

Guidelines

Admission to Level 8 Degrees (Post Level 7 Award)

As Approved by Academic Council and Ratified by Governing Body January 2010.

1. Definition

This policy relates to entry to an add-on Honours Degree following completion of a level 7 Ordinary Degree¹. The issue of movement from a Level 7 Ordinary Degree to an add-on Level 8 degree is defined as one of *admission* to the add-on stage. Accordingly, it is not part of the formal remit of the Level 7 Ordinary Degree Progression and Awards Board.

2. Requirement

Moving from a Level 7 Ordinary Degree to an add-on Level 8 degree requires that the student has **passed the level 7 award**; “carry fail” does **not** operate in this case². In addition, the candidate must achieve *either* a Merit 2 *or* a 50% average mark across the modules specified for the Level 7 Award stage in the approved programme schedule. Borderline consideration of marks below the 50% average will not apply.

3. Repeat of Modules to satisfy the Admission Requirement to Level 8

The average mark is to be calculated by taking marks attained at the first **or any subsequent** sitting. Students will normally be expected to take the next available sitting.

Failed modules: A student who fails certain modules may apply to be reassessed in those modules, and the actual marks achieved in the reassessment are to be used in calculating the average mark for purposes of admission to Level 8. For these purposes the repeat marks **are not capped** at 40%.

Passed modules: Where a student passes some or all modules at the first sitting but fails to achieve the 50% average, he/she may apply to be reassessed in a subsequent available sitting in those modules with a mark of less than 50%, and may use the new results to satisfy the admission requirement. In no case is there a requirement for the student to achieve at least 50% or better in *all* modules.

¹ *Separate regulations apply for (a) movement within an ab initio Honours degree (b) cases where a conversion of a 3+1 to an ab-initio degree has put in place specific rules referring to designated modules and (c) advancement from Higher Certificate to Level 7 degree.*

² *However passing the Level 7 degree by compensation is permissible.*

4. Experience / Other Learning in Addition to the Level 7 Degree

Where a student has gained a substantial amount of work experience or other learning in addition to (and normally subsequent to) passing the Level 7 award, the evaluation of her/his application for admission may include the relevance of experience gained. Such experience or learning may be taken into account for applicants who do not hold a Merit 2 or who do not meet the 50% average requirement.

5. Process

Decisions regarding admission must be transparent, recorded and made in accordance with these guidelines. They may be appealed by an unsuccessful candidate to the Registrar.

Where a student has achieved a Merit 2 or the 50% average standard at the first attempt, eligibility for admission to specific cognate Level 8 degrees is clearcut and may be dealt with administratively through the Admissions Office, with the agreement of the Head of Department. Admission decisions in all cases should be made by the Head of Department with responsibility for the add-on degree. An approved list should be signed off by the Head.

In cases where a student is *repeating*, a check on eligibility should be carried out by the receiving Department to ensure that the average mark has been computed in accordance with these guidelines.