMSN), the lead supervisor appointed must be an employee of the University. The supervisors for the degree of Doctor of Engineering shall include an industrial supervisor engaged in Engineering practice.

Regulation 25

In the existing regulation, after 'the' ~~delete~~ 'local'.

25. All University employed supervisors, and supervisors employed at the ~~local~~ institutions named in Regulation 21, are required to have undertaken mandatory supervisor training and refresher every 5 years to remain eligible to supervise. External supervisors are recommended to undertake supervisor training. All supervisors involved in recruitment interview panels are required to have completed Equality and Diversity and Recruitment and Selection training.

Regulation 27

In the existing regulation, after 'obtain', ~~delete~~ 'bi-'.

In the existing regulation, after 'progress', insert 'and development'.

In the existing regulation, for 'reports', substitute 'report'.

27. The Senatus Academicus shall in respect of candidates admitted for degrees by research obtain ~~bi~~-annual reports as to whether their progress and development has been satisfactory. If the Senatus Academicus is of the opinion on consideration of the ~~reports~~ report that a candidate's progress is unsatisfactory, it shall have the power to recommend to the Senatus Academicus that their candidature for the degree be terminated, or moved to a lower award, as appropriate. It is the duty of every candidate whose performance has been or is likely to be impaired by any circumstances to inform the Senatus Academicus and the Head(s) of the relevant School(s) accordingly in writing at the earliest opportunity, but in any case not later than the date on which the candidate submits the thesis for examination.

Regulation 31

In the existing regulation, for 'that, unless,' substitute 'and is an accurate record of the research that was undertaken. Additionally, that any personal data has been processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, and that all quotations have been distinguished by quotation marks and the sources of information specifically acknowledged. If any results were obtained partly in association with others, the nature and extent of this help, if substantial, must be specifically acknowledged in the declaration. The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools for any aspects of the thesis and the research undertaken must be disclosed in the declaration. This also applies to a thesis that is'.

In the existing regulation, after 'institution,' delete 'the work of which it is the record has been done by themselves, that any personal data have been processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018, and that all quotations have been distinguished by quotation marks and the sources of information specifically acknowledged. If any results were obtained partly in association with others, the nature and extent of this help, if substantial, must be specifically acknowledged in the declaration.'

31. All candidates shall present a thesis embodying the results of their research, which must be accompanied by a declaration signed by the candidates that it has been composed by themselves, ~~that, unless and is an accurate record of the research that was undertaken. Additionally, that any personal data has been processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, and that all quotations have been distinguished by quotation marks and the sources of information specifically acknowledged. If any results were obtained partly in association with others, the nature and extent of this help, if substantial, must be specifically acknowledged in the declaration. The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools for any aspects of the thesis and the research undertaken must be disclosed in the declaration. This also applies to a thesis that is~~ submitted as part of a programme, approved by the Senatus Academicus, as designed specifically to lead to the award of conjoint but separate degrees of the University of Aberdeen and of another institution, ~~the work of which it is the record has been done by themselves, that any personal data have been processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018, and that all quotations have been distinguished by quotation marks and the sources of information specifically acknowledged. If any results were obtained partly in association with others, the nature and extent of this help, if substantial, must be specifically acknowledged in the declaration.~~

Regulation 34

In the existing regulation, for 'the', substitute 'an'.

In the existing regulation, after 'Culture', insert ', or Media and Communication'.

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| 34. | The thesis of a candidate for the-an MPhil/PhD in Film and Visual Culture, <u>or Media and Communication</u> may take the form of a written dissertation (of approximately 50,000-70,000 words in length) accompanied by a practice-based film or other visual culture element. |
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Regulation 39

In the existing regulation, after 'full-time' insert 'equivalent'.

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| 39. | <p>The Senatus Academicus shall not approve a thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Engineering or Doctor of Medicine unless it is satisfied, having considered the reports of the examiners, that it makes a distinct contribution to knowledge and affords evidence of originality as shown by the exercise of independent critical powers. Nor shall the Senatus Academicus approve a thesis for the degree of Master of Philosophy unless it is satisfied, having considered the reports of the examiners, that it makes a contribution to knowledge and affords evidence of originality. Nor shall the Senatus Academicus approve a thesis for a one-year Master's degree unless it is satisfied, having considered the reports of the examiners, either that it displays evidence of originality or that it is a satisfactory, orderly and critical exposition of existing knowledge within the field concerned.</p> |
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In applying these standards the Senatus Academicus will consider what can be properly achieved in the one, two or three years' full-time equivalent work which is required for the various degrees. Further, the Senatus Academicus shall not approve a thesis for any degree unless the thesis meets acceptable standards in the use of English, in quotation and citation, and in presentation.

3. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MUSIC (BMus)

Regulation 5(b)

In the existing regulation, after 'the', delete 'Designated'.

In the existing regulation, after 'those', insert 'courses'.

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| 5. | (b) | from programme year 2 to programme year 3 of the Designated BMus or Designated BMus (Education) unless they have accumulated, by award or recognition, at least 210 credit points at levels 1 and 2 [including, by award, recognition or exemption those <u>courses</u> required to enter programme year 3 for the degree programme for which they are currently registered]; or |
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Regulation 5(c)

In the existing regulation, for 'an', substitute 'the BMus'.

In the existing regulation, following 'Honours', insert '(Education)'.

In the existing regulation, after 'those', insert 'courses'.

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| 5. | (c) | from programme year 2 to programme year 3 of an the BMus Honours (Education) programme unless they have accumulated, by award or recognition, at least 240 credit points at levels 1 and 2 [including, by award, recognition or exemption those <u>courses</u> required to enter programme year 3 for the degree programme for which they are currently registered]; or |
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Regulation 5(d)

In the existing regulation, after 'BMus', delete 'Honours, or Designated BMus'.

In the existing regulation, after 'those', insert 'courses'.

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| 5. | (d) | from programme year 3 of the BMus Honours, or Designated BMus to programme year 4 of the BMus Honours unless they have accumulated, by award of recognition, at least 330 credit points at Levels 1,2 and 3 [including by award, recognition or exemption those <u>courses</u> required to enter programme year 4 for the degree programme for which they are currently registered]. |
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Regulation 5(e)

In the existing regulation, after 'those', insert 'courses'.

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| 5. | (e) | from programme year 3 of the Designated BMus (Education) or BMus Honours (Education) to programme year 4 of the BMus Honours (Education) unless they have accumulated, by award or recognition, at least 360 credit points at Levels 1, 2 and 3 [including by award, recognition or exemption those <u>courses</u> required to enter programme year 4 for the degree programme for which they are currently registered]. |
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4. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH STEM SUBJECTS

Insert new regulations as follows:

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| 1. | The Degree of Master of Arts (MA) in Secondary Education in STEM Subjects may be conferred as the Master of Arts (Honours) in Secondary Education, the Degree of Master of Arts in Secondary Education, or as the Degree of Master of Arts in Educational Studies. Candidates who have satisfactorily completed a programme accredited by the General Teaching Council for Scotland shall be awarded either a Designated Degree of Master of Arts in Secondary Education or the Degree of Master of Arts (Honours) in Secondary Education, in accordance with Regulation 5. Within which, four programmes are offered, as follows:

MA in Secondary Education with Biology
MA in Secondary Education with Chemistry
MA in Secondary Education with Computer Science
MA in Secondary Education with Physics |
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2. Before being admitted to the programme leading to the degree, all candidates must, in addition to satisfying any academic requirements for admission, become a member of Disclosure Scotland's Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme, and would also normally be required to attend for interview.
3. The programme of study leading to the degree, which is accredited by the General Teaching Council for Scotland, shall be as approved by the Senatus Academicus and is contained in the programme prescription. The Honours programme for the degree comprises programme years 3 and 4.
4. Except with the permission of the Senatus Academicus, or where General Regulation 17.1 applies, candidates may not progress:
 - 4.1 from programme year 3 to programme year 4 unless they have accumulated, by award or recognition, at least 360 credit points at levels 1, 2 and 3 [including by award, recognition or exemption those required to enter programme year 4 for the degree programme for which they are currently registered].
5. Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts (Honours) in Secondary Education must successfully achieve 480 credit points and the completion of all prescribed elements, as listed in the programme prescription, to be awarded the Degree. Candidates who have failed to achieve the standard for the award of the Degree with Honours, but who have passed all required elements for the Degree as contained in the programme prescription, may be awarded the Designated Degree of Master of Arts in Secondary Education. The Designated Degree of Master of Arts in Secondary Education is recognised as a qualification which entitles the holder to be provisionally registered with the General Teaching Council for Scotland.
6. Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts (Honours) in Secondary Education who have failed to meet the standard for progression into level 4, in accordance with regulation 4.3, but who have successfully completed all other required elements of the programme and have achieved at least 360 credit points including 60 credit points at level 3, will normally be recommended for the award of Degree of Master of Arts in Educational Studies. The Degree of Master of Arts in Educational Studies is not recognised as a qualification which entitles its holder to be provisionally registered with the General Teaching Council for Scotland.
7. Pertaining to the School Experience practicum placements in Year 4 of the programme:
 - 7.1 Candidates on the Master of Arts (Honours) in Secondary Education programme whose performance is judged to be unsatisfactory during School Experience 1 [1A and 1B inclusive], as detailed in the programme prescription, may be allowed to progress, and make good any unsatisfactory performance in School Experience 2. If performance is judged to be satisfactory in School Experience 2 [2A and 2B inclusive], credit will be awarded for School Experience 1.
 - 7.2 Candidates whose performance is judged to be unsatisfactory in School Experience 2 [2A and 2B inclusive], as detailed in the programme prescription, and whose performance was judged to be satisfactory in School Experience 1 [1A and 1B inclusive], will normally be given the opportunity to repeat that period of School Experience with the permission of the Senatus Academicus.

