

Covid-19 Guidance and Clarification FAO 30 April 2020

Predicted grades

You may have read in the national press that students' final grades are being determined by previous assessments. However, this refers to FE qualifications which are regulated by Ofqual. Higher Education qualifications are regulated by the Office for Students (OfS) which has different guidelines which are implemented by awarding bodies /organisations.

These guidelines say that students need to demonstrate that they have met the required outcomes. This means that the College must show it can assess students work reliably and that students achieve module/ unit learning outcomes. The College can consider alternative ways to assess learning outcomes, for example, where a student is required to undertake a placement or examination, as long as it is appropriate to do so and the alternative method is reliable. Therefore, higher education students cannot be graded based on predicted grades.

Your tutors are working with your awarding organisation to adjust your assessments to enable you to complete your course.

No detriment or safety net

Some students have queried whether the College would also provide a 'no detriment' or 'safety net' to students that guarantees that any assessment taken during the Covid-19 period would not reduce their overall grade, provided a pass grade was achieved. The College is committed to applying the principles of fairness, consistency and parity throughout with its decisions taken at Exam Boards whilst maintaining academic standards. Following awarding organisations' guidance, there is no detriment or safety net 'guarantee' provided to students.

Mitigation

Due to the unique circumstances relating to Covid-19, students are not required to submit supporting evidence for mitigation claims relating to the impact of Covid-19 on their learning.

Students are still required to submit supporting evidence with mitigation claims for other reasons. However, given the current crisis, supporting medical evidence is not required unless it is already available. Exam Boards and Panels will apply adjustments in recognition of Covid-19 related factors where relevant.

Please be aware that where there is mitigation the resubmission date is still in August (please refer to your student handbook / tutors for further information) and student progression /awards will be presented for consideration at the September Exam Board(s).

Where a student has not successfully completed the required modules by the September Exam Board, the Exam board will then consider the feasibility of enabling the student to carry over modules to the following year (1-2 modules). If this is not feasible, for example because there are too many units outstanding, then the student will be required to repeat the year.

Submission deadline for mitigating students is 21st August 2020