

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TEACHING

POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT DEGREE REGULATIONS [2025/26]

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THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TEACHING (NIoT) POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT DEGREE REGULATIONS [2025/26]

These National NIoT of Teaching (NIoT) Regulations apply to programmes of study leading to taught postgraduate awards at Level 7 except in cases where professional body requirements dictate otherwise.

These Regulations should be read in conjunction with the NIoT's *Quality and Standards Assurance Manual*, in particular Section 5 dealing with the Assessment of Students.

1. National Lead and Programme Boards

- (a) The Executive Director of Programmes will appoint a National Lead for each programme of study, or group of cognate programmes, to be responsible for the management of the programme(s).
- (b) The NIoT will establish a Programme Board for each programme of study, or group of cognate programmes.
- (c) The terms of reference of the Programme Board are approved by Academic Board, acting in accordance with the regulations for the programme(s) of study and the expectations of established NIoT internal and external quality assurance systems. The Programme Board is responsible for ensuring the maintenance of consistent high quality and standards on the Programme across all sites including Associate Colleges and for undertaking corrective action where appropriate. The Programme Board reports directly to the Student Experience and Quality Assurance (SEQA) committee.
- (d) The Programme Board meets as required to conduct business, normally at least three times per academic year.
- (e) The membership of each Programme Board comprises: a Chair, who is the National Lead for the programme; Head of Faculty, Programme Manager, teaching staff who are responsible for the modules that are delivered as part of the programme; lead representatives from Associate Colleges.

The Programme Board may co-opt additional members as required, in particular where partner institutions are involved in the delivery of the programme(s) or where external academic reference points are required.

- (f) Decisions of the Programme Board are normally reached by consensus and are binding on all members. Resolutions may be reached by a majority vote of those members who are present, with the Chair holding a casting vote.
- (g) The Chair has authority to take decisions on behalf of the Programme Board between meetings either independently, or in correspondence with other members. Any action taken in this way will be reported at the next meeting.

2. Programmes of study

- (a) The NIoT offers programmes of study leading to the following awards.
- (i) Postgraduate awards at Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications:
- Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert);
Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE);
- (b) Each programme of study is an academically coherent collection of modules through which students may satisfy the requirements for the intended award. Programmes of study may also be designed to enable students to gain formal recognition by professional bodies.
- (c) Modules are discrete units of assessed learning for which credit is awarded upon successful completion. The credit value assigned to the module represents an estimate of the amount of work, including teaching contact, practical work, independent study and assessment, typically required in order to complete the module, on the basis that each credit represents a minimum of 10 hours' work. The academic standard of each module, including the standard of its assessment, is defined in the Outcomes framework for NIoT, programme and module specifications and in Level Descriptors which are referenced in the QAM, approved for this purpose by the NIoT. The NIoT outcomes framework, Programme Module specifications and level descriptors are cross referenced to FHEQ Modules. Practical experience, which is outside the scope of the Level Descriptors may be offered as part of a programme of study, provided that the academic requirements for the achievement of the award are met.

3. Admission to a programme of study

- (a) The minimum requirements for admission to a programme of study are:
- (i) for postgraduate programmes, a Bachelor's Degree with Second Class Honours from a UK university in a relevant subject area, or an equivalent internationally recognised academic qualification
- (ii) A GCSE grade 4/C or above in Maths and English, or equivalent
- (iii) Other requirements as designated in DfE Initial Teacher Training criteria for the relevant year of entry
- (iv) A GCSE grade 4/C or above in a Science, or equivalent (where the course is related to Primary teacher training)
- (v) Any entry requirements set out in relevant course information page of the NIoT website
- (b) Applicants are also required to provide evidence of proficiency in spoken and written English as outlined in the NIoT's general admissions requirements.

- (c) The NIoT may set additional conditions for admission to individual programmes of study, subject to the above minimum requirements.

4. Credit transfer

- (a) A student who has earned credit at another university, or a similar institution may apply for that credit to be transferred towards the requirements of a programme of study at the NIoT. Module marks will not be transferred.
- (b) In order to qualify for consideration, the credit must:
 - (i) correspond, in terms of the level and subjects studied, to modules within the programme of study at the NIoT;
 - (ii) have been undertaken at a university, or a similar institution of appropriate international standing and be formally certified by a competent officer at that institution;
 - (iii) have been undertaken normally no more than five years before the proposed date of initial registration at the NIoT.
- (c) Applications for credit transfer are agreed by the National lead with advice from the NIoT's Registry. The National Lead will make a recommendation to the Executive Director of Programmes. The NIoT may set conditions on the approval of the credit transfer.
- (d) There are restrictions on the volume of credit which may be transferred towards the requirements of programmes of study at the NIoT. The maximum amount of credit that can be transferred is two-thirds of the qualification. For example, a maximum of 40 credits towards a 60 credit Postgraduate Certificate in Education. Two-thirds is the upper limit and as such does not reflect the standard amount of credit awarded by the NIoT.

