

Academic Board Sub Group (Covid 19)

Introduction

The University put in place a suite of temporary regulations at the start of the summer term 2019/20 to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. It was agreed that the temporary regulations would be reviewed before the start of the next academic year to consider if there is a need to extend the use of the regulations for the 2020/21 academic year. The following decisions were made by the Academic Board Subgroup (Covid-19)

Temporary no detriment suite of regulations

1. Academic Board Subgroup has **approved** the implementation of a **pass/fail grade regulation for all level 4 (UG year 1) units** delivered and assessed in the 2020/21 academic year¹. Students would still be required to demonstrate they have met the learning outcomes by achieving a pass and would receive full feedback on their assessments but not a grade judgement on their performance.
2. **The late Submission regulation** was simplified. There is now one 24 hour late submission window. The penalty has been reduced to a single increment (B+ to B). The one-hour late deadline has been suspended. This has been **approved** to continue in the 2020/21 academic year.
3. The penalty for **resubmission after failure at the first attempt** was removed. Students who fail at the first attempt will be reassessed without penalty. This has been **approved** to continue in the 2020/21 academic year.
 - a. The penalty would remain in place where a student has committed academic misconduct.
4. It has been **approved** for the 2020/21 academic year that **Extenuating Circumstances will be accepted without the requirement to support claims with evidence. In addition issues in relation to IT/equipment issues will be maintained as a valid reason for an extenuating circumstances claim.** In considering the range of regulations that have been adapted and implemented to support students during this coming academic year, **Academic Board Subgroup has agreed that the Extenuating Circumstances Policy should no longer provide an additional increment following a valid claim.** It was felt that additional time and a resubmission without penalty was sufficient. It was also noted that the change would align the University with sector practice.
5. Data modelling through a bespoke dashboard informed **Exam Boards** in the role of overseeing the fair operation of assessment. This has been **approved** to continue in the 2020/21 academic year.

¹ The standalone Certificate in Higher Education courses are exempt from the pass/fail regulation.

6. **The No Detriment Grade** was brought in as a safety net to support students during the Covid-19 pandemic and to address any potential issues that could be caused in the rapid move to wholly online delivery and assessment. With the more measured introduction of the blended learning delivery **it was agreed that, at present, the no detriment grade regulation would not be continued in the 2020/21 academic year** with the exception of PG courses where work done last term counts towards a final assessment.
7. The Academic Board Subgroup agreed that the **incomplete unit regulation** would not be continued in the 2020/21 academic year.
8. Pre-boards have taken place in some areas of the University for a number of years but this year they were introduced across all examination boards, in order that any anomalies or specific issues relating to results and the new moderation dashboard could be discussed prior to the main board. **It was agreed pre-boards would continue in the 2020/21 academic year.**

25 September 2020