

Guidance on reassessment opportunities at Foundation Year and Level 4

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Guidance on reassessment opportunities at Foundation Year and Level 4

In line with Senate Regulation 2, students studying at FHEQ level 4, or a foundation year leading to an undergraduate degree, are entitled to reassessment on one occasion only in all of the 120 credits, which are studied at that level. Students are only entitled to reassessment in assessment blocks, which have been failed, and within failed assessment blocks, students are only entitled to reassessment in assessments, which have been failed.

1. Timing of reassessments

Students may be offered reassessment over the summer resit period, or in the next academic year. The timing of reassessments offered is at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, and careful consideration should be given to what is a reasonable in-year assessment load for an individual student, bearing in mind that SR2.70 defines the normal in-year reassessment limit as 40 credits. The Board of Examiners may choose to give the student some of their reassessment over the summer, with the opportunity to complete the rest the following academic year if they pass the summer resit/s; it is recommended that this should be no more than 60 credits maximum.

When making a judgement on whether to offer reassessment over the summer resit period or in the next academic year, Boards of Examiners should consider:

- i. The number, and weighting, of failed elements of assessment in each block requiring reassessment, e.g. a failed 20 credit block with an essay, a reflective report, and an exam (weighted 30%, 20%, and 50%) will require a lot more time and effort from a student who failed, and is being reassessed in, all three elements, than it would from a student who only failed one of the assessments.
- ii. What sort of assessments does the student have to be reassessed in? e.g. If they only have three assessments to take over the summer, but all three are exams, in the one week period of resit exams, that may be harder on the student than if they had a mix of coursework and exams.
- iii. The strength of the student's profile. Consider the two profiles below¹. Both students have passed 40 credits; both must pass at least 40 credits of reassessment in order to progress to the next academic year; and both could potentially be offered 80 credit of reassessment in the next academic year. For student A, who has passed 7 of the 12 individual assessments, with results as high as an A, it may be appropriate to offer student A 60 credits of reassessment in-year (three single assessments from MOD1, MOD2 and MOD3), meaning at least two of the three assessments would need to be improved to at least a D- in order for the student to meet the minimum progression requirements. However, for student B, who has only passed 2 of the 12 individual assessments, reassessment in-year would not seem to be giving the student the best opportunity to allow them to progress to the next level.

	MOD1		MOD2		MOD3		MOD4		MOD5		MOD6	
Credits	20		20		20		20		20		20	
Student A	E+		E+		E+		E+		B		B	
Elements (all 50/50)	D+	F	D+	F	D+	F	E+	E+	A	C	B+	B-
Student B	E-		E-		E-		E-		D-		D-	
Elements (all 50/50)	E	F	E	F	E	F	E	F	D	E+	D+	E

¹ These examples are based on graded results

2. Offering E grades

SR2.68 states:

At FHEQ Level 4, a student who, after first assessment, meets the minimum requirement for satisfactory completion of the Level, is not entitled to reassessment in any assessment block and shall progress to the next Level.

This means that students with 40 credits of E grades, in non-core blocks, and an otherwise passing profile, must be progressed to level 5.

However, a student with 60 credits of E grades, whilst only required to pass 20 credits of these in order to progress, can be offered more than 20 credits of reassessment. The reason for this is that if they fail their reassessment in 20 credits, they would still be entitled to reassessment in the remaining 40 credits of E grades, but would now have missed their opportunity to undertake this in the summer resit period. In order to ensure that students are given opportunity to progress at the soonest, and most appropriate opportunity, the Board should consider how many E grades to offer reassessment in.

Passed credit	E grade (where assessment is NOT core)	Failed credit (including E grades in core assessments)	Possible outcome
80	40	0	Progress, no reassessment
60	60	0	40 or 60 credits reassessed over the summer (depending on elements).
40	80	0	60-80 credits Possibly 60 credits over the summer, depending on the elements of reassessment required; though safer to do 80 credits the following year
60	40	20	At least 40 credits; depending on profile, could offer 60 credits over the summer or repeat. Not advisable to offer just the 20 credits of F, as there is a chance they would not improve past an E grade.
60	20	40	60 credits over summer if possible with the elements of reassessment required. Possibly repeating all 60 credit the next academic year if a poor profile overall. Not advisable to offer just the 40 credits of F as there is a chance they would not improve past E grades.
40	60	20	Repeat 80 credits the next academic year
40	40	40	Repeat 80 credits the next academic year

If a student is not offered the full reassessment opportunity they are entitled to in the first instance the Board of Examiners considering the profile following resits will need to consider whether to offer:

- a. Reassessment in remaining credits in the next academic year
- b. Request provisional progression so the reassessment can be undertaken at the beginning of the next academic year (see Provisional Progression Policy)

The problem with option b above is that a student in that scenario is not a strong student, and the pressure of undertaking reassessment alongside commencing the next level of study may not give the student the best chance of meeting the minimum progression requirements, or of learning the content at the next level (and therefore progressing from that year). It is for this reason that Boards should consider very carefully the volume of reassessment to offer students when they have E grades on their profile.

3. Student engagement

Students are offered reassessment on the basis that they are interested in continuing their studies at Brunel University London. However, it is recognised that some students may remain registered on programmes where they do not intend to engage with their study, and are not interested in any further reassessment opportunities. Therefore, Boards of Examiners may make a decision to not offer a student reassessment when the student requires a full 120 credits of reassessment, and they are presented with evidence that the student has not engaged with their studies.

Following the decision of a BoE to offer reassessment during the next academic year, students should have a discussion with their personal tutor to plan and agree the best way forward. E.g.:

- i. Does the student still believe that academic study is the right choice for them?
- ii. Does the student still believe that they are on the right programme for them?
- iii. What could the student do over the summer to best prepare them for their study when they return?
- iv. Advise on preparing for reassessments over the summer
- v. Discussion regarding any other support or advice they may need – for example, referral to DDS/ASK/Counselling, other student services.

The purpose of these discussions is to support students to make decisions that are in their best interest, and that will allow them to make the most of any reassessment opportunities they choose to undertake.