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Alternative Format

If you require this Module Result Determination Policy document in an alternative format, please contact the Student Support Team via <http://www.open.ac.uk/contact/> (phone +44 (0)300 303 5303), or your dedicated Student Support Team via StudentHome if you are a current Open University student. If you are studying as part of an apprenticeship programme, then please contact the Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team (AEST).

Students living in Wales can speak with a student support adviser in Welsh on 029 2047 1170, should you wish to do so.

Introduction

The Open University uses a range of assessment tasks to assess your performance on a module and determine your overall module result.

On most modules, your scores from all the assessment tasks you complete – which may include an exam, End-of-Module Assessment (EMA) or end-of-module Tutor-Marked Assignment (emTMA) – are weighted according to your module's assessment strategy and combined using a computerised process to calculate a single Overall Score. This is referred to as having one component of assessment.

Other modules have two distinct components of assessment:

- The continuous assessment component is all the tasks (i.e. Tutor-Marked Assignments (TMAs), and interactive Computer-Marked Assignments (iCMAs)) that you complete during the module. The scores of your assignments are combined to give you an Overall Continuous Assessment Score (OCAS).
- The examinable component is usually made up of a task (or tasks) completed at the end of your module (i.e. an exam or EMA) but may sometimes include other tasks such as a TMA or iCMA. The score(s) from this task (or tasks) give your Overall Examinable Score (OES).

For modules with two components of assessment, you must achieve a minimum score in each of your OCAS and OES, along with the weighted average (which is automatically calculated from your OCAS and OES scores and known as 'Rank'), to achieve a particular grade of pass.

You will be able to see the assessment strategy used for your module(s) by visiting the Assessment tab on [StudentHome](#). This information includes the pass mark that applies to your module. If you are studying a microcredential delivered on FutureLearn, go to the 'Your Assessment' step on the FutureLearn platform for your microcredential for further information about the assessment for your course.

Unfamiliar terms are explained in a [definitions section](#) at the end of this document.

For specific guidance on how this Policy may relate to your personal circumstances, please contact your Student Support Team (SST) who are specially trained to advise on the implementation of policy. If you are an Apprentice studying as part of an apprenticeship programme, you should contact the appropriate Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team (AEST) for more information, go to the [Contacts section](#) below. If you are studying a microcredential delivered on FutureLearn, you should contact mc.support@futurelearn.com for further details.

Scope

What this policy covers

This policy explains how module results are determined and released at The Open University. This policy applies to you if you fall into any of the categories below:

- Enquirers (for information only)
- All undergraduate and postgraduate taught students studying a module and/or a qualification, including students studying Access modules
- Students in secure environments
- Apprentices studying a module
- Learners studying an Open University Microcredential

What this policy does not cover

This policy does not apply to:

- Postgraduate research students: please contact the [Graduate School](#)
- OpenLearn Learners: please [contact OpenLearn](#)
- Professional Development (PD) Course learners: please refer to [Terms and Conditions: Professional Development courses](#).
- Students studying under partnership agreements: please contact the [OUVP Curriculum Partnerships team](#)

- Vocational qualification learners: please contact the [Vocational Qualification team](#).
- Students studying a non-credit bearing Short Course: please refer to the [Conditions of Registration \(Short Courses\)](#).

Support and Information

How to contact us

If you have any queries around the content provided within this document and how to interpret it, please [Contact Us](#). To check the contact details for the Open University, please see [OU Offices](#). You can contact your Student Support Team (SST) from the [Contact us](#) page in the Help Centre or via StudentHome.

For Learners studying Microcredentials delivered on FutureLearn, please email: mc.support@futurelearn.com

If you are studying an apprenticeship, please contact the Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team (AEST) by email on apprenticeships@open.ac.uk, or telephone (+44 (0) 300 303 4121). Welsh-speaking Students and Learners may speak with a student support adviser in Welsh on +44 (0) 29 2047 1170. Research Degree Students can contact the Research Degrees Office via email research-degrees-office@open.ac.uk.

Help Centre Articles

[How we determine your results | Help Centre | The Open University](#)

Policy

1. Result determination

The following information will be considered when determining your module result:

- scores for individual assessment tasks which are combined to form an Overall Assessment Score (OAS), Overall Continuous Assessment Score (OCAS), Overall Examinable Component Score (OES) and/or Rank scores as applicable;
- your performance in any compulsory activities (such as a residential school or assignments with thresholds);

- information about any Special Circumstances that have affected your performance;
- Open University policy on assessment and the determination of results including the assessment strategy for the module, which can be found on StudentHome. If you are studying a microcredential delivered on FutureLearn, go to the 'Your Assessment' step on the FutureLearn platform for your microcredential for more information about the assessment for your course.

