

University of Glasgow No Detriment Policy: Notes for Students

Issued on 9 April 2020. This guidance will be updated in due course with further details on course grading and reassessment opportunities.

Who does the policy apply to?

The No Detriment principles apply to all students on undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes. The way they apply will vary depending on your level of study and whether you are in final year, or due to continue.

In the case of undergraduate students in years 1 and 2, where for most, no further assessments will be taking place in the current year, elements of the No Detriment approach will be applied for example in the grading of courses and in progress decisions.

Some awards for some professional/accredited degrees require completion of 100% assessment in some, or all, elements of the degree programme, or have other specific requirements. These are set out in programme documentation. In such cases certain aspects of the No Detriment policy will be used to a limited extent, and students will be advised by their School of the procedures that will apply on such programmes.

The principles of the policy will apply to students on Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses and programmes – further information will be available on this later.

Changes to the minimum amount of assessment

We recognise that not all students will be in a position to undertake some or all planned assessments, even at a distance, or they will feel after taking their assessments in the April/May assessment diet that their performance has dipped.

We will therefore discount impacted assessments taken, or due to be taken, after 15 March where this is possible. To assist with this approach we have adjusted the minimum* amount of assessment required for you to graduate or progress to the next year of study in two ways:

1. The minimum assessment required to be counted towards a final award has been reduced from 75% to 65%.
2. The minimum assessment required to be completed in order to progress from third year onwards to the next level of study, has again been reduced from 75% to 65%.

Please note, any requirements in relation to a dissertation or final project must also be satisfied.

IMPORTANT:** This minimum may not be applicable on some degree programmes where there are professional or accreditation requirements (in some cases this will apply to the full degree programme, in others there may be individual courses that must be completed). ***Students on such programmes will be advised of the special arrangements applying for some or all courses on their programme.

How is the amount of completed assessment calculated?

1. For final undergraduate awards the extent to which assessment has been completed is calculated across the full graduating curriculum¹ (i.e. by including all courses that would normally count towards your final degree outcome e.g. the junior and senior honours year courses from an honours degree programme).
2. For final taught postgraduate awards the completion of assessment is calculated across all taught courses, and does not include the dissertation.
3. For progression to a further year of study the completion of assessment is calculated across all courses in the current academic session (2019-20).

Note: the above calculations do NOT require 65% completion for each individual course across the curriculum.

We would urge all students to consider the 65% minimum assessment requirement to be an absolute minimum and only to be relied upon for award of your degree if you have no other choice. You must therefore undertake all planned assessments wherever this is possible for you.

Suspension of Good Cause Regulations

The existing Good Cause procedure has been suspended while the No Detriment Policy is in place. This is in recognition of the wide array of impacts likely to have been experienced by students during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Assessments After 15 March 2020

Students are NOT required to submit Good Cause claims, or to notify the University of any adverse circumstances* that have may have affected academic performance in any assessment due for submission, or taken, after 15 March 2020. It will be accepted that Covid-19 is likely to have impacted on everyone and assessment results after this date can be discounted (i.e. excluded from calculating your final GPA) where they are out of line with your previous performance. We will explain how grades will be discounted later in these notes.

*We recognise that Covid-19 will be extremely challenging for many of you. For example: your own illness; upheaval and disruption of study; domestic and financial circumstances; unforeseen caring responsibilities; illness and disruption affecting your family and friends; difficulties associated with completion of on-line assessment; anxieties relating to these circumstances; the general uncertainties associated with the on-going global situation. Similarly, if you have been affected by other circumstances since 15 March, such as an illness that is unrelated to Covid-19, you do not have to submit a Good Cause claim.

Coursework extensions

Note extension requests must still be submitted as these are separate from the Good Cause procedure which focuses on impacted performance.

You must therefore make contact with your School if you need to request an extension to a deadline for the submission of coursework, including your dissertation or a final project (the term 'coursework' includes an assignment (not an exam) that is delivered online at the April/May assessment diet in place of a scheduled exam). Extensions can be granted by

¹ Students on designated/ordinary degrees are also required to complete at least 65% of their level 3 credits.

your School for up to five working days, and for some assignments Schools may allow longer extensions.

Assessments before, or on 15 March 2020

The date 15 March 2020 has been identified as the date after which the global pandemic of Covid-19 is likely to have had widespread impact on the student community. In setting this date we recognise that some of you, particularly those of you with international connections, may have been affected earlier.

The normal Good Cause procedure will apply for any assessments taken or due for completion by 15 March 2020. If you were affected by Covid-19 or any other unforeseen adverse circumstances before then, you may have already submitted a Good Cause claim - in which case it will be reviewed in the normal way (under the existing procedure).

However, if you believe that adverse circumstances have affected any assessments up to 15 March 2020 but have not submitted a Good Cause claim you should contact your School directly, by email, as soon as you can to explain your situation. The School will consider your circumstances with a view to applying the principles of the Good Cause procedure in place prior to 15 March 2020.

