



Senate

Paper Title	Suspension of Regulations: October to November 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 October to November 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	Senate only.
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Suspension of Regulations October to November 2015 Summary Report

Background

A report on suspensions of regulations is submitted to each meeting of Senate. Suspension may be requested 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 that 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 Vice-Principal (SETL or Research) for assessment issues, or from the Head of School/Institute/Directorate and Vice-Principal for other issues. All requests are passed through ARCS, and screened at that stage.

This report covers the period October to November 2015. Tables showing a breakdown of requests by faculty and school/institute are provided, and a brief summary of each suspension and its cause is given in the appendix.

Summary data: October to November 2015

There were four requests for suspension in this quarter. In the equivalent quarter in 2014/15 there were seven, and in 2013/14 there were 16.

School or Institute	Upheld	Rejected	Total
Mathematical Sciences	1	-	1
History	1	-	1
Business and Management	1 ¹	-	1
Dentistry	1	-	1

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

¹ Affecting two modules.

Appendix – suspensions of regulations October to November 2015

Ref.	Regulation	Desired outcome	Reason for request	Upheld?	Avoidable?	School
2015-01	Programme: diet	Permit a student to take an elective in place of a compulsory module.	School/institute error	Yes	Yes	SMS
2015-02	Academic 4.69i/4.75	Award and classify a student on 345 credits (rather than 360).	School/institute error and external factor	Yes	Possibly	History
2015-03	Module: assessment	Apply alternative, unapproved, assessment schemes for two modules.	School/institute error	Yes	Yes	SBM
2015-04	Programme: diet	Treat all core modules as compulsory, to permit condoned failure.	School/institute error	Yes	Yes	Dentistry