

Annex to the Regulations for Taught Courses 2026/27

Applies to undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled on Challenge-Based Curriculum (CBC) courses with 30-credit (or multiples thereof), effective from September 2025 onwards.

This annex is a standalone supplement to the main 20-credit Regulations for Taught Courses and should be read in conjunction with them. It retains all standard provisions from the primary document but specifically highlights those areas requiring adjustment to accommodate 30-credit delivery models. These regulations will apply from September 2025 to a selection of undergraduate and first-year postgraduate students enrolled on CBC courses.

For full details on the taught course regulations, please check the complete [Regulations for Taught Courses](#).

For any enquiries, please reach out initially to the Curriculum, Quality and Partnerships team: quality@southwales.ac.uk.

An1.1: General Regulations for Taught Courses - Recognition of Prior Learning

See more details in Section A1.6 of Regulations for Taught Courses

Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL)

An1.1.1 Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL) refers to the formal recognition of credit gained either internally through prior study at the University of South Wales or externally from an institution or body other than ourselves. RPCL can only be used for awards listed in the tables below and must be at the appropriate level. Marks are not allocated for credit transferred from another institution, but marks may be transferred for internal credit.

Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL)

An1.1.2 Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) refers to credit awarded by the University of South Wales in formal recognition of prior learning, such as that gained through workplace experience. RPEL can only be used for awards listed in the tables below and must be deemed to be at the appropriate level. Marks are not allocated for prior experiential learning. Portfolio submissions for RPEL may be internally moderated and sampled by

the External Examiner in the same way as other University of South Wales assessments.

University of South Wales Taught Credit

An1.1.3 University of South Wales taught credit is credit achieved from taught University of South Wales modules, including distance learning and work-based learning modules.

Exemptions and Credit Transfer

An1.1.4 Where you can demonstrate that your prior experience or formal study meets some of the learning outcomes set out for a programme of study, we may on this account exempt you from some components of that course.

An1.1.5 Exemption can vary up to a maximum of two-thirds of the course for the relevant award. Individual course regulations give the relevant detail for that course.

An1.1.6 Applications for such recognition of prior learning will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

An1.1.7 We may agree that another institution's provision – individual modules or combinations of modules – maps on to a course of the University.

An1.1.8 If we recognise your prior learning, and exempt you from some elements of the course, your award and any classification will be calculated using only marks from your study with us.

An1.1.9 Credit is transferable, but classification is not.

Application and Approval

An1.1.10 Applications for all RPCL and RPEL require a clear mapping of prior learning to module learning outcomes, approved by the Course Leader, prior to enrolment.

An1.1.11 If you are awarded credit transfer for a module which is listed as a pre-requisite for another module within a course specification, you will be recognised as having fulfilled the pre-requisite.

Classification and Grading

An1.1.12 The grading or classification of University of South Wales awards is based on marks achieved from University of South Wales taught credit only and

subject to any additional restrictions in the table below. RPL will not count towards award classifications.

Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs)

An1.1.13 In some instances, Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) may have additional requirements which must be met in order to achieve an accredited qualification.

Undergraduate Awards – RPL Credit Limits

Award	Level	Transferred or Experiential Credit (Maximum)	University of South Wales Taught Credit (Minimum)	Total Credits Required for Award	Additional Restrictions
CertHE	4	60	60 at L4	120	Not graded when used as an exit award
HNC	4	60	60 at L4	120	—
DipHE	5	120	120 with a minimum of 90 at L5	240	Not graded when used as an exit award
HND	5	120	120 with a minimum of 90 at L5	240	—
Foundation Degree	5	120	120 with a minimum of 90 at L5	240	—
ProfCE	5	60	60 at L5	120	—
Bachelor's Degree	6	240	60 at L6	300	Used as an exit award for Bachelor's degree with honours only; not graded
Bachelor's Degree with Honours	6	240	120 with a minimum of 90 at L6	360	If you have at least 60 Level 5 and 120 Level 6 University of South Wales credits obtained on the honours degree you will be classified according to the standard regulations; otherwise classification is based only on the 120 University of South Wales credits
BMus (RWCMD only)	6	300	180 at L6	480	If you have at least 90 Level 5 and 180 Level 6 University of South Wales credits obtained on the honours

					degree you will be classified according to the standard BMus regulations; otherwise classification is based only on the 180 University of South Wales credits
Graduate Diploma	6	60	60 at L6	120	—
Integrated Master's	7	240	240 with a minimum of 90 at L6 and 150 at L7	480	—

