

Guidance GG(i)

Criteria for approval of variants and cycle of review

Category	Main consideration	Secondary questions and/or further consideration	Rationale
PSRB	Variant is approved when it is required by PSRB to award exemption for professional exams/recognition	Is the variant required for the programme to cohere with related a programme(s) that have an approved variant(s) because of PSRB requirements?	Depends on the specifics of the PSRB requirement
CP compatibility	Variant is approved when it is a compromise with a collaborative partner and their requirements.	Applies only to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validated closed courses • Joint degree • Dual degree 	Depends on the specifics of the partner requirements
Revised regulations	Variant is approved when revised regulations impact on specific cohorts.	What is the duration of the variant before the new regulations take full effect?	The variant is required to cover a programme where students are subject to an earlier regulation that has since been revised. Reasons for maintaining existing cohorts on older regulations should be argued
Module credit size	Variant is considered where a large module impacts on reassessment opportunity and/or the application of the classification algorithm	Is the module credit size greater than the maximum re-assessable credit? Is the module credit size of a pass/fail module such that it impacts on the credit available for classification?	Provide the academic reason for the large module and/or the academic reason for pass/fail
Cross programme compatibility (UG/PG)	Variant is considered where progression routes between related programmes require module pass marks to reflect entry criteria	Can all students be registered on one and transferred based on performance? Can students be counselled down as well as transferred up? (If yes to either question, consider these before applying for variant)	Explain how the programmes articulate and justify the variant against alternatives. (e.g. progression on one should reflect the same difficulty as transfer across)

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Cycle for Review

Annual

Variants will be reviewed annually and reported to the June ARC, which will approve the removal of lapsed variants.

Mid-March: AQS contact faculties with faculty list of variants
End of April: Faculties report back on variants; no longer valid or current.
May: AQS identify all lapsed variants
June: Report to ARC

Triennial

Every three years faculties will undertake a full review of the variants to check that they are required or can be removed from the list. The first review year will be academic year 2013/14.

Mid-March 2014: AQS contact faculties with faculty list of variants
End of April 2014: Faculties consider alongside programme specifications and report back on variants; no longer valid; current or required.
May 2014: AQS identify all lapsed variants
June 2014: Reported to ARC. ARC also consider any final requests for variants to apply in the next academic year