

FRAMEWORK AND REGULATIONS FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE AWARDS DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNICAF

Introduction

1. The following paragraphs provide the framework and regulations for taught postgraduate programmes delivered by Unicaf that lead to the following awards of the University of Suffolk:

- Postgraduate Certificate (PgC)
- Postgraduate Diploma (PgD)
- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science (MSc).

2. Titles of named awards must be approved at the point of validation. Qualification titles should convey accurate information about the level, nature and subjects of study. The appropriate use of the prefix Master of Arts or Master of Science will normally be determined at validation.

3. The academic standards of all University of Suffolk awards should be aligned with the Expectations for Standards outlined in the [UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#) and the level and qualification descriptors in the accompanying [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#) (FHEQ). The [QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement \(2020\)](#) and relevant QAA Master's degree subject benchmark statements should also be taken into consideration in the design and ongoing development of courses. Alignment with these external reference points will be considered as part of course validation and re-approval processes, and through quality monitoring mechanisms. At least one appropriately qualified and experienced external examiner will be appointed by the University to each course, in accordance with the *External Examiners Policy* and with any additional appointment criteria as determined at the point of course validation.

4. These regulations apply to all taught postgraduate courses offered by Unicaf under the partnership arrangement with the University of Suffolk. Any exceptional exemptions or variations to these regulations for individual courses (for example to meet the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) in relation to assessment) are subject to approval by the Quality Committee via the submission of a variation request form. For new courses, approval for the variation should be sought prior to the course validation event. A central record of all approved variation request forms is maintained by Registry Services and

details of all approved variations are published as an annex to these regulations, with footnotes included in the relevant paragraphs to show where variations should be applied.

5. All decisions regarding the ratification of assessment marks, resubmission and retake opportunities, and eligibility for progression and the final award as set out in these regulations are made by the relevant assessment board, constituted in accordance with the *Assessment Board Policy*. Schedules for assessment boards will be published to students along with dates for results publication.

Programme structure and credit requirements

6. Students shall be registered on an approved programme of study on a named course at Unicaf leading to a named University of Suffolk award. Taught postgraduate courses are offered at *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)* Level 7. Courses are delivered by Unicaf on a part-time basis via distance learning, with multiple intake points for new students throughout the year as agreed between the University and Unicaf.

7. Academic and professional study will be organised into modules, with modules valued in terms of credits. Credit is a means of quantifying and recognising learning: one credit represents 10 notional hours of learning (including prescribed online learning, preparation time, independent study and the completion of assessment), and credit is awarded when the specified learning outcomes for the module have been successfully demonstrated.

8. Modules should be assigned credit in multiples of 20. A standard module is normally valued at 20 credits, except in the case of Dissertation or Research Project modules which are normally valued at 40 credits in total (noting that overall credits for the Dissertation or Research Project may be split across more than one module).

9. Definitive course records and associated course documentation shall specify the modules, including mandatory, requisite and optional modules where appropriate, which must be taken and, where relevant, passed by the student in order to achieve the named award.

- a. Mandatory modules are those modules which are central to the programme of study, and therefore students must take **and pass** them in order to meet the requirements of the award (i.e. if they fail the module, they cannot take an alternative module to make up the credit deficit, and they therefore are unable to successfully complete their studies on that course).

- b. Requisite modules are those modules that students must take as part of their programme of study (for example because there is no optionality built into the programme), but it is not compulsory that they pass the module (i.e. if they fail the module, they may be able to take an alternative module within the validated programme to make up the credit deficit).
- c. Optional modules are those modules which students can select to complete as part of their overall programme of study. Where optional modules are an integral part of a course, students will be required to select a specified number of optional modules from a prescribed list. Choice will be subject to availability and academic guidance from the Course Leader(s) concerned. It is not compulsory that students pass the module (i.e. if they fail the module, they may be able to take an alternative module within the validated programme to make up the credit deficit).

