

Assessment Handbook 2016-17 Major Changes

The Assessment Handbook contains QMUL's assessment policies, giving guidance and instruction on the implementation of the Academic Regulations. This covering document details changes of note since 2015-16. Minor changes to wording and terminology that do not affect meaning are not included. The electronic version of this document includes the full Assessment Handbook as an appendix, with amendments shown as track changes.

1. Alternative assessment (3.37)

Exceptionally, QMUL may use its discretion to use alternative methods to those stated in the module specifications for individual candidates, either when making assessment arrangements for students with registered disabilities (on the advice of the Disability and Dyslexia Service), or when setting a resit or first sit assessment, subject to the following conditions:

- i. The alternative assessment must involve some additional assessment activity that constitutes a justifiable and efficient assessment of the intended learning outcomes;*
- ii. A full statement of the alternative assessment methods and the reasons for their use is made in a Chair's action form from the SEB Chair, submitted to the Academic Secretariat.*

This replaces a less detailed paragraph that essentially said only that alternative assessment should be handled on a case-by-case basis. The new text is taken from the Academic Regulations 2016-17, and approval of one entry is contingent on the other. The text provides a clearer framework for the use of alternative assessment, limitations on its deployment, and a method for recording its usage. It also removes the need for the suspension of regulations to make reasonable adjustments to assessments where required under the Equality Act.

2. Retakes for undergraduates

A change to the Academic Regulations has been proposed, to reintroduce retakes for undergraduate students in limited circumstances. The Assessment Handbook has been updated throughout (notably in Section 7: Student Failure and Reassessment) to take account of that change.

3. Approval of first takes

A change to the Academic Regulations has been proposed, to permit the approval of first take requests by the Academic Registrar (in addition to the existing approval route by DEB Chairs) in some circumstances. The Assessment Handbook has been updated (Section 9: Extenuating Circumstances) to take account of that change.

4. Intercollegiate examiners

An intercollegiate examiner is/was an external examiner from another college of the University of London. Historically, each Subject Examination Board was required to have at least one external from within the University, and these examiners had a particular duty to comment on standards and processes at QMUL in comparison to their home colleges. This dates back many years, to when the colleges operated on the common University of London regulations and there was a need to manage the consistency of the application of those regulations. The requirement to have an intercollegiate examiner no longer applies and all externals are in any case required to comment on standards and processes in reference to their home institutions. All reference to intercollegiate examiners has been removed from Section 8, External Examiners, notably in item 8.6, the duties of external examiners. This is effectively a change in terminology, and has no practical implications.