



Prifysgol Cymru  
Y Drindod Dewi Sant  
**University of Wales**  
Trinity Saint David

# **University Regulations**

## **Postgraduate Student Guide (Taught Degrees) for students at collaborative partner institutions**

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What is the purpose of this guide?

This guide provides you with information about the various procedures and regulations related to your University of Wales Trinity Saint David programme. It is intended for students on postgraduate taught degree programmes and does not cover research degree students.

Within this guide the references to 'University' mean the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSDD).

The University has made every effort to make the information as full and as accurate as possible, but you should note that minor changes are made from time to time. We shall try to keep any such changes to a minimum, and you will receive advance warning in the event of any alteration.

The guide makes frequent reference to a number of other important sources of information relating to the University and to the way in which Programmes of Study (that's the name we give to your degree course) operate. These include Programme of Study Handbooks and the University's **Academic Quality Handbook (AQH)**. The AQH contains a wide range of information about the way in which the University operates and you are advised to familiarise yourself in particular with the following chapters and their appendices:

- Chapter 5 - 'Student Representation, Engagement and Support' – which describes how the University assures the quality of the student experience. Arrangements will differ depending on the institution at which you are studying, however, collaborative partner institutions are expected to have a comparable set of systems and procedures in place which reflect the requirements of the specific delivery location
- Chapter 6 - 'Taught Award Regulations' – which explains how your Programme of Study is structured and how we make decisions about your final award
- Chapter 7 - 'Assessment: Taught Programmes' – which contains information about the University's approach to assessment
- Chapter 12 – 'Student Policies' – which describes the overall framework in place for student policies, which include the Mitigating Circumstances Policy and Academic Appeal Policy.

The AQH is available in both Welsh and English on the University webpages: <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>

Please bear in mind that, occasionally, information contained in this guide might not apply to *certain* aspects of your particular Programme of Study. For example, information about formal examinations does not apply to Programmes of Study that do not assess your work through a formal examination.

**This guide is intended to be helpful to you and we would welcome your feedback on how it might be improved. Please send any comments to the Collaborative Partnerships Office via [CollaborativePartnerships@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:CollaborativePartnerships@uwtsd.ac.uk).**

## **2 About the University**

### **2.1 What qualifications does the University offer?**

The University's Programmes of Study lead to a wide variety of qualifications. Full details of the requirements for each qualification in terms of the number of credits required at each level are provided in Chapter 6 'Taught Award Regulations' and Chapter 8 'Research Degree Regulations' of the AQH.

### **2.2 What are the Institutes?**

The University is composed of Faculties with responsibility for the academic work of the institution. Every Institute consists of a number of academic disciplines. Every Programme of Study delivered via one of the University's collaborative partner institutions is linked to an Institute. Some Institutes have Academic Disciplines on more than one campus. Details of the Institutes can be obtained from the website.

The Institutes that have links to collaborative partner institutions are as follows:

Institute of Education and Humanities  
Institute of Management and Health  
Wales Institute for Science and Art

### **2.3 What is the University's Language Policy?**

#### *Welsh Language*

The University gives equal status to both the Welsh and English languages throughout its activities.

. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 affords the Welsh language official status in Wales, which means it must be treated no less favourably than the English language. It also establishes a legal framework with standards of conduct on the Welsh Language. The standards explain how organisations are expected to use the Welsh language in different situations and the University intends to comply with the Standards across all its campuses in Wales. The University sees its natural bilingual context as strength and will develop and extend its provision of bilingual opportunities for the community it serves.

For assessment through the medium of Welsh, see Chapter 7 'Assessment: Taught Programmes' of the AQH.

#### *Other Languages*

The University has a Policy for delivery and assessment in languages other than English or Welsh, which is published at <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/collaborative-partnerships/>

### **2.4 How will the University contact me?**

Although your primary contact will be at the institution at which you are studying, staff from different parts of the University may need to contact you for a variety of reasons.

Email is the main method the University will use to contact you. Your contact email address forms part of the information registered on the University's student record system.

The University will receive your registration information via the institution at which you are studying. It is important that you read any emails from the University. **Failure to read electronic mail sent to you, and/or failure to manage your mailbox properly, will be regarded as your responsibility.**

In addition to your email address, the University will use the address and telephone number that you provided to the institution at which you are studying during enrolment. **You must therefore ensure that your institution is informed of any changes to your contact details, so that the University Registry can be informed.** The responsibility for informing your institution of any change of address rests with you. If we fail to contact you because you have not kept your institution (and therefore the University) properly informed, any consequences will be your responsibility.

You will also be sent log-in details to the MyTSD student portal, where you will be able to see the modules on which you are enrolled and provisional and final assessment marks.

## **2.5 What if I want to leave the University programme?**

If you are considering withdrawing from your studies, it is extremely important that you discuss the matter with your Programme Director and other relevant staff at your institution, such as those in Student Services. If you decide that you definitely want to leave, then you must complete the appropriate withdrawal form, which is available from the institution at which you are studying. Failure to fully complete all the details on this form may have financial implications for you in relation to tuition fees and, where applicable, student loan. Your institution will then inform the University.

