Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved by the Teaching Audit Committee on 31 May 2013 and Education Committee on 23 July 2013

Title of programme
Executive Master of Business Administration

Brief note about nature of change:
Introduction of formal regulations governing transfer arrangements between the School’s part-time programmes and the part-time MBA (EMBA)

Effective date
1 January 2014

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2012

Detail of change

1. **P.792, delete l.6-14 and insert**
   “2. The MBA Committee shall have the discretion to permit any candidate to be exempted from up to four courses providing that the Committee is satisfied that such a candidate has completed equivalent study of an appropriate standard, and has passed the assessment associated with that equivalent study, on either the Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Strategy, the Postgraduate Diploma in Global Business, the Postgraduate Diploma in Organisational Leadership, or the Postgraduate Diploma in Strategy and Innovation (previously the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Strategy) no more than five years before initial registration for the part-time MBA. Application for exemptions will only be permitted until 31st December 2017, after which candidates on any Postgraduate Diploma may only transfer onto the part-time MBA under clause 3 below.”
3. The MBA Committee shall have the discretion to permit any candidate to transfer onto the part-time MBA from either the Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Strategy, the Postgraduate Diploma in Global Business, the Postgraduate Diploma in Organisational Leadership, or the Postgraduate Diploma in Strategy and Innovation, providing that the Committee is satisfied that such a candidate has completed equivalent study of an appropriate standard on the four courses on the respective Postgraduate Diploma, and has passed the assessment associated with these four courses.

4. With the approval of the Programme Director, a candidate may substitute core courses, core electives or electives on the part-time MBA with core courses from the Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Strategy, the Postgraduate Diploma in Global Business, the Postgraduate Diploma in Organisational Leadership, the Postgraduate Diploma in Strategy and Innovation, or M.Sc. in Major Programme Management, assuming that core course falls within the permitted registration period for the part-time MBA.”.

Explanatory Notes

Clause 1: This set of regulatory changes seeks to clarify the current system of exemptions affecting those wishing to move from the School’s Postgraduate Diploma courses to the part-time MBA. It introduces a new transfer system, and a degree of modularity (the ability to substitute courses) between the part-time MBA and other programmes in the part-time portfolio.

The School has six part-time, postgraduate qualifications:

- The part-time Executive MBA (EMBA)
- The MSc in Major Programme Management
- Four postgraduate diplomas which consist of modules from the Executive MBA*

*(The Postgraduate Diploma in Strategy and Innovation; The Postgraduate Diploma in Organisational Leadership; The Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Strategy; The Postgraduate Diploma in Global Business)

Students who complete Diplomas are already entitled to apply for exemptions from the modules they have passed as Diploma graduates, as part of a route through the EMBA. This offers students some flexibility, but the School is keen to provide a more coherent, modular approach to part-time study and this proposal seeks to move to a more formal transfer system, which allows successful applicants for the EMBA to transfer from a Diploma programme after the fourth module of their Diploma (all Diplomas include four modules of study followed by a 10,000 word project). The School also wishes to make more efficient use of faculty resource by allowing students enrolled on a Diploma, the EMBA or specialist MSc in Major Programme Management to choose electives from another programme in the portfolio. Core courses such as Strategy are replicated in several programmes and, in cases where students have missed a module due to illness or unforeseen personal circumstances; it would be helpful if they could attend the module
being taught elsewhere in the portfolio.

The current regulations already allow for transfers from one course to another. However, in order not to disadvantage Diploma graduates who may have been offered the chance to apply for EMBA, it is proposed that the option to apply for exemptions remains in the regulations, with a cut-off point of 2017 (five years after current Diploma students graduate) for entering the EMBA via this route).

There are precedents elsewhere in the University for allowing more flexible study, and the ability to choose modules from more than one course of study. The MSc in Software Engineering and the MSc in Software Systems Security provide opportunities for students to study modules across both programmes in this way.