Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards

Definitions

- **Programme specification**: the definitive published programme documentation.
- **Relevant committee**: the committee empowered for the purpose concerned by the Academic Board.

1 General

1.1 The taught postgraduate awards of York St John University are set out in the [General Regulations for Awards](#).

1.2 Taught postgraduate awards conform to requirements set out in the Credit Framework for Awards as approved by Academic Board. Additional requirements or variations are set out in the relevant programme specification.

1.3 Other than where specified within these regulations, taught postgraduate awards are subject to the application of the General Regulations for Awards.

1.4 Programmes of study leading to taught postgraduate awards may be offered on a full-time or part-time basis within the periods of enrolment specified in these regulations (see Periods of Study below).

1.5 Detailed information on taught postgraduate awards is set out in relevant programme specifications and other supporting documentation.

2 Admission

2.1 Entry requirements for taught postgraduate awards are set out in the Admissions Policy and supporting web-based information at the time of application.

2.2 Entrants to a programme of study leading to a taught postgraduate award of York St John University may be eligible for consideration under the University’s policies and procedures for accreditation of prior experiential learning, and credit accumulation and transfer from study at York St John University or other approved educational establishments. Entrants may be exempted from any module and assessment, normally to a maximum of two thirds of those specified for the programme of study. In the case of a Master’s Degree, exemption is not normally granted from those modules which comprise the dissertation or major project of the programme of study or from modules which comprise the statutory qualifying modules for professionally registrable awards.
2.3 Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate sufficient competence in English as specified by the University. Current English language requirements for taught postgraduate awards are set out in the Admissions Policy and supporting web-based information.

2.4 Applicants for programmes of study leading to taught postgraduate awards recognised for inclusion in the relevant professional register may be required to demonstrate fitness to practise on entry to the University or approved partner institution.

2.5 All formal offers of admission to the University are made by YSJU Admissions. Offers of admission set out any conditions to be met. No other communication is regarded as a formal offer of admission.

2.6 A student who has been awarded a taught postgraduate award on completion of one programme of study may not present for a second time for the assessment for the same programme of study or for another programme of study where half or more of the second programme of study comprises of modules presented for the first programme of study.

3 Periods of study

3.1 The standard periods of study for taught postgraduate awards are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Full-time study</th>
<th>Part-time study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master's Degree</td>
<td>1 calendar year</td>
<td>2 calendar years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma</td>
<td>1 academic year</td>
<td>2 academic years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>1 academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate of Education</td>
<td>1 calendar year</td>
<td>2 calendar years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Enrolment and attendance

4.1 An entrant for a taught postgraduate award must enrol as a student of York St John University or approved partner institution, paying the prescribed fees. Students enrol for a specified programme of study and for all the associated modules as specified in the regulations for that programme. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are correctly enrolled for their programme of study.

4.2 During prescribed periods of study, students must attend regularly and participate in all activities and assessment prescribed for the programme of study as directed. Expectations of the time commitment required are as follows (this includes relevant professional activities including fieldwork and conferences, for example):

- full-time: a minimum of 40 hours per week for 45 weeks per year
- part-time: a minimum of 20 hours per week for 30 weeks per year

4.3 Students must be in attendance at the University or approved partner institution throughout each designated programme of study for programmes delivered on site and may not absent themselves except at weekends and in the vacations. For programmes delivered on a part-time or on a distance learning basis, students are required to attend or participate as set out in the individual programme regulations.

4.4 A taught postgraduate student may not be enrolled simultaneously for another programme of study either at York St John University or at another higher education provider, except with the express permission of the relevant committee.

4.5 Continued enrolment is conditional on satisfactory progress being maintained by the student within the time periods specified in these regulations. Persistent absence, failure to make satisfactory progress or failure to meet other specified requirements – such as those relating to academic integrity – may lead to termination of enrolment.
4.6 Students who are absent through illness must communicate their absence promptly, providing medical evidence as required. Exceptionally, the Fitness to Study Policy and procedure may be used by the University to seek a review of a student's continuing ability to remain enrolled for a programme of study on health grounds.

4.7 Continued enrolment for students on programmes of study leading to taught postgraduate awards recognised for inclusion in a relevant professional register is subject to ongoing fitness to practise requirements. These are set out in the Fitness to Practise Policy and procedure.

4.8 A student may normally transfer from a programme of study leading to a taught postgraduate award to any other taught postgraduate programme of study, including transfer between full and part-time programmes of study, provided that the programme entry requirements prescribed in the programme specification can be met and with the permission of the Subject Director for the receiving programme of study.

5 Assessment

5.1 Registration for assessment is through module enrolment. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are correctly enrolled for the modules prescribed for their programme of study.

5.2 Students for taught postgraduate awards must complete all assessments or examinations specified for the programme of study.

5.3 As specified by Academic Board, the results of assessments and examinations are considered by the University's Board of Examiners for Progress and Award and appropriately constituted School Assessment Panels.

5.4 Students must complete the assessment components for a module once enrolled for it, unless they have formally withdrawn from the module or have negotiated a formally deferred assessment using the Exceptional Circumstances Policy and procedure. Failure to submit for assessment components results in a mark of zero.

5.5 The University normally makes re-assessment opportunities available for students who fail assessments or examinations. Normally no more than one re-assessment opportunity is made available for each module assessment. The second attempt for assessment in a module is normally taken within the following resit period.

