Changes to Regulations Approved by EACP for 2020-21

The following changes have been approved for the 2020-21 academic session.

This document will updated regularly.

Date	Policy	Details
NEW: EACP 30 April 2021	**Technical Failures in Online Exams**	EACP has agreed to add an appeals procedure to the Technical Failures policy. Faculty Tutors are able to review the case against defined criteria, mirroring the current EC appeals process: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-4-assessment-framework-taught-programmes/6-extenuating-circumstances/technical
NEW: EACP 30 April 2021	**Which No Detriment Classification Applies When**	EACP has agreed a policy on which No Detriment arrangements apply when: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/exams-and-assessments/covid-mitigation/which-no-detriment-classification-applies-when Two clarifications have now been added: **1. Students with modules assessed in multiple years** • The 2019/20 no-detriment policy applies to "modules assessed in 2019/20". If students have been assessed in some module components in 2019-20 and some module components in 2020-21, for example because they have interrupted or deferred, they are eligible for 2019/20 No Detriment arrangements on those modules. **2. Students taking just an assessment in 2020/21** • Where a module record is created for 2020/21 (i.e. the student fully enrols on a module and receives teaching in 2020/21), the student will not be eligible for the 2019/20 No Detriment arrangements on that module (includes students repeating, deferring with tuition, and returning from interruption). • Where a student is just registered to take an assessment in 2020/21, the student will be eligible for the 2019/20 No Detriment arrangements on that module (includes students resitting, deferring without tuition, or returning from interruption and only taking an assessment). Text to be added to **Which 'no detriment' classification applies when?**

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2019/20 module record only; eligible for 2019/20 No Detriment:

Scenario	2019/20 policy applies?
2019/20 Module passed or condoned in main period summer 2020	Yes
2019/20 Module passed or condoned in LSA period 2020	Yes
2019/20 Module passed or condoned in January 2021 resit period (finalists only)	Yes
2019/20 Module resit in main Or LSA period 2021	Yes – reassessment is recorded against 2019/20.
2019/20 Module deferred without tuition to main or LSA period 2021	Yes – assessment is recorded against 2019/20.
2019/20 Module partially assessed in 2020/21 following an interruption of study (i.e. components split across years)	Yes – assessment is recorded against 2019/20.

2020/21 module record created; NOT eligible for 2019/20 No Detriment:

Scenario	2019/20 policy applies?
2019/20 Module deferred with tuition to 2020/21	No
2019/20 Module repeated in 2020/21	No
2019/20 Module fully assessed in 2020/21 following an interruption of study (i.e. all components assessed in 2020/21)	No
Module taken for the first time in 2020/21	No

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NEW: EACP 30 April 2021		At present, a small number of students each year receive penalties for Academic Misconduct such as a mark of 0% for the affected module. One faculty raised concerns that such students could have the capped reassessment of that module excluded from their classification due to the 2019-20 No Detriment rules, and felt that this would not be an appropriate response to a confirmed case of misconduct if UCL is to maintain its academic standards, as the mitigation is intended to apply to the impact of Covid on assessment, not the consequences of Academic Misconduct. EACP agreed that, where an Academic Misconduct penalty is applied which amounts to 0 for the module (either because the penalty is 0 for the module, or the penalty is 0 for a component which is worth 100% of the module), the affected module cannot be dropped from the classification. Lesser penalties such as smaller components or 10% mark deductions are excluded from this policy. Text to be added to **No Detriment Classification 2019/20** **Academic Misconduct** You must maintain the highest standards of academic integrity whilst studying at UCL. UCL will investigate and, where necessary, penalise any conduct which is likely to give an unfair advantage to the candidate, affect the security of assessment, and/ or affect the standards of the degrees awarded by UCL. Chapter 6, Section 9: Student Academic Misconduct explains UCL's regulations. If, as a result of Academic Misconduct, you receive one of the following penalties, the module in which the offence took place must be included in the calculation of your classification: • If the module in which the offence took place is given a mark of 0.00%/Grade F. • If the component in which the offence took place is worth 100% of the module and the component is given a mark of 0.00%/Grade F. If, as a result of the above penalties, you are reassessed and the reassessment is capped at the Pass Mark, the capped mark will be included in the classification. This means that: • Where the 'best 50%' rule is applied: your classification will include the best 50% of any assessments taken in the 2019/20 academic session plus any 2019-20 modules with the above Academic Misconduct penalties. • Where 2019/20 is weighted at 0 for No Detriment: your classification will include any 2019-20 modules with the above Academic Misconduct penalties.

