

Wednesday 1 April: Coronavirus update for students

Dear students,

Trying to find an entirely new way to run exams and assessments in an online environment, working remotely, has been a real challenge.

There are a huge number of nuances to the ways we assess your work, and it is our aim to always provide a fair and equal opportunity for you to achieve the best you can.

So, we have decided to implement a 'no detriment' policy, which will recognise the value of marks you have already achieved for assessed work.

Basically, this means that as long as you take any upcoming exams and submit your remaining assessments and pass them, then your final mark will not be lower than your already-achieved overall mark in a module. It can of course be higher if you do well in your exams/assessments.

Unfortunately, there are some professional qualifications where external regulatory requirements mean we cannot apply this approach. We will provide clear information about these areas as soon as we can.

If you require a deferral or an extension, you can still submit requests and we will shortly publish information about this.

Getting this process right will be complicated and will require a lot of thinking and calculating in order to figure out the best way to achieve it. We will give ourselves enough time to do this. We will communicate with you as soon as we have more detailed information.

I know this may feel like yet another change. The shift to online teaching across our entire portfolio has been a challenge unlike any we have seen before in higher education, and I know you have felt this strongly in your learning experience.

We have had to make many quick decisions and I know that some of these have left you feeling frustrated. But your resilience has been inspiring and I thank you for your understanding as we work our way through the current challenges.

All the best,

Jackie Labbe
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic)