



## No-Detriment statement January 2021.

The aim of our 2020/21 No-Detriment measures is to reduce the impact of any disruption you may experience when you are preparing for and attempting your assessments.

Last year, the sudden disruption in March 2020 meant we needed to put in place broad, emergency measures in order to preserve your academic outcomes and awards.

This year, our No-Detriment Policy (this is known as a 'Safety Net' in some other universities) has been developed in a different context. Your learning and assessments have been designed to respond to the impact of Covid-19 and its challenges. Much work has been done to redesign how your subject is being taught and our academic colleagues have adapted their teaching for online delivery, supported where possible by in-person sessions on campus. This means we have been able to offer flexibility in how you access and engage with your learning, and tailor assessment using our digital examination software. Our Covid-19 measures this year therefore focus on helping you manage any individual difficulties you may still experience, particularly when it comes to your assessments. Other universities are taking a similar approach for a no-detriment policy in 2020/21.

This Policy covers all work from 4 January 2021, when England went into another National lockdown, and will remain in place until the end of the 2020/21 assessment period. We do not anticipate making further changes to these safeguards.

### **Extenuating Circumstances (ECs):**

You are reminded of our ECs process where you can tell us if there is something that has affected your performance in an assessment. This system is beneficial as it will inform us of your circumstances and enable us to refer you to support where appropriate. The support we can offer you goes beyond our academic provision. A major advantage of the EC system is that it enables us to refer students to the support which is likely to be most helpful for them. If you need to submit ECs, you must provide evidence if at all possible; however, we understand that, depending on the nature of your circumstances, you may not be able to do so. Where this is the case, please explain in your submission why you cannot submit evidence.

While ECs do not normally cover computer or other IT device failure, we recognise that completing your studies online may bring about other IT challenges. Therefore, ECs submitted in relation to IT issues will be considered on a case-by-case basis, provided evidence (for example, photographs/error messages, etc.) is submitted. Poor internet connection would not normally be considered an EC unless you can demonstrate that you allowed sufficient time for uploading, or we have evidence (for example, the live chat transcript) of you contacting the WISEflow support team. Please refer to the 'Candidate guide for at home digital exams' which will be updated again before the May exam period.



If you have any issues that you think we could help with, please do get in touch and resolve these now before they impact your studies further. You should speak with your personal tutor in the first instance.

**Coursework, assignments and dissertations (not including exams):**

**The coursework extension portal on [eVision](#) remains open and you can use this to request an extension of up to five days (or two weeks for a final year project).**

For coursework and assignments (including dissertations) with submission dates from 4 January 2021 until the end of the 2020/21 assessment period, we will offer a second attempt to students who submit but fail their assessments (including group work). Ordinarily students who do submit their work but fail would be offered a capped second attempt, but we are removing the cap and students who fail will be offered an uncapped second attempt, which means that there is no limit on the mark that can be achieved.

If you are unable to meet your set deadline and an extension is not sufficient, please ensure that you have submitted ECs (as outlined above). Students who do not submit their work and do not submit ECs will be offered a capped second attempt. This includes students that submit late without associated ECs.

If a Board of Examiners identifies that you have not done as well as expected, it will, where appropriate, act in your best interest. See information about Panels and Boards provided below.

**January 2021 examinations:**

We know that you may have been impacted by the lockdown as you were preparing to take your January exams. Therefore, we are applying this policy from the 4 January, and if you failed any of your January exams we will offer you an uncapped second attempt at the next opportunity.

If you were unable to sit your exam in January you should have submitted ECs (as outlined above). Students who did not sit their exam and did not submit ECs will be offered a capped second attempt.

If a Board of Examiners identifies that you have not done as well as expected, it will, where appropriate, act in your best interest. See information about Panels and Boards provided below.

**May 2021 assessment period:**

While the May assessment period may seem to be some time away, we are already working on facilitating the majority of the examinations online using WISEflow, which you are familiar with from your coursework submissions. Throughout all of the exams we will ensure that there is a live chat function with trained examinations staff to provide you with support. Guidance on this will be provided nearer the time.



