**Changes to Postgraduate Academic Regulations**

**Student Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

From academic year 2025/26 Edinburgh Napier is changing the way that postgraduate work is marked. We are moving from the current 16-point scale (F6-D5) to a 0-100% marks approach. This is in response to feedback from students, staff and from our external examiners and is intended to make your assessment marks more transparent and easier to understand.

Modules which you start in 2025/26 academic year will be marked using the 0-100% marking scheme, the pass mark will be 50%. Grades that you achieved in your studies prior to this will continue to be presented as grades on your transcript provided on graduation. If your module is already marked as pass/fail, there will be no change to this. Your overall award mark will take account of both grading schemes.

Until now, postgraduate degrees have been awarded as a pass or with distinction. From 2025/26 academic year onwards, the academic regulations now also include the opportunity to achieve a merit.

This change has been supported by ENSA and we are committed to ensuring that no student is academically disadvantaged as we transition between the old and the new postgraduate regulations.

1. **Why have the regulations been changed?**

The University has responded to feedback from students, staff and our external examiners who reported that the current grading approach using F6-D5 is confusing and lacks transparency – especially when a module is made up of different assignments with different weightings. The numerical approach using percentages is considered universal and more straightforward and will help students to better understand what they need to work towards to achieve the target degree award that they have in mind.

1. **Will the change make it easier/more difficult to pass my assignments?**

The module pass mark for Postgraduate assignments will be 50% (students who gain 49.5% will automatically be rounded up to a pass). The expectations required to achieve 50% will be the same as those needed to achieve P1 under our previous regulations and so requirements to attain a pass have not changed.

1. **What do I need to achieve a degree with distinction?**

The regulations will continue to require students to consistently achieve high marks across your modules to be awarded a degree with distinction. At least two thirds of your module credit (120 credits out of 180 credits for a standard Masters Degree) must have a mark of 70% or more to gain the award with distinction. The overall programme award with distinction is **not** determined by an average mark across all of your modules.

1. **What is the award with merit?**

This change will see the introduction of a merit award for students who achieve a module mark of 60% or above in two thirds or more of your overall module credit. This will align Edinburgh Napier more closely with sector practice in providing an award between pass and distinction.

1. **I am due to graduate in 2024/25 (or graduated before then) can I request to be considered for an award with merit?**

No, you will graduate on the academic regulations which did not include the merit award. Edinburgh Napier will continue to provide information to alumni and stakeholders such as employers to explain the grades on your transcript and make clear that students awarded their postgraduate degrees prior to 2025/26 were entitled to receive their awards, with or without distinction. No student, past or present, should be disadvantaged as a result of these changes to our regulations.

1. **I am continuing on my course which I started before 2025/26 - will my previous grades be converted to marks?**

Your transcript will continue to show the grades ratified by our Programme Assessment Boards in 2024/25 or before. You will receive marks for modules completed in 2025/26 and these will be presented on the same transcript. Edinburgh Napier’s student record system will ‘convert’ your previous grades to a mark equivalent to allow your final award outcome to be calculated. Again no student should be disadvantaged as a result of these changes.

1. **I have a reassessment (with or without valid extenuating circumstances) on a module that I studied in or before 2024/25 – will I now get a mark rather than a grade?**

If you are reassessing a module which started in or before 2024/25 it will be completed under those academic regulations and you will receive a grade on your transcript for this module.

1. **I have been advised to repeat a module which I failed to complete in 2024/25 – will I now get a mark rather than a grade?**

If you are repeating a module, you will have been enrolled on it under the 2025/26 academic regulations and you will receive a mark on your transcript for the module.

1. **I have had a period of suspended studies. How does this change affect me?**

This will depend on the specific circumstances of your suspended study and what you had completed on your modules prior to your suspended study commencing. Please speak to your Programme Leader/PDT who will be able to advise based on your specific circumstances.

1. **I am studying a ‘long module’ over multiple trimesters which started in 2024/25 and will complete in 2025/26. How will this be marked?**

As the module commenced in 2024/25 under those academic regulations, you will receive a grade on your transcript for the module.

1. **What will the University be doing to explain this change to employers – will they understand my transcript?**

The transcripts issued to date include a link to the academic regulations and this page will direct employers to information about the grade approach used prior to 2024/25 and explain that as a result of the University changing its academic regulations in 2025/26 some students will have a mixture of grades and marks.

We will update these FAQs as required, and if you have further questions not addressed here, please contact dlte@napier.ac.uk.

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