- 7.3 Candidates whose performance is judged to be unsatisfactory in both School Experience 1 [1A and 1B inclusive], and School Experience 2 [2A and 2B inclusive] will normally be recommended for termination of their candidature.
- 8 Candidates who are absent for five days or more during a block of School Experience placement (School Experience 1 [1A and 1B inclusive] or School Experience 2[2A and 2B inclusive]) may be required to undertake a further period of School Experience.
- 9 Except with the permission of the Senatus Academicus, candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts (Honours) in Secondary Education who either:
- have failed to complete the requirements for this degree within five calendar years of the date of their first matriculation for this degree, or
 - can no longer do so (e.g., are deemed unfit to practise), or
 - have indicated in writing to the Senatus Academicus that they no longer wish to pursue a curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Arts;
- but who, in each case, met the requirements of regulation 6, may on application be awarded the Degree of Master of Arts in Educational Studies.
- 10 In terms of the General Regulations for First Degrees 1, 3, 12 and 16, the function of the Head of School shall be exercised by the Programme Director/ Head of Initial Teacher Education Department.
- 11 Notwithstanding General Regulation 7, the validity of the Class Certificate for any period of School Experience shall be limited to the academic year in which it is awarded.
- 12 Notwithstanding General Regulation 1.3, candidates who accrue two or more absences from workshop attendances or more than 20% of tutorial sessions may have their Class Certificate withheld. This would prevent candidates from completing their course.
- 13 Any health, conduct, behaviour, or other issue that could bear on a candidate's suitability or fitness to practise teaching will be considered by the Fitness to Practise Committee. However, where such a case relates to academic conduct within the Code of Practice on Student Discipline, it may be referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee only after procedures under that Code are exhausted and an allegation has been admitted or found to be proved. The Senatus Academicus, on the recommendation of the Fitness to Practise Committee, may suspend or terminate the studies of candidates for Degree Programmes in Education who, following a proper process of investigation, are judged not "fit to practise". In exceptional circumstances only, the University may suspend the matriculation of, or exclude from specified activities of the University, candidates whose case has been referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee pending consideration of their case. In all cases, any such suspension or exclusion shall be subject to the procedures detailed in the University's Code of Practice on Student Discipline, as these are prescribed by any resolution of the University Court in force at the relevant time.

5. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH STEM SUBJECTS

Insert new regulations as follows:

1. The Degree of Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Secondary Education may be conferred as the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Secondary Education or the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education. Within which, four programmes are offered, as follows:

BA in Secondary Education with Biology
BA in Secondary Education with Chemistry
BA in Secondary Education with Computer Science
BA in Secondary Education with Physics
2. Before being admitted to the programme leading to the degree, all candidates must, in addition to satisfying any academic requirements for admission, become a member of Disclosure Scotland's Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme, and would also normally be required to attend for interview.
3. The Examiners may recommend a candidate who has failed to achieve the standard necessary for the award of the degree of BA in Secondary Education be awarded the degree of Designated Degree of BA in Secondary Education.
4. In terms of the General Regulations for First Degrees 1, 3, 12 and 16, the function of the Head of School shall be exercised by the Programme Director/ Head of Initial Teacher Education.
5. Notwithstanding General Regulation 1.3, candidates who accrue two or more absences from ten workshop attendances may have their Class Certificate withheld. This would prevent candidates from completing their course.
6. Any health, conduct, behaviour, or other issue that could bear on a candidate's suitability or fitness to practise teaching will be considered by the Fitness to Practise Committee. However, where such a case relates to academic conduct within the Code of Practice on Student Discipline, it may be referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee only after procedures under that Code are exhausted and an allegation has been admitted or found to be proved. The Senatus Academicus, on the recommendation of the Fitness to Practise Committee, may suspend or terminate the studies of candidates for Degree Programmes in Education who, following a proper process of investigation, are judged not "fit to practise". In exceptional circumstances only, the University may suspend the matriculation of, or exclude from specified activities of the University, candidates whose case has been referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee pending consideration of their case. In all cases, any such suspension or exclusion shall be subject to the procedures detailed in the University's Code of Practice on Student Discipline, as these are prescribed by any resolution of the University Court in force at the relevant time.

6. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (BDS)

Regulation 2(ii)

In the existing regulation, for 'will' substitute 'may'.

2. (ii) Applicants must also meet the requirements of the General Dental Council for fitness to practice including screening for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV infection. Admission to the School ~~will~~may not be possible for those who may pose a risk of blood borne virus infection to patients.

Regulation 5(i)

In the existing regulation, for 'have' substitute 'are confirmed by the Dental Progress Committee as having'.

In the existing regulation, delete 'attendance'.

In the existing regulation, after 'monitoring' insert 'by the Dental Progress Committee'.

5. (i) Candidates shall not normally be permitted to present themselves for an end of course assessment unless they ~~have~~are confirmed by the Dental Progress Committee as having appropriately undertaken all required instruction and activities in that academic year, and subsequently obtained a class certificate. The validity of a class certificate shall be limited to the academic year in which it is awarded. Any candidate who has been subject to ~~attendance~~-monitoring by the Dental Progress Committee and warned of being 'at risk' of losing their class certificate) may lose their class certificate with no further warning if this behaviour is repeated for the course concerned.

Regulation 13(i)

In the existing regulation, for 'the Director of the Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences' substitute 'their representative'.

13. (i) Any health, conduct, behaviour or other issue that could give rise to the question of whether or not a candidate's fitness to practise is impaired will be considered and determined through the School of Medicine, Medical Science and Nutrition's Fitness to Practise Processes. Senate, on the recommendation of the Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry), may suspend or terminate the studies of candidates for the degree who, following Fitness to Practise Processes, are judged to have fitness to practise impairment. In exceptional circumstances only, the Head of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition or ~~the Director of the Institute of Healthcare and Medical Sciences~~their representative may suspend the matriculation of, or exclude from specified programme activities, any candidate in respect of whom there is a question of whether or not their fitness to practise is impaired, pending further process. If candidates are pre-registered with GDC the University is obliged to inform it of any such process since it may impact on registration. In this Regulation, any reference to impaired fitness to practise is to be taken as a reference to that concept as defined in s.27 of the Dentists Act 1984, and as explained in the General Dental Council's current published guidance.

7. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR THE DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY

Insert new regulations as follows:

1. The DipHE DT may be conferred by the University of Aberdeen.
2.
 - (i) Every candidate for the DipHE DT is required to comply with the academic requirements of admission to the diploma programme. Possession of these qualifications does not of itself guarantee admission.
 - (ii) Applicants must also meet the requirements of the General Dental Council for fitness to practise. Admission to the School will not be possible for those who may pose a risk to patients.
 - (iii) In the rare circumstance that an applicant has a notifiable health condition, relevant Occupational Health Service advice will be followed
 - (iv) Normally all students must have and maintain employment (minimum 80% FTE) as a trainee dental technician in an MHRA registered laboratory providing all three dental technology disciplines (Dentures, Crown and Bridge and Orthodontics). In addition, students must be supervised in the workplace by a GDC registered workplace supervisor. Continued registration on the programme will be subject to appropriate workplace supervision being maintained for the duration of the programme.
3. The curriculum for the diploma can be undertaken by part-time study only.
4. The programme for the diploma shall cover three years. The subjects to be followed and credits shall be as prescribed in the Programme Specifications listed in the University Calendar on <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/calendar/medicine.php>
5.
 - (i) Candidates shall not normally be permitted to present themselves for an end of course assessment unless they are confirmed by the Dental Progress Committee as having appropriately undertaken all required instruction, activities, attendance and demonstrated professional behaviour in that academic year, and subsequently obtained a class certificate. The validity of a class certificate shall be limited to the academic year in which it is awarded. Any candidate who has been subject to monitoring by the Dental Progress Committee and who is warned of being 'at risk' of losing their class certificate) may lose their class certificate with no further warning if this behaviour is repeated for the course concerned.
 - (ii) The Student Progress Committee (SPC), on behalf of the Senate, may exceptionally determine the conditions under which a candidate, who has previously achieved the requirements for the award of a class certificate or successfully completed a course, may be exempted in whole or in part from instruction and/or assessment in any component for the diploma.
 - (iii) The SPC, on behalf of the Senate, may terminate, at any time, the studies of a candidate who persistently fails to meet the minimum attendance requirements or to satisfactorily perform the required work of the courses, for which they are registered.
6.
 - (i) In any academic year a candidate shall not normally be afforded, in any course, more than two opportunities of summative assessment, including continuous assessment, technical and/or written examinations, as appropriate. Only results obtained at the first available opportunity of assessment in any academic year shall contribute towards class grading.
 - (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of University regulations which permit candidates to present themselves for assessment in the same subject at two diets of assessment in any one session, or in the same subject a total of three times, candidates may be required to undertake an additional period of technical study or a repeat period of