10. Modules shall be offered by Unicaf on a rolling cycle throughout the year (as agreed with the University) to accommodate the multiple student intake points. Modules shall normally be completed on a sequential basis, with the order of modules determined at the point of validation and laid out in the Student Handbook for the course. Students cannot commence a new module with more than 20 credits outstanding from previous modules.

11. Students may take short breaks of up to 16 weeks between modules to suit their personal circumstances, subject to them remaining on target to complete their programme within the maximum period of registration as outlined in paragraph 12 below. Longer breaks will require the student to apply for intercalation in accordance with paragraph 49 below. Unicaf shall monitor student progress on a regular basis, in liaison with the University, and put in place study plans for any students who are at risk of not completing the programme within the maximum period of registration.

Registration periods

12. The expectation is that a student will complete their award within the following maximum periods of registration, with the student being required by the relevant Assessment Board to withdraw from their course if this maximum period of registration is exceeded (noting that an exit award will automatically be awarded if they have met the requirements for such an award as outlined in paragraph 61 below). A student's period of registration may be extended beyond the maximum by the relevant Assessment Board, in liaison with the Academic Registrar, only in exceptional circumstances and where the currency of learning undertaken up until that point can

be adequately assured. Registration periods on awards governed by the requirements of PSRBs may be further circumscribed as defined in the relevant course validation document.

Award	Part-time study (maximum period of registration in years)
Postgraduate Certificate	3
Postgraduate Diploma	4
Master's Degree	5
Master's Degree entry through progression or articulation routes	3

13. Where a student intercalates in accordance with the *Extenuating Circumstances Policy*, the period of intercalation counts as part of the maximum period of registration.

Requirements for taught postgraduate awards

14. All Postgraduate Diploma and Master's programmes will contain Research Methods specific to the subject area, normally as a mandatory module of at least 20 credits. All Master's programmes will contain mandatory Dissertation or Research Project module(s) valued at a minimum of 40 credits in total (noting that overall credits for the Dissertation or Research Project may be split across more than one module). All Master's programmes must contain at least 100 credits of taught modules (i.e. original research modules may not exceed 80 credits in total).

15. Care should be taken to ensure that the coherence of courses with multiple pathways is secured and maintained, and that there is clarity regarding how pathways relate to, and are differentiated from, each other. In particular, each award should comprise a unique combination of modules such that students receiving different awards will never have the same module profile.

16. Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that they select modules that fulfil the requirements of their award and, where appropriate, the requirements of any relevant PSRB.

Pre-requisite modules and excluded combinations

17. Modules may be linked such that a student is required to have passed one module prior to studying another, in which case the former module shall be designated as a pre-requisite for the latter within the module specifications.

18. The requirements to take/pass one or more pre-requisites may, with the approval of the Assessment Board, be satisfied by Recognised Prior Learning, except in those circumstances defined by PSRBs.

19. Modules may contain material which substantially overlaps with material from another module within the same course, in which case students will be excluded from taking both modules as part of their programme of study as indicated through the inclusion of excluded combinations within module specifications.

Dissertation or Research Project module(s)

20. A Dissertation or Research Project may not incorporate work previously submitted for a degree except where the dissertation or research project is a continuation of that work. Any elements that have been previously submitted for assessment (as part of the same course or for another award) should be acknowledged (the student may be required to produce the work previously submitted). In accordance with the *Academic Misconduct Policy*, reproducing without acknowledgement of one's own previously submitted work is considered as plagiarism. A student must state generally in the preface to the Dissertation or Research Project and specifically in references the sources from the which the material is derived and the extent to which the student has used the work of others including collaborators.

Credit requirements for achievement of awards

21. The amount and level of credit that must be successfully achieved for an award to be granted is outlined below, based on the FHEQ. The table also outlines the maximum credits that can be obtained via recognition of prior certificated or experiential learning (RP(E)L), in accordance with the requirements of the *Recognition of Prior Learning Policy* and where permitted for the relevant course. The maximum credits via RP(E)L may differ for some courses to meet PSRB requirements, and will be defined in the course validation documents. RP(E)L cannot be granted in relation to the Dissertation or Research Project module.

