



NO DETRIMENT POLICY (April 2020)

ARU has developed and agreed a No Detriment Policy for use during the Covid-19 pandemic. This policy has been approved by the Senate on 28th April 2020 and will be applied initially for Trimester 2 and Trimester 3 assessment in the 2019/20 academic year for all undergraduate and postgraduate taught provision. It may be extended further to future assessment periods by the agreement of the Senate. The policy applies to all students registered for an ARU award at all locations of study in the UK and overseas.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this 'No Detriment' policy is to apply specified special measures to normal assessment processes in order to minimise the potential negative impact on module outcomes (eg: the final mark for a module) of the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically: (i) the sudden and rapid move to on-line delivery (replacing face-to-face delivery) and; (ii) the use of alternative assessment tasks to replace those that could no longer be undertaken as a result of the closure of campuses and move to on-line delivery (eg: controlled conditions examinations, etc.);

PRINCIPLES

The ARU No Detriment policy has been developed according to four principles:

- (1) The policy will assure ARU's academic standards by ensuring that the threshold standard for the award of academic credit is maintained through the demonstration and achievement of learning outcomes;
- (2) The policy will require students to undertake and complete relevant assessment tasks to demonstrate academic and (where appropriate) professional competence and achievement.

- (3) The policy will apply a 'no detriment' approach through the use of evidence of student achievement only and not the use of prediction or other non-evidential based systems.
- (4) The policy will ensure that student performance is only levelled-up where there is appropriate evidence to do so and, therefore, the policy will not lead to a reduction in any marks achieved by a student.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS

- (A) The No Detriment policy will be applied to all students who complete their allocated assessment tasks and are awarded a *Pass* decision and credit for a module.
- (B) All modules will be assessed by the appropriate Modular Assessment Panel (MAP) in the normal way, subject to internal and external moderation processes.
- (C) For all modules assessed and passed in Trimester 2¹ and Trimester 3 of the 2019/20 academic year, the conditions described in the hierarchy articulated below will be applied to all student profiles.
- (D) The No Detriment policy is subject to the standard *Academic Regulations* relating to penalties applied for late work and re-assessed and retaken modules (eg: if a piece of work is submitted late, the No Detriment policy does not negate the appropriate penalty which applies to the relevant element).
- (E) Condition 1 – Default Position
- All modules will be assessed by the appropriate MAP in the normal way, subject to internal and external moderation processes;
 - For each individual student, ARU will calculate the credit-weighted arithmetic mean for all modules at the same academic level for which credit has been previously awarded (ie: prior to Trimester 2) – the “level mean”;

¹ Throughout this policy, “Trimester 2 module(s)” incorporates modules delivered over the double period of *Trimester 1 and 2* (TR1-2) and for which credit is awarded for successful completion at the end of Trimester 2

- Where a student achieves an overall module pass mark for a Trimester 2 or Trimester 3 module which is less than their individual "level mean", the mark will be replaced by the "level mean"

EXAMPLE

An overall module mark of 53% for a student with a "level mean" of 58% will be elevated to 58%

- Where a student achieves an overall module mark for a Trimester 2 or Trimester 3 module which is equal to or exceeds their individual "level mean", the mark will be confirmed and added to their academic profile

EXAMPLE

An overall module mark of 67% for a student with a "level mean" of 61% will be confirmed at 67%

(F) Condition 1 will apply to the majority of students. However, there will be students for whom Condition 1 does not or cannot apply, including:

- Students admitted to their course at the beginning of Trimester 2 (or Trimester 3)
- Students who progressed to the next year of their course at the beginning of Trimester 2 (or Trimester 3)

In these cases, Condition 2 is applied.

(G) Condition 2

- All modules will be assessed by the appropriate MAP in the normal way, subject to internal and external moderation processes;
- These marks will be agreed by the MAP(s) and applied to the student's academic profile but remain unconfirmed;
- As no previous modules at the same academic level are available at this point in time, it is impossible to calculate a student's individual "level mean". Therefore, the "level mean" will be retrospectively applied on the basis of completed module outcomes from Trimester 1 2020/21 when it will be possible to calculate the "level mean".

