



NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN ACADEMIC POLICY

Dear Student

Please be sure that you read and understand the implications of this change in policy on your studies.

CURRENT POLICY

Currently, MBS permits students who fail a module overall but who achieve at least 50% in the formative assessment to repeat only the examination. Students are thus allowed to "carry" the assignment mark of 50% or more for the duration of the qualification. **This policy will change with effect 1 January 2011.**

NEW POLICY

From 1 January 2011 students who fail a module (i.e. who achieve less than 50% overall, or 50% but do not achieve the examination subminimum of 40%) will **repeat the module in full**. In other words, students will be required to reregister for the module and to redo all the assessments for that module (i.e. both the assignment and the examination).

There are two reasons for this change:

First, formative assessments (assignments) prepare the student for the final, summative assessment (examination). Given the nature of our programmes, the study guides are updated at least annually. Students complete the formative assessment in order to prepare for the summative assessment. 'De-linking' the formative from the summative assessment is no longer considered fair assessment practice.

Secondly, experience has shown that students who fail a module for whatever reason benefit from repeating the assessment requirements in full. Feedback from the examiner / marker on the formative assessment enables more thorough and practical preparation for the summative assessment. We trust that this change will result in higher student success rates.

NOTE

Please note that if you are currently still carrying an assignment (more than 50%) for a particular module, the second semester in 2010 will be the final opportunity to write and pass the examination *without* completing a new assignment. From 2011 all

students who fail a module will be required to re-register for the module, and to hand in a new assignment/s and write and pass the examination/s.

Should you have any queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

5 May 2010