Award	Credit requirement	Maximum credits via RP(E)L ¹
Postgraduate Certificate (PgC)	60 credits at Level 7	30 credits
Postgraduate Diploma (PgD)	120 credits at Level 7	60 credits
Master's Degree (MA / MBA / MSc)	180 credits at Level 7	90 credits (or 120 credits for an approved progression or articulation route)

¹ RPL is not permitted for the MSc Public Health course.

22. In addition to meeting these credit requirements, students are required to successfully pass all mandatory modules set out for an award in order to be eligible for the award.

Assessment of individual modules

23. Assessment shall be undertaken in accordance with relevant University of Suffolk policies and procedures (including *Academic Appeals*, *Academic Misconduct*, *Recognition of Prior Learning*, *Assessment Board*, *Assessment Moderation Policy for Unicaf Programmes*, and *Extenuating Circumstances*) which shall be amended from time to time.

24. The methods of assessment will be in accordance with demonstrating the achievement of all intended learning outcomes for a module and will be approved initially at validation. Each module shall be assessed by one of the following methods:

- (a) wholly by coursework
- (b) by project or by dissertation or by research activity
- (c) by combinations of the above.

Marking of modules

25. Each component of summative assessment (i.e. assessment used to indicate the extent of a student's success in achieving the intended learning outcomes of the module) will be marked on a percentage scale. Where there is more than one component of assessment within a module, each will contribute a pre-determined percentage to the overall module mark.

26. An overall module mark of 50% or above is required to pass a module and be awarded the relevant credit. Unless core components have been identified in accordance with paragraph 27 below, the module can be passed with a mark of at least 45% for all individual components of assessment providing the overall module mark is 50% or above. This is known as in-module compensation. However, in accordance with the *Academic Misconduct Policy*, should a student receive a penalty resulting in the recording of a component mark as refer infringement or fail infringement at any attempt, in-module compensation no longer applies for that module and therefore a mark of at least 50% for all individual components will be required in order to pass the module.

27. Exceptionally, individual components of assessment may be designated as core components, indicating that students must achieve at least 50% for the component in order to pass the module (for example to meet PSRB requirements). Exceptional circumstances that warrant having core components are (i) where it is necessary to meet PSRB requirements or (ii)

where the component of assessment is crucial to the achievement of programme level learning outcomes (i.e. the relevant programme learning outcome is not adequately assessed elsewhere). Where there is only one component of assessment within a module, the component will automatically be designated as core. Dissertations or final research projects are also expected to be core. Core components should be identified at validation, and any changes to the designation of components are subject to approval through the changes to existing courses process.

28. Where approved at validation, individual components of assessment or whole modules may be marked on a pass / fail basis, with no percentage mark awarded. All such components of assessment will be deemed core and do not contribute to overall module marks. Any whole modules marked on a pass/fail basis do not contribute to the degree classification calculations. The number of whole modules marked on a pass/fail basis should not exceed a total of 40 credits within any validated programme of study.

29. Where students have passed a module, they cannot re-take it or any of the individual components of assessment in an attempt to achieve a higher mark. A further attempt may only be granted in exceptional circumstances following a successful appeal in accordance with the *Academic Appeals Procedure*. In such cases, the original pass mark will be disregarded and the mark for the resubmitted attempt will be the mark awarded. This mark may be higher, lower or the same as the original mark. The overall module result will be calculated in the normal way.

30. The overall module mark displayed in the student's module results will be rounded to the nearest integer. The overall module mark before rounding will be used in the final award classification calculations.

Late submission

31. Students should submit all work for summative assessment by the notified deadline.

32. Work submitted up to three days after the deadline will be accepted and marked, but the mark will be capped at the pass mark (50%) unless there is a valid reason for the late submission (i.e. having been granted an extension to the deadline or a deferral under the terms of the *Extenuating Circumstances Policy*).