## **2.6 Will there be future research opportunities for me?**

Your taught postgraduate degree will provide you with a solid grounding for further academic study and research. The University has an excellent research tradition and caters for students from a wide variety of backgrounds. The University currently offers a variety of postgraduate qualifications, including the MPhil and PhD research degrees and a number of professional doctorates, some of which are delivered at our partner institutions. Further details can be accessed on the University's website or via the institution at which you are studying.

### **3 About enrolment and credit requirements**

#### **3.1 How do I enrol?**

Information about enrolment will have been sent to you by the institution at which you are studying in advance of your commencing your studies there.

#### **3.2 How many credits must I take?**

For Master's degrees full-time students are normally required to complete Part I (120 taught credits) in one academic year. Part-time students will normally be expected to complete 60 credits per year and so complete Part I (120 taught credits) over a period of two years.

The maximum permitted period of study for completion of a Master's degree is three years for full-time students and six years for part-time students.

The maximum number of credits which may be accredited via the Recognition of Prior and Experiential Learning (RPEL) process towards a Master's degree is 120.

Details of the credits required, and the time limits, for the completion of other postgraduate qualifications are detailed in Chapter 6 (6.3.2; 13) published on the University website, <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>.

The expectation is that students complete their programme within the usual time limit.

#### **3.3 Why do I have to give so much information to the University?**

It is vitally important that the institution as which you are studying and the University have an accurate record of your personal details. It is equally important to ensure that you are enrolled on the correct Programme of Study and on the correct modules. It also ensures your assessment details are kept up-to-date.

Failure to inform the institution at which you are studying/the University of any changes in your personal details or enrolment details is likely to cause the following problems:

- Failure to keep you generally informed
- Failure to contact you in an emergency
- For Master's degree, failure to progress to the dissertation stage as a result of not completing sufficient credits at Part I
- Delay in graduation as a result of not completing sufficient credits.

#### **3.4 Why do I have a Student Number?**

When you first enrol as a student, you will be allocated a student number. It is not unusual for two students to have the same name, but no other student will share your student number, now or in the future. It is important that you use your student number as well as your name in your dealings with staff in different parts of the University. This will not only improve the efficiency of many administrative processes, it will also reduce the possibility of error. Your student number will be sent to you by email.

## 4 About your Programme of Study

### 4.1 Structure

The University year is divided into three terms or two semesters depending on your Programme of Study.

All the University's degree programmes of study are modular. They consist of modules, which are units of study, each with its own level, credit rating and assessment requirements. All modules have a unique code. Programme of Study handbooks explain the valid combinations of core, compulsory and optional modules for a particular Programme of Study. It is very important that you consult with your Programme Director and read the relevant Programme of Study handbook to ensure that you are following an acceptable combination of modules. These handbooks also include any programme specific requirements that are not addressed elsewhere in this or in other general University documents.

The University uses the level descriptors defined in the *Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales*. According to this framework, Level 7 is used for work at Master's level.

You will need to gain 180 credits at Level 7 to qualify for a Taught Master's degree normally as follows:

- |            |                     |             |
|------------|---------------------|-------------|
| • Part I:  | Taught Modules      | 120 credits |
| • Part II: | Dissertation Module | 60 credits  |

You may provisionally start working on Part II (the dissertation or project) before the assessment of Part I has been completed. However, the Part II dissertation or project **cannot** be assessed until Part I has been successfully completed. There are two exit points in Part I if you decide not to complete Part II, or if the Examining Board decides to terminate study (see AQH Chapter 6):

- On the successful completion of 60 credits at Part I you may be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate.
- On the successful completion of 120 credits at Part I you may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma.

### 4.2 What if I want to change a module or my Programme of Study?

You can only change a module or a programme following a discussion with your Programme Director and by completing the appropriate form, available from the institution at which you are studying. These forms require the signed approval of the appropriate staff. Your institution will then inform the University so that your academic details can be amended. Do not simply turn up to a different module or programme believing attendance alone will change your Programme of Study status. Changes will not be permitted after more than one quarter of the relevant teaching period (semester, term or block).

For a change of programme, the above only refers to a change to another of the University's programmes at the same institution at which you are studying. If you wish to change to a programme at the University itself, or at one of its other collaborative partners, you will need to withdraw from your programme of study and apply to join the other programme.

### **4.3 What if I want to change my mode of study?**

Normally, you may only change mode of study before no more than one quarter of the first relevant period of study (semester, term or block). Requests for changing the mode of study from full-time to part-time, or vice versa, within the normal timeframes, should be made on the appropriate form, available from the institution at which you are studying. Any resulting changes to module selections should also be detailed on this form and approved by the appropriate staff. Your institution will then inform the University. Students who have completed Part I of a Taught Master's Degree will not be permitted to change mode of study during Part II unless there are extremely compelling reasons to do so.

In exceptional cases, you may be able to request to change mode of study outside of the normal timeframe. You will need to check any funding implications of such a change and complete the appropriate form which is available from the institution at which you are studying. A decision on your request will be taken by the University. Full details of this process can be found in the Mitigating Circumstances Policy published on the University website, <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>.

