

Progression and Award: Amended Academic Regulations in Response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Progression and Award

Amended Academic Regulations in Response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19)

In Semester two 2019/20 Academic Board agreed a schema, guidance and changes to the Academic Regulations to enable Leeds Beckett University to make academic decisions covering student progression and the award of academic credit and degrees on undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This enabled our University to maintain the academic and professional standards expected by key stakeholders, including Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies, while being fair and reasonable to our students by considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their academic experience.

In continuing to support our students, the Vice Chancellor confirmed in January 2021 that the changes to the University Academic Regulations that were approved during the first wave of the pandemic would be reintroduced in 2020/21. These progression and award regulations will apply to all students studying under the Covid-19 regulations (i.e. semester 2 of 2019/20 and all of 2020/21) and will be applied at the point that students are ready to progress or be considered for an award.

Students should confirm with their course team which regulations (standard or Covid-19) will be applied to them when they are being considered by progression or award. Standard regulations are summarised in the factsheets listed under [Section 4 of the Academic Regulations](#).

Please note:

- The position will be adapted flexibly to ensure that students who are studying other undergraduate or postgraduate awards are treated in an equitable way;
- The criteria for progression from Level 4 to 5 is equally applicable to students progressing from Foundation Years (Level 0) to level 4.

Applicable Scenarios

There are some scenarios in 2021/22 that will require the continued application of the Covid-19 regulations for progression, award eligibility and classification. The approach agreed is that:

- Covid-19 regulations would be applied where part/all of the level being considered by an exam board was studied during the Covid-affected period (i.e. semester two of 2019/20 or 2020/21).
- The revised regulations would be applied at the point when these students' profiles are presented for a progression and/or award decision.

Progression or eligibility for award: students who studied part of their current level during the Covid-19 period and are being presented for progression or award in 2021/22 would have Covid-19 regulations for progression or award applied.

Honours degree classification: honours degree students who studied part of Level 5 and/or 6 during the Covid-19 period would have the Covid-19 classification regulations applied to the relevant level(s) when their contribution to honours is being calculated. For example, if part of Level 5 was studied during the Covid-19 period the classification would be calculated using the 'best 60' credits at this level, rather than the 'best 100', weighted at 25%.

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Students should confirm with their course team which regulations (standard or Covid-19) will be applied to them when they are being considered for progression or award.

Covid-19 Regulations: Progression

Profile	Covid-19 Criteria for Progression
Students will progress from Level 4 to Level 5 if the following criteria are met:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have studied their full programme of modules for Level 4 • Students have submitted/attempted all their components of assessment (<i>unless they have been prevented from doing so because of circumstances caused by coronavirus. In these cases the University will consider performance prior to those circumstances to make a fair progression decision</i>) • Students have achieved marks of 40% or more in modules equivalent to 60 credit points (<i>three standard modules</i>) • Students have achieved the learning outcomes for Level 4 in the judgement of the academic staff concerned • Students have met any additional requirements set by a Professional Body which accredits the course (where applicable)
Students will progress from Level 5 to Level 6 if the following criteria are met:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have studied their full programme of modules for Level 5 • Students have submitted/ attempted all their components of assessment (<i>unless they have been prevented from doing so because of circumstances caused by coronavirus. In these cases the University will consider performance prior to those circumstances to make a fair progression decision</i>) • Students have achieved marks of 40% or more in modules equivalent to 60 credit points (<i>three standard modules</i>) • Students have an average mark for the whole level of 30% or more • Students have an average mark for half of the level of 40% or more • Students have achieved the learning outcomes for Level 5 in the judgement of the academic staff concerned • Students have met any additional requirements set by a Professional Body which accredits the course (where applicable)

Covid-19 Regulations: Undergraduate Honours Degree Award Eligibility and Honours Classification

Profile	Covid-19 Criteria for Honours Degrees
Students will be eligible for a Bachelors with Honours degree award if the following criteria are met:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have studied their full programme of modules for Level 6 • Students have submitted/ attempted all their components of assessment (<i>unless they have been prevented from doing so because of circumstances caused by coronavirus. In these cases the University will consider performance prior to those circumstances to make a fair eligibility decision</i>) • Students have an average mark for the whole level of 30% or more • Students have achieved marks of 40% or more in modules equivalent to 60 credit points (<i>three standard modules</i>) • Students have achieved the learning outcomes for the award in the judgement of the academic staff concerned • Students have met any additional requirements set by a Professional Body which accredits the course • Students have achieved a mark of 40% or more in the dissertation/ major study module if that is a pre-existing requirement of the degree course concerned

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Profile	Covid-19 Criteria for Honours Degrees
Bachelors with Honours Degree Classifications will be made based on the following criteria:	<p>Honours degree classifications should take account of whether the student completed Level 5 and/or Level 6 during semester two 2019/20 and/or 2020/21. Where students studied Level 5 and/or Level 6 during this period, the contribution to their honours degree calculation from that level should be based on the Covid-19 regulations in place for that year.</p> <p>Under the Covid-19 regulations, students will receive a classification calculated using the 'best 60' approach (see example outlined below):</p> <p><i>For students who passed Level 5 in 2020/21 and are studying Level 6 in 2021/22: An average of the marks from the best 60 credits achieved at Level 5 (weighted at 25%) added to an average of the best 100 credits at Level 6 (weighted at 75%).</i></p> <p>This is because Level 5 was studied under the Covid-19 regulations and Level 6 under the standard regulations.</p> <p>Additional requirements for classification set by a Professional Body which accredits the course will be retained.</p>

The [honours degree classification upgrade rule](#) will continue to be implemented when honours degree classifications are considered by a Progression and Award Board. Where Covid-19 regulations have been applied, Part 1 of the rule will consider the final average mark for an honours degree after application of the 'best 60' classification approach. If both Parts 1 and 2 of the rule are met, the final average mark will be raised to the higher classification banding.

Covid-19 Regulations: Masters Degrees

Profile	Covid-19 Criteria for Masters Degrees
Students will be eligible for a Masters award if the following criteria are met:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have studied their full programme of modules for Level 7 • Students have submitted/ attempted all their components of assessment (<i>unless they have been prevented from doing so because of circumstances caused by coronavirus. In these cases the University will consider performance prior to those circumstances to make a fair progression decision</i>) • Students have achieved marks of 40% or more in modules equivalent to 60 credit points (<i>three standard modules</i>) and in addition, have achieved a mark of 40% or more in the dissertation/ major study module • Students have an average mark for the whole level of 30% or more • Students have achieved the learning outcomes for the award in the judgement of the academic staff concerned • Students have met any additional requirements set by a Professional Body which accredits the course (where applicable)
Merit and Distinction:	<p>Merit and distinction are awarded in one of the two following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An average across modules equivalent to 120 credit points of 60% for Merit and 70% for Distinction • <i>or</i> • A '<i>defined profile of achievement</i>' <p>Your course documentation will confirm if the '<i>defined profile of achievement</i>' has been adopted by your course.</p>

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Please contact your Course Administrator/Course Director to confirm the Covid-19 criteria for merit and distinction for other non-honours awards not listed above.

Contacts and Further Information

[Academic Regulations](#)

Students with queries should contact their Course Director or Course Administrator

Staff with queries should contact [Quality Assurance Services](#) or visit the [Exam Board Handbook](#)