Information Regarding Possible Changes to Degree Programmes and Courses Offered by the University

The University is committed to providing information about its degree programmes that is accurate and comprehensive so that you can make the right decisions about where, and what, to study. However, this information is finalised many months before you register at the University and embark on your chosen programme of study, and on occasion the University may need to make some changes in the interim or after you have started your degree programme. In making such changes the University is driven by the need to maintain the quality and reputation of the degrees that it awards, always taking into account the interests of applicants and students. Changes are only implemented after appropriate scrutiny has taken place and formal University approval processes have been followed.

On very rare occasions the University may be unable to deliver a degree programme for which offers have already been made. Should this happen, you will be contacted with a full explanation of the circumstances and you will be offered help and advice in finding an appropriate alternative programme of study.

Why might changes to the published programme information be made?

*Development of academic knowledge:* One of the strengths of the University is that teaching is research-led. Experts in your chosen field of study will ensure that important developments in the field are incorporated into the curriculum. Material that is no longer believed to be current may be replaced. In some fields such changes will happen more quickly than in others. There may also be changes to the way your course is delivered which are informed by research and development on student learning (pedagogy).

*Response to feedback:* On-going internal monitoring, including feedback received from current students, may also prompt changes.

*External requirements including professional accreditation:* The University must comply with various requirements set by other bodies, many of which relate to ensuring the quality of its degrees. For example, some programmes carry external accreditation by professional bodies. Where their requirements change, the University must respond so that students continue to benefit from the considerable advantages of accredited qualifications.

*Expertise:* Unanticipated staffing changes may sometimes lead to changes in the content and availability of courses, for example where it is not possible to replicate specialist knowledge.

*Timetabling and student numbers:* Within each degree programme students take individual courses. On some programmes students have a considerable degree of choice from a list of different options, and examples of the available options are advertised on the University website. This flexibility is one of the strengths of the University. However, you should be aware that not all courses will always be available. There may, for example, be a timetable clash with other courses that you are studying or a course may have a limit on the number of places available in any one year.

Other important information about your degree programme

In order to qualify for the award of a degree at the end of your studies, you must satisfy various requirements. The regulations that apply to your degree programme are set out in the *University Calendar*. These cover such things as the requirements for you to progress through the different stages of your studies (e.g. for progress to thehonours years in your
chosen subject(s)) and the total number of credits that you must complete and the grades required for award of the degree. Relevant information about these requirements is also included in course handbooks and you will be given good notice of any changes that are introduced. The Calendar is updated each year and the regulations that apply to you are those published in the year that you begin your studies, or the year that you progress to your specific Honours degree programme.

There are also general regulations in the Calendar which cover assessment, student support and student misconduct. Regulations are reviewed on an ongoing basis and any updates will apply to you and full information will be available on the University’s website.