



UCL Academic Manual 2016-17

Chapter 8: Derogations and Variations

## Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

### Undergraduate Variations

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The following regulations apply to students enrolled on undergraduate programmes in the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at UCL **in addition to** the main taught programme regulations detailed in the UCL Academic Manual and in particular in Chapter 1: Admissions, Registration and Student Conduct and Chapter 4: Assessment Framework for Taught Programmes.

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#### **Variations for Fields of Study and the Award of an Honours Degree**

##### **1.1 Consideration for the Award of an Honours Degree**

1. All 4 course units will be used to calculate the year 1 contribution: a weighting of 1 will be used for the best 2 course units while a weighting of 0.5 will be used for the other 2 course units yielding an equivalent of 3 course units as specified in the harmonised scheme.
  - All 4 course units will be used to calculate the year 2 contribution: a weighting of 1 will be used for the best 3 course units while a weighting of 0.5 will be used for the other 1

- course unit yielding an equivalent of 3.5 course units as specified in the harmonised scheme.
- All 4 course units will be used to calculate the year 3 contribution: a weighting of 1 will be used for the best 3 course units while a weighting of 0.5 will be used for the other 1 course unit yielding an equivalent of 3.5 course units as specified in the harmonised scheme.
  - In the fourth year all 4 course units will be weighted equally.
- 2.a) Progression from year 1 to year 2 requires 3.5 course units to be passed;
- b) Progression from year 2 to year 3 requires 7 course units to be passed;
- c) For four year degrees, progression from year 3 to year 4 requires 11 course units to be passed.
- d) In addition to the requirements above at 3. a, b and c), for students progressing on MSci programmes, who first entered UCL in the 2013/14 academic session, the following progression rules apply:
- A. Year 2 to Year 3: A student will automatically progress who has an overall weighted mark (i.e. weighted mean of years 1 + 2) of 60% or greater, AND has a Year 2 weighted mean of 60% or greater.
  - B. Year 3 to Year 4: A student will automatically progress who has an overall weighted mean over years 1, 2, and 3 of 60% or greater, AND has a Year 3 weighted mean of 60% or greater.
  - C. If a student satisfies the course unit requirements and any other Faculty specific requirements but does not satisfy the 60% requirement, but has weighted means of 50% or greater, then the Department may make a case to the Faculty for continuance on the MSci programme. However, the Faculty is under no obligation to approve the progression.
  - D. If progression on the MSci programme is not permitted, the student will be transferred to the corresponding BSc programme.
  - E. Any other situation that arises must be referred with a Faculty recommendation to the Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs) for consideration.
3. Referred assessment: Students who have normally at least 2.5, 6 or 10 course units at the end of years 1, 2 and 3 respectively, and who are not in their final year of a degree programme, may be offered a referral (supplementary assessment) on failed course units provided that the mark is within the referral band for those course units in the current session, and provided also that progression could occur on successful completion of the referral.

(For the Faculty Policy on conducting Referred Assessment, see Section 1.4 below).

4. The overall degree mark may include an element of non-course unit material, e.g. synoptic or comprehensive papers, generic skills, up to a maximum of 5% of the degree.
5. If a student fails a course unit on resit the higher of the failed marks is used in the calculation of the overall degree average.
6. The overall final average is always rounded to an integer. Candidates whose overall degree mark falls within 1% below a class boundary may be considered for raising to the higher class by the Board of Examiners.

**Guidance for students and staff:**

1. Students and staff should refer to the information provided by the Department relating to the examination of course units.

## 1.2 Students Unable to Fulfil the Requirements for the Award of Degrees

1. A student, first entering UCL in the Departments of Mathematics, Statistical Science or Physics and Astronomy before the 2011/12 session, who has passed at least 10 course units but failed to pass 11 course units may have at most 1 course unit condoned by the Examination Board as a pass, provided the marks on the failed course unit taken for a first time in the final year are within the referral range for the course unit.