In the event that the request is approved, the Registry will update the time-limit for completion, and inform you of the decision in writing.

### **4.4 How long will it take to complete a module?**

The length of time required to complete a module will be a function of your ability and your familiarity with the subject. It is not, therefore, possible to specify how much time and effort will be required in individual cases. However, programme documents will incorporate notional hours of 100 hours for a 10 credit module, 200 hours for a 20 credit module, etc.; the 'currency' being 1 credit per 10 hours of notional study. This represents the total study effort for a typical student to complete the module successfully. It includes all timetabled and non-timetabled learning activities, and contact time with tutors and lecturers, both in and away from the formal learning environment.

### **4.5 What is meant by Accreditation of Prior Learning?**

New students can sometimes claim credit from courses that they have previously studied at higher education level; in this case they may make a claim for the Accreditation (or Recognition) of Prior Certificated Learning. The amount of credit awarded will depend upon the value of the credit already acquired relative to the programme on which the student is currently enrolling. While there is no standard expiry date after which certificated learning cannot be recognised, a judgement will be made as to how appropriate it would be to recognise credit within the context of the particular subject area and it may be deemed that the certificated learning is out of date.

Other students may have acquired similar knowledge and skills during the course of their working life, or in pursuit of private interests, and in these cases they may be able to make a claim for the Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning

Full details of the process can be found in the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy. The maximum transfer credits per programme type are detailed in Chapter 6 (6.3.2; 11-13) published on the University website, <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>.

#### **4.6 How will you keep me informed about my Programme of Study?**

A specific member of staff is identified to take responsibility for the management of each Programme of Study. Their duties include responsibility for ensuring that you are enrolled for the correct Programme of Study and for keeping you informed of all Programme of Study details during your time on the University's Programme of Study. Throughout this document, this member of staff is referred to as the Programme Director. Your Programme Director may contact you in a variety of ways. These may include via your email account, at lectures or seminars or via a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) system.

Details of the Programme Director for each Programme of Study can be obtained from your Programme of Study Handbook.

#### **4.7 How do I make my views known?**

At a course level you will have an opportunity to elect a course representative who represents you in Staff Student Committees, which discuss issues including learning resources and curriculum. These representatives may also take part in other formal meetings, such as reviews of courses and in informal meetings with staff to ensure student issues are solved effectively. Course representatives are expected to regularly gather feedback from fellow students to inform their contribution.

At the end of each taught module, you will be asked to complete a module questionnaire outlining your experience of the module.

You will be told by staff at the institution at which you are studying what has been done as a result of your feedback.

## 5 About assessment

### 5.1 How do I find out about how my work is assessed?

The rules and regulations that govern the assessment of your Programme of Study are available in Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 of the AQH. **You are strongly advised to read these chapters** which provide a detailed explanation of the awarding of credit, progression for Master's programmes from Part I to Part II and, ultimately, the awarding of your degree. You should also pay careful attention to the assessment details for individual modules in your Programme of Study handbook(s), or in the module booklet that sometimes accompanies a module. Here, however, are some basic facts:

- You will be awarded credit for the modules that you complete.
- The pass mark for a module at Level 7 is 50%.
- The marks are the result of assessment carried out during and/or at the end of the module and form the numerical basis for the calculation of the degree award. For the calculation formulae that are used for Master's Degrees, please refer to Chapter 6 of the AQH.
- Assessment is designed to:
  - (1) Establish whether the knowledge, understanding, skills and techniques that are the designated learning outcomes of the module have been acquired.
  - (2) Measure your success in mastering the content of the module and achieving those learning outcomes.
- Assessment may take several forms, including coursework (e.g. an essay, book review, oral presentation) and / or examinations.
- Tutors deliberately adopt a wide range of methods of assessment. These vary according to the learning and teaching techniques appropriate for each module.
- Modules that combine assessment by coursework with assessment by examination do not necessarily have the same proportion of marks allocated to the two elements.
- Normally, your coursework is assessed by your module tutor and they will be available to discuss the result if you so wish.
- In certain circumstances your work will also be assessed by a second tutor. Work is also moderated by External Examiners (these are usually academics from other universities) to ensure consistency and fairness.
- If you fail a module or assessment component, the Examining Board may permit you to be re-assessed. The maximum number of re-assessment attempts that can be allowed for a particular module will be one.
- In the event that you are re-assessed in a timed examination or any assessment where the original attempt gained a mark of 0%, you will sit a new examination or be set a new topic. In all other cases you will normally be given the opportunity to re-work and re-present the original assignment.

- In the event that you are re-assessed in a failed module in which there is only one assessment component, the maximum mark that you can be awarded for that module is 50%.
- In the event that you are re-assessed in a failed module in which there is more than one assessment component, the maximum mark that you can be awarded for the component(s) in which you are re-assessed is 50%.
- For Master's programmes, failed modules with a maximum total credit value of 20 at Part I may be condoned by the Examining Board, subject to certain conditions, details of which can be found in Chapter 6 of the AQH.
- For Master's programmes, you **must** complete Part I of the Programme of Study successfully before Part II can be assessed.

