



Undergraduate Condonement Mitigation Policy

Whilst the majority of regulatory changes apply to all students as soon as they enrol on the 2018-19 academic session, UCL Education Committee has agreed that the new UG Classification regulations will be phased in to ensure that UCL meets CMA requirements. As a result, there will be a number of years in which the new Condonement regulations and the old Classification regulations are applied together.

The following policy should be followed to mitigate against any potential impact on students' Classifications during the transition period.

Further advice is available from academicregulations@ucl.ac.uk.

Background and Rationale

1. UCL has carefully considered the regulations in place at other Russell Group universities and noted that UCL's Progression and Award requirements are considerably more punitive than those at comparable institutions. From 2018-19, the regulations will permit a slightly higher amount of failure, with appropriate checks and balances to ensure that only capable students progress and receive a UCL degree, and to ensure that the requirements of any Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies are met. **Data modelling has indicated that this change will allow slightly more students to progress through their programme and be awarded an Honours Degree, albeit with a Third or 2.2 Classification.**
2. Education Committee has agreed that the new UG Condonement regulations will apply to all students straight away, but that the UG Classification regulations will be phased in. **As a result, there will be a number of years in which the new Condonement regulations and the old Classification regulations are applied together.**
3. Education Committee has also agreed that, if a student meets the Condonement Criteria at the first or second attempt, and there are no Extenuating Circumstances material to that failure, the student will be condoned and will not be offered a Resit (although if a student has valid Extenuating Circumstances, they will be offered a Deferral etc. before the Condonement criteria are applied). **This change will help to reduce the volume of assessment for students, a key objective of the UCL Education Strategy 2016–21:**
 - "By 2021: We will have implemented the recommendations of a root-and-branch review of assessment at UCL, with the aim of identifying long-term measures to improve our students' experience of the assessment process and their assessment literacy, including a substantial reduction in the volume of assessment".
4. For new students in 2018-19, the Classification regulations have been adjusted to reflect this change: Honours Classification Scheme A allows students to drop slightly more marks from the Classification. The rounding and borderline regulations have also been adjusted so that, overall, the changes lead to as little variance as possible from UCL's current rate of Firsts and 2.1s. **Therefore new students are not affected by this change as they will be covered by the full set of new Progression, Award and Classification regulations.**
5. However, the change could affect continuing students. A non-finalist could now be required to 'carry' a lower mark than they might have in the past – under the 2017-18 regulations they may have been offered a capped Resit (40.00% for UG; 50.00% for PGT); under the new regulations, students will carry marks as low as 1.00%. It should be noted that, under the 2017-18 regulations, a *finalist* in this situation would be 'condoned' and would not be offered a Resit. **Therefore only non-finalist continuing students are potentially affected by this change.**

6. Modelling has indicated that this change will not have a material impact on students in the majority of faculties because students will still be able to drop their worst marks from their classification, and that any potential drop in the final weighted average can be effectively mitigated by the current Undergraduate Borderline Criteria. **Therefore the faculties/ departments affected are those which currently do not allow students to drop their worst marks from the classification (MAPS, Engineering, the School of Pharmacy and, to a lesser extent, Laws).**
7. For new students in 2018-19, these faculties have chosen Classification Scheme B or C with the express purpose of not allowing students to drop condoned marks from the classification. **Therefore, only continuing students in these faculties are affected by this change; new students will be subject to all of the new regulations.**
8. In 2018-19, no students will be affected as there is no change in policy for finalists. **The issue will only arise when students come to be classified in 2019-20 to c. 2021-22.**
9. EdCom has agreed the following policy to ensure that all students across UCL are treated equally, in line with UCL's objective to improve National Student Survey outcomes for the question 'marking and assessment has been fair'.

Mitigation Policy

1. Mitigation can only be considered if, under the 2017-18 regulations, the student would have been offered a capped Resit in place of Condonement.
2. Mitigation can only be considered for the students highlighted in **bold** in the following table:

	Student's Year of Study				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
3-year Bachelors	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	-	N/A (new Classification regulations apply)
	Year 2	Year 3	-	-	Modules condoned in Year 2 may have an impact on the Classification
	Year 3	-	-	-	N/A (finalists have never been offered a Resit if they meet the Pass and Completion Requirements)
4-year Bachelors and 4-year Integrated Masters	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	N/A (new Classification regulations apply)
	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	-	Modules condoned in Years 2 and/ or 3 may have an impact on the Classification
	Year 3	Year 4	-	-	Modules condoned in Year 3 may have an impact on the Classification
	Year 4	-	-	-	N/A (finalists have never been offered a Resit if they meet the Pass and Completion Requirements)
5-year Integrated Masters	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	N/A (new Classification regulations apply)
	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Modules condoned in Years 2, 3 and/ or 4 may have an impact on the Classification
	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	-	Modules condoned in Years 3 and/ or 4 may have an impact on the Classification
	Year 4	Year 5	-	-	Modules condoned in Year 4 may have an impact on the Classification

	Year 5	-	-	-	N/A (finalists have never been offered a Resit if they meet the Pass and Completion Requirements)
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3. If the Programme Board of Examiners believes that a student's Classification may have been materially affected, the Board should calculate the student's result with the condoned mark and then again with a capped mark in place of the condoned mark. Advice on recalculating formulae is available from academicregulations@ucl.ac.uk.
4. If the result indicates a material change in the student's Classification, the Programme Board of Examiners should forward details of the case to the Faculty Tutor for consideration.
5. The Faculty Tutor should consult with Academic Services on case precedents before making a decision. If there is evidence to demonstrate that the student has been materially impacted by the change in Condonement regulations, the Faculty Tutor should approve the award of the higher Classification.
6. In all cases, module marks and the Final Weighted Mark should not be changed on the student's transcript.

If a student believes that their Classification has been materially impacted by the change in Condonement regulations, they should follow the Student Complaints Procedure in Chapter 6, Section 10.