5. Registration on a programme of study

- (a) An applicant who has been offered admission by the NIoT and has accepted and met all the conditions of the offer may register as a student on a programme of study by completing the enrolment process described in Section 6.
- (b) Registered students retain their registration status until they achieve the award, withdraw, or have their registration terminated by the NIoT.

6. Enrolment

- (a) Each student must satisfactorily complete the NIoT's enrolment processes:

- (i) at the point of initial registration with the NIoT;
 - (ii) at the beginning of each academic year during the period of study, unless the student is taking an approved interruption of study at that time;
 - (iii) on returning from an approved interruption of study.
- (b) If a student does not enrol or re-enrol within relevant deadlines their registration on the programme will be cancelled or terminated as appropriate.
- (c) In order to complete the enrolment process, a student must:
- (i) complete the administrative procedures for enrolment;
 - (ii) make acceptable arrangements to pay fees and any outstanding debts to the NIoT;
 - (iii) agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the NIoT and the NIoT's Student Terms and Conditions;
 - (iv) register for modules and/or module assessments in accordance with the regulations for the programme of study.
- (d) Students may enrol on a full-time or part-time basis, or may transfer between full-time and part-time status, subject to agreement by the Head of Faculty and following restrictions and any additional rules which may apply to individual programmes of study.
- (i) A full-time student on a programme of study leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is normally expected to register for modules comprising 60 credits.
 - (ii) A part-time student must register for modules comprising no more than 40 credits in an academic year.

7. Period of study

- (a) The maximum period of study, from initial registration to completion of all the programme requirements, will be as follows:
- (i) 2 years, for those registered on a full-time basis for programmes leading to the following awards:

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE);
Postgraduate Certificate
 - (ii) 3 years, for those registered on a part-time basis for programmes leading to the following awards:

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE);
Postgraduate Certificate

- (b) Any part of the programme of study in respect of which the student has been granted credit transfer under the provisions of Section 4 will be counted towards the period of study. The overall period of study also includes the time allowed for achievement of any intermediate award.
- (c) Any interruption(s) or suspension(s) of study approved under the provisions of Sections 8 will not be counted towards the period of study.

8. Interruption of study and withdrawal

- (a) The period of study shall normally be continuous.
- (b) An interruption or deferral is a temporary pause from your Programme with the intention of returning to the Programme on a later date
- (c) A student may apply for permission to interrupt their studies on one or more occasion, as long as the total period of interruption does not exceed 12 months across the programme (subject to any Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body requirements). Following an approved continuous period of interruption, a student must either re-enrol or apply for a further interruption of study. Any approved interruption of study will not be counted towards the maximum period of registration. Students who have interrupted their studies continue to be registered on their programmes of study, but are not entitled to receive tuition or to use NIoT facilities. Students may usually only return for the start of the academic year, or the start of term, as appropriate.
- (d) Any marks from assessments that are partially completed shall stand, but student may request them to be considered under the NIoT's Extenuating Circumstances Process.
- (e) Where the programme of study or module has changed during the period a student has interrupted, it may be necessary for the student to take a revised diet of modules or assessment in order to achieve the same or equivalent award on which they are registered.
- (f) A student may withdraw from their programme of study and the NIoT at any time by submitting the appropriate form. A student who has formally withdrawn may only be re-admitted to a programme of study at the discretion of the NIoT. A student who has withdrawn through academic failure may not be re-admitted to the same programme.

9. Stages of Support procedure

- (a) The Programme Assessment Board may terminate, extend or interrupt the registration of a student where:

- (i) in the absence of a satisfactory and adequately documented reason, the student's record of attendance, academic progress or academic engagement at any time is unsatisfactory; or
 - (ii) at the end of the assessment in the modules for which the student is currently registered the student's academic progress overall is judged to be unsatisfactory (see Section 16).
- (b) The decision to terminate, extend or interrupt a student's registration under the provisions of (a)(i) will be made only after the NIoT has completed the Final Stages of Support. The NIoT's Programme Assessment Board will not follow the stages of support when acting under the provisions of (a)(ii).