If you fail to progress, or fail to obtain your degree, you have the opportunity to appeal. Full details of the procedure can be found in the Academic Appeal Policy published on the University website, <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>.

## 5.2 What about submission deadlines?

All essays and other written work for assessment purposes must be submitted according to deadlines. You will be informed of these deadlines by your module tutor. Differentiated deadlines may be set for students with long-term impairments, where this is specified in the relevant Statement of Compensatory Measures (see section 8.3).

If you do not hand in your work within the stipulated deadline, you will be penalised. The maximum mark that can be awarded for work that is submitted up to 1 week late is 50% for first attempts. A mark of 0% will be awarded for reassessment work. Work cannot be accepted more than 1 week after the submission deadline and will be recorded as a non-submission.

## 5.3 But what if I have extenuating circumstances?

The University recognises that, on occasion, exceptional or 'extenuating' circumstances such as illness or bereavement may affect a student's ability to meet deadlines. Arrangements are in place to ensure that, where such circumstances exist, the student is not unfairly penalised. The arrangements are designed to ensure that students across the University and its partner institutions are treated equally, regardless of their Programme of Study or institution at which they are studying.

It is essential that you familiarise yourself with the University's regulations relating to extenuating circumstances and the accompanying guidance, which are set out in which are set out in the Mitigating Circumstances Policy published on the University website <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>. You should note in particular the sorts of events that are **not** normally accepted as being extenuating circumstances, such as minor, non-immobilising health problems with a duration of less than one week, loss of work as a result of mislaying the work, theft or computer breakdown, difficulty in gaining access to available materials, non-serious domestic or personal disruptions, and normal financial difficulties which may be experienced by students. You should take the necessary steps to protect against such circumstances affecting your assessments.

Please note that Programme Directors and module tutors are not permitted to extend deadlines for individual students – if you believe that you have extenuating circumstances, you **must** follow the procedure set out in the regulations. Further advice is available from staff at the institution at which you are studying.

The University does not consider disabilities or long-term impairments to be extenuating circumstances but has instead established a system of compensatory measures to support the assessment process. **If you have a disability or long-term impairment, it is essential that you refer to the information provided in sections 8.2-8.4 about the support available to you in relation to assessment.**

#### **5.4 What marking criteria are used to assess my work?**

It is not possible to compile a *single* set of marking criteria that can be applied to various modes of assessment at every level in every subject. As a result, subject and task-specific marking criteria will be available from your module tutors for every module that you study. If you have not received the assessment criteria for a module, you should contact your Programme Director.

Confirmed marks are those that have been agreed by the full Examining Board and endorsed by the External Examiners. Unconfirmed marks are those which have yet to be presented to an Examining Board. All marks remain unconfirmed until they have been agreed by External Examiners and an Examining Board.

#### **5.5 How do I get feedback?**

Your tutors may provide feedback on your assessment in a variety of forms. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, these may include formative feedback while you are developing work for submission, oral feedback after your work has been marked or a debriefing session following a performance or presentation. Feedback may also be provided to all the students that completed an assessment task as a group.

You should always receive formal written feedback that includes a provisional mark, an indication of how it was determined and guidance on areas for development to help you improve your performance the next time you are assessed.

You will normally be given provisional marks and formal written feedback or its equivalent on your assessment within 20 working, term-time days of the final submission date. For taught master's dissertations (Part II), the marking must normally be completed and provisional feedback provided within 30 clear working days. For each module, your tutors should provide you with details of the dates on which you can expect to receive assessment feedback. Instances sometimes occur where it is not appropriate or not possible to do so within this timescale. In such cases, institutions are required to discuss and negotiate an appropriate timescale for providing you with formal feedback. In the event that you do not receive your assessment feedback by that date without an acceptable explanation, you should inform your Programme Director and/or Dean of Institute or equivalent at the institution at which you are studying.

#### **5.6 Do I have to sit formal exams?**

Information about assessment requirements is provided in your Programme Handbook and also available from module tutors. You may be required to sit formal examinations at

times laid down by the institution at which you are studying, in liaison with the University. Where formal examinations are required, they are undertaken under procedures that are designed to ensure that the examinations are conducted fairly and are well-organised; details can be requested from the institution at which you are studying.

Problems arising from examinations and assessment (e.g. absences from examinations, illness, and academic misconduct) are dealt with in accordance with the regulations set out Chapters 6 and the relevant policies linked to Chapter 12 of the AQH.

## **5.7 What happens if my progress is unsatisfactory?**

Regulations for progression are described in Chapter 6 of the AQH. For unsatisfactory progress, please see Chapter 6 of the AQH.

You must ensure that you satisfy programme and attendance requirements and should bear in mind that it is the University's/your institution's responsibility to report unsatisfactory attendance to grant awarding authorities, and where appropriate, to employers or other sponsors. If you are studying in the UK and are an international student, the institution at which you are studying is required to report your non-attendance to the immigration authorities. See section 10.4 for more information about attendance requirements.

Please note that the relevant University Examining Board has the right to recommend that students who have made very little progress be advised or required to withdraw.

