

## REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE ABSENCE OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF SIGNIFICANT DISRUPTION

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THESE STANDING REGULATIONS WILL ONLY BE IN FORCE IF THEY HAVE BEEN FORMALLY INVOKED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC BOARD IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC BUSINESS HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY DISRUPTED BY FORCE MAJEURE.

These regulations take precedence over other regulations relating to student classification and progression, and over the regulations governing the quoracy of and external representation at assessment boards.

Regulations relating to appeals and complaints processes remain in force during periods of disruption caused by force majeure.

For the purposes of these regulations, the term force majeure refers to any cause of significant disruption to the academic business of the University. This will include, but is not limited to: a major outbreak of disease; natural disaster; fire; acts of terrorism; and industrial action (including that carried out by University staff).

### 1 Activation of the Regulations

In circumstances in which the University's academic business is significantly disrupted by reason of *force majeure* the Vice-Chancellor may on behalf of Academic Board invoke these regulations. Such action will be reported to the first subsequent meeting of Academic Board.

### 2 Stage 1 undergraduate assessment

- a) Where one-third or fewer ( $\leq 40$  credits) of the assessment results at stage 1 are unavailable for a student as a result of *force majeure*, assessment boards may take any of the decisions open to it under the regulations for undergraduate assessment regarding the student's progression or referral, based on those assessment results available to it. No consideration shall be given by the assessment board to the student's performance in those modules for which assessment results are not available.
- b) Where more than one-third ( $> 40$  credits) of the assessment results at stage 1 are unavailable for a student as a result of *force majeure*, assessment boards may take any of the decisions open to it under the regulations for undergraduate assessment. The assessment board will be required to review those decisions at its next meeting when students may be required to submit assessments on a deferral basis.

### 3 Stage 2 undergraduate assessment

- a) Where one-third or fewer ( $\leq 40$  credits) of the assessment results at stage 2 are unavailable for a student as a result of *force majeure*, assessment boards may take any of the decisions open to it under the regulations for undergraduate assessment regarding the student's progression or referral, based on those assessment results available to it. No consideration shall be given by the assessment board to the student's performance in those modules for which assessment results are not available.
- b) Where more than one-third ( $> 40$  credits) of the assessment results at stage 2 are unavailable for a student as a result of *force majeure*, assessment boards may take any of the decisions open to it under the regulations for undergraduate assessment but will be required to review those decisions at its next meeting when students may be required to submit assessments on a deferral basis.

#### **4 Stage 3 final undergraduate assessment**

- a) Where one-third or fewer ( $\leq 40$  credits) of the assessment results at stage 3 are unavailable for a student as a result of *force majeure*, and the conditions for the award of a degree laid down in section 5 below are satisfied, the student will be eligible for consideration for the award of a classified Honours degree, based on those assessment results available to it. .
- b) Where no more than one-half ( $\leq 60$  credits) of the assessment results at stage 3 are unavailable for a student as a result of *force majeure*, and the conditions for the award of a degree laid down in section 5 below are satisfied, the student will be eligible for consideration for the award of an unclassified degree
- c) Where more than one-half ( $> 60$  credits) of the assessment results at stage 3 are unavailable for a student as a result of *force majeure*, and the conditions for the award of a degree laid down in section 5 below are satisfied, the student will be deferred for consideration by the next assessment board.
- d) Notwithstanding 4a, 4b and 4c above, an assessment board may take any other decision open to it under the regulations for undergraduate assessment.

#### **5 Conditions for making undergraduate awards**

In order to be considered for classification for Honours under these regulations or for the award of an unclassified Degree, assessment boards have to be satisfied that assessment results were unavailable wholly or partly as a result of *force majeure* and in each case decide that the student should be dealt with under this rather than any other University regulation.

#### **6 Reconsideration of undergraduate students**

In all cases where a degree is awarded to a final stage student without all contributing assessment results being available wholly or partly as a result of *force majeure*, students will be reconsidered at the next meeting of the assessment board when all available assessment results will be presented to the Board.

- a) Where a student was awarded an unclassified Degree, the Board shall consider classification on the basis of the assessment results now available to it.
- b) Where a student was awarded a classified Honours degree, the Board shall reconsider the student's assessment results to determine whether the student should be awarded a higher class.

Reconsideration of a final year student's assessment results for classification purposes will not disadvantage the student.

## **7 Taught postgraduate assessment – taught elements and progression**

*'Taught credits' describes all parts of postgraduate awards except the dissertation.*

- a) Where assessment results are unavailable for a student for any part of the taught credits of the course wholly or partly as a result of *force majeure*, and where the missing assessment results cumulatively contribute no more than one-third ( $\leq 40$  credits) of the taught credits, the student will be eligible for consideration for progression to the dissertation element of the course.
- b) Where assessment results are unavailable for a student for any part of the final year examinations wholly or partly as a result of *force majeure*, and where the missing assessment results cumulatively contribute more than one-third ( $> 40$  credits) of the taught credits, the student will be eligible for consideration for progression to the dissertation element of the course, but may be required to submit assessments on a deferral basis.
- c) Notwithstanding 7a and 7b above, an assessment board may take any other decision open to it under the regulation for postgraduate awards.

## **8 Taught postgraduate assessment – finalists**

- a) Where the result for the dissertation is available but no more than one-third ( $\leq 40$  credits) of the taught credits are unavailable as a result of *force majeure*, the student will be eligible for consideration for the award of a classified Masters degree, based on those assessment results available to it.
- b) Where the result for the dissertation is available but more than one-third ( $> 40$  credits) of the taught credits are unavailable as a result of *force majeure*, the student will be deferred for consideration by the next Board.
- c) Where the result for the dissertation is unavailable, the student will be deferred for consideration by the next Board.

## **9 Conditions for postgraduate classification**

In order to be considered for classification for a Masters degree under these regulations, the assessment board must be satisfied that assessment results were unavailable wholly or partly

as a result of *force majeure* and in each case decide that the student should be dealt with under this rather than any other University regulation.

## **10 Cases for reconsideration of postgraduate students**

In all cases where a postgraduate award is made to a student without all contributing assessment results being available wholly or partly as a result of *force majeure*, students will be reconsidered at the next meeting of the assessment board when all available assessment results will be presented to the Board.

Where a student was awarded a classified Masters degree, the Board shall reconsider the student's assessment results to determine whether the student should be awarded a higher class.

Reconsideration of a postgraduate student's assessment results for classification purposes will not disadvantage the student.

## **11 Postgraduate research student assessment**

Whilst Falmouth does not have research degree awarding powers, the assessment of postgraduate research students during or as a result of a period of significant disruption will be conducted according to the regulations of the awarding University.

## **12 Quoracy and external representation**

If it proves impossible for an assessment board meeting to fulfil the usual requirements for quoracy wholly or partly as a result of *force majeure*, the Vice-Chancellor may approve on behalf of Academic Board a reduced quorum for that assessment board meeting.

If it proves impossible for an assessment board meeting to fulfil the usual requirements for external representation wholly or partly as a result of *force majeure*, the Vice-Chancellor may approve on behalf of Academic Board a reduced or differently-constituted external representation for that assessment board meeting.