

Planning and Resource Allocation and Education Committees

Regulations on Financial Matters

Fee liability for postgraduate taught courses

The following changes in regulations have been made **with immediate effect**.

Explanatory Note

The following changes in regulations, made by PRAC and Education Committee on the recommendation of the Joint Fees and Student Support Advisory Group, after consultation with divisions and the Department for Continuing Education, amend the wording governing the end point of fee liability for postgraduate taught (PGT) students, in order to reflect current practice.

Under current regulations, fee liability for PGT programmes ceases after 'the written examination' is taken. The revised wording provides that fee liability extends until the end of the programme: that is the term in which the published deadline for the final dissertation or thesis or other piece of work is due for submission or the final examination is taken.

This change better reflects the actual range of assessment patterns that PGT students now undertake, which in some cases do not include any written examinations, and provides for students to continue paying fees until they complete the PGT course, whatever the pattern of assessment may be. Where a PGT programme follows the pattern of a written examination in Trinity term followed by a dissertation submitted in September, there would be no change in a student's fee liability, since any exercise submitted during a vacation is deemed for fees purposes to be submitted in the previous term. Where there is no written examination, it is current practice to charge students fees throughout the period that they are working on extended essays or other assessed work, and so the change brings the regulations into line with current practice.

In any case where a PGT student is granted an extension to the deadline for a thesis or dissertation that falls in a later term than the published deadline, it is not proposed to charge fees for the period of the extension; fee liability would still end at the published deadline. This reflects the fact that extensions are granted only in exceptional circumstances including ill health.

The opportunity is taken to update detailed wording relating to fee liability for certain part-time courses, as follows. For part-time modular courses, programme fees are now known as registration fees and are payable on an annual basis rather than termly. The part-time MSt in International Human Rights Law has been restructured and fees are payable for up to 12 terms; cl 5(d) provides that the normal length of part-time PGT programmes is twice that for full-time programmes, that is 12 terms, and it is not necessary separately to list the fee liability for this programme, nor for the part-time MSc in Education, which also has a standard length of fee liability. The title of the DEng degree, and the level of extension fee for the MSc in Mathematical Finance, are also updated.

Text of Regulations

1 In *Examination Regulations*, 2014, delete from p1012, l 33 to p1013, l 36 and substitute (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

4.

(a) Subject to the provisions of cl 5 below, every member of the University shall pay a University fee at the appropriate annual rate for each term in which he or she is registered as a Probationer Research Student or is working for one of the qualifications listed below, from and including the term in which he or she is first so registered or begins working for such qualification, up to and including the term in which he or she takes the final examination or (in the case of a degree or diploma by thesis only) submits his or her thesis:

[List of PGT courses]

(b) In the case of a degree or diploma that is not by thesis only, the term in which the student takes the final examination is that in which the published submission due date or examination date falls for the final piece of work (which may consist of a dissertation, thesis, essay, other assessed exercise, or written examination). ~~Where the examination comprises a written examination followed by the submission of a dissertation, the relevant term is that in which the written examination is taken, save that the relevant term for a student for the Degree of MTh is that in which his or her dissertation is submitted (subject to the provisions of cl. 5 of this subsection).~~ A thesis or other assessed exercise for which the published due date falls submitted other than during Full Term shall be deemed for the purposes of this clause to have been submitted due for submission during the preceding term.

(c) In the case of a degree or diploma by thesis only, a thesis submitted other than during Full Term shall be deemed for the purposes of this clause to have been submitted during the preceding term.

(~~ed~~) Candidates who continue to work for one of the qualifications listed in this clause after attempting an examination shall pay a University fee for each term in which they receive tuition or supervision; but if they receive no further tuition or supervision, they shall pay no further University fees but shall pay the fee prescribed in §7 below when they re-enter. Candidates whose thesis submitted for the degree of MLitt, MSc, or DPhil, has been referred back shall pay no further University fees, but shall pay the fee prescribed in §7 below when they apply for re-examination; and candidates whose dissertation for the degree of MSc in Education did not satisfy the examiners shall pay the fee prescribed in §7 below before a revised or new dissertation for Part II of the examination is examined. For the purposes of this clause, "term" shall include any period of forty-two days' residence reckoned as a term of residence under the Regulations for Residence in the University provided that not more than three University fees shall be payable in the same academic~~at~~-year.

(~~de~~) The fee shall be collected in accordance with §3 below.'

2. Ibid, delete from p1014, l 50 to p1015, l 36 and substitute (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

5.

(c) The number of termly University fees payable under cl 4 above by those working for any qualification other than the degree of DPhil or ~~DEngD~~ shall not exceed six in respect of each qualification, provided that:

(i) Candidates who transfer from the DPhil to the MLitt or MSc by Research may count up to six University fees paid while working towards the DPhil (including fees paid while holding the status Probationer Research Student) towards this figure;

(ii) Candidates receiving tuition or supervision after attempting an examination shall continue to pay University fees for each term in which they receive tuition or supervision;

(iii) Candidates under (iv) and (v) ~~(vii)~~ below who receive tuition or supervision after failing an examination or who require an extension of time shall continue to pay University fees for each term in which they receive tuition or supervision;

~~(iv) Part-time Students for the Degree of Master of Science in Education shall pay not more than twelve University fees (at the half rate);~~

(iv) Students for the Degree of Master of Science in Evidence-Based Health Care, Experimental Therapeutics, Software and System Security, Software Engineering, Surgical Science and Practice, or Sustainable Urban Development shall pay all applicable module fees and not more than four annual registration fees and not fewer than six termly programme fees irrespective of the period for which they are registered for that degree;

(vi) Part-time students for the Degree of Master of Theology shall not pay more than six University fees (at the half rate) while working for Part II of that degree; and

~~(vii) Students for the Degree of Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law shall pay not more than six University fees; and~~

(viii) Part-time students for the MSc in Mathematical Finance shall pay not more than two tuition fees covering seven terms of study, payable at the start of the first and second years of the course respectively; students requiring an extension of time shall pay a fee of ~~£500~~ £530 for each term in which they continue to receive tuition or supervision.

(d) Fee requirements relating to full-time students undertaking graduate study shall also apply to part-time students holding the same status, save that part-time students shall be required to pay half the applicable full-time fee over twice the applicable length of time for full-time students, except where the fee for the part-time programme is otherwise specified in the regulations, and except where the applicable period is otherwise specified under cl 5(c) above.'