10. Programme Assessment Boards

- (a) There will be a Programme Assessment Board for each individual programme of study that results in an academic award. The Programme Assessment Board makes recommendations on the progression of students and granting of awards to the NIoT's Academic Board.
- (b) The terms of reference of the Programme Assessment Boards are, acting in accordance with the regulations and policies of NIoT, including the regulations for the programme(s), the Programme Assessment Board will:
 - (i) Ensure that assessment decisions are made fully in accordance with the regulations of the programme;
 - (ii) Be responsible for the decision-making process as it relates to the awarding of marks, student progression and the granting of awards on the relevant programme(s).
 - (iii) make recommendations on student progression, conferment of awards and classification of awards (if the award is classified)
 - (iv) consider the recommendations of the external examiner(s);
 - (v) report annually to the NIoT's Academic Board.
- (c) The Programme Assessment Boards meet as required to conduct business in accordance with a schedule issued by the NIoT's Academic Registrar.
- (d) The membership of each Programme Assessment Board is set out in its approved terms of reference and comprises: a Chair, appointed by the NIoT's Chief Executive Officer (usually the Executive Director of Programmes), National Programme lead, Head of Faculty, Director of Registry Services, relevant teaching staff and the external examiner(s). Any member of the Executive of the

NIoT may be in attendance and the Programme Assessment Board may co-opt additional members as required, in particular where partner organisations (such as Associate Colleges or delivery partners) are involved in the delivery and assessment of the programme(s).

- (e) The Programme Assessment Board may convene to consider module results, progression, award and QTS decisions as necessary.
- (f) Decisions of the Programme Assessment Boards are normally reached by consensus and are binding on all members. Resolutions may be reached by a majority vote of those members who are present, with the Chair holding a casting vote.
- (g) The Chair has authority to take decisions on behalf of the Programme Assessment Board between meetings either independently, or in correspondence with other members. Any action taken in this way will be reported at the next meeting.
- (h) The proceedings of Programme Assessment Boards are confidential to those taking part and appropriate officers of the NIoT.

11. Appointment of external examiners

- (a) External examiners are nominated by the Faculty and their appointment is approved by the Student Experience and Quality Assurance Committee (SEQA). The SEQA may provide the Executive Director of Programmes or the NIoT's Director of Registry Services with the delegated authority to appoint the NIoT's external examiners.
- (b) The role of the external examiner(s) is to provide, an independent evaluation of the NIoT's arrangements for assessing student work, to verify that academic and professional standards are set and maintained at appropriate levels, and to report systematically and objectively to the NIoT on their findings. To this end, external examiners will be:
 - (i) of sufficient authority and expertise in the area(s) to be examined to command the respect of the wider national and international academic community;
 - (ii) be competent in assessing students' knowledge and skills at higher education level; expert in the field of study concerned and have appropriate academic and/or professional experience and authority.
 - (iii) free from any type of involvement with current staff, students or activities of the NIoT within the previous five years that could reasonably lead to an allegation of bias, or an allegation that they could have a personal interest in the outcomes of the NIoT's assessment processes.
- (c) Following their formal appointment, each external examiner will be sent a letter of appointment and details of the NIoT's relevant rules, regulations and guidelines.

12. Submission of work for assessment

- (a) Except for the provisions of Section 15 students are expected to submit all work for assessment at the first scheduled opportunity. The first scheduled opportunity will be the submission time and date that has been provided at the start of a module and is listed in the relevant programme handbook.
- (b) There will be a penalty on work which is submitted after the deadline, or after the revised deadline in the case of a student who has been granted an extension under the provisions of Section 16, as follows:
 - (i) A penalty of 5% should be imposed for each day that the assignment is late until 0 is reached. The days counted are working days.
- (c) For modules where the assessment type is a presentation or viva and written evidence needs to be provided in support of this assessment, this work must be submitted by the published deadline, or after the revised deadline in the case of a student who has been granted an extension under the provisions of Section 16, failure to submit the written evidence by the deadline will result in this work not being considered as part of the assessment for that module.
- (d) All work submitted for assessment must be in English, unless it is specified otherwise in the rubric for the assessment.
- (e) Work submitted for summative assessment should have feedback made available to students within 20 working days of the submission deadline. If this is not possible students should be notified in advance of the expected date and the reasons for the delay. Information regarding this delay must be reported to the Programme Board which will report this to SEQA.

