



Senate

Paper Title	Suspension of Regulations: March - May 2015 Summary Report
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the report and consider approaches for the reduction of situations resulting in suspensions.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	A detailed summary of suspensions of regulations requested during the period March to May 2015, 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 action taken to address those exceptions that did arise.
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	N/A
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Suspension of Regulations March to May 2015 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 March to May 2015. 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: March to May 2015

There were seven requests for suspension in this quarter. In the equivalent quarter in 2013/14 there were eight, and in 2012/13 there were five. It should be noted that four of the suspensions (affecting 15 modules) requested changes to assessment patterns, as incorrect schemes had been delivered to students. This is a recurring problem each year.

School or Institute	Upheld	Rejected	Total
Barts Cancer Institute	1	1	2
Physics and Astronomy	2 ¹	-	2
Electronic Engineering and Computer Science	1	-	1
Centre for Commercial Law Studies	1 ²	-	1
Languages, Linguistics and Film	1 ³	-	1

Faculty	Upheld	Rejected	Total
Humanities and Social Sciences	2	-	2
Science and Engineering	3	-	3
Medicine and Dentistry	1	1	2
Other	-	-	-
Total	6	1	7

¹ Affecting five modules.

² Affecting three modules.

³ Affecting six modules.

Appendix – suspensions of regulations March to May 2015

Ref.	Regulation	Desired outcome	Reason for request	Upheld?	Avoidable?	School
2014-17	Programme (diet)	Allow student to study more credits than permitted by the diet in year one of a part-time programme.	Student's request.	No	Yes	BCI
2014-18	Programme (diet)	Allow student to study more credits than permitted by the diet in year one of a part-time programme.	School/institute error.	Yes	Yes	BCI
2014-19	Module (assessment)	Amend assessment for four modules from what was approved to what was delivered (for 14/15 only).	School/institute error.	Yes	Yes	SPA
2014-20	Academic 4.14 (twice) Academic 4.62iii Academic 2.26 Programme (diet)	Permit an interrupted student to take semester two in a non-standard delivery mode and in a different arrangement to that specified in the programme specification. Progression regulations suspended to take account of student taking less credits in current year and more in the next year than would be usual.	Student's individual circumstances.	Yes	No	EECS
2014-21	Module (assessment)	Amend assessment for three modules from what was approved to what was delivered (for 14/15 only).	School/institute error.	Yes	Yes	CCLS
2014-22	Module (assessment)	Amend assessment for six modules from what was approved to what was delivered (for 14/15 only).	School/institute error.	Yes	Yes	SLLF
2014-23	Module (assessment)	Amend assessment for one module from what was approved to what was delivered (for 14/15 only).	School/institute error.	Yes	Yes	SPA