Postgraduate Awards – RPL Credit Limits

Award	Level	Transferred or Experiential Credit (Maximum)	University of South Wales Taught Credit (Minimum)	Total Credits Required for Award	Additional Restrictions
PGCert	7	n/a	60 at L7	60	—
PGDip	7	60	60 at L7	120	30 credits from Level 6 can be applied
Masters	7	120	60 at Level 7	180	30 credits from Level 6 can be applied
Taught Doctoral Awards	8	180	360	540	—

An1.2: General Regulations for Taught Courses - Compensation in cases of partial failure

- An1.2.1 We may, at our discretion, decide that your overall performance compensates for any partial failure, in accordance with the compensation regulations set out below. This decision will be taken by the relevant award and progression assessment board.
- An1.2.2 If you fail a core module (that is, a module which was approved at validation as being essential to pass in order to achieve the award) we will not compensate your failure in that module. You must retrieve any failure in a core module at the earliest opportunity.

- An1.2.3 Compensation is not permitted where a module has been subject to academic misconduct and a penalty under as outlined in item seven of the Academic Integrity Regulations. With exception to, permitted compensation at the point at which the re-submitted assessment(s), as a result of an academic misconduct penalty, is considered.
- An1.2.4 Compensation is normally limited as follows:
- a) 30 credits per level of an undergraduate course (HNC/HND/FD/Honours degree);
 - b) 30 credits during a postgraduate course (there is no compensation for a Master's degree dissertation).
- An1.2.5 Where a module has non-bonded elements of assessment, in order for compensation to be considered the Chair must be satisfied that allowing a student to be compensated does not compromise the course learning outcomes.
- An1.2.6 Where we decide to compensate your failure in a module or modules, we will record your module grade as PC (Pass by Compensation) but your module mark will not be changed.
- An1.2.7 Where we are considering compensating your failure in a module or modules, we will offer you the choice of accepting compensation or exercising any right to resit which you may have. We will explain to you the consequences of either choice. This is because in certain circumstances a compensated module could adversely affect your overall award outcome.

Compensation rules for full-time undergraduates

- An1.2.8 To compensate 30 F1 credits, you must normally have passed the remaining 90 credits at that level (see A1.27.2 of Regulations for Taught Courses).
- An1.2.9 At levels 3 and 4 only, to compensate 30 F2 credits graded 20% or more (in this case a significant weakness is below 20% if applicable), you must have passed the remaining 90 credits at that level and have achieved an average mark of 50% or more in these 90 credits (see A1.27.2 of Regulations for Taught Courses).

Compensation rules for part-time undergraduates

- An1.2.10 To compensate 30 F1 credits, you must have passed 30 credits within a level; no further compensation will be allowed within that level (see A1.27.2 of Regulations for Taught Courses).

An1.2.11 At levels 3 and 4 only, to compensate 30 F2 credits graded 20% or more (in this case a significant weakness is below 20% if applicable), you must have passed 30 credits at that level and have achieved an average mark of 50% or more in these 30 credits. No further compensation will be allowed within that level (see A1.27.2 of Regulations for Taught Courses).

Compensation rules for full-time postgraduates

An1.2.12 If you are studying for a Masters or a PGDip, to compensate 30 F1 credits, you must normally have passed 90 credits on the postgraduate course and at least 30 of these 90 credits must be at 50% or above (see A1.27.2 of Regulations for Taught Courses).

An1.2.13 If you are studying for a PGCert, to compensate 30 F1 credits, you must normally have passed 30 credits on the postgraduate course at 50% or above (see A1.27.2 of Regulations for Taught Courses).

Compensation rules for part-time postgraduates

An1.2.14 To compensate 30 F1 credits, you must normally have passed at least 30 credits on the postgraduate course at 50% or above; no further compensation will be allowed within that level (see A1.27.2 of Regulations for Taught Courses).

