



Effective from 14/12/2020

Exceptional Circumstances (Covid-19): student progression and award

The original emergency regulations (19/20) were drafted in April 2020 and reported to Academic Board in June 20. These regulations have been reviewed in light of the likely extended effects of the pandemic on the full 20/21 academic year. As with the 19/20 version, the amended regulations below were developed with two principles in mind: providing an appropriate level of support for our students whilst maintaining the quality and standards of our awards. Our aim is to protect the student interest through flexibility whilst maintaining the academic integrity and standards of our awards.

On the 14th of December HE Academic approved the below amendments to our HE Academic Regulations for the full 2020-21 academic year.

Student progression and award

These apply to students on NCG awards only. Validating partner universities may have different arrangements. These new regulations will maintain the principles of the standard regulations and wherever possible, the standard Assessment Regulations will take precedence. All arrangements will observe the principle(s) to the advantage of any student and in the student's best interest.

1. Recovery from failure

- Level 4 students cannot progress to L5 without mitigation.
- Level 5 students on 3-year degrees cannot progress to L6 without mitigation.
- Students progressing to the next year of the programme will be able to trail modules in the following academic year where mitigation has been granted
- All students:
 - Students are normally given only one opportunity for a resit and this is capped at 40% (or the passmark). Under these extraordinary times module 2nd sits will not be capped and students will have the opportunity to be awarded the full range of marks where mitigation has been submitted and granted.
 - Students submitting 2nd attempts without mitigation will be capped at 40% (or the passmark).
 - There will be no third attempt at a module.

2. Classification

Under the normal regulations a student whose stage average is within 2% of a classification boundary and who has 60 credits or more in the upper band will be awarded the higher classification on profile.

Under these regulations, students within 3% of a classification boundary will have their profile examined and whichever of these two decisions is to the best advantage of the student will be applied:

- If they have 60 credits or more in the upper band they will be awarded the higher classification.
- The stage average will be calculated on the average of either semester's marks, whichever is the higher.

Students who are unable for valid reason to submit in all modules will be considered under our standard HE Academic Regulations Section C c13.20:

- C13.20 Aegrotat Awards
 - C13.20.1 Where final student performance is incomplete because of valid extenuating circumstances the Board of Examiners may recommend an Aegrotat award.
 - C13.20.2 An Aegrotat award of the target or intermediate award is conferred where the Examiner is satisfied that, but for the extenuating circumstances, the student would have reached the standard required.
 - C13.20.3 Before a recommendation of an Aegrotat award is made, the student must have signified a willingness to accept the award and have signified an understanding that the acceptance of this award waives the right to reassessment.
 - C13.20.4 Aegrotat awards are not classified.
 - C13.20.5 A student who has been offered an Aegrotat award, but who chooses instead to be re-assessed, may not claim the Aegrotat award in the event of failure.

The following apply to all NCG HE students

3. Mitigation

- We will relax our usual requirements for evidence to support applications for mitigation given the difficulties in the current circumstances and the additional stress that this will cause students.
- Extenuating circumstances which may have affected the performance of a cohort of students will be presented to the relevant Examination Committee (or Board of Examiners carrying out the functions of an Examination Committee).

- In our standard HE Academic Regulations Part C c15.6.3 a board of examiners has the power to raise cohort marks where the circumstances are deemed to warrant this, the marks of the entire cohort may be adjusted upwards.
- For individual extenuating circumstances Part C c15.8.3 a Board of Examiners may at its discretion:
 - permit the student to be assessed in a form agreed by the Board
 - deem the student to have passed the assessment
 - award a mark raise a mark or permit re-assessment to raise a mark
 - offer the relevant award if it is the final stage.

4. Period of Registration

It may be necessary for the Board of Examiner to agree an exceptional extension to the maximum period of registration in some instances and this will be recorded in the minutes.

5. PSRB requirements

Where there are PSRB (Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body) requirements for an award and these are not met we will take advice from the PSRB and look at alternative ways to meet these requirements where applicable.