13. Module assessment

- (a) The Programme Assessment Board will determine the overall outcome and percentage mark, recorded as an integer between 0% and 100% inclusive, for each module assessment as follows.
 - (i) For modules at Level 7, an outcome of Pass with a percentage mark will be recorded where the student has gained a mark of 50% or above overall, or for modules with multiple assessment components where the weighted mean mark of all components is 50% or above.
 - (ii) For modules at Level 7, an outcome of Fail with a percentage mark will be recorded where the student has gained a mark of 49% or below overall, or for modules with multiple assessment components where the weighted mean mark of all components is 49% or below.

- (iii) For modules or elements of assessment with practice-based credits or elements of assessment which are not credit bearing, an outcome of Pass or Fail without a percentage mark will be recorded in accordance with the assessment criteria for the individual module.
 - (i) The Programme Assessment Board shall not use condonement for any Initial Teacher Education programmes and all compulsory elements must be passed to achieve the award.
 - (ii) The pass mark for modules at Level 7 is 50%
- (b) Where the overall mark for a module is a weighted mean mark of assessment components. The overall module mark shall be recorded with no decimal places. The weighted mean mark will be rounded as follows: Decimals of .5 or greater will be rounded up to the next highest integer. Decimals of .4 or less will be rounded down to the nearest integer.
- (c) The Programme Assessment Board will confirm a student's eligibility for a re-sit of a component of assessment that has been failed or retake of a module.
- (i) A re-sit is defined as a second attempt of an assessment without any additional tuition and with marks capped at the pass mark for that module. Where there are multiple assessment components re-sits should only be an additional attempt of the failed component.
 - (ii) A retake is defined as a second attempt of an assessment in the following academic year with re-study of the module with attendance, including the completion of all assessments for that module. A retake will be capped at the pass mark for the module. Students may be required to pay a module fee to retake a module. Students who are retaking must be reassessed in all the components of the failed module.
- (d) A re-sit or retake is not allowed to be taken at a third or any subsequent attempt (subject to any Extenuating Circumstances which allow a module to be taken as a first or second attempt)
- (e) A student who is completing a re-sit should be reassessed by the same method used at the first attempt. Where it is not possible it must be considered as a variation as set out in Section 22.
- (f) A re-sit will usually be reassessed in the same Task (e.g. the same assessment question), where they are assessed using a new task this must meet the learning outcomes for the relevant module and be discussed with the External Examiner
- (g) Where a student fails a re-sit, the higher mark from the two attempts will be recorded for the assessment component.
- (h) Where a student fails a retake, the marks from the retake attempt will be recorded.

- (i) Where there is unexplained absence or the student does not submit an assessment by the published submission date, for any assessments that contribute to the module mark the student will be awarded a mark of 0% for the module and will not achieve credit. Where the unexplained absence is for an assessment that contributes less than 100% to the module mark, the mark of 0% for the assessment component will be combined with the marks for the other assessments components. This may result in the student not achieving the pass mark for the module and failing the module.
- (j) For modules where there is an internal hurdle specified in the programme specification or a compulsory non-credit bearing pass/fail element that is a requirement of that module, the student must pass this element to be able to pass the module.
- (k) If a student is required to retake in a subsequent academic year and the components of the programme or module has changed between years of study. Students retaking can be reassessed in the new components subject to them being provided with the appropriate tuition for the module.
- (l) A student who has failed the module assessment overall on the first attempt will normally be permitted a second opportunity to re-sit the failed components of the module assessment, without further study, subject to availability. In cases where it is not practical for a student to re-sit a component of assessment without further study, the Programme Assessment Board has discretion to require a student to retake the module.
- (m) The Programme Assessment Board may if an assessment has been affected by Extenuating Circumstances exercise discretion and allow a further opportunity to re-sit under the provisions of the NIOT's Extenuating Circumstances Process. In cases where the Programme Assessment Board has agreed to allow this re-sit they can grant this as a first attempt whereby the re-sit will not be capped at the pass mark for the module or as a second attempt whereby the mark will be capped at the pass mark for the module.
- (n) A student who has been granted a re-sit must submit all outstanding work at the next scheduled opportunity as specified by the Programme Assessment Board.
- (o) There is no provision for a student, having passed a module and obtained credit, to undertake additional study or any further assessment towards that module.
- (p) There will be a penalty on re-sitting the assessment of a failed module, unless the Programme Assessment Board determines that the student may re-sit without penalty under the provisions of the Extenuating Circumstances Process. The percentage mark for each previously-failed component of the module assessment, rather than for the module overall, will be capped at 50% for all modules at Level 7. Where the previously-failed component comprises more than one individual piece of work, the cap will apply to the combined percentage mark for the component, whether or not each individual piece of work was failed.
- (q) A student whose academic performance has been, or is likely to be, impaired because of ill health or other significant reasons may ask for this to be considered by the Programme Assessment Board under the provisions of the NIOT's Extenuating Circumstances Process.