A student completing the fourth year of an MSci degree programme in the Departments of Mathematics, Statistical Science or Physics and Astronomy, who entered UCL before the 2011/12 session, who has passed at least 13.5 course units but failed to pass 14.5 course units, may have at most 1 course unit condoned by the Board of Examiners as a pass, provided the marks on the failed course unit taken for a first time in the final year are within the referral range for the course unit or within the condonement range for a Masters course unit.

2. Students who, at the final examiners' meeting at which honours are to be awarded are found to be ineligible for the degree title for which they are formally registered, but nevertheless have satisfied the requirements for a degree under UCL regulations, may also be considered for the award of the BSc Combined Sciences. Students under this regulation will be eligible for, and will be considered for, honours under the general scheme for honours pertaining to their original programme, with the exception that any restrictions on necessary named course units will not be applied.

### **Guidance for students and staff:**

1. Students registered on a BSc programme in the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences who at the end of the second year of study are unable to meet the requirements of that programme may formally transfer to the BSc Combined Sciences degree programme, with the prior approval of the Faculty Tutor, and may enrol on suitable course units in the final year, at the discretion of their original Programme Tutor.

## **1.3 Consideration for the Award of a MSci Degree**

1. Students registered for the MSci degree are required to pursue a programme extending over a minimum of 4 academic years of full-time study or its equivalent of part-time study. The period of study shall be continuous except where in special cases UCL has permitted its interruption.
2. In order to qualify for the MSci degree, a student must have passed at least 14.5 course units within the degree programme. This would include at least 1 course unit of project work. The students must have passed at least 3 courses units at Masters level in the final year, and 3 course units at Advanced level. Not more than 1 course unit may be selected from those designated as basic level.
3. At the end of the third year of full-time study, or its part-time equivalent, a student registered for the MSci degree must have passed at least 11 course units, and have achieved a sufficient standard to qualify for admission to the final year. A student registered for the MSci degree who does not satisfy these conditions, will normally be expected:
  - (a) to re-enter failed course units on not more than one further occasion.or
  - (b) to be considered for the award of a BSc degree;
4. A student who by the end of the programme of study for the MSci fails to satisfy the conditions for an award of an MSci may opt:
  - (a) to re-enter failed course units on not more than one further occasionor
  - (b) transfer to the BSc degree and be considered for the award of a BSc degree. Passes in any course units, except resits, taken in the final year will be discounted for the purpose of the award.
5. A student opting for (a), who fails to satisfy the conditions for an MSci award after re-sitting failed courses units will be considered for award of a BSc under (b).

6. For MSci programmes with a third year abroad, the weighting will be 1 : 3 : 2.5 : 5 (first; second; third; fourth year).

**Guidance for students and staff:**

1. Students and staff should refer to programme regulations for further information on the level of course units.

## 1.4 Policy on Referred Assessment

1. Where referrals are available in MAPS-owned modules the referral range is 30-39%;
2. Referrals are available only to non-finalists who meet certain criteria in terms of the number of modules passed (see 1.1.3 above);
3. The referral should involve students sitting some or all of the May exam later in the summer with a mark of 60% in the exam required in order to pass (*note that this is a mark of 60% following the same marking scheme as was applied to derive the final marks in the May examination period*);
4. Passing the referral will result in the award of a mark of 40% for the module;
5. For modules containing unseen examinations or components which are mandatory to pass:
  - (a) if the overall module mark is in the 30-39% range, in order to qualify for the referral a student must achieve at least 30% in the unseen examination or mandatory component;
  - (b) referrals can also be offered to students with overall module marks of 40% or above and a qualified fail (FQ), if they have a mark of 30-39% in the unseen examination or mandatory component. As stated in the UCL Policy on Reassessment (Chpt 4: 10.5.6.3.a), students who are successful in such referrals will be given the pass mark of 40 for that part of the assessment, irrespective of the actual mark gained, and the final mark for the course unit will be re-calculated accordingly.