

# Assessment, Progression & Award Arrangements

## Students – Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQs have been provided from the information available at the date of publication. Dates and advice provided are subject to change. The University will endeavour to keep students up to date.

**Note:** In addition to the advice provided below, students may also contact the Students' Union for support and advice.

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## No Detriment Approach Context and Access

The No Detriment Approach (NDA) has been developed to complement the existing University Assessment Regulations, and an overview of how these regulations already support student progression and achievement is available within the NDA document.

The NDA is available at the following link, which also includes the new Academic Regulations for the Exceptional Management of Taught Awards:

[Covid-19 Pandemic, Assessment Regulations Pages.](#)

## Support for Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### 1. What support will be in place to allow me to complete my assessments as planned?

The University has a vast range of support available. In addition to support from your Module and Course Leaders, you can also access online support from Student & Library Services and the Students' Union. We would encourage you to continue with your assessments and course, to enable you to complete your studies as planned and be awarded your degree. The University has given careful consideration to the learning, teaching and assessment of each module and developed alternative assessments, where necessary, to ensure your learning outcomes can be achieved.

Visit the Learning Hub ([http://libguides.tees.ac.uk/learning\\_hub](http://libguides.tees.ac.uk/learning_hub)) to find resources to support your online learning and to find details of workshops and activities that are being delivered online.

### 2. I have a student support plan. Will I continue to be provided with the additional support?

Your support plan will continue as normal. Please contact Student & Library Services [studentlife@tees.ac.uk](mailto:studentlife@tees.ac.uk). If you have a disability, you can access support by contacting your Disability Adviser if you already have one, or emailing [disability@tees.ac.uk](mailto:disability@tees.ac.uk).

### 3. I have to achieve a number of practice hours for my course, which I have not yet completed. How will this be enabled?

Please contact your Course Leader for further advice.

#### **4. What will happen if I submit assessments after the hand-in deadline?**

As per the standard Assessment Regulations, where coursework is submitted later than the original deadline without the prior approval of an extension or mitigation, or where coursework is submitted beyond an agreed extension, then the following tariffs apply:

- a) 1-7 calendar days late: work is capped at 40%.
- b) Beyond 7 calendar days late: work will receive a mark of 0%.

Where submission is in relation to the reassessment of previously failed coursework, any work submitted beyond the submission date without authorisation will receive a mark of 0%. An extension will only be given at reassessment in exceptional circumstances.

#### **5. I'm on a practical course and would like to know how or when I can access on campus facilities to aid my studies?**

The University is following Government Guidance and as restrictions are lifted and/or amended, your School will inform you of when and how you can access campus.

#### **6. Will the 20-day turn around period for feedback still be applied?**

The University will endeavour to work to the 20-day turn around period on first assessments for all students, but there may be some delay given the external circumstances. Your School will keep you informed of any delays where possible. There is no 20-day turn around for the reassessment period and again, your School will keep you informed.

### **No Detriment Approach – Student Queries**

#### **7. What does the No Detriment Approach mean for my assessment?**

The No Detriment Approach (NDA) for 2020/21 complements the University's standard Assessment Regulations to offer greater flexibility for decision making, whilst still maintaining academic standards. It supports discretion for Assessment Boards to address individual student circumstances by making available a further reassessment opportunity to enable students to progress to the next level of study or to achieve the requirements of the award. This approach reflects national guidance from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, the Office for Students and Professional Statutory Regulatory Bodies, as appropriate. (See also 'Assessment Boards' section below.)

**8. Why are students studying Professional, Statutory & Regulated Body (PSRB) courses not included in the No Detriment Approach?**

The Approach notes that students studying PSRB regulated courses **may** not be able to be considered via the No Detriment Approach. This is because PSRB requirements vary and are determined by organisations that are external to the University. Schools will be able to inform you whether the NDA applies to your course and how it will be managed.

**9. The University introduced a benchmark score as part of the 2019/20 No Detriment Approach. Why hasn't one been introduced for 2020/21?**

The University is unable to carry forward the same benchmarking approach that it adopted in 2019/20 for assessments taking place in 2020/21. A benchmark was introduced as an emergency measure to counter the effects of the pandemic part way through Semester Two in 2019/20. This meant that as learning, teaching and assessment in Semester One of that academic year had taken place prior to the pandemic, marks/grades from this period could be used to form the benchmark. A benchmark is not possible in 2020/21 given the lack of pre-pandemic assessment data. In addition, the University has effectively re-designed its provision to put in place revised learning, teaching and assessment methods and an enhanced range of support services to enable students to continue their academic studies during 2020/21.

**10. I am a January start student; how will the No Detriment Approach be applied to me?**

The 2019/20 No Detriment Approach (NDA) will be applied to the modules studied in your 2019/20 academic year and the 2020/21 NDA will be applied to those studies undertaken in that academic year. (See also 'Assessment Boards' section below.)

