

UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS 2014/15

SECTION 1 PREAMBLE AND CONSTITUTION

(Minor corrections in 2012-13 to existing material in section 1)

Constitutional Powers to make awards

- 1.1 The University of Bedfordshire is incorporated as a Higher Education Corporation under the provision of the Education Reform Act 1988 as amended by subsequent legislation. The Higher Education Corporation's members are the University's Board of Governors.
- 1.2 The University of Bedfordshire has been granted degree-awarding powers by the Privy Council. The degree awarding powers have three principal aspects:
 - the power to establish academic awards (degrees, diplomas and certificates) and distinctions, and to determine the terms and conditions for granting and conferring such awards and distinctions;
 - the power to confer academic awards and distinctions on candidates who have pursued approved courses of study and who have passed such examinations or other assessments as required by the University;
 - the power to confer honorary awards on selected persons of distinction.
- 1.3 The University must ensure that the Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other academic awards and distinctions granted and conferred by it are comparable in standard with awards granted and conferred throughout the university sector in the United Kingdom; courses approved by the University must be of such an academic standard as to fulfil these requirements. Accordingly, the University subscribes to the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and pays due regard to the QAA's Quality Code for Higher Education in the management of the academic quality and the standards of its awards.
- 1.4 In accordance with its Instrument of Government, the University is required to observe all relevant national legislation and regulations. The University's current vision, mission and values statements are set out at www.beds.ac.uk/. It is in this context that the University makes its judgements about the creation and conferment of its awards. The University's Academic Board sets in place Regulations to govern its award-making, standard setting and award conferment processes. These Regulations are subject to regular view by the Academic Board. Any changes will normally come into effect at the start of the subsequent academic year.
- 1.5 The Regulations are supported by detailed codes of practice, procedures and arrangements described in the Quality Handbook which is approved through Academic Board. Through taught course approval, course documents clarify full details of the learning and assessment structures of the course. Students are referred to the appropriate course handbook or other course materials for fuller guidance and detail on the learning and assessment structures of their course or programme of study. Through the Research Degrees Committee in consultation with the University Research Committee are clarified the full details of the learning and assessment arrangements for research students. Appendix 1 to the Regulations provides a glossary and definitions of terms used in the University's regulations and handbooks.
- 1.6 All queries relating to the Regulations should be directed to the Registrar, through the relevant Faculty Registry or the Research Office.