An1.2.15 In the case of postgraduate courses which contain some level 6 credits, 'level' in paragraph 168 above includes both the level 6 and 7 credits comprising the course.

An1.3: General Regulations for Taught Courses – Associate Student Scheme

An1.3.1 The Associate Student Scheme exists to encourage and allow students to study modules on a bitesize or standalone basis and also for existing students (both full and part time) to undertake modules in addition to those mandated by the requirements of their courses.

An1.3.2 Associate Students may take up to 30 credits at either undergraduate or postgraduate level during their time at USW.

An1.3.3 Credits gained under the Associate Student Scheme may subsequently be counted towards a University of South Wales award as Recognition of Prior

Certificated Learning if appropriate, current and consistent with the course and/or professional body requirements. Standard RPL limits would be applied and marks may be transferred.

- An1.3.4 Associate Students may enrol on modules leading to or contributing to a professional qualification.
- An1.3.5 If you are already studying on a course at the University, we will need to agree that you may also study as an Associate Student.
- An1.3.6 Associate students may not use the Scheme as a means of re-taking credits referred from another University course.

An1.4: General Regulations for Taught Courses – Module Selection for courses with CBC delivery

- An1.4.1 If you wish to change your module selection you must do so within two weeks of the normal course instance enrolment or re-enrolment date, unless there are exceptional circumstances which are agreed by us.

An1.5 Transitional Arrangements

- An1.5.1 All transitional arrangements resulting from curriculum restructuring are governed by the dual guiding principles of No Student Disadvantage and Academic Equivalence.
- An1.5.2 In accordance with guidance from the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), the USW's default position for major curriculum reform is a formal Teach-Out of existing, validated courses.
- An1.5.3 To maintain equity and institutional precedent, students who commenced their studies on a legacy curriculum must continue that. This aligns with standard institutional practice for the revalidation of academic provision, ensuring all students graduate under their original terms of enrolment.
- An1.5.4 This regulation applies to all undergraduate and postgraduate taught provisions undergoing phased closure or systemic restructuring. Courses must adhere to the approved Transitional Arrangements Guidelines.
 - In exceptional circumstances where a legacy module cannot be delivered during the Teach-Out phase (e.g., due to staffing constraints), the Quality Assurance Committee must approve an *Equivalence Mapping* demonstrating how the substitute provision satisfies An1.6.1 above.

An1.6 Modular Courses with Specialist Pathways

- An1.6.1 An approved course may offer one or more Specialist Pathways. A pathway is defined as a structurally distinct route through an overarching program of study leading to a specific named award denoted in brackets, formatted as: Base Degree (Specialist Pathway), for example, Master of Business Administration (Finance).
- An1.6.2 To maintain the core identity and integrity of the foundational base award (e.g., the overarching "MBA" identity), all pathways nested within a single course must share a Common Core of modules comprising at least 50% of the total credit value of the program. Final approval for the implementation of any pathway rests solely with the institutional validation panel during the formal validation process.
- An1.6.3 Students are required to formally select and declare their chosen specialist pathway at the point of admission and initial enrolment to the university
- An1.6.4 Requests to transfer between pathways after the commencement of specialist module delivery are subject to the approval of the Course Leader and are contingent upon:
- The student meeting any prerequisite requirements for the new pathway.
 - Sufficient capacity within the specialist modules of the destination pathway.
 - Compliance with any Tier 4 / Student Visa sponsorship requirements where applicable.
- An1.6.5 To be eligible for a specialist pathway title, a student must successfully complete a minimum of 60 credits of designated specialist modules as explicitly defined within the approved Course Specification. To safeguard the distinct identity of named awards and prevent excessive module sharing, the following credit thresholds apply:
- a) **Undergraduate (Levels 5 and 6):** Every Single Honours course must mandate a minimum of 60 credits at Level 5 and 60 credits at Level 6 in modules that are entirely unique to that specific course or pathway and *not* shared with any other provision.
 - b) **Postgraduate Taught (Level 7 and above):** Courses must offer at least one taught module and the dissertation/ capstone project unique to the specific pathway.
 - **The Capstone Requirement:** To qualify for a specialist pathway award, a student's Research Project or Dissertation (60 credits) must be conducted on a topic directly relevant to that specific specialism. If a student fails to align their dissertation with their designated pathway, they will be automatically transferred to the generic award

route (e.g., graduating with a *Master of Business Administration* rather than the specialized variant).

