



Senate

Paper Title	Suspension of Regulations Summary Report: December 2013 – February 2014
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the report and to consider approaches for the reduction of situations resulting in suspensions.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	A summary of suspensions of regulations requested during the period December 2013 – February 2014, and the outcomes.
Questions for Senate to consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are members concerned by the number of suspensions?• How can the number of suspensions be reduced?• Do members feel that the suspension decisions are appropriate?
Regulatory/statutory reference points	The paper concerns exceptions granted to the normal application of the <i>Academic Regulations</i> , the main regulatory document for the management of quality and standards in relation to our academic provision.
Strategy and risk	Security of academic standards and quality relies upon the approved frameworks being applied consistently. There should be no exceptions. This paper details the actions taken to address those exceptions that did arise.
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	N/A
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Suspension of Regulations Summary Report
December 2013 – February 2014

Background

A report on suspensions of regulations is submitted to each meeting of Senate. Examination boards may request a suspension where a situation arises in which the normal application of the Academic Regulations would either be manifestly unfair to one or more students, or where a situation has arisen which was not foreseen by the regulations (that is, where a change to the regulations is needed, but action is required on behalf of the current cohort). These cases should be *extremely* rare, and the situations leading to them are normally avoidable.

To obtain a suspension requires support from the appropriate Subject and Degree Examination Boards and the Vice-Principal (Teaching & Learning) for regulatory issues associated with assessment, or from the Head of School or Institute and the Vice-Principal (Teaching & Learning) for other regulatory issues (such as admissions regulations). All requests are passed through ARCS, and screened at that stage.

This report covers the period December 2013 – February 2014. Tables showing a breakdown of requests by faculty and school/institute are provided, and a précis of each suspension and its cause is given in the appendix.

Summary data: December 2013 – February 2014

There were 12 requests for suspension in this quarter. In the equivalent quarter in 2012/13 there were only six. There have been a total of 28 suspensions so far in the present academic year, against 22 at the same point last year. Several suspensions in this quarter related to student appeals concerning the 2012/13 academic year.

School or Institute	Upheld	Rejected	Total
Law (1x CCLS, 1x Department of Law)	2	-	2
Mathematical Sciences	2	-	2
QML-BUPT Joint Programme	2	-	2
Barts Cancer Institute	1	-	1
Blizard Institute	1	-	1
Business and Management	-	1	1
Economics and Finance	1	-	1
Engineering and Materials Science	1	-	1
Languages, Linguistics and Film	1	-	1

Faculty	Upheld	Rejected	Total
Humanities and Social Sciences	4	1	5
Science and Engineering	5	-	5
Medicine and Dentistry	2	-	2
Other	-	-	-
Total	11	1	12

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February 2014

Appendix – suspensions of regulations December 2013 - February 2014

Ref.	Regulation	Desired outcome	Reason	Upheld?	Avoidable?	School
2013-17	Academic 4.70	Exceed the permitted 150 credits at level four.	School error.	✓	✓	Mathematical Sciences
2013-18	Module (assessment)	Combine associate and non-associate variants into a single module.	School error (delay).	✓	✓	Law (dept)
2013-19	Programme (progression)	Permit progression to the PGT project despite not meeting the programme's hurdle (special regulation).	School error.	✓	✓	Cancer
2013-20	Programme (progression)	Permit progression to the second year of a part time PGT programme despite not meeting the programme's hurdle (special regulation).	School/QML error.	✓	✓	Economics
2013-21	Programme (mode of study)	Permit part-time study on a programme where this is not normally available.	Student's individual circumstances.	✓	✗	Maths
2013-22	Programme (mode of study)	Permit part-time study on a programme where this is not normally available.	Student's individual circumstances.	✓	✗	SLLF
2013-23	Academic 5.26	Condone a module mark of 26.0 (below the threshold of 30.0)	School error.	✓	✓	Blizard
2013-24	Academic 5.11	Extend maximum duration by one year.	School error relating to student's individual circumstances.	✓	✓	CCLS
2013-25	Academic 4.55	Expand the zone of consideration to apply discretion to a classification.	QML error.	✓	✓	SEMS
2013-26	Academic 4.55	Expand the zone of consideration to apply discretion to a classification.	Student's individual circumstances.	✗	✓	SBM
2013-27	Academic 6.7	Grant an additional attempt at an assessment	QML system error	✓	✓	QML-BUPT JP Programme
2013-28	Academic	Remove cap on resits in 2013/14.	School error.	✓	✓	QML-BUPT JP