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| **Quality and Enhancement Office**  **Assessment and Progression Update June 2021** | University works with Salford City Council on anti-poverty plan ... |

The Assessment and Progression Group established at the start of the pandemic has continued to meet on a regular basis to consider changes to approaches to assessment and progression in order to make all reasonable efforts to enable our students to progress or complete their studies.

The group comprises:

* Dean of Students
* Representatives of the University of Salford Students’ Union
* Associate Deans Academic (Quality and Enhancement) from each school
* Representatives from the Quality and Enhancement Office

The University’s response to Covid-19 is following the guidance published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the requirements of the Office for Students (OfS) by making “all reasonable efforts to enable students to complete their studies”.

This update presents the changes agreed by the group for 2020/21(and where needed, agreement has been sought through Senate and associated committees):

* Concurrent study
* No Detriment policy
* Personal Mitigating Circumstances (PMC)
* Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes: Regulations for Exceptional Circumstances

**1 Concurrent study**

Concurrent study is only permitted where specific criteria are met, such as an accepted PMC or outstanding appeal decision, or it has been approved as part of the programme structure (e.g. accelerated degrees).

Last year, changes were made to enable students in particular circumstances to progress to the next level of study carrying up to 60 credits from the previous level. This year, the University is reverting to standard concurrent study rules which permit carrying forward a maximum of 20 credits from a previous level if a PMC has been accepted for non-submission of, or absence from, an affected assessment. There are some exceptions to this for programmes where there are practical assessments which a student could not complete for recognised reasons.

**2 No Detriment**

A ‘no detriment’ approach to protect students affected by Covid-19 has been introduced, which is underpinned by principles to ensure equity for determining marks used for progression and award of qualification.

**Extracts outlining ‘No Detriment’ approach from FAQs posted on Student Hub:**

To recognise the potential impact on assessment outcomes of the November 2020 lockdown and enforced changes to teaching and delivery methods in December 2020 and the lockdown that commenced 00:01 on 5 January 2021 due to government requirements, a No Detriment Policy has been adopted so that degree outcomes are not negatively impacted. You can find more information on the No Detriment Policy below. Please contact your school with any queries.

#### **Level 7 - Postgraduate Students (Masters Programmes)**

Provided that you pass all modules on your Masters programme, your programme mark used to determine degree classification will be calculated using a mark no lower than the weighted average attained for your best 120 credits.

Some students may have other safety net provision which applies from last academic year and which allows classification to be based on marks from fewer credits, in such cases the best classification outcome will be used.

#### **Level 7 - Postgraduate Students (PG Dip Programmes)**

Provided that you pass all modules on your PG Dip programme, your programme mark used to determine degree classification will be calculated using a mark no lower than the weighted average attained for your best 90 credits.

Some students may have other safety net provision which applies from last academic year and which allows classification to be based on marks from fewer credits, in such cases the best classification outcome will be used.

#### **Integrated Masters Students (Currently at Level 7)**

Provided that you pass all modules, the programme mark used to determine degree classification will use the best of:

* [15% x best 100 credits at Level 5] and [35% x best 100 credits at Level 6] and [50% x 120 credits at Level 7] OR
* [15% x best credits at Level 5] and [35% x Safety Net Level average at Level 6] and [50% x 120 credits at Level 7] OR
* [30% x weighted average of best 100 credits at Level 5] and [70% x weighted average of best 100 credits at Level 6] OR
* All 120 credits at Level 7

**Level 6 - Final year Undergraduate Students**

Provided that you pass all modules, the programme mark used to determine degree classification will use the best of:

* 25% x best 100 credits at level 5 and 75% x best 100 credits at level 6 OR
* 25% x safety net level average level 5 and 75% x best 100 Credits at level 6 OR
* Weighted average of best 100 credits at level 5 OR
* Weighted average of best 100 credits at level 6

**Level 5 students**

We have provisions in place for Level 5 students. You are protected from this year's marks acting as an anchor to your classification, as your classification will be based on whichever of the two options below gives you the best result:

* The normal weighted aggregate of Levels 5 and 6 OR
* The weighted average of the best 100 credits at Level 6

**Level 3-4 students (leading to an Honours degree programme)**

There is no meaningful provision required for students at Level 3 or Level 4 as marks do not count towards degree classification.

Assessment Boards will receive data which reflects this approach.

**3 Personal Mitigating Circumstances (PMC)**

The University has continued with the approach to PMC requests introduced at the start of the pandemic which means that:

* Students can self-certify for all mitigating circumstances, including illness and other health issues, self-isolation due to Coronavirus, caring responsibilities and IT issues.  During this period, no evidence is needed.
* Students can submit self-certified PMC requests for non-submission, absence or late submission for any number of assessments, but they can only submit one request for each assessment attempt.
* Students must clearly explain what their personal mitigating circumstances are and the length of time they have been affected.

Details are at:

<https://testlivesalfordac.sharepoint.com/sites/Uos_Students/SitePages/Coronavirus-COVID-10-–-Frequently-Asked-Questions-(FAQs).aspx#placement%2c-exams-and-assessment>

**4. Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes: Regulations for Exceptional Circumstances**

Last academic year the Vice Chancellor determined that there was a need to invoke the Regulations for Exceptional Circumstances to:

* modify previously approved arrangements for the marking and moderation of assessments
* provide a framework for Programme Assessment Boards to confirm progression of students between levels/stages and the award of qualifications for students who, having undertaken all available assessments and, through no fault of their own, do not have a full profile of ratified marks available for presentation to the Programme Assessment Boards.

Discussion has concluded that the Exceptional Regulations are not required for this academic year.