



Senate

<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Suspension of Regulations: October to November 2014 Summary Report</b>
<b>Outcome requested</b>	Senate is asked to <b>note</b> the report and consider approaches for the reduction of situations resulting in suspensions.
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	A detailed summary of suspensions of regulations requested during the period October to November 2014, and the outcomes.
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are members concerned by the number of suspensions?</li><li>• How can the number of suspensions be reduced?</li><li>• Do members feel that the suspension decisions are appropriate?</li></ul>
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	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.
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	Security of academic standards and quality relies upon the approved frameworks being applied consistently. There should be no exceptions. This paper details action taken to address those exceptions that did arise.
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	N/A
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## Suspension of Regulations October to November 2014 Summary Report

### 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/Institute/Directorate or equivalent and the Vice-Principal (Teaching & Learning) for other issues (such as admissions regulations). All requests are passed through ARCS, and screened.

This report covers the period October to November 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: October to November 2014

There were seven requests for suspension in this quarter. In the equivalent quarter in 2013/14 there were 16, and in 2012/13 there were also 16. The reduction is positive news, and it is particularly notable that there were no suspensions at the recent Degree Examination Boards. There were no significant common or recurring themes, and in three cases the suspension was approved on condition that the regulations were reviewed with the goal of preventing the need for future suspensions.

School or Institute	Upheld	Rejected	Total
Biological and Chemical Sciences	1	-	1
Electronic Engineering and Computer Science	1	-	1
Engineering and Materials Science	1	-	1
English and Drama	1	-	1
History	1	-	1
Institute of Health Sciences Education	1	-	1
Physics and Astronomy	-	1	1

Faculty	Upheld	Rejected	Total
Humanities and Social Sciences	2	-	2
Science and Engineering	3	1	4
Medicine and Dentistry	1	-	1
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

## Appendix – suspensions of regulations October to November 2014

Ref.	Regulation	Desired outcome	Reason for request	Upheld?	Avoidable?	School
2014-01	Academic 4.84	Take an intercalated programme though not registered on a qualifying medical/dental programme.	Student's individual circumstances.	Yes	No	IHSE
2014-02	Programme (diet)	Take two modules not normally available on the programme in place of two electives.	Student's individual circumstances.	Yes*	Yes	SEMS
2014-03	Academic 4.68 (13/14)	Progress on 75 credits despite only having resits remaining (no first sits).	Student's individual circumstances.	No	Yes	SPA
2014-04	Academic 4.49	First take a module that not been taken previously (outside of the permitted scope).	School error.	Yes	Yes	SED
2014-05	Programme (diet)	Take a compulsory module in year three rather than year two.	Student's individual circumstances.	Yes*	No	History
2014-06	Programme (diet)	Take two modules not normally available on the (obsolescent) programme in place of two compulsory modules.	Student's individual circumstances.	Yes*	Yes	EECS
2014-07	Academic 3.85	Suspend fit to sit, wipe the 2013/14 attempts, and grant first sits.	Student's individual circumstances.	Yes	No	SBCS

\*On condition of review of the programme specification.