



UCL Academic Manual 2015-16

Chapter 8: Derogations and Variations

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Principles of Assessment 2015/16

Revised LLB Principles of Assessment for students who commenced their degree from September 2010 onwards

Subject to the UCL Academic Regulations for Students, the Laws Undergraduate Board of Examiners (“the Board”), which is reconstituted each year, may amend these Principles, and may exercise its discretion in their application where appropriate according to the circumstances of each candidate.

Minor Definitions

‘Final year’ means the year in which a candidate sits the examination preceding the Board’s consideration of the candidate for award of the degree.

‘Intermediate’ year means the first year of the candidate’s study.

‘Module’ means one 15 credit-point unit.

‘Part I’ means the second year of a candidate’s study.

‘Part II’ means:

for a 3-year LLB degree: the candidate’s third, and final, year of study;
for a 4-year degree where one of the years is spent studying abroad: the candidate’s fourth, and final, year of study

‘Part II(A)’ is only applicable to the 4-year LLB with Advanced Study, and means the third, i.e. penultimate, year of a candidate’s study.

‘Part II(B)’ is, again, only applicable to the 4-year LLB with Advanced Study, and means

the fourth, and final, year of a candidate's study.

Passing a Module

1. The final mark awarded for each module shall be a mark out of a (nominal) 100.
2. A candidate passes a module if awarded a final mark of 40 or above.
3. Subject to principles 12 and 13, below, concerning cases of non- or late submission, where a single module is assessed by both written examination and course essay candidates will be assessed on the basis of the aggregate mark for both. A candidate may therefore pass a module even where they have failed one element of the assessment for that module, provided that the aggregate mark is a pass.
4. A candidate who obtains a final mark of 38 or 39 in **one** module in any year may have their failure in that module excused if the Board considers the candidate to have demonstrated significant strength elsewhere. Where a failure is excused using this procedure, the candidate shall be awarded a mark of 40 in the module in question. A mark raised using this procedure shall be treated for all purposes as a pass mark. However:
 - i. A candidate shall not receive the benefit of this Principle in respect of more than one module that is required for the award of a Qualifying Law Degree.
 - ii. A candidate shall not, subject to a recommendation of the Faculty Extenuating Circumstances Panel to the contrary, be deemed to have demonstrated significant strength elsewhere for the purposes of this Principle where they have failed more than one module that year.

The Board shall usually take the views of the candidate into account when exercising its power under Principle 4.

Progression

5. A candidate passes a year if they pass all modules studied that year.
6. A candidate who passes a year shall be entitled to progress to the next year.

Extenuating Circumstances

7. A Faculty Extenuating Circumstances Panel shall have authority to consider circumstances notified *in the proper form* (and supported by appropriate evidence) which may have affected a candidate's:
 - i. performance in one, any, or all examination(s);
 - ii. ability to submit one, any, or all course essay(s) on time, or at all;
 - iii. performance in one, any, or all course essay(s); or
 - iv. performance during the academic year.

The Panel shall make recommendations to the Board of Examiners, indicating to which part of the assessment its recommendation relates.

Failures: Principles applicable to all years

8. A failure in a module shall be considered a “bad fail” where the final mark awarded in that module is below 30.
9. Where a failed module is assessed by both written examination and course essay, a candidate who has failed the module on aggregate may elect to carry forward the mark(s) awarded for the essay or to submit a revised essay(s) on the same question(s).
10. Where relevant in the following Principles, assessment of whether a candidate has compensating strength elsewhere shall be a matter for the discretion of the Board.
11. Where a candidate has failed a module for the first time, their next attempt at the examination and/or course essay in that subject will normally be considered a “second attempt”. Any subsequent attempt will normally be considered a “third attempt”. The number of attempts a candidate has taken in order to pass a module shall be recorded on their final UCL transcript.

Non-Submission and Absences

12. In the case of an unauthorised absence from an examination or unauthorised non-submission of a course essay, a mark of zero shall be recorded for the element of the assessment which has not been submitted, or the examination that has not been sat. In addition, and irrespective of whether the candidate passes the module on aggregate, the assessment in that module shall be considered incomplete and the candidate shall be required to resit the module.
13. In cases of unauthorised late-submission of a course essay:
 - i. Where the essay is submitted up to 24 hours late, the full allocated mark shall be reduced by 5 percentage points
 - ii. The mark shall be reduced by a further 10 percentage points if the essay is submitted during the following six calendar days
 - iii. Where a course essay is submitted more than seven calendar days after the submission deadline, but before the end of the undergraduate examination period, a mark of zero shall be recorded for that element of the assessment, but the assessment shall be considered complete.
 - iv. Where a course essay is submitted after the end of the undergraduate examination period, the late submission shall be treated as non-submission and shall fall within Principle 12, above.

In all cases of late-submission the Faculty Extenuating Circumstances Panel may exercise its discretion to suspend these penalties.

Failures in the Intermediate Examinations

14. In their Intermediate year, a candidate who fails in **one** module shall be offered the opportunity to resit the examination / coursework in that module provided:
 - i. the fail is not a bad fail; **and**
 - ii. the candidate has compensating strength elsewhere.

15. A candidate who fails **two or more** modules in their Intermediate year, **OR** who does not satisfy the conditions of Principle 14(i) and (ii), above, shall be required to resit the examinations and/or course essays in **all** modules taken that year (“resit the year”).

Failures in Resit Examinations: Intermediate Year

16. Where a candidate who is resitting in a **single** module fails the resit in that module, they will normally be required to resit the year.
17. Where a candidate who is **resitting the year** does not pass **all** modules at that sitting, their studies will normally be terminated.

