

# Marking and Assessment Boycott: Progression and Award Contingencies for York Online Programmes

Academic Year 2022/23

August 2023

## **Summary**

This document sets out adjustments to the [Guide to Assessment](#) and the Progression and Award rules within it, that have been approved by the [University's Institutional Exam Board](#), 15th August 2023.

Sections of the Guide to Assessment referenced and impacted upon in each section are set out in greyed textboxes.

## **Key Principles**

1. We expect that all assessments not marked during the MAB will be marked in due course unless there are exceptional reasons why this cannot be the case. Similarly, we expect that feedback will be provided to students that will support progression through their programme of study.
2. For some programmes, there may be a need to continue to adhere to standard policies to ensure that Programme Learning Outcomes and PSRB requirements of programmes are met.
3. Wherever possible we will work within our existing guidance and policy, for example when considering marking practices and provision of feedback.
4. References to 'credits' for the purposes of award and progression contingency rules below refer to credits for fully completed modules rather than to the credit weighting for individual assessment components. Insofar as a student has completed some but not all assessments in a module (and missing assessments have not been waived under Part A below) those assessment credits will not be used for calculating progression and award. Only when all assessment components have been marked (or waived) and a final decision has been made about whether a student has completed the module, will the credits for that module be used in calculating progression and award.
5. Students should be assessed on activities they have undertaken.

## **Scope of these adjustments**

1. The provisions set out below apply to York Online programmes during the academic year 2022 to 2023.
2. Where a student has a full set of assessments marked, their outcome will be determined in the normal way using the standard rules under the Guide to Assessment.
3. Where any module credits are missing due to the marking and assessment boycott ('MAB'), the following rules will be applied as set out below.

### **Summary of key adjustments**

The full proposed amendments to existing Award and Progression Rules and other aspects of the Guide to Assessment so far as they relate to postgraduate taught students are set out in more detail below but, in summary, the key adjustments are:

- Waiver of assessment components - up to and including 50% of a module's assessment components can be permanently or provisionally waived so long as relevant PLOs and PSRB requirements have been or can still be met for the programme
- Where marks are missing due to MAB, a provisional award can be made based on a lower number of credits in line with the compensation level for that programme (30 credit shortfall for Masters and PG Diploma, 15 credit shortfall for PG Cert). Where there are insufficient credits (due to MAB) to achieve that provisional award, a provisional award at a lower level (PG Diploma or PG Cert) can be made.
- Lower exit awards can be made from credits for all modules (i.e. ISM and taught module credits)

### **A: Waiver of assessment components (all programmes)**

York Online Fit to Sit/Submit Policy, 7.2.1 ('Rare cases')

1. Where a single module mark compromises multiple assessment marks, assessments consisting of up to and including 50% of the module mark may be waived where the marks are, or are likely to be unavailable due to the MAB. The module mark will be composed of, and full credit for the module will be awarded on the basis of the remaining assessed elements.
2. Waiver of assessments may be:
  - a. Permanent (i.e. the waived component will not be reassessed and the remaining marks will form the full and final grade for the module);
  - b. Provisional (i.e. it is intended that the waived component will be marked at some later point; or
  - c. Partial through replacing (permanently or provisionally) graded assessment of the component with pass/fail assessment of it.
3. Waiver of module marks should only be approved if programme learning outcomes and PSRB requirements have already been, or can still be, met for all students through other assessments, and if waiving those assessments is not likely to substantially disadvantage students' learning and development.
4. Any such decision must be approved by the Chair of the Board of Examiners and agreed by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Assessment and either the PVC Teaching, Learning and Students or the Associate PVC Teaching, Learning and Students.

### **B: Compensation**

YO2.2 ('Compensation')

1. Where a student has a full set of assessments marked, including some failed modules, the standard rules relating to compensation will apply as outlined in the Guide to Assessment.
2. Where a student has a combination of failed non-ISM modules and module credits missing due to the MAB, the compensation rules for postgraduate programmes will continue to be determined under YO2.2 of the Guide to Assessment subject to the modifications set out below.
3. A student may be eligible for compensation based on the number of fully marked but failed non-ISM modules even if there are marks missing due to the MAB. In such a case, MAB affected modules should not be treated as failed modules when calculating eligibility for compensation and nor should MAB affected modules themselves be subject to compensation. In this situation, compensation applies as set out in YO2.2.1 to YO2.2.3 but subject to the following adjustments:
  - a. The number of 'failed' credits will solely be based on fully marked modules (i.e. not those wholly or partly missing marks due to the MAB);
  - b. Modules that have been subject to the MAB (whether wholly or partially) will not be considered when determining whether a student has any marks lower than 40.
  - c. The rounded credit weighted mean for the purposes of compensation calculations will be calculated using only those modules that have been fully marked. Where the assessment of a module has been impacted by the MAB (whether wholly or partially), that module's marks will not be included for determining the mean mark for these purposes.
4. Any modules compensated under these provisions to enable a student to gain a provisional PG Cert or PG Diploma will also be used for the purposes of determining eligibility for any higher award and will count towards the total number of compensated modules for the purposes of determining compensation for that higher award.<sup>1</sup>
5. Any compensation of a module under these rules will remain valid if the subsequent marking of MAB-affected assessments would otherwise make the student ineligible for compensation (e.g. by lowering the student's credit-weighted mean mark or increasing the number of failed credits).

### ***C: Award Rules for Masters Programmes***

24 ('University Award Requirements')  
 YO2.2 ('Compensation')  
 YO3 ('Merits and Distinctions for Postgraduate Degrees')

1. For the purposes of determining award rules, if a student is missing any module credits due to the MAB, all credits for award purposes will be calculated from a combination of ISM and non-ISM modules.

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<sup>1</sup> e.g. where a student has compensation of 15 credits for the purposes of obtaining a provisional Postgraduate Certificate under these rules, those 15 compensated credits will also count towards the 30 credits that can be compensated for the purpose of obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma or Masters award. The student will not be entitled to compensation of a *further* 30 credits of failure to obtain a Diploma or Masters but only a further 15 credits in addition to the 15 initially compensated credits

2. Where a student has 150 or more, but fewer than 180, module credits, and no credits are missing due to failure (i.e. all missing credits are due to the MAB), they may secure a 'Provisional Award' of a Masters but only if the student passed their independent study module.
3. Where a student has secured 90 or more, but fewer than 150, module credits, or where a student has secured 90 or more credits but has not obtained credits in their independent study module and in both such cases no credits are missing due to failure (i.e. all missing credits are due to the MAB), they may secure a Provisional Award of a Postgraduate Diploma, or Provisional Award of any lower-exit Postgraduate Diploma that may be awarded on their programme of study.
4. Where a student has secured 45 or more, but fewer than 90, module credits, and no credits are missing due to failure (i.e. all missing credits are due to the MAB), they may secure a Provisional Award of a Postgraduate Certificate, or Provisional Award of any lower-exit Postgraduate Certificate that may be awarded on their programme of study.
5. Where the award of a particular named Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma is subject to the passing of particular modules or other criteria, those requirements or criteria will continue to apply for the purposes of determining eligibility of a provisional award as specified above.
6. The calculation of eligibility for an award of a merit or distinction under YO3.3 to YO3.6 will be based on the credit weighted mean of all modules for which marks are available (i.e. a student must achieve a credit weighted average of 60 for all modules for which marks are available for a Merit and a credit weighted average of at least 70 for which marks are available for a Distinction). Where marks are obtained subsequent to ratification of a Merit or Distinction Award, the credit weighted average and the resulting award will be recalculated but can only increase upwards.