How Disruption during the Covid-19 Pandemic will be taken into Account

The above two factors will be taken into account, i.e. i) the minimum requirements for completion of assessments; and, ii) taking into account adverse circumstances ('good cause').

Taking 15 March as the cut-off date, Exam Boards will review student performance to see whether there is any difference in grades before and after the period when the widespread disruption of Covid19 pandemic began.

Your performance (GPA) will be calculated for all assessments completed by 15 March and taken as your baseline GPA. Your final GPA will then be calculated by adding all grades from all assessments completed after 15 March which are equal to or better than your baseline GPA. Any grades from assessments after 15 March (including missed assessments) which are below your baseline GPA will be discounted UNLESS you have not reached the 65% minimum completion of assessment. In that case the next best grades from assessments after 15 March will be used until the minimum threshold of 65% has been reached.

We anticipate that under these arrangements nearly all students will receive their award at the expected time. However, for those students who are not happy with the outcome based on grades for assessments taken after 15 March, they will also have an opportunity for further assessment - see below.

Dissertation/Project for Honours and Integrated Masters Degrees

The regulation requiring completion of an independent piece of work (dissertation or project) to a standard of D3 or above remains in place. You will therefore need to submit your dissertation and receive a grade of D3 or above in order to qualify for your degree. This will of course count towards the minimum level of assessment that needs to be completed.

If you are concerned about disruption to the preparation of your dissertation please note that if the dissertation was submitted after 15 March the grade will not count towards your graduating GPA if it turns out to be lower than your baseline GPA (i.e. the GPA based on

your assessments completed by 15 March) provided you have enough other assessment to meet the minimum completed assessment requirement (65%). If your dissertation was submitted by 15 March it will count towards your final GPA (i.e. it will be included in your baseline GPA), so if you haven't submitted a Good Cause claim and you have concerns, you should contact your School to advise them of your concerns.

Dissertation (independent work) for PGT students

The PGT dissertation is normally completed over an extended timescale over the summer. If you are experiencing disruption to this preparation due to Covid-19 you should contact your PGT convener or dissertation supervisor to discuss possibilities for an extension to the submission date. Please note that, depending on the length of any extension granted, this could have an impact on when it will be possible to receive your degree. For certain students this may have other implications, for example in relation to visa requirements. It is important that you assess your own circumstances carefully to determine if this is the best course of action for you. If your grade for the dissertation you submit is below the threshold grade as set out in the relevant degree regulations (usually D3), you will have the chance to resubmit, although this will be treated as a second attempt (resit) and therefore the grade cannot contribute to the award of Merit or Distinction.

Designated and Ordinary Degrees

In recognition of the No Detriment policy the requirements for the award of these degrees have been amended as follows:

Eligibility for award of the degree will require all of the following requirements to be met:

- A curriculum consisting of 360 credits including at least 60 credits at Level 3.
- A GPA of at least 9.0 for the overall programme assessment. This must be based on completion of a minimum of 65% of that assessment, with no Credit Refused.
- A GPA of at least 9.0 across the assessment associated with at least 60 credits at Level 3. This must be based on completion of a minimum of 65% of the assessment across those courses.

Regulations for some designated/ordinary degrees permit progression to junior honours instead of graduating at the end of third year, and in such cases when considering progressions, Schools will take into account the fact that performance in assessment after 15 March may have been compromised.

Further assessment attempts following the April/May assessment diet

Part of the No Detriment approach involves allowing further assessment attempts if the original diet has been compromised – even if you have achieved an overall course grade considered to be at a satisfactory level or above (known as the threshold grade: normally D3 for undergraduates and C3 for postgraduates).

So, if on receiving your results you believe your performance in assessment after 15 March 2020 was impacted by Covid-19, or other circumstances, you will have the chance to take assessments at the August assessment diet and these would be counted as a first sitting. This means it will be as if you are taking the assessment for the first time and there will be no cap on the course grade points.

If you are in your final year of an honours or integrated masters programme, assessments impacted by Covid-19 can be taken afresh as a 'first attempt' as follows:

1. Where you have qualified for an honours or integrated masters degree at the scheduled time, but you feel that your overall result has been impaired. In this case you may **re-take the full April/May assessment diet** in order to try and achieve an improved classification. Your degree classification will be based on your full set of results from either the first or second attempt – whichever produces the best outcome.
2. If you have not yet met the requirements for an honours or integrated masters degree, you may select individual assessments to be taken afresh to enable you to qualify for the award. This may include assessment on courses where the threshold grade for the course has been achieved (normally D3)

For all other students including postgraduate students, ordinary and designated degree students, continuing students on honours and integrated masters degrees, you may select individual assessments to be taken afresh to enable you to qualify for the award and/or improve your performance. This may include assessments on courses where the threshold grade for the course has been achieved (normally D3 for undergraduates and C3 for postgraduates).

Reassessments will normally be offered in the same format as assessments taken by other students. The August assessment diet will also be delivered online in the same way as the April/May assessment diet.