## **5.8 Who owns my work?**

The University's policy on Intellectual Property Rights relates to the ownership of any copyright, design rights, invention, discovery or improvement produced by a student or students in the course of their studies. The policy aims to protect the interests of both the student and the University and is to be interpreted in a spirit of reasonableness. The regulations for issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights are described in the University's policy. The policy is published on the University website: <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/media/uwtsd-website/content-assets/documents/academic-office/aqh-chapters/chapters---en/Intellectual-Property-Policy-Students->

## 6 About your dissertation

### 6.1 General

Detailed information about the supervision and assessment of Taught Master's dissertations (or equivalent) can be found in the Guide to Postgraduate Taught Dissertations (Appendix GA29) and the Supervision Policy for Taught Master's Students (Appendix GA30), which are available on the website (<http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/appendices-and-forms/>). These appendices include information about student and supervisor responsibilities, and about the dissertation support entitlement.

On some Programmes of Study, Part II consists of a project or portfolio rather than a traditional dissertation. Throughout this Guide, all references to the dissertation will also apply to such projects and portfolios.

Your dissertation supervisor is responsible for monitoring your progress, reporting absences from tutorials and taking any appropriate subsequent action.

### 6.2 How is a dissertation topic agreed?

Students who are about to progress from Part I to Part II should begin to develop ideas for their dissertation whilst completing the second block of 60 credits, in consultation with relevant staff. Students are required to submit a provisional title and brief outline of the proposed research on the relevant dissertation proposal form.

The dissertation should be the high point of your Master's programme in that it gives you the opportunity to undertake a substantial programme of research on a topic of your own choice. Careful thought needs to be given to the selection of a topic. In particular, you should take the following into consideration:

- The topic should be **specific**: You should avoid very general topics as these are likely to be too broad in scope and unmanageable within the context of a Master's dissertation. It is important to identify a problem or question to a specific topic as the focus for your dissertation, in consultation with your dissertation supervisor.
- Availability of data/information/resources: It is important at the outset to establish that the necessary data and resources are available or can be generated to meet the aims of the project.
- Logistical matters: Potential issues such as travel, subsistence, laboratory requirements, availability of contacts, etc. need to be borne in mind.
- A timetable for the work needs to be established at the outset. Care must be taken to ensure that the programme of work needed to meet the aims of a particular project can be realistically completed in the time available. It is your responsibility to identify times which are convenient for both you and your supervisor. Regular contact with your supervisor is crucial to the successful completion of your dissertation.
- Any dissertations that involve human participants, human material, human data or animals, or if a student is concerned that ethical issues may arise from or during the research for a dissertation, will require ethical approval from the University's Ethics

Committee. Your Programme Director will be able to give you information about how approval should be obtained.

### **6.3 What are the submission requirements?**

Information about the submission of dissertations is provided in the Guide to Postgraduate Taught Dissertations (Appendix GA29), which is available on the website:

<http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/appendices-and-forms/>

Dissertations must be submitted as per the instructions provided to you at the institution at which you are studying.

### **6.4 What happens to my dissertation after it has been assessed?**

You may need to submit at least one copy of your dissertation in secure binding for retention by your institution, if your institution specifically requests this. Subject to certain conditions specified in the Guide to Postgraduate Taught Dissertations (Appendix GA29), you may also be required to submit an additional copy in permanent, hardback binding for the National Library of Wales.

### **6.5 What is the Dissertation Support Entitlement?**

Details are provided in the Supervision Policy for Taught Master's Students (Appendix GA30), which is available on the website: <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/appendices-and-forms/>

Dissertations will not be accepted for assessment unless they have undergone a process of tutorial supervision. The nature and demands of such tutorial supervision shall be made explicit in the Programme of Study Handbook.

## 7 About Academic misconduct and Plagiarism

### 7.1 What is academic misconduct and plagiarism?

The University defines academic misconduct as ‘any act, intentional or otherwise, whereby a person may obtain for themselves or for another, an unpermitted advantage...’. Committing academic misconduct in assessment is one of the most serious offences in academic life, and its consequences can be severe. It undermines the integrity of scholarship, research, and of the examination and assessment process.

Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism is passing off, or attempting to pass off, another’s work as your own. It includes copying the words, ideas, images or research results of another without acknowledgement, whether those words etc. are published or unpublished. It is plagiarism, for example, to copy the work of another student, of a member of staff or a published article without crediting the author. Persons who allow their work to be plagiarised are also guilty. Plagiarism is also submitting work for an assignment that has previously been submitted to the University in any form without acknowledging that this is the case (unless such re-use has been explicitly authorised under the regulations) – this is self-plagiarism.

The guidance that follows explains what is meant by plagiarism, describes the University’s policy for dealing with it, and provides help in avoiding it.

The normal expectation is that all students will submit an electronic copy of their work wherever possible. This is so that, where it is available, the work can be checked against the database of the plagiarism detection service, Turnitin (or equivalent service).