- An1.6.6 If a student successfully completes the credit requirements for the degree but fails the specific specialist modules required for the pathway, they shall be awarded the Generic Degree, provided the core learning outcomes have been met.
- An1.6.7 Intermediate exit awards (e.g., Postgraduate Diploma or Certificate) will not normally carry the specialist pathway title unless the student has completed a minimum of 30 specialist credits at that specific exit stage.

An2.1: Undergraduate Course Regulations - Major/minor, joint and combined subject choices

- An2.1.1 In addition to the single subject undergraduate courses, we may develop stand-alone courses leading to major, minor, and joint honours degrees.
- An2.1.2 The courses consist of the following:
- a) a major subject course comprises 90 credits at each of levels 5 and 6;
 - b) a minor subject course comprises 30 credits at each of levels 5 and 6;
 - c) a joint subject course comprises 60 credits at each of levels 5 and 6;
 - d) a combined subject course comprises three subjects. Levels 5 and 6 should each consist of 30 credits from each of the three subjects as a minimum. The remaining 60 credits can be chosen from two of the three subjects.

An2.2: Undergraduate Course Regulations - Progression and reassessment

- An2.2.1 You must normally accumulate 120 credits in order to progress from one undergraduate level to the next. The following tiered rules will apply according to a three-years undergraduate course design:
- a) Full 120 credits required at each level.
 - b) Progression permitted with 90 credits at Level 4, or 210 cumulative credits at Level 5 (carrying 30 failed credits).
 - c) Specifically for programs where students undertake Level 5 modules in Year 1, allowing progression with only 60 credits at Level 4.

The following tiered rules will apply to undergraduate courses with a foundation year:

- d) Rule 1a: Full 120 credits required at level 3 to progress to Level 4.
- e) Rule 2b: Requires full 120 credits at the end of Level 3 but allows progression with 210 credits at the end of Level 4 and 330 total credits at the end of Level 5 (including at least 90 credits at Level 5 or above).

The following tiered rules will apply to undergraduate courses with a sandwich year (including placement, study abroad, experiential learning, etc):

- f) Requires 120 credits at Level 4 or above by the end of Level 4; 240 cumulative credits (including 120 at Level 5 or above) before the sandwich year.
- g) Requires 90 credits at Level 4 or above by the end of Level 4; 210 cumulative credits (including 90 at Level 5 or above) before the sandwich year; and 240 cumulative credits (including 120 at Level 5 or above) by the end of the sandwich year.

An2.2.2 You may continue at the same level of your course providing you pass at least 50% of the credits taken in the academic session.

An2.2.3 Each integrated Master's course will define the particular level of achievement required for progression in the specific course.

An2.2.4 An Award and Progression Assessment Board has discretion to allow a student to be re-assessed or to progress to the next academic stage of their course. In making the decision, the Board should take note of the student's remaining registration period. If you fail to pass 120 credits at the relevant level of study, the board will decide whether and how you may continue your studies, in line with the following four choices:

- a) The award and progression assessment board may allow you to progress to the next level of the course and repeat the failed modules (up to a maximum of 30 credits) in addition to your normal programme of study.
- b) The award and progression assessment board may allow you to remain at the same level (repeat year) and either:
 - (i) repeat the failed modules and take additional modules. (Any higher level modules may only be taken if any pre-requisite modules have been completed satisfactorily); or
 - (ii) repeat the failed modules only.
- c) With the agreement of the award and progression assessment board, you may substitute another module in place of one failed, provided that the requirements of your courses are maintained. The award and progression assessment board will confirm appropriate substitute modules. Substitution is restricted as follows:
 - (i) 30 credits per level of an undergraduate course (HNC/HND/FD/Honours degree);
 - (ii) 30 credits per level of an integrated Master's course
- d) If the Award and Progression Assessment Board is satisfied that you have failed in such a way as to suggest there is no possibility of successful completion of the course, you will have failed the course and

we will discontinue your studies and end your registration as a student/apprentice. Readmission to the University will be considered in line with the University's admissions policy.