1.1 Modules with one component of assessment

1.1.1 Results for modules with only one component of assessment are determined from the weighted average of all the assessed tasks that count towards your module result.

1.1.2 For undergraduate modules and some postgraduate modules, you need to achieve an overall score of 40 or more to pass the module. For other postgraduate modules, you need to achieve an overall score of 50 or more to pass. You must also pass any threshold specified on any part of the assessment (see [Section 1.5 Thresholds](#)) and successfully complete any other requirements such as attendance at residential schools and/or submission of compulsory tasks, as set out in your module's assessment strategy.

1.1.3 You may be allowed a single opportunity to resit your exam or resubmit your EMA or emTMA if you fail. Please refer to the Assessment Strategy under 'Assessment' on your [StudentHome](#) page to find out if your module allows a resit or resubmission, and if so, what the criteria are for being awarded a resit/resubmission. More information about resits and resubmissions can be found in the [Resit and Resubmission Policy](#). Resubmissions are not available for microcredentials.

1.2 Modules with two components of assessment

1.2.1 To determine results for modules with two components of assessment the Module Result Panel (MRP) will set a minimum score for each grade of pass in three elements:

- the overall continuous assessment score (OCAS),
- the overall examinable component score (OES),
- the weighted average of OCAS and OES (Rank).

You must achieve the minimum score set for each element, not just the overall weighted average, for each grade of pass.

1.2.2. You must achieve a pass score of 40 for undergraduate and some postgraduate modules and 50 for other postgraduate modules for both your OCAS and your OES to guarantee a pass result. You must also pass any threshold on any part of the assessment and successfully complete any other requirements such as attendance at residential schools and/or submission of any compulsory tasks, as set out in your module's assessment strategy (see [Section 1.5 Thresholds](#)).

1.2.3 If the weighted average of your OES and OCAS scores is above the pass mark, the MRP has limited discretion to grant a pass result even if your OES or OCAS are lower than 40 or 50. It is always worth taking your exam or submitting your EMA, even if you think you have not done well enough on OCAS. However, a pass result cannot be guaranteed if you have not reached the pass mark in your OCAS assessment or other thresholds (see Section 1.5).

1.3 Results for resits/resubmissions

1.3.1 Module results following a resit of your exam or a resubmission of your EMA or emTMA are normally capped at the lowest grade of pass. Please refer to the [Resit and Resubmission Policy](#) for more details. Resubmissions are not available for microcredentials.

1.4 Special Circumstances

1.4.1 If you have submitted Special Circumstances you might be awarded a higher grade even if your scores are lower than those shown in [Section 3 Result grades](#). Please refer to the [Special Circumstances Policy](#) to find out what the University considers to be special circumstances and the deadline to submit the form. The MRP can give only limited weight to Special Circumstances, and you should not assume that your grade will be improved by submitting

them. Special Circumstances are not applicable for learners studying a microcredential.

- 1.4.2 When considering Special Circumstances, the MRP will not make any changes to the scores awarded to you but may award a higher result grade.

This consideration will take place before your module result is finalised and reported to you. You cannot ask to have a module result reconsidered on this basis.

- 1.4.3 If you have not achieved a pass result, but are eligible for a resit or resubmission, the MRP may decide to award an uncapped resit/resubmission result based on your Special Circumstances. See the [Resit and Resubmission policy](#).

- 1.4.4 Your module result notification will indicate whether you submitted Special Circumstances.

1.5 Thresholds

- 1.5.1 Your module may have specific requirements for you to achieve a pass result, such as achieving a minimum score on a particular task or submitting a minimum number of assignments.

- 1.5.2 These requirements are known as a threshold. It is therefore possible to fail such modules even if your overall scores are above those shown in [Section 3 Result grades](#). The Assessment Strategy for your module is available on StudentHome and will tell you if thresholds apply to your module. If you are studying a microcredential on FutureLearn, go to the 'Your Assessment' step on the FutureLearn platform for your microcredential for more information about the assessment for your course.

