



# UCD Academic Regulations: Version History

Last updated: 31 July 2025

---

## Contents

<b>Section 1: Governance</b> .....	3
<b>Section 2: University Awards</b> .....	3
<b>Section 3: Academic Calendar, Modules, and Programme Structures</b> .....	4
<b>Section 4: Assessment, Grading and Feedback</b> .....	5
<b>Section 5: Programme Progression and Completion</b> .....	7
<b>Section 6: Module Completion and Remediation</b> .....	8
<b>Section 7: Regulations for Research Degrees</b> .....	8
<b>Section 8: Regulations for Professional Doctorate Degrees</b> .....	11
<b>Section 9: Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD)</b> .....	13

### **Information Point:**

The following document captures regulatory amendments. It does not include minor editorial amendments which do not affect the intent of the Regulation in question.

The 'Affected Section' refers to the numbering as per the version listed in 'Version Amended'. In other words, all numbers listed below refer to the version to which changes have been made.

### **Academic Regulations Version History:**

Version 1.3 approved by ACEC on 21 May 2019 (applicable for 2019-20 academic year)

Version 1.4 approved by ACEC on 18 May 2020 (applicable for 2020-21 academic year)

Version 1.5 approved by ACEC on 12 August 2020 (applicable for 2020-21 academic year)

Version 1.6 approved by ACEC on 9 December 2020 (applicable for 2020-21 academic year)

Version 1.7 approved by AC on 22 April 2021 (applicable for 2020-21 academic year)

Version 1.8 approved by ACEC on 3 June 2021 (applicable for 2021-22 academic year)

Version 1.9 approved by ACEC on 26 May 2022 (applicable for 2022/23 academic year)

Version 2.0 approved by AC on 27 April 2023 (applicable for 2023/24 academic year)

Version 2.1 approved by ACEC on 30 May 2024 (applicable for 2024/25 academic year)

Version 2.2 approved by partially by AC on 30 April and partially by ACEC on 28 May 2025 (applicable for 2025/26 academic year)

## Section 1: Governance

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
1.6 (m)	1.3	Amendments to reflect changes to the Student Fitness to Practice, Fitness to Continue in Study, and Continuation & Readmission Policies. Regulation now confirms that the Governing Board will follow approved policies and procedures in relation to a student's academic performance.	18.05.2020
1.9	1.3	Insertion to confirm that Programme Examination Boards shall have Terms of Reference	18.05.2020
1.13 o)	2.1	The programme specification will now detail: o) Limitations to the application of Recognition of Prior Learning (if applicable)	27.04.2023

## Section 2: University Awards

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
2.5	2.2	The insertion of a link to NFQ Award-type Descriptors table	30.04.2025
2.6 (in version 1.3)	1.3	2.6 University Awards Table for Research Programmes has been moved to Section 7 Regulations for Research Degrees	18.05.2020
2.10	1.3	New Regulation to confirm that if it deviates from approved award GPA rules specified in the Academic Regulations, the award GPA rule for an exit award requires the approval of Academic Council or its relevant committee.	18.05.2020
2.5	1.4	Removal of NFQ Level 8 Diploma of Continuing Education and addition of NFQ Level 7 Diploma of Continuing Education.	12.08.2020
2.6 (new Regulation)	1.4	Addition of new Regulation "Previously approved award types which are not included in Table 2.5, but are offered by the University, may continue to be offered subject to review by the Academic Council or its relevant Committee. New programmes should only offer those awards listed in Table 2.5."	12.08.2020
2.7 (new Regulation)	2.1	New Regulation to confirm that the University shall provide for aegrotat and posthumous awards in line with policies and procedures approved by the Academic Council or its relevant committee. Insertion of new Regulation impacted sequential numbering in section two.	27.04.2023