**11. The NDA seems to be generalised to third year undergraduates, are Masters students classed as final year students due to being on a 1 year full time course?**

The NDA for 2020/21 applies to all students and not just undergraduates, therefore the relevant elements of the NDA will be applied to postgraduate students. Postgraduate students are not classed as final year UG students and the grading of postgraduate awards is described in Section 6.2 of the [Taught Masters Award Assessment Regulations](#) and remains unchanged.

**12. Can I put in an application for a short extension?**

Students can choose to apply for a short or long extension via the Extenuating Circumstances Regulations.

- 13. I would like to discuss the impact of a decision to apply for a long extension with a member of academic staff before I make a final decision. How can I do this?**

Please read the full FAQs as you may find further answers to any outstanding questions you may have. If you still have outstanding questions, please contact your Course Leader. Additional support is available from Student & Library Services and the Students' Union.

### Assessment Boards – Module, Progression and Award

- 14. I am a final year student and would like to know how my final classification will be calculated?**

Students' 2019/20 academic year average outcome (best of either NDA benchmark or standard regulations) will form the final mark for 2019/20 academic year. The year average outcome for 2020/21 will form the final mark for 2020/21 academic year. For example, a standard undergraduate students final award will be based on the mark from 2019/20 counting for 30% of the final award and the 2020/21 mark counting as 70%. This will then be compared to 100% of the mark obtained in the 2020/21 academic year and the student awarded the highest of the two.

There is no change in the way the final award is calculated from that outlined in the standard regulations.

- 15. What happens if I do not pass my modules at the first attempt?**

Under the standard Assessment & Progression Regulations, every student who does not successfully complete a module at the first attempt is provided with an opportunity to undertake reassessment in the failed module/component.

- 16. If I have a long extension on my assessment and subsequently fail my reassessment, what will be the impact on my progression?**

Dependent upon your level of failure and overall level/year average, the standard Assessment Regulations enables Progression Assessment Boards to award compensation (on compensatable modules) up to a maximum of 20 credits at undergraduate and 30 credits at postgraduate level. The Progression Assessment Board also has discretion to offer you the opportunity for Progression Under Provision (PUP) for undergraduate courses. However, if your failure is more than half of the taught credits, it is possible that you may not be offered restudy and may be withdrawn from your course.

### 17. Will restudy be available to me?

Restudy is offered by an Assessment Board. It is an opportunity for a student, with a module fail following reassessment, to attend (study) the module and attempt all the assessment components of the module, as if for the first time. This includes any assessment components that may have been passed on the first occasion. No restriction applies to the marks awarded and one further reassessment opportunity may be offered following failure on the module being restudied. The marks from the original attempt are discarded and cannot be retained if the restudy option is accepted. However, if your failure is more than half of the taught credits, it is possible that you may not be offered restudy and may be withdrawn from your course.

There may be financial and other implications of restudy and, therefore, students who are offered restudy should seek additional advice. Please contact Student & Library Services [studentlife@tees.ac.uk](mailto:studentlife@tees.ac.uk).

### 18. When will my assessment results be published?

The University is finalising the dates and they will be made available shortly.

### 19. Will my transcript/record of progress/award certificate make reference to Covid-19 or the No Detriment Approach?

No, the University's Academic Board agreed on 8 July 2020, not to make any reference on the above documentation. It agreed to the publication of a statement relating to the measures adopted by the University to assure the standard of awards during the Covid-19 pandemic. This specifically relates to the No Detriment Approach and the Academic Regulations for the Exceptional Management of Taught Awards on the University website.

The statement is available under the [University Documents – Assessment Regulations](#), under the paragraph on “The University's Academic Standards”. It is accessible by students and key stakeholders, including potential employers, for future reference.

## Other Academic Regulations

### 20. Are there any changes to other University Regulations?

The other University regulations such as Academic Misconduct, Extenuating Circumstance, Academic Appeal, Fitness to Practise, Fitness to Study, Student Disciplinary and Student Complaints, will still apply however processes may be subject to amendment due to the current pandemic situation. Further information can be found in the 'Temporary Changes to the

Office of Student Complaints, Appeals & Regulations (OSCAR) Policies, Procedures and Regulations' Policy available on the [University General Regulations webpage](#).

### Apprenticeship-Related Queries

**21. If I apply for a long extension on my assessment(s), will this affect my apprenticeship funding?**

No, your funding will not be affected but you should contact your Course Leader to discuss further.

**22. If I apply for an interruption of my course, will this affect my apprenticeship funding?**

No, your funding will not be affected but you should contact your Course Leader to discuss further.

**23. Assistant Practitioner Apprentices: If I choose to defer through Extenuating Circumstances, will my assessment through my employment as an Assistant Practitioner in the workplace be affected?**

Possibly. When making the decision whether or not to defer your assessment you should consider the impact this may have on your ability to take up employment as an Assistant Practitioner. You should consider this carefully to make sure that you make the right decision so that this is not affected. If you are unsure, seek advice from your Employer and support from your Course Leader.