

UEA COVID-19: Arrangements for Summative Assessment at UEA Partner Institutions for Academic Year 20/21-January 2021 Update

In response to the further COVID-19 related measures announced by the UK government on the 6th of January 2021, this update provides details of the measure UEA and University Centre South Essex will be taking to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on your studies.

Safety Net to Support Degree Classification for All Undergraduate Students where 2020/2021 is a Counting Year

For This Year's Bachelors Finalists

Last academic year, we offered the assurance to students that, as it was a counting year of study, we would 'safety net' performance in students' second year and their classification on graduation. We said that where a student performed to a higher standard in their final year (2020/2021) and achieved a higher average year mark then this would be used in place of the previous year average (2019/2020) in calculating their degree classification.

In addition to this and in recognition of the ongoing impact COVID-19 may have had on this year's academic performance we will extend the use of the safety net to cover the year average mark achieved in this final academic year 2020/2021.

So long as students qualify to graduate (have passed all core modules, achieved the necessary credit at the required academic levels and a passing mark for this year) **then the higher of the year average achieved in either the second or final year will be used to calculate their degree classification.**

What this means for student – The student will be awarded their final outcome based on the highest achieved average of either Year 2 or Year 3.

Example:

Student	Y2 (19/20) Grade	Year 3 (20/21) Grade	Awarded Degree Classification
Rosie	2:1 (62.17%)	2:2 (58.23%)	2:1 (62.17%)
Jim	2:2 (57.81%)	2:1 (61.09%)	2:1 (61.09%)

For Continuing Students in a Counting Year (Bachelors Level 5)

So long as students qualify to progress to their final / following year, have passed all core modules and achieved a passing mark for the year, then **we will ensure that their academic year average for 2020/2021 is supported by a 'safety net' when considering their degree classification.**

We will ensure that if their year average in their final academic year (Bachelors) is higher than the average they attain in this year of study, then we will use that higher mark for classification purposes.

What this means for student – If the student achieves a higher average grade next year, that will be used for final classification without the consideration of this year's grade. If a student achieves a higher average grade this year then the classification will be based on both year's achievements.

Example:

Student	Y2 (20/21) Grade	Year 3 (21/22) Grade	Awarded Degree Classification
Rosie	2:1 (62.17%)	2:2 (58.23%)	2:1 (60.02%)
Jim	2:1 (61.39%)	1st (71.09%)	1st (71.09%)

Extenuating Circumstances

University Centre South Essex has agreed with UEA that it will retain the flexibility of Extenuating Circumstances panel discretion, and only to expect independent medical evidence where it is reasonable to do so. University Centre South Essex has made provision for self-testimony, and for HE Support and HE Programme Managers to provide a statement of support for students they have had communication with, for consideration at the Extenuating Circumstances Panel (ECP). It has also explicitly acknowledged the nature of mental health challenges and how this may impact on help-seeking behaviour.

Any student on a UEA programme with a summative assessment event with a deadline of or due to take place by 1st March 2021, who wishes to seek an extension or to request a delayed examination sit can do so, without the necessity for provision of any evidence if this is not available. In the event where a student is claiming to be impacted by a positive Covid test, the email or text from the NHS should still be provided as evidence.

Extenuating Circumstances for Examinations: If students need to request a delayed sit of an examination scheduled in the period up until 01 March 2021, then they do not need to provide evidence in support of this and it will take place at the earliest available opportunity, typically in the main summer examination period.

Extenuating Circumstances for Module Assignments: For standard assessment items students can request a delayed submission date of 10 working days beyond the published deadline without the need to provide any evidence.

Extenuating Circumstances for placement reports, professional portfolios, projects and/ or dissertation: For placement reports, professional portfolios, projects and/ or dissertations, due up until 01 March 2021, 20 working days will be given without evidence.

If a longer extension is needed, students can request this but should be aware that they will be asked to provide evidence.

The provision of evidence for submissions beyond 01 March arising from atypical programmes, year-long modules and/or Semester 2 items will also be sympathetically considered in keeping with the established principles. Students will only be asked for evidence where it is reasonable to do so.

Exam Boards and Academic Discretion

Academic discretion will be retained for academic year 2020/21. This means that Boards of Examiners, are able to review the individual profile of students when considering their degree classification and take a holistic view of performance. Where there is an indication of impact on a given result/ period of results and/or a student has indicated adverse circumstances then they will be able to take this into account.

Please be advised that this document and the changes to policy included are subject to change by the Awarding partner.