

No Disadvantage Policy

The University recognises the need to protect your academic interests in the exceptional circumstances created by the global pandemic, and to ensure you are not unfairly disadvantaged.

We have been focused on finding the best options for supporting you through the assessment period, including introducing alternative assessments, pushing back the submission deadline for alternative assessments by one week, and streamlining our extenuating circumstances processes.

In line with our commitment to protecting your interests, we need to be absolutely confident, and able to demonstrate, that graduates in 2020 are awarded degrees of the same quality as those awarded in other years. We need to support you to successfully complete your courses, and ensure you have met all the course learning outcomes.

Our approach to ensuring you are not disadvantaged differs from the 'no detriment' policies developed by some other universities because there are very real differences between the structure and assessment regimes of our courses and those delivered elsewhere. The majority of our courses are delivered via 30 credit modules which run across the academic year. This means students have not completed enough credit in this academic year for the University to calculate accurate average grades. Moreover, because our degree algorithm is heavily weighted in favour of Level 6, we cannot use grades achieved at Level 5 as accurate indicators of potential achievement in your final year.

The University has followed guidance from the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) in developing a tailored Kingston approach which takes account of our particular circumstances.

Please note that the guidance provided below may not apply if you are studying on a course that leads to a professional accreditation. In these circumstances you will be contacted by your course leader.

Please read the following guidance carefully:

- At exam boards, marks will be benchmarked. This means that the marks achieved by your cohort in a specific module will be compared to those achieved by other cohorts in previous years, and/or against other modules in your course. This will ensure that whole groups of students have not been disadvantaged by the current crisis.
- Exam boards will have the authority to scale marks. Scaling will be undertaken over the marks of all students on a module, and will be applied to the marks of any element of assessment taken during the current crisis.
- When you receive your marks after the exam boards, you will be able to reflect on whether the outcomes fall within the range of marks that you would have expected given your track record. You may want to use [the degree award calculator](#) on OSIS.
- If you are unsure, you should consult with your personal tutor or course leader who will be able to advise.
- If you consider the mark is lower than you would reasonably have expected, and you are confident you could achieve a higher mark at retake, you will have five university working days, starting from the day after you receive your

marks, to submit a retrospective claim for mitigating circumstances. It will be important for you to check your marks as soon as they are released.

- You will be able to use the existing online mitigating circumstances function on OSIS to apply for retrospective mitigation. No evidence will be required to support your request and therefore all claims will be approved.
- It is especially important you understand the consequences of applying for mitigation in these circumstances. Your assessment in the retake period will be uncapped. The first mark will be cancelled and replaced with the second. You will not be able to choose the higher mark of the two. Failure to submit in the retake period will result in a mark of zero.
- This process will be applied to any element of assessment taken since 17 March 2020 (the date campus-based teaching was suspended).
- If you have already applied for mitigating circumstances, you can still submit your work and follow the process set out above.
- This approach has been designed to ensure that you have the opportunity to pass all the essential learning outcomes for your course and to support you as you progress through your programme of study to a successful career.