## Section 3: Academic Calendar, Modules, and Programme Structures

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
3.3	1.3	Clarification that teaching and assessment must be conducted in line with approved term dates.	18.05.2020
3.14	1.7	Re-worded regulation from “Module Coordinators are members of faculty of the University, or are approved to act by Academic Council or its relevant committee” to “Module Coordinators are members of faculty of the University. Where, with the approval of the Academic Council or its relevant committee...”	03.06.2021
3.5	2.1	There are expanded criteria for module types that maybe delivered across multiple trimesters continuously. Schools are responsible for determining the nature of the module offered, based on appropriate disciplinary and subject norms, and to apply the Academic Regulation accordingly.	27.04.2023
3.7	2.1	Governing Boards have greater decision-making power with respect to the inclusion of resits in workload. They may approve a single module resit that causes a student to exceed the permitted 40 credit workload, for example a 15-credit resit.	27.04.2023
3.8	2.1	Updated wording to highlight that Governing Boards can reduce a student’s workload to what it considers to be sustainable levels. The revised wording emphasises the role played by the profile of student engagement and supports offered by the University in reaching the decision, rather than a process of consultation as per the previous wording.	27.04.2023
3.12 (new Regulation )	2.1	New Regulation. The university’s formal definition of a subject has now been added to the Academic Regulations.  <i>Insertion of new Regulation impacted sequential numbering in section three.</i>	27.04.2023
3.13 (new Regulation )	2.1	New Regulation to confirm that all subjects shall have extern examiners appointed in accordance with university policy as determined by Academic Council. Insertion of new Regulation impacted sequential numbering in section three.  <i>Insertion of new Regulation impacted sequential numbering in section three.</i>	27.04.2023
3.16	2.1	Numbered 3.14 in previous version of Academic Regulations. Regulation confirms that now in exceptional circumstances non-faculty coordinators can be assigned to modules without first seeking approval through UPB. Schools will be required to report on such appointments, including their duration, on an annual basis.	27.04.2023
3.18 f (iii)iii	2.1	Numbered 3.16 f(iii) in previous version of Academic Regulations.  Undergraduate dissertation modules may now range	27.04.2023

		from 15-25 credits (previously 15-30 credits). Graduate dissertation modules may now be 25 credits or greater. The previous minimum credit value was 30.	
3.23	2.1	Numbered 3.21 in previous version of Academic Regulations.  This regulation was reworded for clarity and emphasises the importance of elective provision in undergraduate programme design.	27.04.2023
3.26	2.1	Numbered 3.24 in previous version of Academic Regulations.  Slight change to reporting requirements of elective places is outlined. While the overall provision of elective places will continue to be reviewed by Academic Council, the review will be 'as required' rather than 'annually' as stated previously.	27.04.2023
3.27	2.1	Numbered 3.25 in previous version of Academic Regulations.  The change here is to explicitly note that Schools and Boards of Studies must be aware of Repeat students and ensure that modules have sufficient capacity to accommodate students repeating.	27.04.2023
3.28	2.1	Numbered 3.27 in previous version of Academic Regulations.  The application of requisites to a module must be on pedagogical grounds only, and of an appropriate number. Requisites must not be used as a means to manage enrolment to a module or otherwise exclude students from taking a module.	27.04.2023
3.37 (c)	2.1	Numbered 3.36 (c) in previous version of Academic Regulations.  Structured Electives - A student may not be awarded a structured elective in a directly related area to that of their degree award. These exclusions are approved in advance by the relevant Governing Board, recorded on the Curriculum Management System and published to students.	27.04.2023

## Section 4: Assessment, Grading and Feedback

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
4.11	2.1	Online exams have now been included in this regulation. The Regulation also clarifies that in instances where the length of a written terminal exam must exceed two hours to meet the requirements of a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body, this can be approved by the Governing Board and must be detailed in the Module Descriptor.	27.04.2023

4.13 (New Regulation )	2.1	<p>Previously part of Regulation 4.12.</p> <p>Regulation reworded to provide greater simplification and clarification around requirements for entering component grades into University systems.</p> <p><i>Insertion of Regulation impacted sequential numbering in section four.</i></p>	27.04.2023
4.14	2.1	<p>Numbered 4.13 in previous version of Academic Regulations.</p> <p>The word 'access' replaced with 'evaluate' in relation to a Module Coordinators responsibility to the academic integrity of any assessment submitted by students.</p>	27.04.2023
4.15	2.1	<p>Numbered 4.14 in previous version of Academic Regulations.</p> <p>Addition of wording to confirm that grading is completed according to approved scales and procedures.</p>	27.04.2023
4.16	2.1	<p>Previously part of Regulation 4.15.</p> <p>Editorial change from the word 'should' to 'must' in relation to grading in accordance to the module assessment criteria.</p>	27.04.2023
4.18	2.1	<p>Clarification brought to the responsibility of the Head of School with regard to internal moderation</p>	27.04.2023
4.19	2.2	<p>An editorial change to clarify the reporting responsibility of the internal examiner approval process</p>	30.04.2025
4.19	2.1	<p>Governing Boards now have delegated authority to approve intern examiners.</p> <p>Academic Council has delegated the responsibility of oversight of intern examiners appointments to ACCE who will require an annual report from Governing Boards on the number of intern examiners approved annually.</p>	27.04.2023
4.20	2.1	<p>While provisional grades are no longer released as part of the Grade Approvals Process, it is acknowledged that provisional grades are released throughout the trimester. Language amended to clarify that any grades released prior to a PEB are indicative only until they are formally ratified by a PEB; this means that grades can be increased or decreased until formal ratification.</p>	27.04.2023
4.21	2.1	<p>Clarification of the role of the School Modular Examination Committee (SMEC) in the Grade Approvals Process, namely to ensure completeness of grades prior to the PEB, in line with Grade Approvals Process timelines.</p>	27.04.2023

