

## ***Aegrotat* Award of Certificate, Diploma or Degree**

### **The Registry**

**27 June 1996; edited August 2004; revised February 2011**

#### **1. Preamble**

1.1 The University recognises that, in certain unfortunate circumstance, students are prevented from completing the assessment schedule for a module (or modules) and that, in the case of students in the final stage of a programme, they may also be prevented from completing their degree.

1.2 The University is prepared to take compassionate view in such cases. If a student of the University is unable to complete the assessment schedule for a final-year module (or modules) in which he/she is enrolled, because of permanent disability or death but, in the opinion of the relevant Progression and Award Board, would have been able to satisfactorily complete this assessment schedule, an *aegrotat* award may be granted. The student's academic transcript will record that an *aegrotat* award has been made.

#### **2. Student Circumstances**

A candidate who sits no part of, or who fails to complete, written or practical element(s) of the prescribed diet of final examinations for a degree or other award of the University by virtue of a very serious illness or other grave extenuating circumstances or emergency, may be eligible for an *aegrotat* award provided:

2.1 that the character of the illness or other extenuating circumstances is of such a serious nature that the candidate would be unable to complete the prescribed diet of final academic examinations under the normal academic regulations which provide for retaking the outstanding examination(s) or element(s) at the next suitable sitting; and

2.2 that the medical or other relevant certifications acceptable to the University testify to the inability of the candidate to complete such examinations because of the nature and effects of the circumstances cited. The University may, where appropriate, seek medical opinion from its own medical advisors.

#### **3. Role of the Progression and Award Board**

3.1 Under certain circumstances, where the Progression and Award Board has reported to Academic Council that there was insufficient evidence to recommend a pass or higher in a module (or modules) and that the profile of modules is such that no intermediate award or degree can apparently be awarded, then the Progression and Award Board has the power to recommend an *aegrotat* award.

3.2 The Progression and Award Board's recommendations shall be based on work done by the student in the programmes and shall be made only if the Progression and Award Board is satisfied that the student would, in the absence of the impairment, have attained at least a pass or that grade or that class of honours.

3.3 In Such Cases, the Progression and Award Board may recommend:

3.3.1 the making of a classified *aegrotat* award if, in the opinion of the Progression and Award Board there is sufficient evidence to merit such an award; or

3.3.2 the making of an award at the minimum available grade (e.g. third-class honours in the case of a Level 8 programme; pass in the case of a Level 9 programme) if there is insufficient evidence to merit the making of an award at a higher classification but sufficient evidence to merit the award at the minimum available grade.

#### **4. Factors influencing Recommendations**

4.1 In making such a recommendation, the Progression and Award Board will be required to assess the performance of the candidate by:

4.1.1 consideration of all previous examination performances of the candidate; and/or

4.1.2 prescribing such further written or oral examinations and performance

levels as deemed appropriate in lieu of the final examination(s) or part(s) thereof of which the candidate was unable to take previously; and/or

4.1.3 whatever other alternative means considered appropriate to facilitate the determination of the making of an *aegrotat* award.

4.2 The implementation of the above provisions will be in very exceptional circumstances only and subject to the provision that all relevant material bearing on the candidate's position is notified to the Registry prior to the meeting of the Progression and Award Board.

### **5. Student Issues**

5.1 Before making its final decision, the Progression and Award Board must afford the student an opportunity to indicate, in writing, a willingness to accept the *aegrotat* award and thereby to waive the right to be reassessed for the award. The student should be made aware that a professional body may refuse admission (e.g. for eligibility to practice) on the basis of an *aegrotat* award. The final decision may then be taken by a subcommittee of the Progression and Awards Board such as a Programme Board Chairperson in consultation with an External Examiner under procedures agreed by the Board at its regular meeting.

5.2 A student who has been offered an *aegrotat* award shall have the right to choose either to accept such an award or to be assessed on another occasion as stipulated by the Progression and Award Board; the student's exercise of this option shall normally be irrevocable, with the result that the acceptance of an *aegrotat* award by a student shall render him/her ineligible to present himself/herself for any subsequent assessment for the same award.

5.3 If a student elects to be reassessed rather than accept the *aegrotat* award, then this choice is revocable until the student sits the formal assessments in the majority of the modules required for the award.

### **6 Role of Academic Council**

All recommendations in respect of *aegrotat* awards will be subject to review by the University Standards Committee and ultimate approval by Academic Council.

The revisions to the above policy were approved by the University Standards Committee at its meeting of 3 February 2011 and by Academic Council at its meeting of 9 February 2011.