### 7.2 Referencing and avoiding plagiarism

Coursework, dissertations, or creative work are meant to be your own original work. Obviously you will use the work of others. Not only is this inevitable, it is expected. All scholarship builds on the work of others. However, you must acknowledge all sources of information from which you have drawn in the preparation of your work. Referencing (or citing) such sources is one of the most important skills you need to learn in your academic career. Referencing means you have acknowledged your sources for the ideas, concepts, and information that you evaluate in your assessed coursework. Usually your sources will be an article or book; however, it is important that you acknowledge other sources such as, the internet, personal communication from colleagues etc. It is essential that any information you have used is referenced correctly. Failure to reference means your work could be considered to be plagiarised.

Referencing provides the evidence that you have undertaken your own research enabling you to find the information necessary for in-depth learning. It allows you to gain a broad perspective on different issues and to consider different aspects and points of view in the subjects you study. The University’s Library and Learning Resources have published Referencing Handbooks providing guidance for students on using the referencing styles recognised by UWTSd, which you can access from:

<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/infoskills/referencing-handbooks/>

The golden rule is ***‘if in doubt, provide references’***. Consult your tutors if you have any problems, in particular with the method of citing books and articles, which may differ from subject to subject. There are no penalties for asking for advice and guidance; there are severe penalties for plagiarism!

### **7.3 What are the penalties?**

Plagiarism by students in coursework, other forms of continuous assessment, examinations, dissertations or theses will be dealt with according to the Academic Misconduct Policy. The same policy applies to any other form of academic misconduct. The policy can be found on the University's website <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>

The University applies a range of penalties, varying in severity, where academic misconduct is confirmed.

All tutors are required to be vigilant in the detection of plagiarism and are required to take action in all cases where it is suspected.

### **7.4 Other forms of academic misconduct including cheating in exams**

Plagiarism is just one form of academic misconduct. Unauthorised co-operation between two or more students (termed 'collusion'), submitting work completed by someone-else, falsifying data and cheating in exams are all examples of academic misconduct and will be dealt with by the University in accordance with the procedures in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

## 8 Personal Support

### 8.1 General approach and principles

The University is committed to providing a thorough, consistent and supportive pastoral and academic support for all students. Its approach to providing student support is guided by the following principles:

- Systems for student support are focused on enabling students to take control of their own personal development, by providing opportunities for the exercise of choice, decision-making, and responsibility.
- There is strong commitment to equality of opportunity for all students, with additional resources and strategies being invested in those students who are likely to be disadvantaged in their learning or career development.

### 8.2 What support is available if I am disabled or have additional needs?

The institution at which you are studying has established arrangements for supporting students with additional needs.

The support available may include specific arrangements relating to assessment. Any specific arrangements or adaptations must be formally approved. The appropriate staff at your institution will play a key role in the assessment and approval process of any adjustments. Any adjustments and specific arrangements must be in place at least 4 weeks before a formal examination so that there is sufficient time for the institution at which you are studying to ensure that alternative arrangements are put in place.

### 8.3 What are compensatory measures?

'Compensatory measures' may be put in place for individual students with additional needs following a formal assessment of their potential requirements by Student Services staff or equivalent. They are part of the normal assessment arrangements for the student, which may include as appropriate:

- i) study skills support;
- ii) support through assistive technology;
- iii) support through a specialist mentor/specialist support lecturer;
- iv) additional time for examinations;
- v) provision of an amanuensis for examinations;
- vi) differentiation of deadlines for assessments other than examinations;
- vii) avoidance of grouping of deadlines for assessments other than examinations;
- viii) rescheduling of assessment deadlines for assessments other than examinations;
- ix) alternative forms of assessment.

A 'Statement of Compensatory Measures' is the document produced in consultation with the individual student, to confirm the arrangements that have been agreed. Details of the process by which compensatory measures are established are provided in in the Mitigating Circumstances Policy published on the University website, <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>. These may differ at the institution at which you are studying but the principles applied will be the same.

#### **8.4 What is a differentiated deadline?**

A differentiated deadline is a type of compensatory measure. The term is used where an individual student has been given a deadline for the submission of an assignment which is different from the deadline set for the class as a whole.

## **9 About Learning Resources**

### **9.1 Where can I find out about learning resources?**

Information about the Library, IT and other Learning Resources services available to students is provided by the institution at which you are studying.

Although the core learning resources for your Programme of Study are provided by the institution at which you are studying, the University is able to provide some additional resources (where permissible under license). Further information can be found at <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/services/services-for-partner-students/>

### **9.2 What are the regulations governing Information Technology?**

The rules for the use of IT at the institution at which you are studying will be contained in the Information Services Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) or equivalent, and other policy and procedural documents. Each user is responsible for reading and adhering to the contents of these documents. Failure to observe any part could result in disciplinary and/or legal action being taken by the institution against offenders. In addition, it is the responsibility of all users to familiarise themselves with current IT legislation, and act in accordance with it.

### **9.3 What is VLE?**

Most institutions will operate a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It is used in a variety of ways including, where appropriate:

- electronic access to lecture notes, reading materials, videocasts, podcasts and other materials;
- personal and social learning facilities, discussion forum;
- access to electronic resources;
- submission and feedback of assignments;
- access to support services;
- support for bilingual provision;
- support for students on work placements.

Instructions on accessing the VLE will be provided when you first enrol at the institution at which you are studying. It is your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the resources available and to check all module and programme related material regularly.

