

The University's regulations are changing in 2008-09. The purpose of this note is to summarise the changes that will be taking place. The full text of the new regulations as approved by the Academic Board is posted at www.beds.ac.uk/aboutus/qa/documents/regsjul07/_Appfinal.rtf

Description of your programme of study

At present, your programme of study is divided into modules worth 15, 30, 45 or 60 academic credits.

From 2008-09, your programme will be known as a course. Courses will be divided into units, and units will usually be worth 30 academic credits.

The content of your course will not change significantly, although it will be taught slightly differently. For example, your new 30 credit units will contain the content that would previously have been delivered in two 15 credit modules.

The academic year

Units will be taught over the whole academic year. There will no longer be semesters, or an intersemester study period in January.

Instead, the teaching year will be divided into three terms, with a good proportion of the third (summer) term set aside for revision and assessment.

We believe that the more continuous educational opportunities you will receive from learning across the whole academic year will provide you with better support for your studies than the interruptions you currently experience from a semesterised system.

The teaching year will start each year on the first Monday in October, with three-week breaks for Christmas and Easter. Term dates for the academic session 2008-09 are as follows:

Autumn term: 6 October 2008 - 19 December 2008

Spring term: 12 January 2009 - 27 March 2009

Summer term: 20 April 2009 - 12 June 2009

Progression

From next (2008-09) year, the following progression regulations will apply. To progress from one academic stage to the next, you will need to have passed 90 credits with an aggregate grade of 5 (D-) and a minimum grade of 4 (E) in any individual assessment. You must also have attempted all elements of assessment in the remaining 30 credits, and have attained an aggregate grade of 4 (E) with a minimum grade of 2 (F) in any individual assessment.

Certain courses at the University are accredited by external accreditation bodies, and these bodies may require you to pass all individual assessments with a grade of 5 (D-). Please check in your course handbook if this applies to you.

Honours degree classification

From 2008-09, Honours degree classifications will be calculated on the basis of your 90 best credits at both stage 2 and stage 3. The grades will be weighted in the proportion of 2 to 1 in favour of your stage 3 work, ie the grades you receive for your stage 2 work will count 1/3 towards your Honours classification, while the grades you receive for your stage 3 work will count 2/3.



The grade from your Honours project, or the equivalent piece of independent work, will be included in the calculation of your Honours classification, irrespective of whether or not it is one of your best grades.

Handing in work

From 2008-09, you must hand in your coursework by the deadline set by your tutors. If you hand your work in late, you will receive a grade of 0. You may be entitled to attempt to retrieve your failure by means of a referral.

This new regulation will enable tutors to return graded work to you more quickly than is currently possible, as under the present arrangements tutors have to wait a fortnight for before beginning their marking so that student who hand their work in late don't gain an unfair advantage. In student surveys, you have been asking for more prompt feedback from your tutors on your assignments, and this is one of the ways in which we are responding to your suggestions.

Richard Harris
Dean of Students