- (r) The Programme Assessment Board may make reasonable adjustments to the method of assessment for an individual student where this is justified by the student's circumstances and under the provisions of the NIoT's Reasonable Adjustments Policy. In all cases the methods of assessment must provide a fair and valid assessment of the learning outcomes for the module.
- (s) The Programme Assessment Board can exercise discretion and terminate the registration of a student who has demonstrated unsatisfactory academic achievement due to failure to submit to assessment or academic failure on modules in line with 16 (iii) below.
- (t) The NIoT's Academic Registry will hold the authoritative record of the outcomes of the module assessment. Each student will be sent a formal transcript of their results by the NIoT's Academic Registry when they leave the programme of study. The transcript will record all the outcomes of the module assessment, including fails, and will indicate when a mark has been capped on a re-sit.

14. Extensions to assessment deadlines

- (a) A student may apply for an extension to the deadline for assessment in one or more components of a particular module. The maximum period of extension available is 15 working days and the application must be made before the time of submission.
- (b) The extension may only be granted where the circumstances and supporting evidence are judged to be sufficient.
- (c) The effect of a granted extension on those elements of assessments not submitted through Turnitin is to allow a student to complete the assessment at the next available opportunity, as determined by the NIoT without penalty, provided that assessment outcomes can be considered at the next Programme Assessment Board.
- (d) Applications and supporting evidence must be submitted using the appropriate pro forma and in accordance with the NIoT's Extensions Process.

15. Deferral of module assessment

- (a) A student may apply on grounds of extenuating circumstances for permission to defer assessment in one or more components of a particular module to the next available assessment opportunity.
- (b) The deferral may only be granted where:
 - (i) the extenuating circumstances and supporting evidence are judged to be sufficient;
 - (ii) an extension to the assessment deadline under the provisions of Section 14 would not be appropriate;

- (iii) provision is normally made for a subsequent assessment opportunity in that module before the end of the academic year.
- (c) Any application to defer should be submitted sufficiently in advance so that the student would still have the opportunity to undertake the assessment at the normal time if the application were to be refused, and must be submitted before the date and time of the assessment in question. The Programme Assessment Board may exceptionally accept an application after the deadline if it is satisfied that the student could not with reasonable diligence have disclosed their circumstances at the appropriate time.
- (d) Applications and supporting evidence must be submitted using the appropriate pro forma and in accordance with the NIoT's Extensions and Extenuating Circumstances Processes.
- (e) A student who has been granted a deferral may nonetheless decide to undertake the assessment at the normal time, in which case the deferral automatically shall be cancelled.

16. Assessment of student progress

- (a) The academic progress of each student will be reviewed at least annually by the Programme Assessment Boards. Subject to any specific requirements in respect of academic progress for the programme of study or required by a professional or statutory body.
- (b) The Programme Assessment Board will make one of the following recommendations if at any time a student is deemed to have made unsatisfactory academic progress, or the student has not met the requirements for progression set out for the relevant programme.
 - (i) Permit the student to re-sit the failed component(s) of one or more modules without any additional tuition
 - (ii) Permit the student to retake the academic elements of their programme on a full-time or part-time basis in the following academic year in order to retake the failed modules, complete further professional practice requirements or re-sit the failed component(s) of one or more modules.
 - (iii) Terminate the student's registration on the programme. Students who have had their registration terminated due to academic failure or have been terminated due to not meeting the Teachers' Standards will not be re-admitted onto the same programme of study.
 - (iv) In relation to the students' assessment for QTS, the Programme Assessment Board may require a student to extend their current placement or complete an additional placement or terminate the students' placement.
 - (v) If a student has not meet the requirements for the academic award (PGCE or PGCert) but has met all of the requirements of the programme including ensuring all applicable

teaching standards are met, have met all requirements for the recommendation of QTS and have met any requirements of Professional and Statutory Bodies in relation to attendance and/or proficiency in English and Maths. They can be recommended for QTS only.