33. Work submitted more than three days after the deadline without valid reason will not be accepted and will be recorded as 0% RN (refer, no work submitted) in accordance with paragraph 37.

34. Where an extension has been agreed under the terms of the *Extenuating Circumstances Policy*, no late submission will be permitted beyond the agreed extension period.

35. Late submission is not possible for some types of assessment, including pass/fail assessments, presentations and examinations. This will be indicated in the course handbook.

36. Late submission is not permitted for work that is already subject to capping at the pass mark (for example reassessments in accordance with paragraphs 37, 38 and 39).

Non-completion of assessment (leading to referral and reassessment)

37. Failure to submit work by the deadline (or within three days of the deadline where late submission is permissible) will result in a mark of 0% RN (refer, no work submitted) being recorded in respect of the relevant assessment component and will result in referral in the module overall. The student will have the opportunity to be reassessed in the components not completed, with the resubmission deadline set by the Assessment Board normally being six working weeks from the date when students are formally notified of the module result. The maximum mark attainable for the components upon reassessment will be 50%. The overall module outcome will be determined in the normal way (see 'marking of modules' above).

Failure to pass a module (leading to referral and reassessment)

38. Where a student submits work but fails to achieve an overall pass mark for the module (50% or above, with at least 45% for all non-core components and at least 50% for all core components), the module outcome will be recorded as a referral and the student will have the opportunity to be reassessed in those components of assessment with a mark below 50%. The resubmission deadline set by the Assessment Board will normally be six working weeks from the date when students are formally notified of the module result. In such cases of reassessment, the maximum mark attainable for the reassessed component will be 50%. The overall module outcome will be determined in the normal way (see marking of modules). Where students have passed a component of assessment, they cannot re-take it in an attempt to achieve a higher mark.

Failure in a module (after reassessment opportunity)

39. If, after the reassessment attempt, the overall module mark is still not of pass standard (i.e. 50% or above) and/or individual component marks remain below 45% (for non-core components) or below 50% (for core components), the relevant Assessment Board may permit the student to retake the module online. The student will be permitted **one attempt only** at the

component(s) of assessment that they have not already successfully completed (i.e. those components with a mark below 50%), and the maximum mark attainable for those components will be 50%. Marks from successfully completed components will carry forward, and these components cannot be re-taken in an attempt to achieve a higher mark. The maximum mark attainable for the module overall will be 50%.

40. Where the assessment methods for the module being retaken have changed since the student first took the module, or where components of assessment build upon each other in some way, Assessment Boards may require students retaking the module to complete all components of assessment, regardless of previous results.

41. Where students undertake a replacement module (for example through choice or because the module being retaken is no longer offered), they will be required to complete all components of assessment and will have one attempt only. The maximum mark attainable for the component and for the module overall will be 50%.

42. In the case of failure in a retaken module, a student may be advised to take an alternative module, to transfer to an alternative course, or to terminate their studies. If the module is a mandatory module, failure will result in termination of the student's studies on that course.

Capping of marks

43. For ease of reference, the following table sets out the capping applied to each submission opportunity:

Attempt number	Description	Component mark capped?	Module mark capped?
1	First submission	No	No
2	Resubmission / reassessment opportunity	Yes	No
3	Retake / replacement module	Yes	Yes

Deferral in a module

44. Consideration of deferral cases is undertaken in accordance with the *Extenuating Circumstances Policy*. If the Unicaf Extenuating Circumstances Panel deems that a student has presented acceptable evidence of extenuating circumstances in relation to one or more components of assessment, those components of assessment will be deemed 'deferred'. The

student will be given the opportunity to submit (or resubmit) the components of assessment in accordance with timescales agreed by the Panel in liaison with the University.

45. If deferral relates to a first attempt at component(s) of assessment, the full range of marks will be available. If deferral relates to a previously referred piece of work, the student will be given a further opportunity to re-submit the assessment under the terms of the original referral (i.e. with marks capped at the 50% pass mark at module and/or component level in accordance with paragraphs 37, 38 and 39 above, and as summarised in the table in paragraph 43).

