

April 2015

Implementation with the new academic year structure continues apace. Courses that will feature an exam in LT0 2016 have been finalised, with 36 courses to be examined during this new exam period.

Registry has carried out a review of relevant School regulations. A working group of academic office-holders is currently assessing the outcomes of that review, with a view to the VCAB approving the proposed regulatory changes on behalf of the Academic Board. Regulatory changes relating to the new academic year structure mainly concern the timing of resits and deferrals (i.e. that these must be sat in the next academic year during the equivalent examination period as the original failed or deferred attempt). They also require students to be in attendance at the School for the new LT0 period, if they have exams at that time.

Central professional services areas have been updating their operations to align with the new year structure. Residences has amended student contracts to reflect the new academic year structure, and has updated print and digital publications. IMT is leading the 'Professional Services Tasks Calendar' project, which will create a central calendar of all central professional services tasks that rely on IMT systems. This will assure the comprehensive alignment of the School's business systems with the timings of the new academic year.

Further work remains in establishing the course-level MT6 and LT6 plans across departments. Establishing these details is important for two main reasons: 1) incoming and continuing students require information about what their MT6 and LT6 will look like based on their combination of course options; and 2) Timetables cannot release rooms to other School users in WK6 until departmental use of teaching space during that week is known. I will be contacting departments about their MT6 and LT6 plans early in Summer Term 2015.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to colleagues across the School for engaging with this project so fully. Everyone has been very helpful in providing information, new perspectives and exciting ideas. I'm sure that the new year structure will create the space for our faculty to provide an even better learning experience for our students.

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