- An2.2.5 If you are allowed to re-enter the same course, you will be treated as a repeating student or apprentice, where permitted, and marks will be capped as appropriate, unless any exceptional circumstances presented upon readmission result in a first attempt. If you enter a new course in a new subject area, you will be treated as a new student or apprentice, where permitted.
- An2.2.6 If you are repeating study, you will be governed by current regulations and not those in force when you first attempted the module or year of study.
- An2.2.7 You may only take the number of credits required to achieve the award. You may not take additional credits in order to improve a classification.

An2.3: Undergraduate Course Regulations - Eligibility for awards

Edexcel awards

- An2.3.1 HNC and HND awards can only be conferred on you if you have no more than 30 credits respectively graded at PC over the total of your course and all course learning outcomes have been achieved.

Foundation degrees

- An2.3.2 To be eligible for the award of a foundation degree you must have achieved 240 credits, of which at least 90 must be at level 5 (Intermediate) or above and the remaining credits at level 4 or above. Of the 240 credits, 60 credits must be derived from level 5 work-based learning.

Classification of honours degrees

- An2.3.3 To classify your award, we will calculate an average mark using the following three methods:
- Method 1: Calculate the average of the marks from the 180 credits obtained from the best 60 credits at level 5 and the 120 credits at level 6.
 - Method 2: Calculate the average of the marks from the 120 level 6 credits.
 - Method 3: Calculate the average of the marks from the best 90 credits at level 6 for direct entry students.

**Note: Core modules cannot be excluded from the classification of an award.*

- An2.3.4 We will then classify your degree using the higher of the two averages calculated by the methods described above and award a classification based on the following table:

Mean %	Classification
At least 69.5% up to 100%	First Class Honours Degree
At least 59.5% and less than 69.5%	Upper Second Class Honours Degree
At least 49.5% and less than 59.5%	Lower Second Class Honours Degree
At least 39.5% and less than 49.5%	Third Class Honours Degree

- An2.3.5 If you have passed 360 credits with only 90 at level 6, we will calculate the average of all level 5 modules (whether 90, 120 or 150 credits) and count this as 30 credits at level 6. We will then use Method 2 in paragraph An2.3.3 above to calculate an average mark and award a classification accordingly.
- An2.3.6 If you have passed 360 credits with 150 at level 6, we will calculate the average over all 150 level 6 credits and this average will be weighted as 120 credits. We will then use Method 1 in paragraph An2.3.3 above to calculate an average mark and award a classification accordingly.
- An2.3.7 If you registered as a student at the final degree stage or entered the final degree stage by 'topping up' from an HND or Foundation degree awarded by the University of South Wales, we will classify your award using Method 3 in An2.3.6 above.

A7: University of South Wales – Awards Framework

The University recognises the following range of formal awards:

Full name	Abbreviation	Level	Credits required	Minimum credits required at highest level		Gown type
Undergraduate Awards						
				3	4	
Foundation ⁷ Certificate in Higher Education	FCertHE	3	120	120		1
University Certificate of Credit	-	3	5	5		n/a
University Foundation Certificate	-	3	30	30		n/a
Higher National Certificate	HNC	4	120		120	1
Certificate of Higher Education	CertHE	4	120	30	90	1

Full name	Abbreviation	Level	Credits required	Minimum credits required at highest level		Gown type
-----------	--------------	-------	------------------	---	--	-----------

Undergraduate Awards								
				3	4	5	6	
University Certificate	-	4	60		60			n/a
Diploma of Higher Education	DipHE	5	240	30	120	90		1
Higher National Diploma ⁸	HND	5	240		120	120		1
Foundation Degree in Arts ⁹	FdA	5	240	30	120	90		2
Foundation Degree in Science ¹⁰	FdSc	5	240	30	120	90		2
Professional Certificate in Education	ProfCE	5	120		30	90		1
University Higher Certificate	-	5	60			60		n/a
Advanced Certificate of Higher Education	ACertHE	6	120		30	60	30	
Bachelor of Arts (unclassified)	BA	6	300	30	90	120	60	2
Bachelor of Arts (with honours)	BA (Hons)	6	360	30	120	120	90	2
Bachelor of Arts (with honours) with qualified teacher status (QTS)	BA (Hons)QTS	6	360	30	120	120	90	2