1.6 Residential school attendance

- 1.6.1 Your module may require satisfactory residential school participation or satisfactory participation in an online school (previously known as an Alternative Learning Experience: ALE) among the requirements for a pass. The module material and/or Assessment Strategy will tell you about this.

2. Result determination process

The key stages of the result determination process are described below.

2.1 Module Result Panels (MRP)

2.1.1 Each module has a Module Result Panel (MRP) that is responsible for considering module results for individual students. Each MRP has a Chair (usually the Chair of the module team) and at least two internal examiners (usually members of the module team).

2.1.2 The members of the MRP use their academic judgement to decide if each student has reached the standard required to be awarded credit for the module. As part of the quality assurance processes for the module MRPs carry out Standardisation followed by a formal Award Meeting.

2.1.3 Standardisation enables the MRP to review student performance at the individual marker, question, or module (whole cohort) level. This allows MRPs to:

- make adjustments to scores given by individual markers who have been identified as harsh or lenient
- address questions which may be of a higher or lower standard of difficulty than they anticipated when setting them
- compare the range of scores achieved by students on the module with cohorts in previous years to ensure that the assessments are of a similar standard compared to that of previous years.

2.1.4 Where the MRP considers that adjustments are appropriate they will input amended parameters into the computerised system which will then apply the adjustment and recalculate the scores. The adjusted scores are then reviewed and signed off by the MRP.

2.1.5 This process is carried out as part of our quality assurance procedures to ensure academic integrity and standards are maintained.

2.1.6 Your scores after standardisation are the final scores which the MRP uses to determine your result. When standardisation adjustments have been applied

to your assessment scores, the unadjusted marks that you see in the Assessment Score Viewer or on your Performance Profile for your exam, EMA or emTMA may occasionally be different from the final adjusted mark awarded.

2.1.7 At the Award Meeting, the MRP will have access to several key pieces of information.

2.1.8 If your module has only one component of assessment the MRP will have:

- all your individual assignment scores,
- your Overall Score,
- information about your participation in your residential school or Online school (if applicable).

2.1.9 If your module has two components of assessment the MRP will have:

- all your individual assignment scores,
- your overall continuous assessment score (OCAS),
- your overall examinable component score (OES),
- the weighted average of your OCAS and OES (known as Rank),
- information about your participation in your residential school or Online school (if applicable).

2.1.10 The MRP will also have (if applicable):

- access to your final assessed task, i.e. your exam script, EMA or emTMA
- information you have provided about Special Circumstances that affected your work; please refer to the [Special Circumstances policy](#)
- various statistical analyses
- information about any additional arrangements made for the exam.

2.1.11 MRPs work within the policy for awarding results approved by Senate, which is The Open University's authority for academic matters. Senate sets out a range of scores that can be used to set the boundaries for each grade as given in [Section 3](#). The highest score that can be used for each grade boundary is given in Tables 1-3 below. MRPs have discretion to set the lower boundary for each grade of pass below that shown in the tables, except for the minimum score for a pass which must be set at 40, or 50, depending on the pass mark for the module. The setting of the grade boundaries will remain confidential to the MRP, within the policy approved by Senate.

2.2 Cluster Examination and Assessment Board (Cluster EAB)

2.2.1 Module results considered by MRPs are recommended to a 'Cluster' Examination and Assessment Board (Cluster EAB). The Cluster EAB is responsible for reviewing and confirming the standards of the module result process for a related group of modules and recommending a result for each student to the Module Results Approval and Qualifications Classification Panel.

2.2.2 External Examiners, who are normally senior academics from another university or higher education institution, attend the Cluster EAB.

2.3 Module Results Approval and Qualifications Classification Panel (MRAQCP)

2.3.1 The Module Results Approval and Qualifications Classification Panel (MRAQCP) is an internal body which receives the recommendations for results from Cluster EABs. It ratifies and approves the award of module credit, qualifications and qualification classification, on behalf of the University's Senate. The results are then published to students.

3. Result grades

3.1 Different modules award different grades of pass. Modules may award:

- a Pass grade only;
- Distinction and Pass;
- Distinction, Merit and Pass;

- fully graded credit, with pass grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 (where grade 1 is the highest grade of pass).

3.2 You can check which grades of pass are awarded for each module on the [Grading for modules](#) article on the Help Centre.

3.3 Each MRP has some discretion in where to set the thresholds for each grade of pass, so even if you receive the same scores in two different modules, you could be given different grades of pass.