## 10 About what is expected of you

### 10.1 General regulations

In order to make your time on your University course a safe and pleasant experience, the University and the institution at which you are studying has a framework of regulations. It's important that they are clear to all and so they need to be quite formal.

Students must observe all regulations that govern the effective organisation and management of specific areas of activity within the institution and/or linked to the University. These include those relating to financial requirements, health and safety, the use of learning, computing, child care, refreshment, sport and recreational facilities, any professional codes of practice pertaining to any element of the Programme of Study and residential accommodation.

### 10.2 How you should behave

All staff and students associated with the University are expected to behave in a responsible and reasonable manner, with due regard to fellow students, staff and members of the local community.

Whilst you are enrolled on a University Programme of Study it is expected that you will **not**:

- (a) commit physical assault, behave threateningly or engage in oral or written abuse to other students, staff or visitors to the institution at which you are studying and the University via any means of communication including social media;
- (b) make malicious allegations against other members of the institution at which you are studying and the University via any means of communication including social media;
- (c) damage property of the institution at which you are studying or the University or property of other students, staff or visitors;
- (d) misappropriate any property, funds or assets of the institution at which you are studying or the University;
- (e) act in any way which is likely to cause injury to any other person within the University community, including impairing the safety of premises or equipment and interfering with anything provided in the interests of Health and Safety at Work;
- (f) engage in any activity or behaviour which contravenes the University's Equality and Diversity policies, which are available from the University;
- (g) behave in any way which unreasonably interferes with the legitimate freedoms of any other student, member of staff, or visitor, or which disrupts or interferes with activities properly carried out by the institution at which you are studying or the University;
- (h) commit any criminal act on or off of the premises of the institution at which you are studying or the University;
- (i) behave in such a way as may be reasonably deemed to harm or in any way undermine the reputation of the institution at which you are studying, the University or their relationships with the local community.

This list is not exhaustive. Any behaviour that is considered to be unacceptable, inappropriate and which may bring the institution at which you are studying and/or the University into disrepute will be regarded as a breach of general regulations, and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

### 10.3 Breaches of the regulations

Procedures for dealing with breaches of the academic regulations, such as non-attendance and academic misconduct in assessment, are detailed in Chapters 6 and the relevant policies linked to Chapter 12 of the AQH.

The general regulations relating to student discipline, including breaches of the non-academic regulations, are available from the institution at which you are studying.

### 10.4 Support for Study and Fitness to Practise policies

If there are concerns about your fitness to study and/or your fitness to practise in the profession(s) associated with your Programme of Study, the institution at which you are studying/the University may decide to instigate formal support for study or fitness to practise procedures. Often such concerns may be resolved informally but where such an approach has not been successful or where the concerns are very serious formal processes are used. The policies for Support for Study and Fitness to Practise are published on the University website, <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>.

### 10.5 Academic requirements

You are required to enrol during the official enrolment periods that are determined by the institution at which you are studying and the University.

You must observe the attendance and other requirements of your Programme of Study. You must notify your Programme Director without delay of any prolonged absence through illness or other unavoidable cause, and you must provide any necessary documentary evidence to support your absence. If you are an international student in the UK the institution at which you are studying is required to report your non-attendance to the immigration authorities. Non-attendance and occasional non-attendance are usually an indication of poor commitment. Irregular attendance will generate a request to meet with your Programme Director.

You must not attempt to secure an unfair advantage over others in assessment – please see section 7.

If you have any question in relation to Ethics and Research please discuss with your Programme Director as to whether or not ethics approval needs to be granted before you undertake any research, and which processes need to be followed in order to gain such approval.

Monitoring your attendance, progress and conduct is, in the first instance, the responsibility of your Programme Director.

### 10.6 What if I have a good reason for not attending classes?

Certain procedures will come into play if you cannot attend classes at the required time.

If you have an interview, an appointment or if you are required to represent the institution at which you are studying at a sport of some other **approved** official activity, you must

notify the Programme Director **in writing** and in good time, so that alternative arrangements can be made for you.

**If you are absent as result of illness, an accident** or a major domestic problem, you must inform your Programme Director without delay.

Your Programme Director will give sympathetic consideration to all **genuine** requests to miss classes, but as a result of long experience, they are familiar with a very wide range of excuses, and is at liberty either to check the information provided or to require written confirmation of them.

### **10.7 What if I need an extension to a coursework submission date?**

The University does not allow students to apply for extensions. Instead it has established systems for ensuring that students who have long-term impairment or experience extenuating circumstances are not advantaged or disadvantaged when being assessed. Please see the information provided in sections 5.3 and 8.3.

### **10.8 Financial requirements**

Programme fees are usually payable in full upon enrolment. If fees are to be paid by an employer or sponsor, then you should produce documentary evidence of sponsorship when enrolling.

Programme fees are normally charged on an annual basis, but in the event of a student discontinuing the programme, fees will be charged pro-rata up to the date at which the institution is informed in writing on the appropriate form that they have withdrawn.

You must ensure that sufficient funds are available to honour any personal cheques presented as payment.

