

Guidance GG (i)

Considerations for approval of variants and cycle of review

Category	Main consideration	Secondary questions and/or further consideration	Rationale
PSRB	Variant is approved when it is required by PSRB to award exemption for professional exams and/or recognition	Is the variant required for the programme to cohere with related programme(s) that have an approved variant(s) because of PSRB requirements?	Depends on the specifics of the PSRB requirement
Collaborative Provision compatibility	Variant is approved when it is a compromise with a collaborative partner and their requirements.	Applies only to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validated courses • Joint degree • Dual degree 	Depends on the specifics of the partner requirements

<p>Revised regulations</p>	<p>Variant is approved when revised regulations impact on specific cohorts.</p>	<p>What is the duration of the variant before the new regulations take full effect?</p>	<p>Explain that the variant is required to cover a programme where students are subject to an earlier regulation that has since been revised. Reasons for maintaining existing cohorts on older regulations should be argued.</p>
<p>Module credit size</p>	<p>Variant is considered where a large module impacts on reassessment opportunity and/or the application of the classification algorithm</p>	<p>Is the module credit size greater than the maximum re-assessable credit?</p> <p>Is the module credit size of a pass/fail module such that it impacts on the credit available for classification?</p>	<p>Provide the academic reason for the large module and/or the academic reason for pass/fail</p>

Cycle for Review

Annual

Variants will be reviewed annually and reported to the June Regulatory Framework Committee (RFC), which will approve the removal of lapsed variants.

Mid-March: RASC contact faculties with faculty list of variants

End of April: Faculties report back on variants; no longer valid or current.

May: RASC identify all lapsed variants

June: Report to RFC

Triennial

Every three years, faculties will undertake a full review of the variants to check that they are required or can be removed from the list.

Mid-March: RASC contact faculties with faculty list of variants

End of April: Faculties consider alongside Programme Specifications and report back on variants; no longer valid; current or required.

May: RASC identify all lapsed variants

June: Reported to RFC. RFC also consider any final requests for variants to apply in the next academic year