Full name	Abbreviation	Level	Credits required	Minimum credits required at highest level				Gown type
Undergraduate Awards								
				3	4	5	6	
Bachelor of Business Administration	BBA (Hons)	6	360	30	120	120	90	2
Bachelor of Engineering (unclassified)	BEng	6	300	30	90	120	60	2
Bachelor of Engineering (with honours)	BEng (Hons)	6	360	30	120	120	90	2
Bachelor of Laws (unclassified)	LLB	6	300	30	90	120	60	2
Bachelor of Laws (with honours)	LLB (Hons)	6	360	30	120	120	90	2
Bachelor of Midwifery (with honours)	BM (Hons)	6	360	30	120	120	90	2
Bachelor of Music (unclassified)	BMus	6	300	30	90	120	60	2
Bachelor of Music (with honours)	BMus (Hons)	6	360	30	120	120	90	2

Bachelor of Nursing (with honours)	BN (Hons)	6	360	30	120	120	90	2
Bachelor of Science (unclassified)	BSc	6	300	30	90	120	60	2
Bachelor of Science (with honours)	BSc (Hons)	6	360	30	120	120	90	2
Bachelor of Science (with honours) with qualified teacher status (QTS)	BSc (Hons) QTS	6	360	30	120	120	90	2
Graduate Diploma	-	6	120			30	90	1

Full name	Abbreviation	Level	Credits required	Minimum credits required at highest level					Gown type
<i>Undergraduate Awards</i>									
				3	4	5	6	7	
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education	ProfGCE	6	120			30	90		1
University Advanced Certificate	-	6	60	30			30		n/a
Master in Science	MSci	7	480	30	90	120	120	120	3
Master of Biology	MBiol	7	480	30	90	120	120	120	3
Master of Chiropractic	MChiro	7	480	30	90	120	120	120	3
Master of Computing	MComp	7	480	30	90	120	120	120	3
Master of Engineering	MEng	7	480	30	90	120	120	120	3
Master of Geography	MGeog	7	480	30	90	120	120	120	3
Master of Law	MLaw	7	480	30	90	120	120	120	3
Master of Mathematics	MMath	7	480	30	90	120	120	120	3

Full name	Abbreviation	Level	Credits required	Minimum credits required at highest level		Gown type
Postgraduate Awards - Taught						
				6	7	
Executive Master of Business Administration	EMBA	7	180	30	150	4
Postgraduate Certificate	PGCert	7	60		60	3
Postgraduate Diploma	PGDip	7	120	30	90	3
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	PGCE	7	120	60	60	3
Master of Arts	MA	7	180	30	150	4
Master of Business Administration	MBA	7	180	30	150	4
Master of Laws	LLM	7	180	30	150	4

Master of Music	MMus	7	180	30	150	4
Master of Public Affairs	MPA	7	180	30	150	4
Master of Research	MRes	7	180	30	150	4
Master of Science	MSc	7	180	30	150	4
University Certificate of Achievement in Learning and Teaching	-	7			30	n/a

Full name	Abbreviation	Level	Credits required	Minimum credits required at highest level		Gown type
Postgraduate Awards - Research						
				7	8	
Master of Philosophy	MPhil	7	N/A	N/A		4
Masters by Research	MA / MSc	7	N/A	N/A		4
*Doctor of Business Administration	DBA	8	540	180	360	5
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD	8				5
*Doctor of Psychology	DPsych	8	540	120	420	5
Research Diploma	RDip	7				3

Document Control

Title: Annex to the Regulations for Taught Courses					
Version	Issue Date	Revision Description	Author	Approved By & Date	Next Review Date
1.0	Aug 2025	First Issue	Carly Rees/ Sarosh Azhar	Academic Board / Jul 2025	May 2027
1.1	Jun 2026	Addition of Sections An1.6 and An1.7	Sarosh Azhar		May 2027