

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY

LEICESTER DE MONTFORT LAW SCHOOL

Leicester Institute of Legal Practice

Graduate Diploma in Law

Assessment Regulations

1. Interpretation

(a) In these regulations:-

“the Assessment Board” means the Graduate Diploma in Law Assessment Board established at the University in accordance with the regulations of the University;

“the Deferrals Panel” means the Business and Law Faculty Postgraduate Deferrals Panel;

“the Management Board” means the Graduate Diploma in Law Course Management Board established at the University in accordance with the regulations of the University;

“the Graduate Diploma in Law” means the course recognised by the Professional Bodies

“Professional Bodies” means the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board or whichever of those bodies has operational responsibility for the Graduate Diploma in Law from time to time;

“University” means De Montfort University;

“Full time student” is a student pursuing a Graduate Diploma in Law which has been validated by the Professional Bodies for pursuit on a full time basis;

“Part time student” is a student pursuing a Graduate Diploma in Law which has been validated by the Professional Bodies for pursuit on a part time basis;

“Partial exemption student” is a student pursuing a validated Graduate

competence in written and spoken English in the form indicated in regulation 3(c).

- (e) An applicant with a Certificate of Academic Standing who is a non-graduate may be interviewed to check that s/he can cope with the academic rigours of the Graduate Diploma in Law.
- (f) The rules,

shall determine being not less than 3 weeks after the publication date of the results of the principal Examinations.

- (b) A student who is prevented by sufficient cause from sitting or completing all or part of the principal Examinations may, at the discretion of the Assessment Board

student may only be compensated once during the Graduate Diploma in Law. The Assessment Board may compensate a marginal fail of a part time student in accordance with this paragraph at the end of either the first year or the

relevant written assessment will not be marked and will be regarded as a late submission unless this happens by 12 noon on the relevant submission date.

9. Structure of the part time Graduate Diploma in Law

- (a) This regulation applies only to part time students.
- (b) In year one the students will study the English Legal System, and Legal Research for the online test, Obligations I, Obligations II, Foundations of Property Law and Foundations of Public Law in year one of the Graduate Diploma in Law. In year two of the Graduate Diploma in Law students will study Foundations of Equity and the Law of Trusts, Foundations of European Union Law, Criminal Law and the Project.

10. Result of Assessment

A student is entitled to the Graduate Diploma in Law if the student passes all the assessments required under Regulation 8 either at the first attempt or, in accordance with these regulations, at a subsequent attempt.

11. Award of Distinctions and Merits

- (a) A student **must** be awarded a **distinction** where:
 - (i) he/she has passed all elements of the assessments at the first attempt, without any subject being compensated; and
 - (ii) he/she has obtained an overall average of at least 70%.
- (b) A student **may** be awarded a **distinction** where
 - (i) he/she has passed all elements of the assessments at the first attempt, without any subject being compensated; and
 - (ii) he/she has obtained an overall average of at least 70% in at least 50% of the subjects counting towards the final award; and
 - (iii) he/she has obtained an overall average of at least 67%; and
 - (iv) the Assessment Board considers that it is not inappropriate to award a distinction.
- (c) A student will not otherwise be awarded a distinction.
- (d) A student **must** be awarded a **merit** where
 - (i) he/she has passed all assessments at the first attempt, without any subject being compensated; and
 - (ii) he/she has obtained an overall average of at least 60%.
- (e) A student **may** be awarded a **merit** where
 - (i) he/she has passed all elements of the assessment at the first attempt, without any subject being compensated; and

- (ii) he/she has obtained an overall average of at least 60% in at least 50% of the subjects counting towards the final award;
 - (iii) he/she has obtained an overall average of at least 58%; and
 - (iv) the Assessment Board considers that it is not inappropriate to award a merit.
- (f) A student will not otherwise be awarded a merit.
- (g) A student must be awarded a **pass** where they have passed all assessments (achieving at least 40% in each element of assessment), one element of which

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- (b) A full time student must complete satisfactorily all the assessments for the Graduate Diploma in Law within three years of initial enrolment.
- (c) A part time student must complete satisfactorily all the assessments for the Graduate Diploma in Law within four years of initial enrolment.
- (d) A partial exemption student must complete satisfactorily, all the outstanding assessments for the Graduate Diploma in Law within the time period stipulated in either 17(b) or 17(c) above, whichever is applicable to that student.
- (e) Where there are exceptional mitigating circumstances of a sufficiently serious nature a student may be granted a maximum of **1 additional year** in which to complete the Graduate Diploma in Law.
- (f) Circumstances of a sufficiently serious nature incl

