

SECTION IV

REGULATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL HIGHER AND OTHER DEGREES

ATTENDANCE AND EXAMINATIONS

1 Graduate students undertaking a higher professional degree are, as appropriate, under the same obligations to attend for instruction as those graduate students on the taught programmes and/or those on research programmes. Examination regulations, as detailed under Section 2 and 3, apply as appropriate.

PART-TIME REGISTRATION

2 Part-time registration is permitted for certain professional higher degrees. Such registration may be permitted to suitably qualified graduates, who are engaged full-time in an occupation which is related to their proposed degree and which gives adequate opportunity for them to pursue their work, provided that they can attend the University for such periods as are necessary for adequate supervision or other activity. If a full-time option is available graduate students may not normally transfer to it from the part-time register.

EXTENSIONS AND OFF-BOOKS

3 Graduate students undertaking a professional higher degree must inform their Supervisor/ Programme Advisor/ Programme Co-ordinator/Director as soon as is practicable if they are incapacitated by illness and unable to undertake their agreed programme. If, following such consultation, the illness is deemed to be of such significant duration or severity to impede the graduate student's progress then medical certificates should be sought. The certificates must be sent to the Supervisor/Programme Co-ordinator/Director for immediate forwarding to the Dean of Graduate Studies. An extension of the period on the register may, potentially, be obtained by application to the [Dean of Graduate Studies](#) on the recommendation of the Supervisor/Programme Co-ordinator/Director endorsed by the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) in the student's School. Requests for extensions must be submitted before the period on the professional degrees register has expired. In cases where a request for an extension is not made before expiry of the normal time on the higher degree register, a replacement [fee](#) will be charged, in addition to the continuation fee, if an extension is granted.

4 In special circumstances (such as prolonged illness or absence from the country), a student may be allowed off the register ('off-books') for a six-month or one-year period. Application should be made to the Dean of Graduate Studies by the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) concerned and/or the Supervisor/Programme Advisor/Programme Co-ordinator. In exceptional circumstances this period may be extended for a second year with the agreement of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

5 During this "off-books" period, graduate students will not be required to pay fees. Consequently, they will not have a student card during this period and will not have access rights to the college library or other college facilities.

6 Graduate students who have been off the register ('off-books') for a period of time must make application to the Dean of Graduate Studies to be re-admitted to the college register ('on-books') if permission had been granted for medical reasons. This application must be supported by the [Director of Teaching and Learning](#) (Postgraduate) concerned and/or the Supervisor/Programme Co-ordinator/Director.

APPEALS

7 Appeals will be heard for students undertaking professional higher degrees under the criteria and following the procedures outlined in Section 1

PROFESSIONAL HIGHER DEGREES

8 Regulations pertaining to the following professional higher degrees are covered in this Calendar.

Bachelor in Divinity (B.D.)

Professional Doctorate in Dental Surgery (D.Ch.Dent.)

Doctorate in Education (D.Ed.)

Doctor in Clinical Psychology (D.Clin.Psych.)

Doctor in Counselling Psychology (D.Couns.Psych.)

Doctor in Medicine (M.D.)

Master in Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Master in Dental Science (M.Dent.Sc.)

Master in Education (M.Ed.)

Master in Engineering (M.A.I.)

Master in Fine Art (M.F.A.)

Master in Management (M.Sc. (Mgmt.))

Master in Social Work (M.S.W.)

Master in Surgery (M.Ch.)

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN ARTS (M.A.)

9 Bachelors of the University of at least three years' standing may be conferred with a Master in Arts (i.e. an M.A. (Dubl.)). This is a title of academic rank and not an examined academic qualification. In the University of Dublin, Masters-level programmes of study or research in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences lead to the award of an M.Litt. or M.Phil., not an M.A., there are many other Masters-level degrees in each Faculty; they are all set out in Part III of the Calendar – Graduate Studies and Higher Degrees. However, none is styled an M.A. In other words, the M.A. (Dubl.) is nominal and unexamined, and it is not an academic qualification in the sense that an M.Litt. or an M.Phil. is.

10 The M.A. (Dubl.) has the same functions and status as an M.A. (Oxon.) or an M.A. (Cantab.), and in none of these functions is it an academic qualification. In Oxford, in Cambridge and in Trinity, there were previously many privileges associated with M.A. status as opposed to B.A. status. For example, in medieval times, the M.A. constituted a license to teach in the university, and it was awarded to those graduates who had remained on for several years for this purpose. The most important remaining consequences are listed below:

I. It is a basis on which the recipient becomes a member of the Senate of the University. The Senate has a role in formal University decision-making, so membership allows graduates to have some influence on University business.

Since the degree can be obtained only after three years have passed since the conferral of the B.A., it indicates seniority on the part of the recipient.

II. It is an indicator of academic rank and precedence in academic institutions on formal occasions: it defines the academic regalia which the recipient wears on such occasions, and the role (if any) which the recipient can or must play.

III. As the B.A. is incorporated into the M.A., the formal effect of the M.A. is to supersede the B.A. Hence, a recipient should be styled Joe Bloggs, M.A. (Dubl.), rather than Joe Bloggs, B.A. (Mod.) (Dubl.). However, a recipient should not be styled Joe Bloggs, B.A. (Mod.) (Dubl.), M.A. (Dubl.).

On an historical note, the award of M.A. as an exclusively academic qualification seems always to have been the practice in universities in the USA; but, on this side of the Atlantic, the M.A. was first introduced as a formal academic qualification in the nineteenth century by the University of London. Universities founded thereafter followed the London nomenclature. This was the practice adopted when the various colleges which became the N.U.I. were founded in the mid-1800s. Hence, what are called M.Litt.s and M.Phil.'s in Trinity are called M.A.s in the N.U.I. (U.C.D., U.C.C., etc). This has become the standard practice, with the result that the Oxford/Cambridge/Trinity model is now less common, sometimes leading to erroneous assumptions about the nature of the M.A. (Dubl.).

Finally, the M.A. (Dubl.) may also be awarded in special cases, such as *honoris causa*, *jure officii*, and *ad eundem gradum*.

11 Candidates wishing to be conferred with M.A. (Dubl.) must give notice on the prescribed form which is available from the Student and Graduate Records Office. The form must be returned so as to reach that office not later than the specified closing date for a Commencements session. The fee for the M.A. is available from the [Academic Registry](#) (currently under review) and should be paid to the Academic Registry. The fee is waived in the case of eligible staff and graduates of fifty or more years' standing.

DEGREES AWARDED IN SPECIAL CASES

DEGREES HONORIS CAUSA

12 A meeting of the Senate for the consideration of names proposed for honorary degrees is held in Michaelmas term. Attention is called to this meeting a week before by a notice at the front gate of the College and by post to members of the Senate who have requested notification.

DEGREES JURE DIGNITATIS

13 Subject to such regulations as may from time to time be made by the [Board](#), with the approval of the Senate, the Board may, at its discretion, at any time submit to the Senate a grace for conferring a doctorate in divinity or laws, *jure dignitatis*, upon any graduate of the University who has been appointed to such public position as may seem to the Board sufficiently distinguished; provided always that every such grace must receive the approval of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Board present when it is proposed. After admission to the said degree *jure dignitatis*, the person admitted is eligible for membership of the Senate on fulfilling the prescribed conditions.