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NEW: EACP 30 April 2021	**Updated guidance on technical failures in online exams**	Following the first week of exams, updated guidance has been circulated to EC Panel Chairs and Secretaries via the MS Team site. *General communications to follow.*
EACP 8 March 2021	**New guidance on Technical Issues and Extenuating Circumstances**	In response to student feedback, further guidance has been published on technical issues for coursework and other forms of assessment (N.B. a separate policy already exists for online exams). Students should give themselves plenty of time to upload their submissions by the published deadline and technical failures will not normally be considered valid grounds for Extenuating Circumstances unless there are very exceptional reasons for doing so. If there are exceptional circumstances which have had a significant impact on the student, EC Panels can use their discretion to change a 'Category C' circumstance into a 'Category B' circumstance. Students must provide evidence (e.g. screenshots, photos, emails from providers etc.) to support their claim. Technical issues must have had a material impact on the student - minor or reasonably-foreseeable technical issues will not be considered as valid grounds. The existing information about technical issues in coursework has been removed, and the sections on take-home papers and practical exams have also been relocated to create a single page of information. Full details: Technical Issues and Extenuating Circumstances

Clarification 8 March 2021	**Extending the Grounds for Extenuating Circumstances**	The existing mitigation package briefly refers to expanding the definition of Extenuating Circumstances to include ongoing parenting/ home-schooling, caring responsibilities and employment as a critical worker. The Enhanced EC Policy has been updated to make this clearer, and to incorporate the new guidance on technical issues:
		
		Grounds for Extenuating Circumstances
		
		1. During the pandemic, the definition of Extenuating Circumstances has been expanded to include:
		   a) Ongoing parenting/ home-schooling
		   b) Ongoing caring responsibilities
		   c) Ongoing employment as a critical worker, such as UCL students who work for the NHS
		   d) Technical Failures in Online Exams (evidence required)
		   e) Significant technical issues in submitting coursework that are not reasonably foreseeable and which have a material impact on the student (evidence required)
		
		Full policy: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-4-assessment-framework-taught-programmes/6-extenuating-circumstances/enhanced

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EACP 8 March 2021	**Update on 'Which 'no detriment' classification applies when?'**	Clarification has been added on the regulations which will be applied for resits:

Scenario	2019/20 policy applies?
2019/20 Module resit in main Or LSA period 2021	~~No~~ Yes – reassessment is recorded against 2019/20.

When the policy was first discussed last year, it was assumed that there would be no Covid mitigation beyond 2019-20. Now that there is also mitigation for 2020-21, this change allows the classification to be calculated more easily and should be to the benefit of students.

The wording has been slightly amended to ensure it fully matches the main Covid Mitigation policy:

•The ~~2020/21~~ extended borderline applies to ~~students~~ 2020/21 finalists considered for classification on the basis of modules assessed in the 2020/21 academic session.

