

Academic Standards and Quality Regulations 2026-27
www.uhi.ac.uk/regulations

All section references below refer to the current regulations, and the amendments implemented for academic year 2026-27. The Head of Academic Standards and Enhancement has oversight of the academic standards and quality regulations and welcomes feedback and suggested improvements from colleagues. If you have any questions or comments, please direct these through Tara Black (tara.black@uhi.ac.uk) in the first instance.

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has been replaced throughout with Qualifications Scotland (QS).

SECTION 3 ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

- 3.1.2 Updated remit for Academic Council
- 3.3.3 Updated membership for Academic Titles Review Board.

SECTION 4 SUBJECT AREA REVIEW AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICE REVIEW

- Replaced Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR) with TQER throughout.

SECTION 6 FRAMEWORK FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- 6.2 addition of new university award title MSW and PhD by Publication or Portfolio
- 6.12 clarification around suitable alternative to core 20 credit module
- 6.32-6.35 new regulations covering work-based learning and Graduate Apprenticeships.

SECTION 8 PROGRAMME APPROVAL

- Removal of references to Advisory Group
- 8.19 requirement for an EPSC member on approval panel involving international/TNE delivery
- 8.24 separation of approval events for new curriculum involving home and international/TNE delivery
- 8.32 clarification that prior to approval/final sign-off on all conditions, the phrase 'subject to approval' must be used in all documentation or advertising
- 8.37 approval documentation to include revised operational/delivery arrangements handbook and collaboration checklist (for external partnerships only)
- 8.38 reapproval documentation to include revised operational/delivery arrangements handbook and collaboration checklist (for external partnerships only).

SECTION 9 RESPONSIBILITIES OF APS IN RESPECT OF ACADEMIC PROVISION

- 9.11 to 9.15 Inclusion of quality monitoring and improvement notices in relation to centre malpractice.

SECTION 14A TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE REGULATIONS

- 14a.1 Introduction includes new university award title MSW.

SECTION 14B POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS

- 14b.4 addition of 'PhD by Prior Publication or Portfolio' to research awards
- 14b.11-12 specifying attendance and period of study for PhD by Prior Publication or Portfolio route.

SECTION 14D DOCTORATE BY PRIOR PUBLICATION OR PORTFOLIO

- New regulations covering Doctorate by Prior Publication or Portfolio.

SECTION 16 ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENT

- **Payment of fees and debt to the university** - this change clarifies the types of documentation that may be withheld, including academic transcripts, and extends the scope of the provision to cover any outstanding debt owed to the University, rather than tuition fee debt alone.

16.61 The university reserves the right to withhold confirmation of a university award, including the release of transcripts, award certificates and any related documentation, until any outstanding debt has been cleared, or the sum at issue has been consigned pending agreement, arbitration, or judicial hearing.

SECTION 17B ASSESSMENT AND PROGRESSION REGULATIONS (DEGREE PROGRAMMES)

- 17b.69 Students with special needs has been amended to 'Students with disabilities or other identified support needs'
- 17b.69 Disability policy has been updated to 'Learner Support policy'.

SECTION 18 ASSESSMENT APPEALS PROCEDURE

- clarification that assessment appeals can be made following an 'academic assessment body decision' throughout
- 18.19 addition of email address for sending Stage 3 assessment appeals to the chair of Academic Council
- clarifying that an assessment appeal will be referred by the Chair of Academic Council to the Dean of Learning, Teaching and Students 'or their nominee'.

SECTION 19 ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

- Replacing informal procedure with preliminary investigation stage
- Clarifying that students should be advised that they may seek independent advice from the students' association Advice Service regarding the process
- Replacing 'the students association representative' with a HISA Advice Service staff member
- Clarifying the role of the students' association beyond accompaniment
- Clarifying that appeals are submitted to the UHI Deputy Principal (Academic and Research)
- Clarifying that the assessment of whether an allegation of academic misconduct is minor or serious may develop as evidence is considered during the investigation. Where an allegation is being treated as potentially serious and may be referred for consideration by an Academic Misconduct Panel, the student will be informed of this as soon as reasonably practicable. (19.17).

APPENDIX C ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE NOTES

- C.13 updated [mitigating circumstances](#) link.