4.23	2.1	Simplification of language to provide greater distinction between an <i>in-module repeat of an assessment component</i> and an <i>in-module resit</i> .	27.04.2023
4.24	2.1	Simplification of language to provide greater distinction between an <i>in-module repeat of an assessment component</i> and an <i>in-module resit</i> .	27.04.2023
4.26	2.1	<p>Removal of the limitation of IM grades to clinical, field-based and work placement modules. Now applicable to all modules.</p> <p>Criteria for IA has been extended to include applied research modules.</p> <p>Removal of option for students “to choose an ABS grade” as an outcome to resolve an IA grade.</p> <p>Clarification that if a student does not complete the assessment within two trimesters of the initial attempt, the Governing Board should consider whether alternative processes might be in the better interest of the student; and that IX grades should only be extended beyond two trimesters for a prescribed period and with an agreed strategy for module completion.</p> <p>Introduction of a new exceptional grade - IH Incomplete Hold (temporary) to be applied in such instances where for example there are ongoing investigation into instances of plagiarism; or where there is a delay in receipt of grades due to different grading timelines.</p>	27.04.2023

## Section 5: Programme Progression and Completion

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
5.4	1.3	<p>Addition of (c):</p> <p>A student may progress to the next stage without completing the previous stage (an incomplete stage) when the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the credits required by the student to complete the incomplete stage do not exceed 10 credits;</li> <li>(b) the student has completed all preceding stages to the incomplete stage, if preceding stages exist and;</li> <li><b>(c) the student has satisfied the progression requirements detailed in the programme specification.</b></li> </ul>	18.05.2020
5.10 & 5.11	1.3	Amendments to reflect changes to the Student Fitness to Practice, Fitness to Continue in Study, and Continuation & Readmission Policies. Regulation now confirms that the Governing Board will follow approved policies and procedures in relation to continuation and readmission.	18.05.2020

## Section 6: Module Completion and Remediation

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
6.2	1.3	Section on 'In-Module Resit' moved to sit under the 'Module Remediation' title.  No changes to text.	18.05.2020
6.4	2.1	A student can carry a total of 10 credits from any previous stage, not just the immediately preceding one. A student will be able to progress to stage 3 carrying 5 credits from stage 1 and 5 credits from stage 2 as an example.	27.04.2023
6.9	2.1	Students who previously exited with an award may not return to register to their original programme of study unless permitted under another University policy, such as that governing Graduate Taught Pathways.	27.04.2023
6.10	2.1	The language has been amended to provide clarification on the number of fail attempts permitted by a student for a module, following which a Governing Board should review the student's academic performance.	27.04.2023
6.11	2.1	The language in this regulation has been amended to better reflect that a Governing Board may offer another award if they deem a student to be ineligible to continue in their programme.	27.04.2023

## Section 7: Regulations for Research Degrees

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
7.6 (c)	1.3	Updated to confirm that "other evidence of academic standing and/or relevant professional experience" is considered as non-standard admission	18.05.2020
7.7	1.3	Replaced 'Governing Board' with 'Relevant School Committee' to reflect changes in Graduate Research Governance	18.05.2020
7.8	1.3	Updated to confirm that the decision to admit a candidate "rests with the relevant School Committee for standard admissions. Non-standard admission applications must be recommended by the School to the relevant Governing Board for approval."	18.05.2020
7.23	1.3	Replaced 'Governing Board' with 'Relevant School Committee' to reflect changes in Graduate Research	18.05.2020

