



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891



## NO DETRIMENT POLICY – EMERGENCY MEASURES

## No Detriment Policy – Emergency Measures

1. Senate is responsible, through the Vice-Chancellor, for the implementation of the *No Detriment Policy- Emergency Measures* when **extreme circumstances beyond the University's reasonable control** require exceptions and additions to be made to the University's standard Regulations. They are applicable to all University students including those based at Partner Colleges and apprentices. The Vice-Chancellor through Senate will determine the date when the *No Detriment Policy- Emergency Measures* will come into effect, and when the period of implementation ends.

2. Examples of extreme circumstances or crises which may require implementation of the *No Detriment Policy: Emergency Measures* include:

- widespread industrial action
- natural disasters
- pandemics of infectious diseases such as COVID 19

3. In such crisis situations the University will take reasonable action to ensure final awards and confirmation of progressing and continuing student status are expedited, whilst maintaining the academic standards and integrity of its awards.

4. The *No Detriment Policy - Emergency Measures* provides reassurance that where students' academic performance has been negatively impacted by extreme circumstances beyond the University's control, measures are in place to provide mitigation.

5. Every effort should be made to follow the standard procedures for assessment, marking, moderation and confirmation of marks, and arrangements for Boards of Examiners. However, under the *No Detriment Policy- Emergency Measures* the University may:

- a) allow alternative types of assessment to be set as circumstances dictate, providing the learning outcomes can be met: for example, replacing an examination with coursework
- b) permit variations to the pattern of delivery of modules, particularly where there are placement or practical elements
- c) allow marks to be submitted directly for consideration at the Module and Assessment Boards where moderation cannot take place (unless PSRB requirements specifically do not allow for this)
- d) waive the requirement for all marks to be considered by a Module Board and allow marks to be taken directly to Assessment Boards
- e) require the completion of Module Impact Forms where learning and assessment has to undergo major adaptation as a result of the crisis situation
- f) permit variations to the arrangements for Board of Examiners and to Board membership as required

6. Wherever possible, the standard *Academic Assessment Regulations* will apply for undergraduate progression and award, including the standard compensation regulations. PSRB requirements will supersede the *No Detriment Policy- Emergency Measures* where necessary.

7. The *No Detriment Policy- Emergency Measures* give Assessment Boards for undergraduate programmes the authority to:

a) Ratify an element mark (normally constituting at least 50% of the module assessment load) as the overall module mark for up to 30 credits. This measure is only to be used where exceptional circumstances (which are beyond the University's own control) result in sets of marks not being available at the Assessment Board, for example because of the marker's illness. It does not apply to modules which are not normally compensatable.

b) Allow uncapped reassessment where students have been negatively impacted during the period of crisis (and including uncapped late submission for specific periods).

c) Permit full-time undergraduate progression on 90 credits achieved, with compensation or "aegrotat" pass given where allowed for the remaining 30 credits, irrespective of module marks. Progression on 90 credits is not allowed where there has been no attempt at submission for the remaining 30 credits.

d) Allow undergraduate students who do not meet the progression criteria after reassessment to trail up to 30 credits into the next Level.

e) Where patterns of delivery have changed, to allow for trailing of modules with placement and practical elements

f) Use the no detriment principle at award stage to ensure students are not disadvantaged by the crisis situation. This takes into account disruption to academic levels which contribute to the calculation of classifications, and provides measures to ensure students are not disadvantaged as a result. For example:

- calculating awards both including and excluding the affected time period, and making the award on the higher overall weighted average
- comparing module grade averages with previous cohorts, and where required using scaling for the affected modules

Continuing students who do not complete their studies whilst the *No Detriment Policy- Extreme Measures* is in force, will have the no detriment principle applied to their degree calculation at the point at which they complete their studies.

g) Reduce the number of credits in the upper band required for upgrades at award borderlines to 30 credits for undergraduates.

h) Exceptionally consider making an award on the basis of 90 credits achieved, provided the student's profile demonstrates the appropriate learning outcomes for the level or award, and demonstrates engagement with learning over the period affected by the extreme or serious circumstances. The 90 credits achieved must include the dissertation or equivalent module for each programme (ie those modules which under the standard regulations do not allow compensation).

8. The *No Detriment Policy- Emergency Measures* give Assessment Boards for postgraduate programmes the authority to:

a) Ratify an element mark (normally constituting at least 50% of the module assessment load) as the overall module mark for up to 30 credits. This measure is only to be used where exceptional circumstances (which are beyond the University's own control) result in sets of marks not being available at the Assessment Board, for example because of the marker's illness. It does not apply to modules which are not normally compensatable.

b) Allow uncapped reassessment where postgraduate students have been negatively impacted for specific periods of time or in areas of provision by the extreme circumstances (and including uncapped late submission for specific periods).

c) Use the no detriment principle at Masters award stage to ensure students are not disadvantaged by the crisis situation. For example:

- calculating Masters awards both including and excluding the affected time period, and making the award on the higher overall weighted average
- comparing module grade averages with previous cohorts, and where required using scaling for the affected modules

Continuing Masters students who do not complete their studies whilst the *No Detriment Policy- Extreme Measures* is in force, will have the no detriment principle applied to their degree calculation at the point at which they complete their studies.

d) Reduce the number of credits in the upper band required for upgrades at Master's borderlines to 45 credits.

e) Permit postgraduate progression on a Master's programme on 90 credits achieved at PGDip stage, with compensation or aegrotat pass given where allowed for the remaining 30 credits, irrespective of module marks. Progression on 90 credits are not allowed where there has been no attempt at submission for the remaining 30 credits, or where there are unmet PSRB requirements.

f) Consider awards of PG Diploma as the registered award on the basis of 90 credits achieved, provided the student's profile demonstrates the appropriate learning outcomes for the award, demonstrates engagement with learning over the period affected by the extreme or serious circumstances with compensation or aegrotat pass given where allowed for the remaining 30 credits, irrespective of module marks. PG Dip awards on 90 credits are not allowed where there has been no attempt at submission for the remaining 30 credits, or where there are unmet PSRB requirements.

g) Consider compensation for a PG Certificate award, provided the student's profile demonstrates the appropriate learning outcomes for the award and demonstrates engagement with learning over the period affected by the serious circumstances. This will not apply where there are unmet PSRB requirements.

9. Students retain their right to appeal under the *Academic Appeals Procedure* against decisions made by Assessment Boards in applying *No Detriment Policy- Emergency Measures*.