Full details: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/exams-and-assessments/covid-mitigation/which-no-detriment-classification-applies-when

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EACP 8 March 2021	**Updated guidance on the Extended Classification Borderline 2020-21**	The webpage has now been updated to more accurately reflect the arrangements for non-standard programmes. Algorithmic rules will be built into Portico but departments will need to communicate full details of their mitigation package to their students to include non-algorithmic mitigations, such as changes to the method of assessment.
EACP 8 March 2021	**BA English No Detriment arrangements**	Bespoke mitigation package agreed, including an extended borderline within the local, non-modular rules. Full details will be programmed into Portico and are available from the department in the meantime.
EACP 25 February 2021	**Suspension of Assessment Feedback Turnaround Requirements**	As with last year, the one calendar month 'turnaround time' for feedback has been suspended in order to ease pressure on markers. This gives flexibility to exceed the one month feedback standard beyond the extra week that is already possible. An explanation should be given to students and best endeavours made to return feedback as soon as possible. Marks are still required by the exchange of marks deadlines.
EACP Chair's Action 25 February 2021	**Slade Fine Art No Detriment arrangements**	Bespoke mitigation package agreed for BA, BFA, MA and MFA students, including: 1. Redesigning the final assessment to an e-portfolio 2. Additional time for final studio work for all students – re-opening studios earlier if possible and moving marking/ exam boards back 3. Post-mark scaling (with AS assistance) as an additional measure to make sure students are not being disadvantaged compared to previous cohorts Full details are available from the Slade.

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25 February 2021 additional guidance	**SORAs for Departmentally-Managed Exams**	Student Support and Wellbeing and the Examinations team have produced further guidance on examination adjustments and reasonable adjustments for departments who manage their own exams. Further details: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/assessment-resources/operation-exams-and-assessments/applying-soras-departmental-exams
25 February 2021 additional guidance	**Borderlines for UG students on old regulations**	From the Covid Mitigation 2020-21 staff guidance: "3 year UG programmes are now on the new classification schemes (A, B and C). 4+ year UG programmes are still operating under the former borderline regulations. The same principle of widening the borderline by 1.00%. should be applied e.g. if the normal rule is that the borderline is 69.00% after rounding to the nearest integer, the new rule will be that the borderline is 68.00% after rounding to the nearest integer. For consistency, the normal, variable criteria for moving the student up are replaced by a standard rule of "50% of credits in the higher class" only." We have been asked if there is a policy for students who may have been considered for a borderline uplift under the old regulations but may not meet the new criteria. It is expected that this will not apply to a large number of students, so an overarching regulation is not being put in place. However if an Exam Board identifies a student in this situation, EACP invites applications for Suspensions of Regulations via the usual Faculty Tutor/ APQA process to consider students on a case-by-case basis.
25 February 2021 update	**No Detriment Rules in Portico**	The No Detriment classification arrangements (19/20 and 20/21) are now being programmed into Portico so that exam board calculations can be made automatically and the exact regulations for individual programmes can be communicated to students. Further details will be circulated soon.
EACP Chair's Action 19 February 2021	**MBBS Covid Mitigation Support package**	Alternative mitigation has been approved for this pass/fail programme. Full details are available from the Medical School.
EACP 18 February 2021	**Departments can choose to make modules 'condonable'**	For 2020-21, modules will revert to their 'normal' (pre-Covid) status of being either condonable or non-condonable. There are no mandated changes this year, but departments can choose to make some 2020-21 modules condonable as part of their Covid Mitigation package. This includes the EACP decision of 9 February 2021 "Departments can choose to make dissertations of up to 30 credits 'condonable'". Student Records is managing a data collection process and will contact faculties with details.
EACP 18 February 2021	**Revised Exams and Assessments Timeline for 2020-21**	The timeline has been revised to bring the LSA period forward by one week and to push the PGT exam boards back by two weeks, to give departments more time for marking, moderation and exam boards after the LSA period. Full details: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/srs/examinations-and-student-records/exam-board-support/revised-exams-and-assessments-timeline-2021
EACP 18 February 2021	**Which students are eligible for 2019-20 No Detriment and which**	As the 2019/20 assessment period was delayed as a result of Covid, with reassessments for finalists taking place in January 2021, there is an overlap between the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic sessions. New guidance explains how to understand