Failures in the Part I or Part II(A) Examinations

18. In their Part I or Part II(A) year, a candidate who fails **one** module may be offered the opportunity to resit the examination / coursework in that module provided:
- i. no fail is a bad fail; **and**
 - ii. the candidate has compensating strength elsewhere.
19. A candidate who fails **two or more** modules in their Part I or Part II(A) year, **OR** who does not satisfy the conditions of Principle 18(i) and (ii), above, shall be required to resit the year.

Failures in Resit Examinations: Part I and Part II(A) Years

20. Where a candidate who is resitting in a **single** module fails the resit in that module, they will normally be required to resit the year.
21. Where a candidate who is **resitting the year** does not pass **all** modules at that sitting, their studies will normally be terminated.
22. A candidate shall have a maximum of three attempts at any given module. A candidate who fails to pass a module at the third attempt will normally have their studies terminated.

Failures in Final Year Examinations

23. Where a candidate fails **one** module in their final year, the Board shall have discretion to condone that failure and award a degree provided:
- i. the Board considers the mark to be capable of condonation; **and**
 - ii. the candidate has compensating strength elsewhere.

The Board shall usually take the views of the candidate into account when exercising its power under Principle 23.

24. A condoned failure in a module sat in a candidate’s final year may be considered sufficient to reduce an overall classification by one class. Therefore a 1st class profile could be reduced to a 2(I), a 2(I) profile could be reduced to a

2(II), a 2(II) profile could be reduced to a 3rd and a 3rd class profile could be reduced to an Ordinary (i.e. non-honours) degree.

25. If the Board exercises its discretion under Principle 23, above, and decides **not** to condone a failure, the candidate shall be required to resit the year.
26. A candidate who fails **more than one** subject in their final year, **OR** who does not satisfy the conditions of Principle 23(i) and (ii), above, shall be required to resit the year.

Failures in Resit Examinations: Final Year

27. Where a candidate who is resitting the final year does not pass **all** modules, their studies will normally be terminated.

Scheme of Award for Students Commencing an LLB degree from September 2010

28. For the purposes of classifying all degrees except those mentioned in Appendix I to these Principles of Assessment, marks obtained in the Intermediate year shall be discarded.
29. A candidate who obtains the following number of credit-points of pass marks shall be entitled to an Honours Degree:
 - i. In a three-year degree course: 120 credits; or
 - ii. In a four-year degree course in Law with Advanced Studies: 180 credit-points; or
 - iii. In a four-year degree course in Law with a European Legal System or Law with Another Legal System: 120 credits
30. Class marks (out of a nominal 100, with a pass mark of 40) are:
III \geq 40; II(2) \geq 50; II(1) \geq 60; I \geq 70
31. A candidate will usually be awarded the highest class of honours in which they have achieved:
 - i. In a three-year degree course: 60 credit-points of class marks at, or above, that level; or
 - ii. In a four-year degree course in Law with Advanced Studies: 90 credit-points of class marks at, or above, that level; or
 - iii. In a four-year degree course in Law with a European Legal System or Law with Another Legal System: 60 credit-points of class marks at, or above, that level.

Provided, in each case, that their performance is sound.

32. The following list of average marks shall assist the Board in assessing whether a candidate's performance is sound:

Class	Average
I	67
II(1)	60
II(2)	50
III	40

33. If a candidate does not satisfy the requirements of Principle 32: where a candidate's performance in their final year examinations shows an improvement over their performance in the previous year's exams this will be considered in the candidate's favour but a decline in standard in the final year examinations will not be counted to the candidate's detriment. So-called "exit velocity" shall apply across all class boundaries.
34. Exit velocity occurs only when a candidate attains at least 45 credits at, or above, the relevant class in their FINAL year of study.

Appendix 1 – Exceptions

The LLB Principles of Assessment apply to all undergraduate LLB degrees awarded by UCL, subject only to the exceptions set out in this Appendix.

Students taking the LL.B English and German Law or the LL.B/JD.

Candidates in each of these programmes are required to have passed the examinations in the Intermediate and Part I stage of the LL.B and those examinations of the partner university that are required for the award of the partner university degree.

LL.B English and German Law

If candidates for the LL.B English and German Law opt to write a long essay under the supervision of a member of the Faculty of Laws at UCL in their final year, the mark awarded for the essay will be recorded as a mark in Part I for the purposes of classification of the LL.B degree.

The results of examinations taken at University College London and any long essay submitted to UCL are used to calculate the overall classification of the LL.B element of the LL.B English and German Law. A candidate will usually be awarded the highest class of honours in which they have achieved 45 credits of marks at, or above, that level, provided that at least one of the highest marks was awarded in respect of a Part I examination or a long essay submitted to UCL, and provided that their performance is sound .

Sound performance is to be interpreted in accordance with Principle 32.

The average used for the purposes of assessing sound performance is to be calculated based on the marks obtained by a candidate in **all** Intermediate and Part I modules, and the long essay if completed under the supervision of a member of the Faculty of Laws at UCL.

LL.B/JD

The results of examinations taken at University College London are used to calculate the overall classification of the LL.B element of the LL.B/JD. A candidate will usually be awarded the highest class of honours in which they have achieved 45 credits of marks at, or above,

that level, provided that at least one of the highest marks was awarded in respect of a Part I examination, and provided that their performance is sound.

Sound performance is to be interpreted in accordance with Principle 32.

The average used for the purposes of assessing sound performance is to be calculated based on the marks obtained by a candidate in all Intermediate and Part I modules.