3.4 The following tables show the scores needed to guarantee a particular grade of pass. If you are studying a microcredential, please see Table 1 and Table 3:

Table 1: Undergraduate fully graded credit (pass mark of 40)

| Modules with one component of assessment (overall score) | Modules with two components of assessment (OES and OCAS) |
|---|---|
| 85 = Pass 1 (distinction) | 85 and 85 = Pass 1 (distinction) |
| 70 = Pass 2 | 70 and 70 = Pass 2 |
| 55 = Pass 3 | 55 and 55 = Pass 3 |
| 40 = Pass 4 | 40 and 40 = Pass 4 |

Table 2: Undergraduate and postgraduate modules that are ungraded (pass only) or award merit and/or distinction (pass mark of 40)

| Modules with one component of assessment (overall score) | Modules with two components of assessment (OES and OCAS) |
|---|---|
| 85 = Pass 1 (distinction) | 85 and 85 = Pass 1 (distinction) |
| 70 = Merit | 70 and 70 = Merit |
| 40 = Pass | 40 and 40 = Pass |

Note: not all modules award a distinction or a merit

Table 3: Postgraduate modules that are ungraded (pass only) or award merit and/or distinction (pass mark of 50)

| Modules with one component of assessment (overall score) | Modules with two components of assessment (OES and OCAS) |
|--|--|
| 85 = Pass 1 (distinction) | 85 and 85 = Pass 1 (distinction) |
| 70 = Merit | 70 and 70 = Merit |
| 50 = Pass | 50 and 50 = Pass |

Note: not all modules award a distinction or a merit

3.5 If you are studying a classified qualification (Undergraduate Honours degree or a Postgraduate qualification) specified module grades will be used to calculate your classification. You can find more information in the [Academic Regulations](#) in Section 17 for Undergraduate qualifications or in Section J5, together with the individual qualification regulations, for Postgraduate qualifications. You can access information about how Undergraduate degree classification is calculated from the Help Centre page [Working out your degree classification](#).

4. Procedure

Getting your results

- 4.1 Results are usually available about six weeks after the exam period or EMA/emTMA submission date. If you have completed a resit or resubmission within 12 to 16 weeks of your original exam period or submission date, or if you were allowed to postpone your first exam or submission to a resit or resubmission period within 12 to 16 weeks of your original exam period or submission date, we aim to make these results available within 14 calendar days from the resit exam date or resubmission date.
- 4.2 Towards the end of your study of each module, StudentHome will give you an estimated date for the issue of module results. You will be sent an email to tell you when your module result has been made available on StudentHome. Please make sure, before your results are due, that you can log in to [StudentHome](#) so that you have time to resolve any access problems. No results will be given by phone.

- 4.3 For modules with a single component of assessment, you will be given your Overall Score with your overall module result. To find the score you obtained for your exam, EMA or emTMA use the link 'View information on your assignments' which will be displayed under your module result.
- 4.4 For modules with two components of assessment, you will be given your final overall continuous assessment score (OCAS) and examinable component score (OES), as well as your module result.
For a few modules, you'll also be advised if substitution has been applied (to find out more about substitution please refer to the [TMA and iCMA policy](#)).
- 4.5 Some modules provide an online 'performance profile' which is a summary of performance on each question or part of the exam or EMA. If a performance profile is available a link will be displayed immediately below your module result on your module record page. Normally, your performance profile will be accessible for 180 calendar days after your final module result has been released. If you want to keep a copy you should either print or save the web page. Please refer to [feedback on your exam, EMA or emTMA performance](#) on the Help Centre for more information.
- 4.6 Occasionally an MRP may not have enough information or evidence to reach a decision about the result. For example, an assignment or assessment score may be missing from your record, your work may need further consideration, or more information may be needed about your Special Circumstances. To help determine an appropriate module outcome the Panel may offer you an [Additional Assessment](#) or TMA/iCMA reassessment ([see section 6](#)). In these cases, you will be given a 'pending' result and we will take urgent action to provide the Panel with the information it needs. We aim to release your result within six weeks of your pending result, but it may take longer in some cases.
- 4.7 If you submit your work in Welsh, it will be treated no less favourably than an English-language submission. Your mark will not be affected, and you should expect to receive your result at the same time as an English language submission.

