

Significant Changes to your Contract with the University: September 2024

As outlined within the terms and conditions of entry to Queen's University Belfast which were issued to applicants after they were made an offer, the University committed to informing students directly of any significant changes to the regulations and policies that form part of their contract with the University.

The changes also apply to students continuing on their programmes of study.

Summary of Revisions to the University Calendar: General Regulations for 2024-25

The most significant changes to the University Calendar: General Regulations for 2024-25 are summarised in each section below.

Regulations for Students	
1.20 (iv)	Amendment to stipulate that maternity, paternity and shared parental leave is now excluded from the cumulative limit on periods of temporary withdrawal.
General Provisions Relating to Academic Appeals, Conduct, Academic Offences and Student Complaints	
3.3	Addition to stipulate that the University may report the allegation of a crime to the police, where necessary.
Student Complaints Regulations	
1.6	Amendment to the remit of the Student Complaints Regulations to remove the right for students to make allegations of staff bullying or harassment under these regulations. Complaints of this nature will now be dealt with under People and Culture's Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy.
Interim Measures Regulations	
3	Amendment to make provision for the academic award to be paused as an Interim Measure.
9	Amendment to afford a Risk Assessment Panel to impose precautionary and placement suspensions.
Conduct Regulations	
5	Removal of misconduct offences of 'Serious indecent misconduct' and 'Threats of physical misconduct'. These fall under the misconduct offences of 'Sexual misconduct, including attempted sexual misconduct' and 'Abusive, threatening,

	intimidating, bullying or harassing behaviour whether in person or via social media or online platform' respectively.
6 / 9.31 / 10.1	Amendment to introduce automatic review of screening panel decisions for allegations of misconduct and appeals against a finding.
8.1	<p>Clarification of the decisions that a Conduct Officer can make. Where a misconduct case should be referred to the Conduct Committee for decision, this is clearly outlined.</p> <p>Amendment to enable Conduct Officers to consider all conduct issues that normally result in financial penalties. The Conduct Committee will now only consider misconduct offences where the standard penalty is suspension or expulsion.</p> <p>Amendment to clarify that the option for the Conduct Officer to refer the matter to the Fitness to Practise Regulations in cases of Standard Misconduct is not a penalty.</p>
9.1	Amendment to automatically refer substantiated allegations of serious misconduct to the Conduct Committee for finding on offence and penalty.
10	Amendment to include a right of appeal for a Reporting Person where the Conduct Committee finds that a case of Serious Misconduct has not been committed.
<p>Fitness to Practise Regulations and Procedure</p> <p>These regulations only apply to students whose programme of study leads to a professional qualification/directly into a profession (for example, medicine, dentistry, nursing and midwifery, psychology, teaching, social work, pharmacy, professional legal training, health and leisure) for which there are academic, behavioural and health requirements which must be met to ensure suitability to practise. The programme specification will confirm whether a programme is subject to the Fitness to Practise Regulations.</p>	
3.2	Addition to clarify that legal representation will only be permitted at Fitness to Practise Panel and Fitness to Practise Appeal Panel meetings.
8	Introduction of an informal 'low-level' concern stage to the process.
10.2	<p>Amendment to extend the remit of the Fitness to Practise Panel to allow the following additional outcomes to be considered:</p> <p>a) Requirement to attend with Occupational Health and to fully adhere to any measures put in place by the</p>

	<p>School/University based on the findings of the Occupational Health report.</p> <p>b) Expulsion from the programme and offer the student the option to transfer to a non-professional programme of study.</p>
Procedures for Dealing with Academic Offences	
6.12.2 iv	<p>When considering appeal cases, the Academic Offences Committee remit has been amended to remove the option to refer the case for consideration under the Conduct or Fitness to Practise Regulations.</p>