

## Summary of Key Changes for 2011-12 Edition of the *University Calendar*

Please note that the regulations in the new edition of the *Calendar* apply to all students. The only exception to this rule is that continuing students will be governed by the degree regulations in place in the year of first registration on their current programme of study. (For Honours students, this means the year in which they commenced their Honours programme.)

### 1. Assessment

#### 1.1 Removal of Schedule C and calculation of Grade Point Averages

As previously advised to staff and students, Schedule C which provided a 16 point grade scale for undergraduate non-Honours assessments has been removed from the Code of Assessment (CoA) in 2011-12

(see [www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/news/schedulecabolition/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/news/schedulecabolition/) for more background).

All course assessments (other than those marked in accordance with Schedule B of the CoA) must now have grade points aligned to the primary grades and secondary bands on the 22 point scale of Schedule A. Accordingly, grade point average requirements have been adjusted as necessary in all undergraduate degree regulations [e.g. GPAs for progression or GPAs for merit and distinction in sub-honours awards]. Results for continuing students recorded in MyCampus have, where necessary, been converted in accordance with the new scale. All awards from 2011-12 must be made in accordance with the translated grade point values which are:

Previous Grade Points/GPA (using Schedule C)	2011-12 Grade Points/GPA (using Schedule A)
16	18
14	15
13	14
12	12
11	11
10	9
9	8
8.5	7
8	6
6	3
2	1
0	0

Please ensure that all student documentation is updated to reflect these translated grade point values.

Note that all numerical scores derived from Schedule A will now be referred to as grade points. Thus, whereas regulations for Honours and PGT programmes previously referred to aggregation scores and average aggregation scores, these are now referred to as grade points and grade point averages.

In calculating GPAs across courses to achieve an overall GPA, it has been agreed that the final GPA shall be rounded to one decimal place (a footnote confirming the aggregation process has been added to all generic and supplementary degree regulations). Please note that for the aggregation of course components to reach an overall course result there is no rounding in the calculation, but the result must then be rounded to an integer to produce an alphanumeric course result.

### *1.2 Reassessment and Components*

Components of Assessment have been defined in 16.2 b) of the CoA.

16.8 of the CoA has been revised to allow students who fail to meet the overall course threshold grade the right to one reassessment in **any or all** assessment components associated with the course. (Students can therefore opt to retake components in which they have already reached the threshold grade). The final course result shall be derived from an aggregation of the grades of each component of assessment, and where an assessment has been retaken the best performance shall be counted. The operation of capping in relation to the resulting grade points is unchanged.

In addition, 16.8 confirms the agreement that reassessments must be in essentially the same form as the first assessment and should retain the course assessment weightings set for the first attempt.

### *1.3 Reassessment Opportunities for Coursework*

16.9 of the CoA allows the reassessment right to be waived for coursework where resetting the work (e.g. labs) is not practical. The regulation has now been strengthened to reflect the fact that such a waiver is only legitimate where there would be a genuine difficulty with providing an opportunity to repeat coursework: this must be treated as an exceptional opt-out, approved by the Head of School and communicated clearly to students in course documentation. In such cases, the original coursework grade will contribute to the final course result (and therefore the candidate will have to perform better in other components to compensate).

### *1.4 Reporting of results – percentages*

Continued marking of components of assessment in percentages is permitted where appropriate. However, such marks must be converted to the 22-point scale of Schedule A before aggregation is carried out. 16.24 of the CoA now states that any percentage scores should be converted to an alpha numeric grade before being reported to students.

### *1.5 Delegation of Good Cause Decisions*

The Code of Assessment identifies Heads of School as the appropriate individuals to take good cause decisions (except those relating to coursework extension requests of up to 3 days which can be dealt with by course conveners). It has been agreed that Heads of School can delegate good cause decisions to Heads of Subject or Assessment Officers (where the Assessment Officer covers the whole School or Subject Area).

### *1.6 Assessment of Study Abroad*

A new section has been added to the CoA (16.79) providing regulations for the assessment of study abroad. These regulations were devised on the basis of the key principles approved by the Education Policy & Strategy Committee in May 2011. Grades achieved at other institutions must be converted into grades as set out in Schedules A or B of the CoA and taken account of in determining the candidate's final degree.

The *Guide to the Code of Assessment* is currently being updated to reflect and explain these changes, and will be published online shortly  
(see [www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/academic/assessment/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/academic/assessment/))

Please also note that there has been **no change** for 2011-12 in relation to zones and methods of determining **discretion** in considering **Honours classifications** and awards of **distinction and merit at PGT level**. There will be consultation with Colleges regarding recent proposals to narrow zones of discretion.

## 2. Generic Undergraduate Regulations

[These can be found at the front of each College section and apply to most undergraduate awards along with individual supplementary regulations.]

Definitions for Joint Honours and Principal with Subsidiary subject Honours degrees have been added (see GR 16.2 and 16.3). These definitions are also included in the updated glossary of terms for taught degrees available at:

[www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/academic/policies/glossary/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/academic/policies/glossary/)

## 3. Generic Postgraduate Taught Regulations

No significant changes for 2011-12.

### Other Recent Changes

Colleagues are also asked to remember other key regulatory changes which have been made over recent years to ensure that correct procedure is applied consistently to students.

### Code of Assessment

- The *Standard Penalties for Late Submission of Coursework* (see 16.25 - 16.28) have been in force for all students since the beginning of session 2010-11. Schools must ensure that they follow these procedures, and attention is particularly drawn to 16.28 which makes provision for late submission to be permitted up to a maximum of three days in cases where the student is not able to demonstrate good cause according to regulations 16.45 -16.53 in the Code.
- *Awarding Grade A*: a number of years ago the secondary bands for grade A were extended from three to five in order to encourage appropriate recognition to work justifying something higher than the default middle band and to encourage the award of grade A in disciplines where its distribution was historically low. There have recently been ongoing concerns in some areas of the relatively low proportion of A grades being awarded, and staff are therefore encouraged to ensure that the primary descriptors in Schedule A are referred to and that grade A is awarded to recognise excellence and not reserved only for a perfect performance.

### Generic Undergraduate Regulations

- The minimum requirement of grade D3 for the dissertation/piece of independent work (worth at least 20 credits) to qualify for an Honours or Integrated Masters degree (GR 16.1 and 17.1). This will apply to all students who entered Honours from session 2009-10 onwards and all students who entered Integrated Masters from session 2010-11 onwards.
- Standardised requirements for entry to Honours at the end of second year (GR 15)

- Standardised progress regulations from Junior to Senior Honours and progress within Integrated Masters programmes (GR 10.2 & 10.3)

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. If you have any queries regarding the *Calendar* regulations please contact Helen Butcher ([Helen.Butcher@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Helen.Butcher@glasgow.ac.uk)) or Ruth Cole ([Ruth.Cole@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Ruth.Cole@glasgow.ac.uk)) in the Senate Office.

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