		Governance. The relevant school committee will now convene the Research Studies Panel	
7.38	1.3	Amendments to the documentation required for the Transfer Assessment Panel.	18.05.2020
7.55	1.3	Updates to reflect changes in thesis submission (i.e. e-Thesis)	18.05.2020
7.69	1.3	Addition that where a recommendation is made by the Examination Committee to the Academic Council or its relevant Committee, "The Academic Council or its relevant Committee can accept the recommendation of the Examination Committee or can ask the Examination Committee to reconsider its decision."	18.05.2020
7.46	1.4	Updated to reflect changes to Continuation & Readmission	
7.83	1.6	Removed "All theses remain the property of University College Dublin"	22.04.2021
7.1	1.8	An editorial change to provide clarity on the remit of section 7.	26.05.2022
7.2	1.8	University Awards Table for Research Programmes updated to align with registration periods outlined in section 7.9 to section 7.12.	26.05.2022
7.4	1.8	'Examination Committee' is re-worded to 'Research Degree Examination Committee', to emphasise its difference from other examination committees.	26.05.2022
7.9	1.8	An editorial change to avoid any ambiguity about the minimum and maximum periods of registration for a Research Master's Degree.	26.05.2022
7.10	1.8	An editorial change to avoid any ambiguity about the minimum and maximum periods of registration for a Graduate Research Programme of study leading to a PhD Degree.	26.05.2022
7.11	1.8	An editorial change to emphasise that it is rare for permission to be granted to students that present for the Degree of Research Masters or PhD following shorter periods of registration.	26.05.2022
7.12	1.8	Change to align this regulation with the operational language of registration and make the connection between the maximum period of registration and an extension clearer.	26.05.2022
7.13	1.8	Heading change to re-emphasise that section 7 applies to all research degrees unless otherwise stated.	26.05.2022
7.14	1.8	Replaced the word 'staff' with the word 'faculty' to ensure consistency in language.	26.05.2022

7.17	1.8	Editorial change to articulate the role of the governing board in split-site arrangements.	26.05.2022
7.19	1.8	Change to provide some distinction between adjunct and external supervisors.	26.05.2022
7.27	1.8	The wording of 'graduate research students' is now prefixed by the word 'All' to make the requirement for Research Integrity training, for all graduate research students, clearer.	26.05.2022
7.35	1.8	Heading just above regulation 7.35 edited to make the requirement for a Research and Professional Development Plan for all graduate research students, clearer.	26.05.2022
7.40	1.8	An editorial change to link the outcome of a Transfer Assessment with the components of the assessment.	26.05.2022
7.41	1.8	Title change to the heading above regulation 7.41. It is intended to clarify that progression requirements that apply to all doctoral programmes.	26.05.2022
7.44	1.8	Change to emphasise that the most recent RPDP should be a component of the Transfer Assessment.	26.05.2022
7.45	1.8	Update the wording concerning what the Stage Transfer Assessment Panel bases its judgement on when considering a stage transfer. The purpose of the change is to bring clarity to research students on the requirements for a stage transfer.	23.08.2022
7.58	1.8	An amendment to clarify the role of the Research Studies Panel.	23.08.2022
7.4	2.0	Inclusion of acronym 'RSP' for Research Studies Panel.	27 .04.2022
7.13	2.0	An update to the wording that concerns engagement between the research student and supervisor . The addition is as follows: "A research degree student must actively engage with their supervisor(s) on an ongoing basis."	27.04.2023
7.14	2.0	An update to the wording to bring clarity to the matter of eligibility of Research Fellows to act as supervisors.	27.04.2023
7.16	2.0	An update to the wording was added to confirm that the Head of School shall " <i>make every effort</i> " to secure alternate arrangements for supervision and with the student in mind that this should be carried out " <i>with minimal delay</i> ".	27.04.2023
7.23	2.0	An amendment to confirm that the membership of the Research Studies Panel and the Stage Transfer	27.04.2023

