

Triagon Academy

Programme Termination Policy

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1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Policy governs the termination of an accredited programme of study at Triagon Academy. It applies to all programmes at MQF/EQF Levels 6 to 8, including provision delivered by a franchise partner under Triagon's awarding authority, and is read together with the Constitution, the Programme Initiation, Design, Implementation and Review process, the Assessment Regulations and the study contract.

The governing principle

A decision to terminate a programme is an institutional decision whose consequences fall on students who contracted in good faith. Triagon shall not terminate a programme in a manner that deprives an enrolled student of a reasonable opportunity to complete the qualification for which they enrolled.

Three decisions are distinguished. **Non-launch** withdraws an accredited programme that has never admitted students, and affects no one. **Suspension of intake** closes a programme to new entrants while delivery continues for those enrolled. **Termination** ends the programme once enrolled students have completed or transferred. Suspension of intake shall normally precede termination, and a programme shall not be terminated while students remain enrolled except under Section 5.4.

2 GROUNDS

A programme may be terminated only on one or more of the grounds below, which shall be recorded in the decision. Financial advantage unconnected to viability is not a ground, nor is administrative convenience.

Table 1: Grounds for termination

Ground	Substance
Academic	Periodic review establishes that the programme no longer achieves its intended learning outcomes or cannot be delivered to the required standard
Regulatory	Accreditation is withdrawn, lapses or is not renewed, or a change in law or in MFHEA requirements makes continued delivery unlawful or untenable
Viability	Sustained intake below the level at which the programme can be delivered at the required standard
Capacity	Loss of academic, supervisory, technical or learning-resource capacity that cannot reasonably be replaced

Ground	Substance
Strategic	The programme no longer corresponds to the institutional mission, the academic strategy or the approved portfolio
Partnership	Termination or lapse of a franchise agreement where the provision cannot be brought within direct delivery
Force majeure	Circumstances beyond Triagon's reasonable control that prevent continued delivery

3 DECISION AND AUTHORITY

The Senate approves academic programmes and is the authority that terminates them. The Executive Dean prepares the case, stating the ground, the evidence, the students affected and a draft teach-out plan. The Internal Quality Assurance Board reviews the proposal and the plan before submission. The Senate decides on suspension of intake and, where applicable, on termination. The Director of Administration determines and effects any regulatory action; the Executive Dean implements and monitors the teach-out plan; the President informs the Board of Trustees where the decision is material to strategy or finances.

No programme shall be closed to new entrants, and no public statement of closure shall be made, before the Senate has decided and the teach-out plan has been approved.

4 REGULATORY AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

- The Internal Quality Assurance Board determines whether the change requires notification, approval, reaccreditation or other regulatory action by MFHEA. Where such action is required, the change shall not be implemented until the internal process is complete and the applicable requirements are fulfilled.
- The study contract is a contract. Termination shall be effected in accordance with its terms and with applicable Maltese law, including consumer-protection requirements.
- Triagon shall retain, after termination, the capacity to issue certificates, transcripts of records and confirmations of study, and to answer recognition enquiries. Student academic records shall be retained under the applicable retention arrangements, and data-protection obligations continue.
- Public information shall be corrected promptly. A programme closed to new entrants shall not continue to be marketed, and the public catalogue shall be updated.
- Where a professional warrant, licence or external recognition is affected, this shall be stated explicitly to affected and to prospective students.

5 PROTECTION OF ENROLLED STUDENTS

Right to complete

A student enrolled at the date on which intake is suspended is entitled to complete that programme and to receive the award for which they enrolled, on the terms in force at enrolment, subject only to meeting the academic requirements.

5.1 Every decision to suspend intake shall be accompanied by a teach-out plan, approved with the decision, stating the date of closure to new entrants; the students enrolled and their stage of study; the modules, supervision, assessment, resit and retake opportunities that will continue, and for how

long; the staff assigned and the arrangements should an individual become unavailable; the named contact point; and the alternatives offered. The teach-out period shall extend to the normal duration remaining for the latest cohort, with a reasonable allowance for interruption, resit, retake and approved extension. It shall not be set by administrative convenience.

5.2 Affected students shall be informed in writing as soon as the decision is taken and before any public announcement, stating the ground, what it means for them individually, the teach-out arrangements, the alternatives, the contact point, and the right to complain under the Complaints and Arbitration Policy and Procedure.

5.3 Each affected student shall be offered, so far as applicable: continuation to completion under the teach-out plan; transfer to another Triagon programme with recognition of credit already earned and without financial detriment arising from the transfer; an individual study plan where the standard structure cannot accommodate their circumstances; or support in transferring to another institution, including a transcript of records, module descriptors, confirmation of credit and learning outcomes, and such assistance with recognition as Triagon can reasonably give.

5.4 Where a programme cannot lawfully continue, Triagon shall take all reasonable steps to secure an alternative route to a comparable qualification, within Triagon or with another provider. Where no alternative is available and the student cannot complete, the student shall be refunded the tuition fees paid in respect of study that cannot be credited or completed, and Triagon shall consider any further compensation due under the study contract and applicable law. No student shall be disadvantaged in progression, assessment or academic standing by reason of the termination.

6 DISSERTATION, THESIS AND DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

These candidates depend on an individual supervisory relationship over an extended period. Supervision shall continue to completion; where a supervisor becomes unavailable a suitably qualified replacement shall be appointed, and no candidate shall be required to change topic by reason of the termination. Examination arrangements, including the Doctoral Examination Committee and viva voce arrangements, shall remain available throughout the teach-out period, and ethical clearance granted by the Research Project Ethics Board remains valid on its own terms. The teach-out period for doctoral candidates shall be set individually rather than by cohort.

7 FRANCHISED PROVISION

Where the programme is delivered by a franchise partner, Triagon remains the awarding institution and retains responsibility for academic standards. Sections 5 and 6 apply to students of the partner as they apply to Triagon's own students, and the teach-out plan shall state how those obligations will be met and by whom. Termination of a franchise agreement does not by itself terminate the programme and shall not leave students of the partner without a route to completion.

8 MONITORING, RECORDS AND REVIEW

Implementation of each teach-out plan shall be monitored until the last affected student has completed, transferred or withdrawn, reported to the Internal Quality Assurance Board each reporting cycle and to the Senate annually, with material slippage escalated. The record shall comprise the ground relied upon, the evidence, the academic scrutiny, the Senate decision, the regulatory determination and action taken, the teach-out plan, the communications issued, and the final confirmation that all affected students were accounted for.

This Policy is approved by the Senate and shall be reviewed at least every three years, or earlier on a change in law, in MFHEA requirements, or in Triagon's governance or portfolio.