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	are eligible for 2020-21 No Detriment	which no-detriment rules apply in different scenarios: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/exams-and-assessments/covid-mitigation/which-no-detriment-classification-applies-when
EACP 18 February 2021	**Second-marking regulations**	EACP has been asked to look at the second-marking regulations to see if they can be relaxed this year to help with departmental workloads. There will be no changes to the UCL regulations, but Faculties and Departments are encouraged to review their own local policies against the UCL regulations to see if more flexibility might be possible e.g. using more sampling and less double-blind marking.
EACP 18 February 2021	**Suspensions of Regulations for Internal and Assistant Internal Examiner appointment criteria**	A number of departments have asked if the criteria for appointing internal and assistant internal examiners can be relaxed in specific ways, to help with workloads, particularly around the LSA period. As there is so much variation in practice across UCL, a single regulatory change has not been made at present. However EACP invites applications for Suspensions of Regulations via the usual Faculty Tutor/ APQA process to consider changes on a case-by-case basis.
EACP 18 February 2021	**Laws No Detriment Classification arrangements**	Alternative borderline criteria have been approved for LLB and LLM students who are still on the former regulations, and students on the 4-year Cologne programme taking the long essay at UCL. Revised schemes of award are available from the Faculty.
EACP 18 February 2021	**Brain Sciences Pass/Fail programmes**	Alternative mitigation will be provided for programmes where borderline adjustments are not possible: MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology Apprenticeship, PGDip Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (psychosis, eating disorders and personality disorders routes), PGCert Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (psychosis, eating disorders and personality disorders routes) and PGCert Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Interventions. Full details are available from the Department.
EACP 18 February 2021	**Initial Teacher Education Covid Mitigation Package**	Alternative mitigation has been approved for these pass/fail programmes, where borderline adjustments are not possible. Students will be eligible for an uncapped resit attempt. Any third attempts will be capped.
EACP 18 February 2021	**IOE Graduate and Taught Postgraduate Covid Mitigation Package**	Alternative mitigation has been approved for programmes using Letter Grades, where borderline adjustments are not possible. Students will be eligible for an uncapped resit attempt. Any third attempts will be capped. More modules will be made condonable, including some dissertations/reports – Student Records is managing the data collection exercise. Exam boards will be pushed back to allow students to be given extensions on coursework. Approval of self-certified ECs for two week extensions will be devolved to Programme Leaders.
16 February 2021 (additional guidance)	**Enhanced Extenuating Circumstances Procedure**	Updated to include further guidance on spreading assessments: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-4-assessment-framework-taught-programmes/6-extenuating-circumstances/enhanced
EACP 9 February 2021	**Departments can choose to make dissertations of up to 30 credits 'condonable'**	The standard regulations state that "all Undergraduate Dissertations and Masters Dissertations/ Substantive Projects must be Non-condonable."

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		EACP has agreed that departments can choose to make dissertations of up to 30 credits condonable if this would help to provide an additional safety net for students. You might consider this if students' access to resources and facilities has been severely impaired their project, and is unlikely to improve before the dissertation deadline is due.
		Departments can make individual applications to EACP via their Faculty Tutor.
		Regulatory change:
		Chapter 4, Section 9.3.4 Condonable & Non-condonable Modules
		
		1. All modules on a programme should be Condonable.
		
		2. **Subject to approval by UCL Education Committee or its nominee**, a Programme may designate one or more modules as Non-condonable (must be passed). In order for a module to be designated as Non-condonable it must be:
		
		    a) A Compulsory module, and/or
		
		    b) A module essential to professional accreditation.
		
		3. All Undergraduate Dissertations and Masters Dissertations/ Substantive Projects ~~must~~ should be Non-condonable.
		
		4. **Subject to approval by UCL Education Committee or its nominee**, a Programme may designate a dissertation module as condonable, if the credit-weighting of the module allows the condonement criteria to be applied.