		Assessment Panel should not normally overlap. To ensure appropriate governance, if there is to be overlap between the two panels, approval must be sought from the Governing Board Wording should be aligned accordingly in relevant University policies.	
7.43	2.0	An amendment to confirm that the membership of the Research Studies Panel and the Stage Transfer Assessment Panel should not normally overlap. To ensure appropriate governance, if there is to be overlap between the two panels, approval must be sought from the Governing Board Wording should be aligned accordingly in relevant University policies.	27.04.2023
7.45	2.0	Clarification is brought regarding the number of attempts a candidate may make at the Stage Transfer Assessment	27.04.2023
7.46	2.0	A reference to Stage Transfer Assessment Panel is added to the wording.	27.04.2023
7.47	2.0	An updated to state that the School will make a recommendation to the Governing Board. This will mirror the language and decision-making outlined in the preceding regulation.	27.04.2023
7.52	2.0	In relation to Preparation and Submission of Research Thesis for Examination, there is an update to the wording to confirm who responsibility lies with to make arrangements to submit theses presented in alternative formats.	27.04.2023
7.58	2.0	To remove ambiguity, an update to include a statement confirming that adjunct/visiting staff cannot chair an Examination Committee is added. .	27.04.2023
7.27	2.1	Updated to clarify Research Integrity Training Requirements	30.05.2024
7.44	2.1	The criteria by which the Stage Transfer Assessment Panel base its judgment on has been updated to include a formal record of completion of research integrity training for students admitted after 31 August 2024.	30.05.2024

## Section 8: Regulations for Professional Doctorate Degrees

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
8.3	1.3	Removal of section to reflect changes in graduate research governance	18.05.2020

8.4 (b)	1.3	Reflecting changes in Graduate Research Governance, confirmation that the Programme Director is responsible for approval of professional doctorate degree candidates onto the programme, that have met the requirements of the Professional Doctorate Degree Programme (i.e. standard admissions)	18.05.2020
8.4 (d)	1.3	Reflecting changes in Graduate Research Governance, confirmation that the Programme Director is responsible for approval of the membership of the Research Studies Panel.	18.05.2020
8.19	1.3	Replaced 'Governing Board' with 'Programme Director' to align with changes in Graduate Research Governance.	18.05.2020
8.34	1.4	Updated to reflect changes to Continuation and Readmission	12.08.2020
8.33	1.8	Update the wording concerning what the Stage Transfer Assessment Panel bases its judgement on when considering a stage transfer. The purpose of the change is to bring clarity to professional doctorate degree students on the requirements for a stage transfer.	23.08.2022
8.11	2.0	Wording in is updated to mirror the wording in Section 7 in respect to minimum / maximum registration periods.	27.04.2023
8.13	2.0	An update to the wording that concerns engagement between the research student and supervisor .	27.04.2023
8.14	2.0	An update to the wording to bring clarity to the matter of eligibility of Research Fellows to act as supervisors.	27.04.2023
8.16	2.0	An update to the wording was added to confirm that the Head of School shall " <i>make every effort</i> " to secure alternate arrangements for supervision and with the student in mind that this should be carried out " <i>with minimal delay</i> ".	27.04.2023
8.23	2.0	An amendment to confirm that the membership of the Research Studies Panel and the Stage Transfer Assessment Panel should not normally overlap. To ensure appropriate governance, if there is to be overlap between the two panels, approval must be sought from the Governing Board Wording should be aligned accordingly in relevant University policies.	27.04.2023
8.28	2.0	Updated to mirror the wording in regulation 7.27 with respect to research integrity training.	27.04.2023
8.33	2.0	In the Academic Regulations v1.9, section 8.33 was numbered as 8.32.  An amendment to confirm that the membership of the Research Studies Panel and the Stage Transfer Assessment Panel should not normally overlap. To ensure appropriate governance, if there is to be overlap between the two panels, approval must be sought from the Governing Board Wording should be aligned	27.04.2023

		accordingly in relevant University policies.	
8.35	2.0	An amendment to confirm that the Stage Transfer Assessment Panel may afford a student the opportunity to re-submit twice (meaning a maximum of three STAP meetings)	27.04.2023
8.36	2.0	A reference to Stage Transfer Assessment Panel is added to the wording. Also a change to the word recommendations from plural to singular.	27.04.2023
8.28	2.1	Updated to mirror the wording in regulation 7.27 with respect to Research Integrity Training.	30.05.2024
8.34	2.1	The criteria by which the Stage Transfer Assessment Panel base its judgment on has been updated to include a formal record of completion of research integrity training for students admitted after 31 August 2024.	30.05.2024

## Section 9: Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval
9.47	1.6	Removed "All theses remain the property of University College Dublin"	22.04.2021
9.12	2.0	An update to the wording that concerns engagement between the research student and supervisor .	27.04.2023
9.18	2.0	An update to the wording was added to confirm that the Head of School shall " <i>make every effort</i> " to secure alternate arrangements for supervision and with the student in mind that this should be carried out " <i>with minimal delay</i> ".	27.04.2023

## Appendix

Affected Section(s)	Version Amended	Description of Change to Regulations	Date AC or ACEC approval