

Application of No Detriment Policy for awards being made in 2020-21 and subsequent sessions

1. Students who were scheduled to complete their studies in 2019-20

Some students who were scheduled to complete in 2019-20 will not yet have graduated because they did not meet the minimum threshold of completed assessment set out in the No Detriment policy. For example:

- a one-year PGT student who after the August 2020 diet has completed less than 65% of the taught course assessment so, even if they complete the dissertation, they would not be eligible for the masters degree;
- a senior honours student who has completed less than 65% of the programme assessment by the end of August 2020.

In order to qualify for the award for which they are registered, the student must satisfy the relevant requirements set out in the No Detriment policy. Thus the one-year PGT student must complete further assessment to meet the 65% of taught course assessment requirement. Similarly, the senior honours student must complete further assessment to meet the 65% of overall programme assessment requirement.

The School should agree with the student which assessments are to be completed in order to bring the student up to the required threshold. There may be situations where it is in the best interests of the student to complete more than the minimum volume (e.g. to achieve a grade for a particular course on the transcript). However, any assessment completed after 11 September 2020 will not come under the ND policy and must therefore be counted towards the GPA unless a good cause claim is accepted. For example, a student is required to complete one further piece of coursework to meet the 65% threshold but it is agreed that they will complete two. The student performs better in one of the pieces of coursework. The weaker performance cannot be disregarded from the GPA unless a good cause claim covering that assessment is accepted.

2. Students whose studies are continuing in 2020-21 for whom some assessment that contributes towards their final award was scheduled between 16 March and 11 September 2020

2.1 Continuing honours students now entering senior honours and integrated masters students now entering 4th or 5th year of the programme

All students were required to complete at least 65% of the assessment associated with the session 2019-20 in order to progress to session 2020-21.

The usual rules on Incomplete Assessment and Good Cause permit an award to be made where at least 75% of overall programme assessment has been completed.¹ For senior honours students graduating in 2020-21 and integrated masters students graduating in 2020-21 and 2021-22, this rule will be applied in relation to **assessment taking place outwith the period identified in the No**

¹ Except on certain programmes where professional/accreditation considerations apply and more assessment must be completed.

Detriment policy (i.e. in relation to all assessment taking place by 15 March 2020 and all assessment taking place after 11 September 2020, including that taking place during 2020-21).

Example: Senior honours student in 2020-21

The volume of assessment across the honours programme is split with 50% in junior honours and 50% in senior honours. The assessment breaks down as follows:

	Assessment by 15 March 2020	Completed?	Assessment taking place between 16 March and 11 September 2020 (No Detriment period)	Completed?	Assessment after 11 September 2020	Completed?
Junior honours						
Course 1 20 credits	Essay (50%) Essay (50%)	Yes No (MV)				
Course 2 20 credits	Class test (30%)	Yes	Exam (70%)	No		
Course 3 20 credits	Essay (40%)	Yes	Project (60%)	Yes		
Course 4 20 credits	Project (60%)	Yes	Exam (40%)	Yes		
Course 5 20 credits			Essay (60%) Exam (40%)	Yes No		
Course 6 20 credits			Class test (30%) Exam 70%	Yes Yes		
Senior honours 120 credits					All components	Yes except 1 x 50% exam missed (MV)

The assessment for each 20 credit course represents 8.3% (20/240) of the total programme assessment.

Volume of assessment taking place outwith the No Detriment period comprises:

	Proportion of course assessment	Proportion of programme assessment
Junior honours		
Course 1	Essay (50%) Essay (50%)	8.3
Course 2	Class test (30%)	2.5
Course 3	Essay (40%)	3.3
Course 4	Project (60%)	5.0
Course 5	-	
Course 6	-	
Senior honours		
All assessment for 6 x 20 credit courses		50.0
Total		69.1

Of the total programme assessment, 69.1% falls outwith the No Detriment period. Students must complete at least 75% of this assessment in order to be eligible for award of the degree. That is, $69.1 \times 0.75 = 51.8\%$ of programme assessment. (None of the assessment taking place within the No Detriment period can contribute to this 51.8%.)