5.6 A student who resits an assessment for a module is normally only eligible for the pass mark for a module as designated in the taught postgraduate marking scale; with the exception of qualified fails where the original mark for the module is awarded on successful completion of the deficient work.

5.7 Where permissible within the specific regulations for a programme of study as set out in the programme specification, a student who has failed the first assessment for an optional module may withdraw from that module and substitute an alternative module. The student has two attempts to pass the module but is eligible only for the pass mark for the module.

6 Progression

6.1 Students must make satisfactory progress during their programme of study. Students who are not making satisfactory progress (relating to attendance, the submission of assessed work or achievement in assessment) may be subject to the Standards Review Procedures. These may ultimately result in termination of enrolment from the programme of study.

6.2 A student who is not successful in the final attempt to meet the progression requirements or award requirements of a programme of study after all assessment opportunities have been exhausted will have their enrolment for their programme of studies terminated.

6.3 Subject to the provisions of the relevant programme specification, students who have not met the award requirements for a postgraduate award may be deemed to be eligible for an interim award as defined within the programme specification, provided that they have met the requirements of that award. A student who has been granted an interim award in such circumstances and has exhausted all assessment opportunities as specified in the regulations is not normally permitted to progress to a further attempt at the higher award.
6.4 A student who has successfully met the requirements for a postgraduate award at York St John University, completing all assessments as prescribed within the programme specification, may subsequently be permitted to progress to a higher-level postgraduate award.

6.5 Exceptionally, a School Assessment Panel may make a recommendation to the Board of Examiners for Progress and Award for a third attempt at a module’s assessment(s). To ensure transparency and equity, the following criteria for such recommendations are applied by the Board:

i. a single module has been identified which, if passed, would enable progression or completion of an award; and

ii. there is a high likelihood of success in this module through a further re-assessment opportunity (usually indicated by a mark within 10 points on the University mark scale of the mark required for award); and

iii. the student has made use of existing re-assessment opportunities in an attempt to redeem the failure.

7 Availability of awards

7.1 Students who have passed the assessments for the specific programmes leading to taught postgraduate awards and in conformity with the rules for award approved by Academic Board, and set out under the Eligibility for Awards section, may be awarded one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Criteria requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Master’s Degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate | •at least 150 credits at level 7  
|                                             | •a minimum mark of 20 must be achieved for any failed credit to be condoned |
| Master’s Degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate with merit |  
| Master’s Degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate with distinction |  
| Postgraduate Certificate of Education with distinction |  

8 Eligibility of awards

8.1 Students are eligible for a taught postgraduate award when they have:

i. fulfilled specified enrolment requirements, including the payment of relevant fees; and

ii. attempted the assessment for all modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification; and

iii. been awarded the required credits at the appropriate level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Criteria requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Master’s Degree                            | •at least 150 credits at level 7  
|                                             | •a minimum mark of 20 must be achieved for any failed credit to be condoned |
| Postgraduate Diploma                        | •at least 120 credits of which at least 90 credits are at level 7 |
| Postgraduate Certificate                   | •at least 60 credits at level 7 |
| Postgraduate Certificate in Education       | •at least 120 credits of which at least 60 are at level 7 |

and
iv. fulfilled any additional requirements as specified in the programme specification, and in particular must have passed all modules designated as compulsory for award; and

v. achieved a classification average, determined across all modules contributing to award calculated in accordance with the classification rules approved by the Academic Board, which is at least the pass mark specified for taught postgraduate awards.

8.2 A student enrolled on a programme that confers professional status who does not meet the requirements of the intended award may nonetheless be eligible for a non-professional award.

8.3 Credits awarded or recognised by the University count only once for the purpose of progression and award. Work submitted for one module may not be submitted for another module.

9 Classification

9.1 Classification depends on the performance of a student in modules contributing to the award. Taught postgraduate awards may be pass/fail awards or may be awarded with merit or distinction, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Overall credit-weighted mark</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>70 or above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.2 If a student's overall credit-weighted average falls within the borderline (defined as 0.5 below the threshold average specified for achievement of the higher classification), the Board of Examiners for Progress and Award may award the higher classification if the mark for the 60 credit dissertation or major project is within the range of a higher classification. If a programme does not have a 60 credit dissertation or major project, its programme specification may denote which credits are used to determine the outcome of borderline cases.

9.3 Postgraduate Certificate in Education:
   i. In order to be eligible for Qualified Teacher Status, students are required to succeed in additional tests set by the professional body.
   ii. Students are eligible for a distinction in a module if they achieve a mark of 70 or above in that module.
   iii. Students are eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Education with distinction when they have gained distinctions in all modules and have shown strength in practical teaching, on the recommendation of the School Assessment Panel.

10 Appeals

10.1 Students enrolled for taught postgraduate awards may appeal decisions relating to their enrolment status, progression or award. Full details and the procedure to be followed are set out in the Appeals Procedures.

11 Academic integrity

11.1 Students enrolled for taught postgraduate awards must meet university requirements relating to academic integrity. The University's expectations of students and its policy and procedure for investigating allegations of academic misconduct are set out in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Associated links:  
https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/registry/regulations/general-regulations-for-awards/  
https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/registry/regulations/  
https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/registry/programmes/