We understand that finding a suitable space to sit your exams might be difficult, especially if you are sharing study spaces or have an unreliable internet connection. Providing we are permitted to do so (under the Government guidance), we will provide study spaces on campus for individuals that would prefer to be on campus to take their exams.

We hope that all students are able to take their examinations as scheduled in May 2021 as our data show that students who sit their exams at the first opportunity are more likely to progress and succeed, and therefore we want to support as many students as possible to complete their exams in the May assessment period.

**If you sit your exam and fail we will offer you an uncapped second attempt at the next opportunity.**

If you are unable to take your May exams, due to illness, being adversely affected by the pandemic or other reasons, you should submit ECs in the normal way. The Board of Examiners will then consider your academic profile and offer a suitable resolution, usually by way of an assessment opportunity in the August re-sit period. Students who do not sit an exam in May and do not submit ECs, will be offered a capped second attempt.

#### Timings of results:

We understand that you will be keen to know when you might have to undertake reassessment and/or when you will get your results, and so we would like to clarify the following:

1. If you pass all required assessments for 2020/21 in time for the June Boards of Examiners, you will get your results in July 2021 (Masters results will be in November 2021).
2. If you require any reassessments, these will be in August, and you will get your results in September 2021.
3. If you have not completed all assessments by the August 2021 resit period, you will be reassessed at the next normal opportunity in the next academic year, and will receive your results by July 2022.

#### Panels and Boards of Examiners:

Our Senate Regulations are designed to mitigate any disadvantage as we have two levels of scrutiny of academic performance designed to detect any issues with assessment:

- The **Panel of Examiners** scrutinises the marks achieved for each Assessment Block/Module by the whole cohort, so that any over-arching issues with the assessment(s) can be identified and addressed. The Panel will make recommendations to the Board of Examiners about what action should be taken.
- The **Board of Examiners** looks at the performance of each individual student, including the previous academic year(s), where relevant. This is where we pick up anyone who



has not done as well as expected based on their previous results. The Board has a range of options including, for example, granting another uncapped attempt, or setting aside the result for a particular assessment (if the learning outcomes have been demonstrated elsewhere) so that it does not contribute to the module grade or award calculation.

You can find the information about Panels and Boards of Examiners in Senate Regulation 4, Section C. [Senate-Regulation-4-2019-11-20.pdf \(brunel.ac.uk\)](#)

**Queries about your results:**

Your results will be released on e-vision. If you have any questions about your results then you can use our Results Service, which aims to resolve informal queries as speedily as possible. We will provide details in due course of how you can access the Results Service. If you are not satisfied with the explanation provided then you can make use of our appeals process [Academic Appeals | Brunel University London](#)

**Support and services on campus:**

In line with the government guidance about how universities should be operating under the current lockdown circumstances, we are keen to ensure that you can still access all of your support and services. We regularly update our website with information about what you can access and how ([Support and services on campus during lockdown \(brunel.ac.uk\)](#)).

Remember that the Library will remain open, for as long as we are permitted to do so, to provide study space for those who need it, as well as providing materials to students. You don't have to be on campus to take advantage of their services. ([Overview - Covid-19 support portal - LibGuides at Brunel University Library](#)).

If you are struggling to access your learning, i.e. due to connectivity issues, or lack of access to a laptop, please contact [computing-support@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:computing-support@brunel.ac.uk) so that we can see if there is something we can do to support you.

Please rest assured that the University seeks to support students as best as it can at all times and we believe the approach we are taking is appropriate, fair and supportive.

As always, if you are worried about the impact of COVID-19 on your studies or assessment please seek advice from your personal tutor as early as possible, or contact Student Services: [studentsupport@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@brunel.ac.uk).

**Other useful resources:**

[BruNet](#) (be sure to use the search function)  
[Supporting Students \(including Extenuating Circumstances\)](#)  
[Coursework Submission Policy](#)  
[BUL Candidate Guide for 'At Home' Digital exams](#)