- (a) If in exceptional circumstances the Assessment Board is satisfied that any of these regulations operates unfairly in relation to any student, the Assessment Board may take such decisions as appear to be necessary to achieve the fair operation of the system of assessment prescribed by these regulations. This regulation does not apply to compensations.
- (b) Notice of any decision of the Assessment Board under paragraph (a) above, and of the exceptional circumstances of the decision, must be given to the Professional Bodies by the Chair of the Assessment Board.
- (c) If a student believes that his or her performance in any one or more assessment has been or may be adversely affected by illness or other good cause, it is the student's responsibility to bring such matters to the attention of the Deferrals Panel, supported, where appropriate, with documentation. The student must complete the appropriate form

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21. Two Year Courses: Proceeding from Year One to Year Two

A student taking a two year Graduate Diploma in Law may not proceed to year two of that Graduate Diploma in Law until he/she has passed at least three of the four Examinations and all the written assessments to be taken in year one.

22. Transfers

Transfers are not normally permitted on the Graduate Diploma in Law. Students should normally complete the Graduate Diploma in Law at the institution where they originally enrolled on the course.

23. Students studying the Graduate Diploma in Law by part time mode may normally only transfer to another Graduate Diploma in Law course provider where the following criteria are satisfied:

- (i) they have successfully completed all assessments on the first year of the Graduate Diploma in Law; and
- (ii) there are genuine mitigating circumstances which justify the transfer; and
- (iii) they have obtained the permission of the Professional Bodies.

24. Students studying the Graduate Diploma in Law by part time mode who are unsuccessful in completing year one of the Graduate Diploma in Law may not transfer onto the full time mode. Such students are not prevented from starting the full time mode in accordance with Regulation 28, below.

25. Students studying the Graduate Diploma in Law by full time mode may transfer onto the part time mode where the following criteria are satisfied:

- (i) they are transferring onto the part time mode at the same institution at which they have been studying the Graduate Diploma in Law by full time mode;
- (ii) there are genuine mitigating circumstances which justify the transfer; and
- (iii) they have obtained the permission of the Professional Bodies to transfer.

26. Mitigating circumstances justifying a transfer under Regulations 23 and 25 (above) include the following:

- (i) a relocation to a different part of the country or overseas for domestic or occupational reasons;
- (ii) serious financial hardship, which necessitates the transfer;
- (iii) other part t or (on)-bed ts ver

If the University wishes to admit a transferring student, it must obtain the permission of the Professional Bodies before it may admit the student onto the Graduate Diploma in Law. The University must provide the complete academic profile of the student, including details of the assessments, which the transferring student has successfully completed and for which the University intends to give credit; and details of those subjects, which the student will be required to complete at the University in order to be awarded the Graduate Diploma in Law. In addition, the University must provide details of the mitigating circumstances, which justify the student's transfer.

28. Where a student was previously admitted onto a Graduate Diploma in Law but failed to complete the course, that student may only be admitted to a Graduate Diploma in Law provided that the student:

- (i) has formally withdrawn from the course on which they were originally enrolled (i.e. surrendered any rights to "resits" at the first institution); and
- (ii) applies to enrol on the course in the normal way; and
- (iii) receives no credit for any assessment passed on the first course; and
- (iv) will be treated as a new student and assessed in the normal way [i.e. be entitled to three attempts at each assessment]; and
- (v) is required to attend in the same manner as other students on that course.

29. Assessment Offences

Any allegation of assessment offences committed by a student shall be dealt with in accordance with the Current Academic Ordinances and Regulations of the University. If any allegation is found to be proven, and the offence has a bearing upon the character and suitability of the student to become a barrister or solicitor, the matter will be reported to the Professional Bodies. This may result in further penalties being imposed including denial of entry to the relevant profession.

30. Final Award

Students must have studied and completed at least 50% of the Graduate Diploma in Law at the University to obtain a Graduate Diploma in law. Students who have studied less than 50% of the Graduate Diploma in Law at the university will be awarded Institutional Credits.

31 Appeals

These regulations are subject to the appeals procedure of the University.

32. Copies of Regulations

A copy of these regulations must be given to each student on a Graduate Diploma in Law on enrolment or made available to them as soon as practicable thereafter.