- study, specified by the Examiners, before being permitted to present themselves at a second diet of assessment in that subject. This would be subject to 7 (ii).
- (iii) Where a candidate successfully completes a course on more than one occasion, only the credit points obtained at first sitting may be counted toward the requirements necessary for progression and graduation.
- (iv) Where a candidate is undertaking a repeat year, a maximum of three opportunities of assessment for any course is permitted, including those taken in previous years.
7. (i) Candidates shall not be permitted to progress to the next programme year unless they have successfully achieved all summative assessments in one academic year. Any student required to resit a programme year must achieve all assessments within that academic year.
- (ii) Candidates who fail to achieve all summative assessments within one academic year, and/or have not met the level of performance required, shall normally be entitled to a maximum of one repeat year across the programme. This applies to all programme years.
- (iii) Candidates must normally satisfy all requirements for the award of the diploma within a maximum of four calendar years of the date of their first registration. This excludes where a candidate has been unable to complete a full academic year, or has taken a full gap year, for health, personal or other reasons and has had this absence approved by the University.
- (iv) Unless regulation 6(ii) applies, candidates who are required to undertake a resit, must do so within the same academic year. Candidates who fail to achieve the requirements of a repeat year, or any subsequent year shall be required to discontinue their studies for the diploma and be excluded from further assessment.
- (v) Where a candidate (due to medical reasons or other proven good cause) has taken the resit examinations as a first diet, and/or for these same reasons been unable to take the resit examinations at the prescribed time, the candidate will be eligible to sit at the next available sitting, which is normally in the following academic year.
- (vi) Where candidates withdraw from the programme for a period covering more than one academic year, the SPC on behalf of Senate may require the candidate to repeat any previously achieved year of study, including the requirement to pass any assessments on conclusion of that repeat year.
- (vii) If a student has approval for a period of withdrawal from the programme then the student will be required to rejoin the programme year from which they suspended at the start of the next academic year. The student will be required to complete agreed points of contact during the period of time that they are off from their studies. In exceptional circumstances a second withdrawal year could be allowed however in this circumstance it may be necessary that the student will be required to go back a year to allow for missed practical time and for patient safety concerns. If the student requires more than two years suspension from studies, they will be required to re-start the programme.
8. (i) The University's Policy and Procedures on Student Absence provides a framework through which a candidate can report absence and/or establish that their academic performance has been adversely affected by medical circumstances or other good cause.
- (ii) It is expected that a student who undertakes to sit an exam or submit an assignment, is fit to do so and there are no known extenuating/mitigating circumstances.
- (iii) Acute illness and/or other personal circumstances which affect a candidate's performance at examination must be notified in writing, along with supporting

documentary evidence, to the Extenuating Circumstances Committee for review. However, the decision to waive the regulation on discontinuation following failure of a repeat year shall lie with the Student Progress Committee on behalf of Senate.

9. The examiners for the diploma shall be academic staff, Clinical Tutors, Dental technicians, Teaching Fellows and NHS staff who are involved in the delivery of courses qualifying for the diploma, and such external examiners as may be appointed by the University Court.
10. The diploma shall not be conferred on candidates who have not passed all the assessments prescribed by Regulation 4, by the end of the period allowed.
11. Candidates who are unsuccessful in completing the Diploma will have their completed courses and credits evaluated to determine if a certificate of Higher Education award can be granted.
12. (i) Any health, conduct, behaviour or other issue that could give rise to the question of whether or not a candidate's fitness to practise is impaired will be considered and determined through the School of Medicine, Medical Science and Nutrition's Fitness to Practise Processes. Senate, on the recommendation of the Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry), may suspend or terminate the studies of candidates for the diploma who, following Fitness to Practise Processes, are judged to have fitness to practise impairment. In exceptional circumstances only, the Head of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition or their representative may suspend the matriculation of, or exclude from specified programme activities, any candidate in respect of whom there is a question of whether or not their fitness to practise is impaired, pending further process. In this Regulation, any reference to impaired fitness to practise is to be taken as a reference to that concept as defined in s.27 of the Dentists Act 1984, and as explained in the General Dental Council's current published guidance.
- (ii) The above will apply during any time away from the diploma programme if it is the candidate's intention to return to programme and ultimately seek graduation.