Notes

1. The requirement to complete at least 75% of assessment falling outwith the No Detriment period is additional to satisfying the progress requirement from junior honours to senior honours.
2. The normal rules for Good Cause and Incomplete Assessment apply to any assessment scheduled by 15 March 2020 and to all senior honours assessment. Therefore assessment scheduled in these periods can only be set aside from calculation of GPA where a properly completed good cause claim is accepted by the School.

In this example, in junior honours the student missed one essay on Course 1 (50% weighting) with good cause and in senior honours misses one exam (50% course weighting) with good cause.

Total assessment taking place outwith No Detriment period = 69.1%

Of that assessment, the student has missed two 50% course components = 8.3%

Amount of assessment taking place outwith the No Detriment period completed by student = 60.8%

The student has therefore met the requirement to complete at least 51.8% of the programme assessment taking place outwith the No Detriment period and, if they have met all the other requirements, will be eligible for award of the honours degree in summer 2021.

2.2 Continuing PGT and UG non-honours

This applies to full-time and part-time students on PGT programmes whose programme spans at least sessions 2019-20 and 2020-21, and students entering year 3 of an Ordinary/Designated Degree in 2020-21.

The usual rules on Incomplete Assessment and Good Cause on PGT and non-honours UG programmes deal with missed assessment on a course by course basis rather than by looking across the programme assessment as a whole. A course result may be returned on the basis of completion of 75% of the **course** assessment. If less than 75% of the course assessment has been completed then the course is treated as not having been assessed. For assessments taken in 2019-20 these rules were varied by the No Detriment policy. **For assessment on courses taken in 2020-21 the usual rules have been reinstated.** Therefore, irrespective of the total amount of assessment completed in 2019-20, a student who in 2020-21 has more than 25% of assessment on any **course** set aside under good cause will be required to complete further assessment before being eligible for award of the degree.

Note: On most part-time PGT programmes there is no formal requirement in relation to progression into a subsequent academic session (as the rate at which students complete courses on a part-time programme varies). However, it is assumed that the majority of such students will have completed at least 65% of the assessment associated with courses taken in 2019-20. Where that has not happened, Schools should refer cases to the Clerk of Senate for advice on what is required for the award to be made.

3. Calculation of final GPA

The No Detriment policy indicates that for students continuing in 2020-21 a baseline GPA will be calculated from all assessment completed outwith the ND period, both before and after the period 16 March to 11 September 2020.

For continuing students who will complete their studies in 2020-21 or a subsequent year, calculation of final GPA should follow the principles set out in No Detriment policy and shown in detail in Appendix 1. For example, for calculating the GPA for a senior honours student graduating in 2020-21, the baseline GPA will comprise the aggregation of:

- assessments taken in junior honours: **component** results from assessments taken by 15 March 2020, and
- assessments taken in senior honours: overall **course grade** results from all courses taken in 2020-21.

The final GPA will comprise the aggregation of:

- baseline GPA, and
- component results from assessments taken between 16 March and 11 September 2020 that are greater than or equal to the baseline GPA.

4. Discretion in final awards

Appendix 5 of the No Detriment policy sets out the arrangements taking effect in respect of decisions being made in the exam boards for final awards made in academic year 2019-20. These arrangements reflect the non-standard nature of assessment information available, meaning that there was low confidence that applying the usual criteria would provide reliable and equitable additional evidence on which to base decisions.

For final awards being made in 2020-21, the same amended arrangements will apply, given that students continuing from 2019-20 will have taken assessment in the period covered by the No Detriment period.

In order to avoid confusion, these arrangements will also apply to students taking one-year programmes commencing in 2020-21.

The position for students due to complete their studies in 2021-22 will be reviewed and advised in due course.