

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF ASSESSMENT, PROGRESSION AND GRADUATION OF STUDENTS AFFECTED BY SIGNIFICANT DISRUPTION

These regulations should be read in conjunction with the Falmouth University Academic Regulations: Taught Courses and the Assessment Board Terms of Reference and Membership.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. These regulations will only be in force if they have been formally invoked by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Academic Board and in circumstances in which the university's academic business has been significantly disrupted by *force majeure*.
- 1.2. 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 includes, but is not limited to, any cessation, interruption or delay in the provision of educational services due to a major outbreak of disease, earthquake, flood, fire, storm, natural disaster, war, terrorism, armed conflict, industrial action (including that carried out by University staff), lockout, boycott or other similar events beyond the reasonable control of the University.
- 1.3. When implemented the regulations take precedence over other regulations relating to the assessment, progression and graduation of students, and over the regulations governing the quoracy of and external representation at assessment boards.
- 1.4. Examples used within these regulations are for illustrative purposes only, they are not exhaustive or binding on Academic Board.
- 1.5. Regulations relating to appeals and complaints processes remain in force during periods of disruption caused by *force majeure*.

2. How we will activate these regulations

- 2.1. In circumstances in which the University's academic business (or part of it) is significantly disrupted by reason of *force majeure* the Vice-Chancellor may on behalf of Academic Board invoke these regulations wholly or individually as required.
- 2.2. These regulations may also be applied, wholly or in part, for individual modules, courses, or delivery locations as deemed necessary (for example to account for localised natural disaster, or the impact of an event beyond the University's control on a particular aspect of its business).
- 2.3. Such action will be reported to the first subsequent meeting of Academic Board.

3. How we will assess students

- 3.1. Where it has not been possible to complete assessment on one or multiple module(s) due to the advent of a *force majeure* event, assessment boards may consider students, and award credit, using either of the following methodologies, as appropriate:
 - 3.1.1. where student work, applicable to the learning outcome(s) to be assessed, has been observed (e.g. through formative assessment) in consultation with the External Examiner, the Course Leader may determine an element and/or final module mark.
 - 3.1.2. in other cases credit may be awarded on a pass/fail basis. The decision to award credit will rest on the academic judgement of whether the student, had they been assessed, would likely achieve the defined learning outcomes, at threshold level, for the module under consideration.
- 3.2. To support the academic judgement of students' likely attainment against learning outcomes, students:
 - 3.2.1. are required to keep and share work in-progress upon request (for example essay drafting notes, photos of work in development etc); and
 - 3.2.2. may also be required to make an additional submission describing their progress toward assessment.

4. How our assessment boards will operate

- 4.1. Assessment Boards may operate remotely as required.
- 4.2. If it proves impossible for an assessment board to fulfil the defined requirements for quoracy (including external representation) wholly or partly as a result of the advent of a *force majeure* event, the Vice-Chancellor (or nominee) may approve on behalf of Academic Board a reduced quorum for that assessment board meeting based on the available attendees.

5. Alternative arrangements for assessing students

- 5.1. Academic Board may make arrangements, as necessary, for students to be assessed via alternative methods or times, and/or for their assessment to be considered at a later date.
- 5.2. Circumstances where this regulation may be applied include, but are not limited to: where a substantial amount of the credit that counts for the award has been impacted by the advent of a *force majeure* event or a Professional or Statutory or Regulatory Body.

6. How we will confirm your results

- 6.1. Students assessed as described in section 3 (above) will be eligible to be considered for the full range of assessment board outcomes in accordance with the academic regulations in force at the time. These include, but are not limited to, progression, referral in one or more modules or, if you have sufficient credit, conferring an award.

7. How we will calculate your degree

- 7.1. If you have sufficient credit to receive a classified award (e.g. Foundation Degree, Honours Degree or Master's Degree), the algorithm to be used to calculate the degree classification (e.g. first class, 2:1, merit etc) will be determined by Academic Board in each *force majeure* event.
- 7.2. The classification algorithm determined, including the limits of any discretion that may be applied, will take account of the extent and nature of the disruption and the need to maintain the value of qualifications awarded over time.
- 7.3. The degree classification algorithm and the limits of any discretionary judgement agreed by Academic Board, will be detailed within assessment board guidance and also published to students following its approval.

VERSION CONTROL

PURPOSE/CHANGE	AUTHOR	DATE
Original document approved at AQSC	QAE	21/05/2014
Significant amendments approved by Academic Board chair's action	QAE	20/03/2020
Amendments approved by Academic Board	QAE	03/02/2021