



## GENERAL AWARD REGULATIONS

The General Award Regulations should not be read in isolation. It is important that you read it in conjunction with the following documents.

- [Introduction to \*The Award Regulations\*](#)
- [The regulations governing your award](#)
- [The Student Regulations including the \*Code of Practice for Student Assessment\* and the \*Code of Practice for Student Discipline\*](#)

If you wish to print the regulations governing your relationship with The Open University, you are advised to print *all* these documents.

### GA 1 Registration

#### **GA 1.1 Registering as a student and for an award**

As well as registering as a student to study a particular course, you can also register for a particular award of The Open University. Most of the awards we offer are credit-based. We also offer certain unitary awards. The award regulations define the requirements that you must meet, as well as following the student regulations, to register for and become eligible for an award of the University.

### GA 2 Eligibility

#### **GA 2.1 Eligibility and registration**

To be eligible for an award, you must register for it. For some awards, you must register for the award before you start your study.

### GA 3 Awards

#### **GA 3.1 Availability**

You can count credit from Open University courses towards any currently available academic award, in line with student regulation OU3, general regulation GA 3.2 and the particular credit requirement rules for each award. If you are registered for an award that is no longer open for new registrations,

you may still complete your study for that award, depending on the completion rules for it and the continued availability of the award courses.

#### **GA 3.2 Counting credit towards an award**

Within one award, you cannot count credit from a course that forms an excluded combination with another course that you are also counting.

#### **GA 3.3 Date of award**

The date of your award will be the date we give you when you become eligible for the award.

##### **GA 3.3.1 Eligibility by completing OU courses**

The date of your award will depend on the date you meet the minimum credit requirement by successfully completing Open University courses.

##### **GA 3.3.2 Eligibility by awarding transferred credit**

If you become eligible for an award as a direct result of transferred credit, the date of your award will be the date the transferred credit was awarded.

**GA 3.3.3 Eligibility by completing a subordinate award**

If you become eligible for an award as a direct result of completing a subordinate award, the date of your award will be the date the subordinate award was awarded.

**GA 3.3.4 Accepting an award offer**

If your award depends on you accepting the award offer, the date of your award will depend on when you accept the offer. If you do not accept the offer when it is first made, we will remind you of your eligibility for the award from time to time. On each occasion, the date of the award will be the date offered in the reminder, not that of the first (or any later) offer.

**GA 4 Course credit and course certificate**

**GA 4.1 Applying regulations**

The award regulations apply to all awards except course credits and course certificates for which student regulations and course rules apply.

**GA 5 Exceptions**

**GA 5.1 Student categories**

The award regulations apply to all students of The Open University unless other regulations are in place for your particular category of student, in which case those regulations apply to you.

**GA 6 Credit transfer**

**GA 6.1 Approved schemes**

From time to time, the Senate may approve credit-transfer schemes for particular Open University awards, and you must read these general regulations with the specific award regulations.

**GA 6.2 Previous study**

Any award of transferred credit towards an award must be made in recognition of the successful completion, at another institution, of a formally assessed and certificated period of study at the higher-education level. The level and content of the study must be appropriate for the Open University award concerned. Exceptionally, approval may be given for awards of credit transfer to be made

towards particular awards in recognition of study that is not at the higher education level.

**GA 6.3 Applying transferred credit**

Any award of transferred credit for study successfully completed elsewhere must be made towards a particular Open University award.

**GA 6.4 Claiming transfer credit**

You must claim for credit transfer in the way set out by the Senate.

**GA 6.5 Fees**

You must pay the credit transfer fee (if this applies) when you claim for transferred credit. When you pay the fee, you will be entitled to have your transferred-credit claim considered. If you do not pay the fee, we will not consider your claim.

**GA 6.6 Forms of transferred credit**

Any award of transferred credit must be:

- a a course-related credit;
- b a full-rate transferred credit; or
- c a collaborative scheme credit.

Not all of these forms are approved for every Open University award.

**GA 6.7 Full-rate transferred credit and collaborative scheme credit**

If we award full-rate transferred credit or collaborative-scheme credit, the Senate has the authority to limit your choice of Open University courses that will be counted towards an award if there is a significant overlap in subject matter between the content of the studies for which you were awarded the full-rate transferred credit or the collaborative scheme credit and the content of any Open University courses.

**GA 6.8 Passing on Senate authority**

The Senate may give the Awards Committee the power to make decisions about individual awards of transferred credit and approve individual credit-transfer schemes.

**GA 6.9 More than one period of previous study**

You may provide evidence of two or more periods of study to support a claim for transferred credit. In line with the particular award regulations, the Awards Committee can decide whether or not to take account of more than one period of study when considering an

award of transferred credit. There must be no significant overlap in content between the periods of study. The total award of transferred credit (including any collaborative scheme credit) must not be more than the maximum given for the particular Open University award concerned.

**GA 6.10 Abandoning transferred credit**

If you receive an award of transferred credit towards a particular Open University award, you may abandon all or part of it before the award is granted and in line with any conditions that the Awards Committee might set.

**GA 6.11 Other conditions**

Unless the Senate decides otherwise, you must follow the conditions set out in GA 6.11.1 to GA 6.11.3.

**GA 6.11.1 Regulations in force**

If you claim for transferred credit, you will have to follow the general and award-specific credit-transfer regulations that are in force at the time of the claim.

**GA 6.11.2 Changes in policy**

If you ask us to reassess a previous award of transferred credit because of a change in policy affecting the award that you would receive for a particular course, and if you are eligible for an increased award as a result of reassessment, you will have to follow the credit-transfer regulations in force at the time that you ask for the reassessment.

**GA 6.11.3 Studies not included**

If you ask us to reassess a previous award of transferred credit because studies have not been included in the original claim, and if you are eligible for an increased award as a result of reassessment, you will have to follow the credit-transfer regulations in force at the time that you ask for the claim to be reassessed. (There is an exception to this. If your previous award was made under the regulations in force at January 2000, and a change in policy has reduced the award that you would receive for a particular course included in the previous claim, we will not make the reduction when we reassess your claim.)

**GA 7 Counting credit from completed taught masters degree towards a later taught masters degree**

**GA 7.1** If the credit requirements allow, you may ask us to count up to 120 credit points from Open University postgraduate-level courses that have been included in a completed taught masters degree (with their title and grade of pass awarded) towards another masters degree.

**GA 7.2** Courses that have been used in the classification process for a first taught masters degree cannot be used in the classification process of a later taught masters degree, but can count towards the points requirement of that later degree.