EACP 9 February 2021
 	
Wording clarified 25 February 2021
	Internal Examiners can be appointed if they do not currently teach on the programme but have done so in the recent past	At present, non-UCL Internal Examiners appointed under the 'exceptional' clause in Ch 4, 13.8.1.9 are expected to be regularly involved in teaching, and Assistant Internal Examiners appointed under Ch 4, 13.9.1.3 are expected to contribute to teaching. It is assumed that this means teaching in the current academic session. EACP has agreed that this regulation can be partially relaxed to also include examiners who do not currently teach on the programme/ modules concerned but have done so in recent years.
		Regulatory change:
		Chapter 4, Section 13.8 Internal Examiners
		
		13.8.1 Conditions of Appointment
		
		3. An Internal Examiner must be:
		
		    a) A UCL member of academic staff, or
		
		    b) A UCL teacher with appropriate experience and expertise, or

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		c) A member of the academic staff of a College of the University of London involved in teaching on the programme, or on modules under the same board of examiners, at UCL.
		
		9. Exceptionally, individuals who are not UCL or University of London academic staff (e.g. members of NHS staff or external lecturers on short-term contracts) may be appointed as Internal Examiners if they have been involved regularly in teaching on the programme concerned, or on modules under the same board of examiners.
		
		    a) During 2020-21, exceptional non-UCL appointments under paragraph 9 can be made if the examiner is not involved in teaching this academic year, but they have been involved in teaching on the programme/ modules within the preceding three academic years. When considering nominations, Faculty Boards of Examiners must be assured that the examiner is suitably experienced and qualified to assess students. The Faculty Board of Examiners may place appropriate restrictions on the marking carried out by such examiners, for example by limiting their role to second-marking or sampling, if that would help to assure standards.
		
		13.9 Assistant Internal Examiners
		
		13.9.1 Conditions of Appointment
		
		3. Assistant Internal Examiners must be suitably-qualified research students or staff registered at UCL who contribute to the teaching of the programme or modules concerned, or on modules under the same board of examiners.
		
		    a) During 2020-21, Assistant Internal Examiners can be appointed if they have not contributed to teaching this but have contributed to teaching on the programme/ modules within the preceding three academic years. When considering nominations, Faculty Boards of Examiners must be assured that the examiner is suitably experienced and qualified to assess students. The Faculty Board of Examiners may place appropriate restrictions on the marking carried out by such examiners, for example by limiting their role to second-marking or sampling, if that would help to assure standards.

n/a (additional guidance)	**Additional Guidance: Revised Classification Borderline Criteria 2020-21**	Additional guidance for students published: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/exams-and-assessments/covid-mitigation/revised-classification-borderline-criteria-2020-21
Education Committee 5 February 2021	**Enhanced Extenuating Circumstances Procedure**	Updated to include 5/6 instances of self-certification, and to allow self-certification for spreading assessments https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-4-assessment-framework-taught-programmes/6-extenuating-circumstances/enhanced

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Education Committee 5 February 2021	**Technical Failure in Online Exams**	New policy: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-4-assessment-framework-taught-programmes/6-extenuating-circumstances/technical
Education Committee 5 February 2021	**Covid Mitigation for 2020-21 Assessments**	Main package of support for students in 2020-21: Student version: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/exams-and-assessments/covid-mitigation-2020-21-assessments Staff version with additional notes (password required): https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/assessment-resources/operation-exams-and-assessments/covid-mitigation-2020-21-assessments
EACP 16 September 2021	**Enhanced Extenuating Circumstances Procedure**	This version has now been superseded. Self-certification for up to 2 weeks on 2 separate occasions: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-4-assessment-framework-taught-programmes/6-extenuating-circumstances/enhanced
EACP 16 September 2021	**PGTAs can act as first markers where the second marker is a suitably qualified Internal Examiner**	Change to the criteria to make it easier for PGTAs to act as first markers: **Chapter 4, Section 13.9 Assistant Internal Examiners** **13.9.4 Responsibilities** 2. Where an Assistant Internal Examiner acts as a first marker the second marker must be a suitably qualified Internal Examiner, according to the criteria in Section 13.8.1, paragraph 3 ~~permanent member of UCL academic staff~~.