If you are studying in the UK, useful advice on funding postgraduate study is available from the following external websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study>

[http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Funding\\_Postgraduate\\_Study](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Funding_Postgraduate_Study)

Programme fees are paid to the institution where you are studying and any information relating to fees will be provided by the institution.

### **10.9 Finance and debt**

Details of the various mechanisms that are in place to help you manage your finances are available from Student Services or equivalent at the institution at which you are studying.

If you are in debt, you are strongly advised to get in touch with Student Services or with the Finance Department or equivalent at the institution at which you are studying, so that they can help you identify a mechanism for dealing with your debt.

### **10.10 Health and safety**

You have a responsibility for reading and adhering to the Health and Safety policy of the institution at which you are studying. Failure to observe any part could result in disciplinary and/or legal action being taken against offenders.

If you have any questions about Health and Safety procedures in relation to your studies, please contact your Programme Director in the first instance.

You must read and comply with all health, fire and safety regulations, and co-operate with all activities in respect of such regulations. The following information will help you understand how you can keep yourself and others safe:

1. Make sure you are familiar with the fire procedures in the buildings you use
2. If you work in laboratories or workshops familiarise yourself with the local safety precautions and ensure you follow these at all times whether supervised or not.
3. Never tamper with or misuse any equipment provided for use in emergency situations e.g. fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire alarms call points etc. It may be a criminal offence.
4. Never attempt any modifications or repairs on electrical wiring and equipment yourself, as this may constitute a serious electrocution or fire risk.
5. Electrical circuits should not be overloaded with excessive extension leads.
6. Always switch off electrical appliances at the main socket after use, not simply on the appliance.
7. Report any faulty or malfunctioning equipment immediately and ensure that no one else can use it until a repair has been carried out.
8. It is in your interest to find out where the first-aid boxes are situated and who the first-aiders are in the areas you frequent.
9. All accidents and incidents where someone has been or could have been injured must be reported to a member of staff as soon as possible after they have occurred. This includes those occurring during activities which are part of your course e.g. field trips.

Students on field trips are required to comply with any health and safety instructions given by tutors or other individuals involved with the organisation and operation of the course. Health and Safety guidance will be provided prior to the field visit but please ask your module tutor/Programme Director if you are unsure about anything.

Students on work placements are required to comply with the health and safety regulations of their allocated workplace setting.

## **11 About complaints and appeals**

### **11.1 Can I appeal against my marks or a decision about my academic progress?**

If you believe that a mistake has been made in your marks, you should first contact your Programme Director for confirmation that your marks are correct. You cannot appeal against a specific mark or marks but if you continue to have concerns that a mistake has been made, you may submit an appeal against the decision of the Examining Board. You may also appeal against Examining Board decisions relating to your progression or your final award.

Information about how to appeal is provided in the Academic Appeal Policy published on the University website, <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>. It is very important that you note carefully the grounds on which appeals may be made and submit your appeal on the appropriate form because incomplete or ineligible appeals cannot be processed.

Appeals which question the academic or professional judgement of tutors or examiners are not admissible. Appeals made on grounds that you are dissatisfied or disappointed with an assessment result are not admissible.

In the event that you are not satisfied with the outcome of an appeal, you are entitled to take the issue to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) for Higher Education. Full details of the procedure are available from the OIA website:

### **11.2 How do I make a complaint?**

You have a right to make a complaint about any specific concern about the provision of your Programme of Study or a related academic service. Students are encouraged, in the first instance, to resolve the matter with the person or persons directly involved. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should in the first instance pursue it through the complaints procedures of the institution at which you are studying. If you remain dissatisfied, you may request that your complaint is considered by the University, as outlined Student Complaint Policy, <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>

In the event that you are not satisfied with the outcome of a review of a complaint, you are entitled to take the issue to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) for Higher Education. Full details of the procedure are available from the OIA website: <http://www.oiahe.org.uk>

## 12 Abbreviations and jargon

AP(E)L	Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (also referred to as Recognition of Prior (Experiential) Learning)
APVC	Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor
AQH	Academic Quality Handbook
ASC	Academic Standards Committee
CSG	Coleg Sir Gâr
DL	Distance Learning
DVC	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
EC	Extenuating Circumstances
E&D	Equality and Diversity
FTE	Full-time equivalent (a way of presenting student numbers)
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HEFCW	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
HR	Human Resources
NSS	National Student Survey
NUS	National Union of Students
NUSW	National Union of Students Wales
OIA	Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education
PASS	Peer Assisted Study Sessions
PCYDDS	Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant
PCYYDDS	Undeb Myfyrwyr Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant
PG	Postgraduate
PTES	Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey
PVC	Pro Vice-Chancellor
QA	Quality assurance
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
QE	Quality enhancement
RDC	Research Degrees Committee
RP(E)L	Recognition of Prior (Experiential) Learning (also referred to as Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning)
Senate	The senior academic decision-making body of the University
SET	Standard Extra Time
SLC	Student Loans Company
UG	Undergraduate
UKVI	UK Visas and immigration
UWTSD	University of Wales Trinity Saint David
UWTSDSU	University of Wales Trinity Saint David Students' Union
VC	Vice-Chancellor