Kingston University London

ACADEMIC POLICY 6b:

Academic Flexibility
- Artistic and Cultural Activities

2014-2015

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ACADEMIC FLEXIBILITY POLICY – ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

BACKGROUND

ACADEMIC FLEXIBILITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AT A NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

1 Kingston University is committed to transforming and enhancing the lives of its students. This includes allowing its students to excel in academic and non-academic life as a member of Kingston University's community.

2 The University's Senior Management Group approved the University's first Arts and Culture Strategy in December 2011. The Strategy is closely linked to the University's aspiration to realise the creative potential and to fire the imagination of all its members. Specifically, in addition to its core activities in the fields of teaching, learning, research, and enterprise, the University is committed to:

i) Providing a rich cultural experience for its staff and students;
ii) Playing an important civic role by engaging with the local community in the area of cultural activities;
iii) Playing a national and international role through the development of high quality arts and cultural practitioners;
iv) Reflecting the diversity of the University's student population and of many neighbourhoods in the region.

3 Within this context, the University is committed to supporting students participating at the highest level of artistic and cultural activities by helping them to balance their studies with their artistic and cultural activities through the provision of appropriate support services. There is a seamless link between the University's cultural offerings to its own and regional communities and many of its teaching programmes both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and its culturally-oriented research priorities, implying that participation in these activities on the part of some students can involve participation both within the boundaries of the normal curriculum and beyond it.

SCOPE and DEFINITIONS

4 The University wishes to be fair to all its students and has adapted the following policy for academic flexibility for students participating in artistic and cultural activities at a national or international level.

5 For the purposes of this policy, the term "artistic and cultural activities" should be interpreted as including, but not necessarily being confined to, the fields of dance; art and design; drama; fashion; literature and writing; moving image; and music.

6 The term "Academic Flexibility" is defined as follows in relation to this policy:

6.1 Authorised absence from lectures, workshops or seminars (where possible);

6.2 Where possible, special consideration in relation to the organisation of study visits, placements or clinical practice sessions (e.g. to cover the need to attend auditions, rehearsals, presentations, performances etc commensurate with the above activities);

6.3 Flexible course work deadlines (where possible);

6.4 The ability to sit examinations at different times of the academic year (such as within existing University retake periods); and

6.5 The ability to sit examinations at appropriate times under the chaperonage of designated, responsible individuals the appropriateness of whom must be approved through the Examinations Office.

7 The University works to a general principle of keeping Wednesday afternoons free from lectures when reasonably practicable to enable students to participate in wider student activities, which can include taking part in artistic and cultural activities. Faculties will be expected to uphold this principle in relation to the provision of academic flexibility for those involved in such activities.

PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be followed:

8 Students should liaise directly with their course tutor at the earliest opportunity in relation to academic flexibility requests relating to the areas listed within paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 in order that the Examinations Office is notified as early as possible of any modified exam arrangement requirements.

9 Students requesting academic flexibility in relation to paragraphs 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 should submit a written request with evidence for consideration by the mitigating and exceptional circumstances panel for modified exam arrangements and/or extensions to coursework deadlines.

10 This may include being allowed to sit examinations away from the University whilst being invigilated by an approved person. Any chaperonage should be arranged by the School or governing body/organisation concerned and must be approved by the Examinations Office. Strict standards of rigour will be applied.

11 For confirmation that the student falls into the category of involvement at a national or international level, students must supply supporting evidence in writing from an appropriate senior representative of the organisation with whom s/he is collaborating in the artistic or cultural activity concerned when making requests for academic flexibility in relation to this policy.

Among the artistic and cultural institutions with whom the University is involved are currently the Arts Council (regional and national), the British Film Institute, the Design Council, the Design Museum, FusionARTS, the Geffrye Museum, Kingston Centre for Creative Industries, Kingston Museum, Kingston Readers' Festival, the International Youth Arts Festival, the Poetry Café, the Bush Theatre, the London Development Agency, the Museum of London, the Natural History Museum, RBK's cultural division, SEEDA, South London Partnership, NESTA, the Kingston Innovation Centre, the Historic Royal Palaces, the Troubadour, STEIM Amsterdam, the Paris Jazz Festival and the Rose Theatre, Kingston.