Tripos and LLM Examinations – Guidance on Seeking Review of Examination Results

In a previous meeting the Chairs agreed that, in view of the rising numbers of appeals against examination results, it would be helpful to a brief section to the Exams FAQ pages clarifying the expectations that students could reasonably hold. The following paragraph draws upon the Faculty’s ‘Guidance on Examination Data Access and the Examination Review Procedure’, which is already linked to the FAQ page, as well as the University’s Ordinances (2016 edn).

“If you wish to request a review of your examination performance, please note that you will be expected to give reasons why you believe the result to be wrong.

In line with the University’s Ordinances, your reasons must fall within one or more of the following grounds:

(a) that there existed material circumstances relating to the conduct of the examination (excluding circumstances relating to the candidate’s course of study) of which the Examiners were unaware;

(b) that procedural irregularities occurred in the conduct of the examination, which were of such a nature as to cause reasonable doubt as to whether the Examiners would have reached the same conclusion had the irregularities not occurred;

(c) that there is demonstrable evidence of prejudice, bias, or inadequate assessment in the examination process;

For avoidance of doubt, the following will not qualify as sufficient reasons:

- That your result is on the borderline between classes.
- That you performed better through the year
- Personal matters that the examiner would have been obliged to disregard, even if aware of them: for example, that you were feeling ill on the day of the exam, or that you misread one of the questions. Examination papers are marked objectively and on the sole basis of what appears in the script.

Note that if indeed your performance was adversely affected due to illness during the exam, or other comparable problems, then you may have recourse to a different procedure, set out in Ordinances (2016 edition) pp. 229-231 (http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/2016/chapter03-section2.html). If you think you may be eligible to use this procedure you should seek further advice in College.

For more information see the Faculty’s guidance on examination data access and the examination review procedure.”

Updated June 2017