

No Detriment policy for 2020-2021

The No Detriment policy provides two safety nets to mitigate the impact that the pandemic has had on student learning to ensure that students are awarded the best possible mark they can achieve. The first safety net focuses on the marks of the cohort, while the second focuses on protecting the marks of individuals, who may be struggling or have specific issues arising from the pandemic.

These safety nets are different from the 2019/2020 academic year as it is no longer feasible to compare an individual's marks before and during pandemic, due to the lack of data for some students and a change in level of study for others. A comparison of cohort marks will therefore be done instead. The safety nets are as follows:

Safety Net 1 – Protecting Cohort Marks

The mean mark for each assessment will be compared to previous cohorts, where possible. Comparisons will be made for all assessments from the beginning of this academic year (September 2020). The following principles will be applied:

- a. Where this year's mean is higher or the same as the mean in previous years – no automatic adjustment will be made to the marks. For example:

Mean mark from previous years	This year's mean mark	Difference	Student's individual original mark	Students new mark
65%	70%	5% higher (so no change)	55%	$55\% + 0 = 55\%$

- b. Where this year's mean is 1-10 percentage points (inclusive) below the mean of previous years– an increase representing the difference will be applied to the individual students mark. For example:

Mean mark from previous years	This year's mean mark	Difference	Student's individual original mark	Students new mark
65%	58%	7% lower (so we will add 7% points)	55%	$55\% + 7\% = 62\%$

- c. Where this year's mean is over 10 percentage points below the mean of previous years – an automatic increase of 10 percentage points will be applied, and a further discussion will be had at the exam board to check if a further increase is needed. For example:

Mean mark from previous years	This year's mean mark	Difference	Student's individual original mark	Students new mark
65%	52%	13% lower (so we will add 10% points immediately with a further discussion at the exam board)	55%	55% +10%= 65%

- d. Where a student's marks are raised for an assessment under this policy, the mark will not go above the maximum mark available to them for that assessment. For example:

Mean mark from previous years	This year's mean mark	Difference	Student's individual original mark	Students new mark
65%	58%	7% lower	95%	100% as this is the max. available

Please note that there may be PSRBs that do not permit us to apply this, those programmes will be notified and listed on the University web site.

Safety Net 2 – Protecting Individuals

We would encourage all students to make every effort to engage with and submit assessments within the published timeframes. We understand that some students may find this difficult or have their performance negatively impacted. In response to this we have maintained the relaxed grounds upon which a claim for Extenuating Circumstances can be made as well as the evidence requirements to have a claim accepted. You can find the full details regarding how the University has adjusted its Extenuating Circumstance Regulations and Procedure at the following link - [extenuating circumstances \(EC\) regulations](#).