

Information for continuing undergraduate degree students

Issued 24 April 2020

In our earlier [position statement](#) about learning, teaching and assessment arrangements during COVID19 disruption, we gave a commitment to act in the student interest to implement a fair approach when making decisions about student progression. We seek to ensure no student is disadvantaged, and to facilitate progression to the next stage of study wherever possible.

We have considered carefully how best to put this into practice and taken into account feedback from staff and students in this evolving context. We believe the approach below is fair and flexible, recognising that students will have differing individual circumstances.

Every university is implementing policies appropriate to its own situation. We can reassure you that our approach is designed for the University of the Highlands and Islands' context and student population and is aligned with national requirements to maintain confidence in the academic standards of your programme.

We have put in place alternative assessment arrangements for modules in this semester where this was necessary due to the transition away from face-to-face delivery. Your module tutors have worked extremely hard to put these in place quickly and will continue to deliver your modules unless practical considerations prevent this.

Many of you have already engaged with your assessments, or intend to do so, so that your hard work is recognised, and you will receive your marks and grades.

We also know that many of you are anxious about being able to continue your studies due to the current circumstances. Therefore, we will provide a 'safety net' allowing exceptional progression arrangements for our continuing students, in the light of the unprecedented disruption and uncertainty we are all experiencing.

We want to reassure you that your **performance in modules assessed in this semester** will not prevent you progressing to the next year of study. If you are unable to submit assessments, or if you submit and do not pass, we will permit 'compensation' for most modules**, allowing exceptional progression to the next stage of study, including into Honours level (SCQF Level 10).

'Compensation' means that we will record these modules as '**ungraded pass**' on your transcript for the purposes of progression, and no resit will be required.

**There are some modules and programmes which CANNOT be compensated in this way, due to professional body accreditation requirements, or specific health and safety considerations. Your Programme Leader will be able to advise if this applies to your programme.

For some modules with practical or placement elements, it has not been possible to arrange alternative assessment arrangements to date. Due to the ongoing lockdown and social distancing rules, it may not be possible to reschedule these prior to next academic year. You will not be disadvantaged due to these circumstances, and we will record such modules as 'ungraded pass' for the purposes of progression. If your programme requires core practical skills or competences, you may need to be assessed on these at a later stage, to ensure you meet all requirements of your final award.

We would encourage you to submit assessments if you are able to do so, as this will enable you to receive feedback and support your future learning. If you do wish to be assessed to receive your graded result, but you are unable to submit in this semester, you must submit a mitigating circumstances claim if you have not already done so. This will mean that work can be submitted at a later date without a penalty (ie it will be treated as a first attempt, and your mark will not be capped).

These arrangements are for exceptional progression, and **do not apply to final (exit) awards at any level**. If you progress to next year, then decide to leave your programme early, you may be required to undertake some further assessments for any compensated modules, to be eligible for an exit award.

Separate guidance will be issued for final level students shortly.

We will be as flexible as possible to support you to continue with your studies. Please **keep in touch with your Personal Academic Tutor (PAT)** and Programme Leader about your situation, so they can advise and support you. If you need to discuss the options of a repeat year, or suspending your studies until a later date, please speak to your PAT, or raise a query via the [Red Button](#).