Exceptional regulations for summer 19/20: PGT Classification for taught modules

Due to COVID-19, the University of Nottingham has taken the decision not to hold examinations in the summer exam period that require students to be present on campus, and many other items of assessment will need to be altered. It is recognised that Post Graduate Taught (PGT) students are disproportionately affected, since most of them are on one-year degrees and many of them are not due to complete until the end of the summer. These regulations should be read in conjunction with all existing regulations, as well as the Exceptional Regulations on Assessment, PGT Progression and Extenuating Circumstances. These regulations apply to all PGT students completing programmes in 19/20 including PG Cert and PG Diploma (PGDip) students. We will keep these regulations under review and may extend the period further. Part-time students expecting to complete during 2020/21 will be accommodated at a later stage. These regulations do not apply to the 60-credit masters Project/Dissertation, which is treated separately (see PGCL7 below).

The Exceptional Regulations for Assessment make provision for cases where because of the cancelling of assessment due to COVID-19, a module will be missing marks, and neither part-for-whole nor substitute assessment are available. These are defined as COVID-incomplete modules.

PGCL1. When classifying students, **Schools may discount up to one third of the total credits of the degree programme**, with up to 30 credits of taught module marks being discounted on the grounds of an upheld EC claim and up to 40 credits of taught module marks being discounted for COVID-incomplete taught modules (this may include non-compensatable modules). The total discounted modules must not exceed 60 credits, and will be fewer for PG Dip students (maximum 40 credits) and PGCertificate (PGCert) students (maximum 20 credits).

PGCL2. Performance in the taught modules can then be assessed on the basis of a weighted average of the remaining marks. All students classified carrying COVID-incomplete modules should be given the option of a first-sit at the first available opportunity.

PGCL3. Borderline algorithms should be applied on a pro-rata basis, such that a student should be given the higher class if, once modules have been discounted, half or more of the remaining credits are in the higher class.

PGCL4. Where a student has more credits of COVID-incomplete modules than can be discounted at classification, they should be offered a Pass or the option of a first sit in the COVID-incomplete modules at the first available opportunity.

PGCL5. It is recognised that those courses with Professional Statutory Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) requirements or (in the case of UNM and UNNC) national requirements may need to make more stringent arrangements, first receiving guidance from the relevant regulatory body. Those requirements will, in all cases, be in addition to the regulations laid out here.

PGCL6. To ensure that no student is disadvantaged by the outbreak of COVID-19, we are asking exam boards to operate with two routes to classification (for taught modules only):

(a) operate the exceptional regulations on classification, described above.

(b) where higher than the classification generated by (a), and where all taught modules in the COVID-impacted period are passed, use a weighted average of marks achieved prior to 15/3/20 (if such marks exist) as the basis for the average of all taught modules under the normal classification model.

PGCL7. The 60-credit masters Dissertation/Project module must be treated separately and cannot be substituted by this weighted average; instead a different set of adjustments have been applied (see separate document '60-credit PGT Dissertation/Project'). The outcome for this module should be used alongside the outcome for the taught modules to determine the final classification for these students.