

POSTHUMOUS AND AEGROTAT AWARDS POLICY: POSTGRADUATE

1. Should a postgraduate be prevented by illness, or other circumstances, from completing a final assessed component of the programme, the Final School Exam Board, having considered the relevant evidence (including medical certification) may make a recommendation to the University Exam Board that an Aegrotat award be made. The thesis component would be expected to have been completed.
2. Such exceptions are limited to postgraduates who are permanently unable to continue their studies and are registered for the second semester of taught provision that would complete a qualification, and have been assessed on at least part of the final semester's coursework. The board must be satisfied that the student's prior performance shows beyond reasonable doubt that they would have passed but for the illness, or other circumstances.
3. The Aegrotat award will not normally be considered for students with more than 12 US Credits/60 UK credits to complete, or for students who have not completed any assessed work for the taught courses in their final semester.
4. Posthumous awards are permitted for all programmes. The classification for such awards is based on past performance and is recommended to the University Exam Board for approval.
5. The Dean of the School in which the deceased student was registered should formally make a request that the relevant Examination Board recommend the award of a posthumous degree to the student in question.
6. The following details should be provided to the Examination Board:
 - a. The name of the deceased student
 - b. The year of registration of the student
 - c. The name of the degree programme on which the student was registered
 - d. The stage of the programme of study reached by the student at the time of death
 - e. The date of death
 - f. Any examination or assessment marks obtained by the student prior to death
 - g. The level and number of credits obtained by the student prior to death
 - h. Details of any outstanding academic requirements according to the University's degree regulations
7. The following guidelines apply to Examination Boards in their consideration of the award of a posthumous degree:
 - a. Boards can award an unclassified Masters degree in cases where there is strong evidence that the deceased student would have achieved a degree, as long as the amount of study the student carried out is greater than the amount normally associated with the Diploma of Higher Education/ Postgraduate Certificate.

- b. Boards can also consider the recommendation of a lower award than that for which the student was registered.

8. In cases where there are outstanding academic requirements, the following options are available to the Examination Board:
 - a. The outstanding requirements of the degree are waived.
 - b. Approval can be given by the Examination Board to take any further action necessary to complete the outstanding requirements and permit the award of the qualification (for example, typing up of draft assignments).
 - c. A lower award than that for which the deceased student was registered may be recommended, if this is the most appropriate option.
 - d. In cases where the deceased student owes fees to the University, the School may decide to disregard and clear the debt.

9. Posthumous degrees will be awarded in the name of the deceased student and may be announced at the next relevant graduation ceremony, if the next of kin so desires. The next of kin may choose to have the degree certificate presented to the student's next of kin as part of a private meeting by the Dean of School or alternatively sent by post as soon as possible.