17. General regulations on awards

- (a) In order to qualify for an award of the NIoT a student must satisfactorily complete the programme of study and any requirements that are set out in the individual requirements for the programme, and must achieve credits as set out for the relevant award in Sections 18/19 below. For the purposes of these Regulations, achievement of credit includes the approved transfer of credits from outside the NIoT under the provisions of Section 4, and credits in modules with a Pass the provisions of Section 13.
- (b) Except for the provisions of (e), the award will be conferred, where appropriate, as soon as the student qualifies and this has been confirmed by the Programme Assessment Board (as outlined in d). There is no provision for a student, having qualified for an award, to undertake additional study and assessment towards that award.
- (c) Awards are granted in a field of study which is descriptive of the subjects studied and passed by the student during the programme of study. The field of study listed on the certificate shall be as outlined in the qualifications listed in the relevant programme specification.
- (d) All awards under these regulations will be conferred by the Programme Assessment Board under authority delegated to it by the NIoT's Academic Board. The date of the award will be the date on which it is conferred by the Programme Assessment Board.
- (e) All formal transcripts of results and certificates of award will be issued by the NIoT's Academic Registry. The NIoT may withhold confirmation of results and awards from students in line with its Student Terms and Conditions.
- (f) The Chair of the Programme Assessment Board may revoke any award which has been conferred by the NIoT and all privileges connected with it if at any time:
 - (i) it is discovered and proved to the satisfaction of the NIoT that there was an administrative error in conferring the award; or
 - (ii) the NIoT, having taken account of information which was unavailable at the time the award was conferred and which has subsequently been accepted by the NIoT, determine that the award should be revoked or that any details of the award should be altered.

18. Award of certificates

- (a) In order to qualify for the award of a certificate a student must pass all modules and achieve credits as follows:

- (i) For the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), 60 credits at Level 7 along with the award of Qualified Teacher Status.
 - (ii) For the PGCert, 60 Credits at Level 7 where the award of Qualified Teacher Status has not been obtained.
- (b) Certificates of all types are unclassified.
- (c) The regulations for individual programmes of study may require students to complete an assessment related to their professional practice which are not credit bearing and may be a requirement of Professional and Statutory Bodies.

19. Award and classification of Postgraduate Certificates

- (a) In order to qualify for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Education a student must achieve 60 credits at Level 7 and must have achieved Qualified Teacher Status. They must have also have met any requirements of Professional and Statutory Bodies in relation to attendance and/or proficiency in English and Maths.
- (b) In order to qualify for the award of the PGCert a student must achieve 60 credits at Level 7 but can be awarded where the award of Qualified Teacher Status has not been obtained.
- (c) The Postgraduate Certificate in Education and Postgraduate Certificates offered by the NIoT are not classified awards

20. Academic Appeals

- (a) A student wishing to request a formal review of the decision of the Programme Assessment Board may appeal on the grounds set out in the NIoT's Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure. The Academic Appeals process may consider allegations of procedural irregularity in the conduct and administration of assessments or relating to extenuating circumstances; the decisions of the Programme Assessment Board in all matters relating to academic judgement shall be final.

21. Professional Requirements

- (a) A student on an ITT programme will be required to take a professional approach to attendance, in line with the relevant Teachers' Standards and follow the attendance and absence procedures as set out in the relevant Programme Handbook

- (b) The NIoT will apply its policies in relation to Fitness to Practise when considering whether students meet the professional standards for the award

- (c) Programmes which have Professional or Statutory Body requirements and recommend the award of QTS shall only make the recommendation for QTS when all standards of the Professional or Statutory Body such as those set out in the Teacher's Standards are met.

22. Variations to the NIoT's Regulations

- a. Variations to the NIoT's Taught Degree Regulations will only be approved in exceptional circumstances. These mostly fall into the following categories:
 - (i) A variation that approves programme specific regulations;
 - (ii) A variation for a cohort or group of students;
 - (iii) A variation for an individual student.

- b. Variation that approves programme specific regulations:

Requests must be approved by the Student Experience and Quality Assurance Committee with the outcome being reported to the NIoT's Academic Board.

- c. Variation for a cohort of students as a one-off arrangement:

Request is made by the Academic Registrar to the Student Experience and Quality Assurance Committee with the outcome being reported to the NIoT's Academic Board.

- d. Variation for an individual student as one-off arrangement:

Request is made by the Academic Registrar to the Executive Director of Programmes with the outcome being reported to the NIoT's Academic Board.