5. Additional Assessments

- 5.1 Additional Assessments are offered to you when your module result is not conclusive and give the student an opportunity to present further evidence of successful study that may improve their result. For more information about Additional Assessments, please see the [Additional Assessment Policy](#).

6. Tutor-Marked Assignment (TMA)/interactive Computer-Marked Assignment (iCMA) Reassessments

- 6.1 If you have not passed the module, the MRP may offer you an opportunity to be reassessed on one continuous assessment task (either a TMA or an iCMA). TMA and iCMA reassessments are offered at the discretion of the MRP, you cannot ask to be given one. They enable the MRP to obtain additional information about a student who has not achieved the score needed to pass the module, for instance due to either a particularly low (or missing) score for one TMA or iCMA, or failing to achieve the threshold on a task.
- 6.2 When deciding whether it is appropriate to offer a TMA/iCMA reassessment, the MRP will take into account the scores you have achieved on other assessment tasks in the module. The MRP will also consider whether it is academically appropriate to offer a TMA/iCMA reassessment for the TMA/iCMA in question.
- 6.3 The MRP decides on the format of the task - it may be a completely new task, a (re)submission of the original TMA/iCMA task, or the original task may be adapted or changed in some way. These assessments will be marked by a member of The Open University's academic staff. Arrangements for the TMA/iCMA reassessment will be sent to you separately from your module result, along with the deadline for submitting your task.
- 6.4 If you are awarded a pass result following a TMA/iCMA reassessment, your module result will normally be capped at the lowest grade of Pass. The MRP have discretion to award an uncapped result if you submitted Special Circumstances. Please see the [Special Circumstances Policy](#).

7. Module results checks

- 7.1 If you have evidence that an error has been made in determining your result (such as a missing TMA score), or if you have evidence that you submitted Special Circumstances that are not recorded under your overall module result on your study record, you can request your module result is checked. To do this, you should complete a [module result check form](#), available on the Help Centre. If you are studying a microcredential, you can query your result by completing the [Microcredential Result Check Form](#).
- 7.2 You must submit the result check form, along with the appropriate evidence, **within 28 calendar days of the date of the release of your module result.** Module result checks cannot be dealt with by phone.
- 7.3 Please read the information above about how module results are determined before you request a module result check. The chances of your module result being incorrect are extremely small.
- 7.4 You are not able to request a re-mark or reconsideration of any assessed task, or ask us to accept a task that was submitted late, unless you have evidence of an error in processing your assessed task.
- 7.5 It is not possible to obtain more detailed information about your performance and we are not able to return exam scripts or other assessed work to you.
- 7.6 MRPs are responsible on behalf of The Open University Senate for determining students' results. Therefore, their decisions are final and there is no right of appeal to any other Open University body against the academic judgement of the MRP. Careful checks are made at every stage of the award process to ensure that the Panel's decisions are based on full and accurate information.
- 7.7 You can find more information about [module result checks](#) in the Help Centre. If you are studying a microcredential, you can find information about module results on StudentHome by selecting 'Assessment' under the title of the module you are enrolled on.

8. Formal module results appeals

- 8.1 If you have evidence that an error has been made you should first request a module result check as specified in [Section 7 Module result checks](#) above.
- 8.2 If you are not satisfied with the response to your module result check you may request a review by the Senate Academic Appeals Review Panel (SAARP). For a review to be accepted for consideration there must be information or evidence that the decision was determined in an inappropriate way - for example, on incorrect or incomplete information. Your discontentment with the outcome of the module result check response is not evidence of any procedural irregularity concerning the way in which the decision was made. If there is evidence that your result was awarded improperly and your case is upheld, the MRP will be asked to reconsider your result.
- 8.3 If you feel you have grounds for review, please refer to the [Complaints and Appeals](#) section of the Help Centre for more information on the grounds for a review and how to submit an appeal. You must do this within 28 calendar days of the reply to your module result check.
- 8.4 The [Student Casework Office](#) will acknowledge receipt of your appeal within three working days, telling you which delegate authority of The Open University has been asked to reply direct to you.
- 8.5 Open University policies and procedure do not allow an appeal made by another person on your behalf, unless you appoint an advocate to act on your behalf. Please refer to the [Advocacy Policy](#) for more information.