46. Continuation or repetition of deferral status will be considered only if the Unicaf Extenuating Circumstances Panel receives what it deems to be further acceptable evidence of extenuating circumstances. If a student has been granted three consecutive deferrals for the same module, the relevant Assessment Board will normally require the student to repeat the module in accordance with paragraph 47.

47. If the Unicaf Extenuating Circumstances Panel approves a deferral and believes that it is in the student's best interests to repeat the module with online engagement (for example if they have not had adequate opportunity to engage fully with the learning activities associated with the module), marks for components successfully completed at an earlier stage will normally be carried forward where the assessment methods for the module remain unchanged, components of assessment are not co-dependent, and the module continues to be offered, unless the Panel determines (in liaison with the University) that there are exceptional circumstances that warrant the student completing all components of assessment for the module as if for the first time. Those components for which the student has previously been referred will be marked in accordance with the terms of the original referral (i.e. with marks capped at the 50% pass mark at module and/or component level in accordance with paragraphs 37, 38 and 39 above, and as summarised in the table in paragraph 43). For the avoidance of doubt, repeating a module is not the same as retaking a module: a repeat is as a result of extenuating circumstances, whereas a retake is the result of academic failure.

48. Where assessment methods for a module have changed since the deferral; where components of assessment build upon each other in some way; or where the module is no longer offered, students repeating the module (or replacement module) will be expected to complete all components of assessment regardless of previous results. In such cases, students will be eligible for the full range of marks, unless they have previously failed the module after a

reassessment opportunity and are subject to capping of the component and/or module mark at the pass mark (in accordance with paragraphs 39 and 41 above).

Intercalation

49. Where students are experiencing extenuating circumstances or otherwise need to take an extended break of more than 16 weeks from their studies, they may apply to intercalate their studies. Consideration of intercalation cases is undertaken in accordance with the *Extenuating Circumstances Policy*.

50. Where an application to intercalate is approved by the Unicaf Extenuating Circumstances Panel, any work submitted prior to the date of intercalation will be presented to the Assessment Board for the result to be ratified. If no work was submitted for a component by the notified deadline where that deadline was prior to the date of intercalation, the result will be recorded as a referral (in accordance with paragraph 37 above). If an application for extenuating circumstances has been approved, the result will be recorded as a deferral (in accordance with paragraph 44 above).

51. On the student's return to the module following a period of intercalation, previous marks for components (including deferrals and referrals for academic failure or non-submission) will normally be carried forward provided the assessment methods for the module remain unchanged, components of assessment are not co-dependent, and the module continues to be offered, unless the Assessment Board determines that there are exceptional circumstances that warrant the student completing all components of assessment for the module as if for the first time.

52. When a student returns from a period of intercalation, the following should be implemented for those component(s) of assessment not yet successfully completed:

- a. Where there are no previous referrals or deferrals for the outstanding component(s) of assessment, the student will have the opportunity to take the component(s) with the full range of marks available. The overall module outcome will be determined in the normal way (see 'marking of modules' above).
- b. Where there are previous deferrals for the outstanding component(s) of assessment, if the deferral relates to a first attempt at the component(s), the student will have the opportunity to be re-assessed in the component(s) with the full range of marks available. The overall module outcome will be determined in the normal way (see 'marking of modules' above). If the deferral relates to a previously referred piece of work, the student will be given a further

opportunity to re-submit the assessment under the terms of the original referral (i.e. with marks capped at the pass mark at module and/or component level in accordance with paragraph 37, 38 or 39 above).

- c. Where there are previous referrals for the outstanding component(s) of assessment, the student will have the opportunity to re-submit work under the terms of the original referral (i.e. with marks capped at the pass mark at module and/or component level in accordance with paragraph 37, 38 or 39 above).