9. Aegrotat credit

- 9.1 An Aegrotat award is an exceptional award to allow students to complete a qualification if they would not otherwise be able to do so. You can apply for Aegrotat credit if you are permanently prevented from continuing with or completing your modules or qualification due to serious illness. You can also apply on behalf of your next of kin if they die before completing their studies with The Open University. Please refer to the [Aegrotat Policy](#) for more information.

10. Timetable and exceptions to the Policy

10.1 Table 4 shows the timescales which apply for module result release and queries or appeals to module results.

Table 4: Timetable of results release to students. If you are studying a microcredential, some parts of the table below are not applicable.

| Policy | Timescale | Exception |
|--|--|--|
| Release of student module results | About six weeks after the exam period or EMA/emTMA submission date. | In very rare cases results may be delayed for some modules, but you will be contacted before the module result release date if that applies to you. |
| Results of a resit, resubmission or postponed exam, EMA or emTMA which occurs within 12 to 16 weeks of your original exam period or submission date. | Results available within 14 calendar days. | In very rare cases results may be delayed for some modules, but you will be contacted before the module result release date if that applies to you. Resubmissions are not available for microcredentials. |
| Pending results | Your final result will normally be determined within six weeks of receiving your pending result. | It may take longer in some cases such as in an academic conduct investigation. |
| Requesting a module result check | You must submit the Module Result Check Form within 28 calendar days of the date of the release of your module result. If you are studying a microcredential, you should submit the Microcredential Result Check Form within 28 calendar days of the date on your result letter. | No exception unless you can show evidence of why you were unable to submit the MRC within the deadline. |
| Module result appeal | Write to the Student Casework Office within 28 calendar days of the date of your module result or of the reply to your module result check. | No exception |

Methods of appeal

If you have a query or experience a problem with any aspect of The Open University's application of this policy, please [contact us](#) promptly. If you feel that the Open University has not responded appropriately to your policy query or concern, you can raise a formal complaint or appeal using the [Students Complaints and Appeals Procedure](#). You can find more information about how to do this in The OU's [Complaints and Appeals](#) pages in the Help Centre.

The Open University also has a specific complaints procedure for complaints relating to Welsh Language Standards. Please refer to [Welsh Language Standards, Dealing with Complaints and Comments](#) for more details.

Definitions

Additional Assessment

An Additional Assessment is an assessment which may be offered to you if a Module Result Panel (MRP) decides it would like to obtain more evidence before agreeing your module result. The Additional Assessment may be written, spoken or both. The module result is held pending the outcome of the Additional Assessment.

Aegrotat

Credit which allows a qualification to be awarded posthumously or due to serious illness or disability where a student is unable to continue to study and unlikely to ever be able to return to study.

Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team (AEST)

The AEST is the first point of contact for Apprentices in line with Apprenticeship Programmes. Please see the [contacts section](#) above for their contact details.

Assessment Strategy

This is a detailed breakdown of the way a module is assessed which states the type and number of assessments and their weighting. Information about this can be found on your module record on StudentHome. There may also be information in the module guide, assignment booklets or module materials.

Capped resit/resubmission

If you resit your exam or resubmit your EMA or emTMA, your module outcome will normally be capped at the lowest grade of pass. This means your module result following a resit or resubmission won't be higher than a bare Pass or Pass 4 grade. Please note, the score you are awarded in the task that you resit or resubmit is not capped, it is the overall module outcome that is capped.

Cluster EAB

The Cluster Examination and Assessment Board (Cluster EAB) will confirm the standards of the module result process and recommend a result for each student in the cluster within a conflation period. Cluster EABs will include one or more External Examiner.

End-of-Module Assessment (EMA)

This is one of the final assessed tasks within a module. On many modules, you will produce an extended piece of work (such as an essay, project, portfolio, or dissertation) rather than sitting an exam at the end of your study. For ease of reference, these assessments are referred to collectively as End-of-Module Assessments (EMAs).

end-of-module Tutor-Marked Assignment (emTMA)

Where a module does not have an exam or EMA, the last TMA on that module will be classed as an emTMA. If this is the case, your assessment strategy will clearly state which assignment is the emTMA. Please note that the 'final TMA' that comes before the exam, EMA or emTMA is not the same as an emTMA. A key difference between an emTMA and EMA, is that an emTMA is marked by your tutor.

Exam (examination)

The University holds a number of different types of exams in exam periods at the end of module presentations. Exams will be online and taken remotely. The duration and format of exams varies by module.

Formative

A formative assignment does not normally count towards the overall module result. It is used on some modules for teaching purposes only, but it is important to note it could still be compulsory, and you might not pass a module if you do not submit it.

Check your assessment strategy text (via the Assessment section on [StudentHome](#)) to find out more.

interactive Computer-Marked Assignment (iCMA)

This is an interactive form of assessment made up from a series of questions and submitted online. This submission method was originally developed to facilitate interactive Computer-Marked Assignments, but it is now also used to facilitate submissions for some other types of assessment that are not interactive or computer-marked.

Module Result Check (MRC)/ Microcredential Result Check

While it is very rare for a module or microcredential result to be wrong, if you have strong evidence that the result may be wrong you can ask us to check it, or to rectify any error based on the evidence provided.

Module Result Panel (MRP)

The Module Result Panel (MRP) is responsible for the setting and marking of all controlled assessments for each presentation of a specific module, and for proposing a result for each student on a module presentation to the Cluster Examination and Assessment Board (Cluster EAB).

Module Results Approval and Qualifications Classification Panel (MRAQCP)

Module Results Approval and Qualifications Classification Panel (MRAQCP) is an internal body which receives recommendation for results from Cluster EAB and ratifies the award of credit for the University.

Online School

Previously known as Alternative Learning Experience (ALE). An alternative way to complete the residential school requirement for a module where a student is not able to attend a face-to-face residential school. This may involve a written assignment, online project and/or computer conferencing.

Overall Assessment Score (OAS)

Your overall assessment score is the combined weighted average of all the assessed tasks which count towards your module result. Your assessment strategy (via the Assessment section on [StudentHome](#)) will tell you what each task is and what the weighting is and explain what you must do to pass the module.

Overall Continuous Assessment Score (OCAS)

For modules with more than one component of assessment, this is the combined weighted average of the continuous assessment on the module. Continuous assessment is usually made up of assignments such as TMAs and iCMAs. Your assessment strategy (via the Assessment section on [StudentHome](#)) will explain which tasks contribute towards OCAS and what their weighting is.

Overall Examinable Component Score (OES)

For modules with more than one component of assessment, this is the combined weighted average of the examinable tasks on the module. Most modules have one examinable task which is usually an exam or an end-of-module assessment (EMA) such as a project, poster, speaking assessment (language modules) or dissertation. Some modules have more than one of these types of assessment. Very occasionally, a module may have both an EMA and an exam.

Pending result

A pending result means that the MRP is still working to finalise your result. If you receive a 'pending' outcome this could be due to a number of different reasons. You can find more information about the reasons for a pend result on the Help Centre page [Receiving a pending result and Additional Assessment](#).

Postponement

If you are unable to complete your final assessed task i.e. exam, End-of-Module Assessment (EMA) or end-of-module tutor-Marked Assignment (emTMA), The Open University may give you permission to postpone it to the next available opportunity on a discretionary basis. This is called Discretionary Postponement.

If you have been offered a resit or resubmission opportunity which is scheduled within 12 to 16 weeks of your original exam period or EMA/emTMA cut-off date, you may be eligible to postpone this to the next available opportunity. This is called Elective Postponement.

Rank

For modules with more than one component of assessment, the rank score is the weighted average of the OCAS and OES components.

Resit

If you take your exam but do not achieve the required standard for a pass on your module you may be offered a resit opportunity. There is a minimum requirement to qualify for a resit specific to your module/s which is explained in the Assessment section on [StudentHome](#). You can only resit once, and your module result will normally be capped.

Resubmission

If you submit your End-of-Module Assessment (EMA) or end-of-module Tutor-Marked Assignment (emTMA) but do not achieve the required standard for a pass on your module you may be offered a resubmission opportunity. There is a minimum requirement to qualify for a resubmission specific to your module/s which is explained in the Assessment section on [StudentHome](#). You may only resubmit once, and your module result will normally be capped.

Special Circumstances

If your performance in any of the assessment on your module has been affected by something beyond your control, you can bring these 'special circumstances' to the attention of the Module Result Panel for consideration when they agree your module result.

Standardisation

Standardisation is one of the quality assurance activities which takes place as part of the process of awarding module results. It allows the MRP to check the consistency of scores at the question, marker, and overall cohort level.

Summative assessment

This means an assignment that counts towards the overall module result, in contrast to a formative assignment.