53. Where the assessment methods for the module have changed since the student took the module, or where components of assessment build upon each other in some way, Assessment Boards may require students to complete all components of assessment, regardless of previous results. In such cases, students will be eligible for the full range of marks, unless they have previously failed the module after a reassessment opportunity and are subject to capping of the component and module mark at the pass mark (in accordance with paragraph 39 above).

54. Where students undertake a replacement module (for example through choice or because a module is no longer offered), they will be required to complete all components of assessment. In such cases, students will be eligible for the full range of marks, unless the replacement is for a module previously failed after a reassessment opportunity which would be subject to capping of the component and module mark at the pass mark (in accordance with paragraph 39 above).

Notification of results

55. In line with the good practice of providing timely feedback to students, the outcomes of marked and moderated assessment will be given to students by Unicaf before the Assessment Board has formally approved results. Such feedback must be clearly identified as subject to final ratification by the Assessment Board, and therefore subject to potential amendment by the Board.

56. The early release of unratified marks is to facilitate an early opportunity for students to begin to address referred work that will need to be redeemed after the Assessment Board has ratified the result. It is not an opportunity for students to resubmit referred work as a first attempt before the Assessment Board ratifies the mark.

Classification of awards

57. In order to achieve the intended award, a student must meet the credit requirements outlined in paragraph 21 above and successfully pass all mandatory modules set out for the award.

58. For the Master's degree, the Assessment Board may recommend the award of the degree with Merit or with Distinction, where at least 120 credits, or two-thirds of the credit undertaken for the award, have been passed at first attempt without any infringements or referrals and there are at least 60 credits with marks attached on which the calculation can be based. To be so recommended for a degree with Merit, the student must have achieved an average pass mark (when rounded to the nearest integer) of 60% with all modules (excluding pass/fail modules with no marks awarded and modules for which credit has been granted as a result of RPL) being counted, including 60% in the Dissertation or Research Project module(s). To be so recommended for a degree with Distinction, the student must have achieved an average pass mark (when rounded to the nearest integer) of 70% with all modules (excluding pass/fail modules with no marks awarded and modules for which credit has been granted as a result of RPL) being counted, including 70% in the Dissertation or Research Project module(s). The overall module results before rounding will be used in the classification calculations.

59. Where the Postgraduate Diploma is the intended award, the Assessment Board may recommend the award of the Postgraduate Diploma with Merit or with Distinction where at least 80 credits, or two-thirds of the credit undertaken for the award, have been passed at first attempt without any infringements or referrals and there are at least 60 credits with marks attached on which the calculation can be based. To be so recommended for a Postgraduate Diploma with Merit, the student must have achieved an average pass mark (when rounded to the nearest integer) of 60% with all modules (excluding pass/fail modules with no marks awarded and modules for which credit has been granted as a result of RPL) being counted. To be so recommended for a Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction, the student must have achieved an average pass mark (when rounded to the nearest integer) of 70% with all modules (excluding pass/fail modules with no marks awarded and modules for which credit has been granted as a result of RPL) being counted. The overall module results before rounding will be used in the classification calculations.

60. Postgraduate Certificates do not carry any classification and will be defined only in terms of Pass or Fail. However, student transcripts for these awards will indicate the level of a student's performance in the individual modules completed.

Exit awards

61. Where a student is deemed to have withdrawn from the course or where a student has failed to accrue the number of credits for the award on which they are registered within the requisite timescale, the Assessment Board may consider the student's eligibility for an exit award of a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate. A student shall be awarded the highest qualification to which they are entitled by their accumulated credit (see paragraph 21) and their achievement of any mandatory modules. Such awards may be named (that is include a subject title) if this has been approved in the validation documentation and the student has met the validated requirements; otherwise such awards will be unnamed.

62. Exit awards of Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate do not carry any classification and will be defined only in terms of Pass or Fail. Student transcripts for these awards will indicate the level of a student's performance in the individual modules completed.