Substitution

Substitution allows a low or zero TMA score to be replaced with a score based on the other assessed tasks in the module. There are very few modules which allow substitution but if it is permitted, it is applied at the end of the module to improve your OCAS score.

Threshold

On some modules there is a minimum requirement or score (such as 40%) that you must achieve for an individual piece of work or activity, or for a number of pieces of work combined, to achieve a pass result.

Tutor-Marked Assignment (TMA)

As part of the teaching methodology on most modules, you will submit written assignments to your tutor. These are called Tutor-Marked Assignments.

TMA/iCMA Reassessment

The Module Result Panel (MRP) at its discretion may offer you an opportunity to be reassessed on one continuous assessment task (either a TMA or an iCMA) if you have not passed the module.

Uncapped resit/resubmission

When you resit your exam or resubmit your EMA or emTMA, your module outcome will normally be capped at the lowest grade of pass. When awarding you a resit or resubmission the MRP can decide not to cap your result based on any Special Circumstances you may have submitted. This is called an uncapped resit/resubmission result, and it means that your module result following your resit or resubmission can be higher than a bare pass or pass 4 grade if your performance on the module demonstrates a higher grade.

Related Policies and Legislation

Refer to the following documentation in conjunction with this document:

- [Academic Regulations](#) and your Qualification Regulations, if applicable (available via [StudentHome](#) once you are registered for a qualification, or on the [online prospectus](#)). Assessment Policies:
 - [TMA and iCMA Policy](#)
 - [Exam Policy](#)
 - [End-of-Module Assessment \(EMA\) Policy](#)
 - [End-of-module tutor-marked assignment \(emTMA\) Policy](#)
 - [Special Circumstances Policy](#)
 - [Postponement Policy](#)
 - [Resit and Resubmission Policy](#)

- [Additional Assessment Policy](#)
- [Aegrotat Policy](#)
 - [Advocacy Policy](#)
 - [Changing Your Study Plans: Deferrals, Withdrawals and Cancellations](#)
 - [Student Complaints and Appeals Procedure](#)
 - [Student Privacy Notice](#)

Welsh language standards

[Yr iaith Gymraeg \(Welsh Language Standards\)](#)

The Open University is one of several universities named in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. This means that any students in Wales can expect to receive certain services from the OU in Welsh. These are outlined in what's called the [OU's Welsh language standards](#).

This means that you can speak to our student recruitment and support team in Welsh or contact the university in Welsh. You can find out more about your rights as a Welsh language user on the [OU in Wales website](#).

Safe Space Reporting

The Open University is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment in which everyone feels safe and is treated with dignity and respect. Unlawful discrimination of any kind across The Open University will not be tolerated. Safe Space Reporting is available through [the Safe Space online tool](#) through which staff, students, learners and visitors are encouraged to report incidents of assault, bullying, harassment, hate crime, or sexual harassment. It also provides information about what you can do if these incidents happen to you, or to someone you know, and where you can find support.

The Open University Student Charter Values

[The Student Charter](#) was developed jointly by The Open University and the OU Students Association. It is a declaration of our shared values and the commitments we make to each other. This document has been developed with the Student Charter values as its foundation.

The Open University commitment to Equality Diversity and Inclusion

Our commitment to equality and inclusion is embedded in all that we do and reflects our mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We celebrate diversity and the strengths that it brings, whilst challenging under-representation and differences in outcomes within our institution. We promote and manage equality and diversity to meet both our strategic goals and our statutory equality duties. We achieve this in many ways, including the development of inclusive policy.

Give Us Your Feedback

If you have any comments about this policy document and how it might be improved, please share this with us, by emailing SPR-Policy-Team@open.ac.uk.

Charity Statement

The Open University is incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England and Wales and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302). The Open University is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in relation to its secondary activity of credit broking.

About this Document

Summary of Significant Changes since last version

There are a number of significant changes from the previous version of this policy (Version No. 1.2). These are:

- a. New policy template has been used so the layout has slightly changed and wording updated.
- b. The wording in some sections has been reviewed and updated to make the information clearer.
- c. Section 5 has been updated to refer to the Additional Assessment Policy for more information.
- d. Section 9 has been updated to refer to the Aegrotat Policy for more information.
- e. Glossary terms have been updated to ensure they are up to date and to make the terms simpler and easy to understand.

Policies Superseded by this Document

This policy replaces the older version 1.2 of the Module Results Determination Policy dated December 2023.

Document Information

Version number: 1.3

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