63. Where a student has been requested, in writing, to confirm their status as a current student but no reply has been received by the date specified in that correspondence, they will be 'deemed to have withdrawn' and will be considered for an exit award as outlined above.

64. Where a student is required by the Assessment Board to withdraw from the course, the Board will automatically recommend the highest award for which they are eligible. The exit award of Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma can be awarded by the Assessment Board without reference to the student if all opportunities for progression have been exhausted.

65. Where students are eligible for an exit award in any of the circumstances noted above, this will automatically be awarded unless the student notifies the Chair of the Assessment Board in writing that they do not wish to receive the award. If a student initially declines an exit award but subsequently changes his or her mind, the request for an exit award must be made within one calendar year of the date of withdrawal.

66. A student who has withdrawn from a course with an exit award may re-apply to the same course for admission at the appropriate point in order to complete the full award, provided that they were not originally required by the Assessment Board to withdraw from the course for academic reasons including academic failure and misconduct or where the maximum period of registration is exceeded. A period of at least one calendar year must have elapsed since the exit award was conferred before re-commencing the course. Re-entry will be determined in accordance with current admissions requirements and the *Recognition of Prior Learning Policy*.

Posthumous and Aegrotat awards

67. In the event of a student's death, the relevant Assessment Board may award a Master's degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate posthumously. The normal requirements for the award and any classification (as specified in paragraphs 57 to 61) must be met. Where the student has not met the normal requirements for the award, consideration may be given to an Aegrotat award.

68. In exceptional circumstances where a student is unable to complete their programme of study through illness or other valid cause, an Aegrotat award may be recommended where, based on the student's academic profile, the Assessment Board has enough evidence of the student's performance to recommend the award and is satisfied that the student would have reached the standard required for that award. Aegrotat awards will normally reflect the FHEQ level of study at which the student had achieved credit when their studies ceased. As all credit for postgraduate awards is at Level 7, to be awarded an Aegrotat Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or Master's degree, students must have achieved at least two-thirds of the credit required for that award. Where an Aegrotat award is made posthumously, the relevant Assessment Board may recommend that the student be awarded the intended award for the programme on which they were enrolled where the two-thirds requirement has not been met. Aegrotat awards do not carry any classification or distinction.

69. In all cases, the recommendation for an Aegrotat award must be approved by the Academic Registrar prior to the award being agreed by the relevant Assessment Board.

70. An Aegrotat award is considered to be the final award. Students accepting an Aegrotat award may not re-apply to the same course.

71. Where an Aegrotat award is going to be offered to a student, the student must confirm, in writing, that they are willing to accept the award and understand the implications (as set out in paragraph 70) before it can be agreed by the relevant Assessment Board. If the student is severely incapacitated, consent may be provided by an appropriate third party authorised to act on the student's behalf. The requirement to obtain consent does not apply for Aegrotat awards awarded posthumously.

Recognition of credit without an award

72. Where a student achieves credit by passing modules but is not eligible for an award within the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards delivered in partnership

with Unicaf, a student transcript/record of achievement will be issued identifying credit gained and the level of achievement in the module(s) completed.

Academic appeals

73. Students have a right to appeal against decisions of the Assessment Board in accordance with the *Academic Appeals Procedure* which is available, together with appeal forms, on the University of Suffolk website.

74. Any appeal should be made within fifteen working days of the date of written publication of results by the relevant Assessment Board.

Academic misconduct

75. Allegations of academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, will be dealt with as outlined in the *Academic Misconduct Policy*. In cases where investigations into allegations of academic misconduct are ongoing, Assessment Boards will record a deferred decision (DD) mark in respect of any component marks implicated in the allegations, and in respect of the modules which the component(s) form part.

Conferment of award

76. Conferral of awards occurs at set points in the academic year and a student may not receive an award parchment or official transcript or use their award title until formal conferral has taken place. If proof of the award is required at an earlier date (for example to enable a student to gain employment), students can securely share their Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) issued by the University of Suffolk via Gradintelligence.