- In January 2021, where the "level mean" (calculated on the basis of Trimester 1 2020/21 passed module outcomes) exceeds an unconfirmed overall module mark for a 2019/20 Trimester 2 or Trimester 3 module, the "level mean" will replace the unconfirmed mark.

EXAMPLE

A "level mean" mark calculated in Trimester 1 2020/21 of 64% will replace a Trimester 2 unconfirmed overall module mark of 54%

- In January 2021, where the "level mean" (calculated on the basis of Trimester 1 2020/21 passed module outcomes) is equal to or less than an unconfirmed overall module mark for a 2019/20 Trimester 2 or Trimester 3 module, the unconfirmed overall module mark will become confirmed.

EXAMPLE

An unconfirmed Trimester 2 or Trimester 3 overall module mark of 52% will become confirmed if the "level mean" mark calculated in Trimester 1 2020/21 is 47%

- It is important to note that the retrospective application of the "level mean" mark cannot under any circumstances lead to a reduction in any unconfirmed overall modules marks for Trimester 2 or Trimester 3 2019/20

(H) Condition 2 will apply to the majority of students to whom Condition 1 does not apply. However, there will be students for whom both Conditions 1 and 2 do not or cannot apply, including:

- Students studying on a course which is structured with year long modules only (eg: TRI1-2) for whom the "level mean" approach cannot be applied from either previous study (as in Condition 1) or future study (as in Condition 2).
- Students studying a single 120 credit module at level 3 which is delivered over two Trimesters.

In these few cases, Condition 3 is applied.

(I) Condition 3

- For courses which are constructed with modules that are solely delivered over a double period (eg: TR1-2) and where all modules are discipline relevant (ie: they all cover the same broad discipline), the mark(s) attained for any element(s) of assessment completed before 19th March 2020 (in week 9 of Trimester 2) will be guaranteed as the minimum mark for the overall module – the "early element"

EXAMPLE

In a module assessed by 2 elements (each weighted at 50%), a mark of 60% for the first element completed in week 7 of Trimester 2 will be guaranteed as the minimum final overall module mark

- Where a student performs at a higher level in the latter element(s) of a module, the overall module mark will be calculated in the normal way

EXAMPLE

In a module assessed by 2 elements (each weighted at 50%), a mark of 55% for the first element completed in week 6 of Trimester 2 will be combined with a mark of 65% for the second element to produce an overall module mark of 60%

(J) Conditions 1, 2 and 3 will apply to the vast majority of students. However, there will be a minority of students to whom these conditions do not or cannot apply, including:

- Students studying on a course which is structured with year-long modules only (eg: TR1-2) for which there is no "early element" available to guarantee the final overall module mark;
- Students for whom the delivery of the current stage/level of their course occurs in Trimesters 2 and 3 only (eg: a level 6 student on a full-time accelerated honours degree course) meaning that neither Trimester 1 2019/20 or Trimester 1 2020/21 can be used as described in Conditions 1, 2 and 3 above.

In these very few cases, Condition 4 is applied.

(K) Condition 4

- Where a year-long module has no "early element" to use to guarantee a final overall module mark under Condition 3, a mean mark is calculated based on "early elements" from all other modules at the same academic level which will be applied to modules where there is no "early element".
- NB: It is expected that these approaches will only apply on very few occasions;

(L) Conditions 1, 2, 3 and 4 will apply to all but a very small number of students. However, students for whom their course registration is a single Trimester (eg: Master's students admitted with 120 credits APL to study a single 60 credit Major Project level 7 module) will not be covered by Conditions 1-4

In these rare cases, Condition 5 will apply

(M) Condition 5

- It is impossible to determine an appropriately modified mark for students for whom there is no evidence of previous performance and for whom there will not be any future performance that can be used to retrospectively apply a No Detriment policy.
- Where a student is registered on a course which is a single Trimester in duration a long extension to the submission deadline of a further 28 working days will be granted. This will mitigate the disruption that the *No Detriment* policy is striving to address.

(N) Condition 6 – "Catch All" Scenario

- Despite best efforts to attempt to foresee all potential scenarios for the application of the No Detriment policy, it is possible that some individual cases will emerge where it is impossible to apply Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5. In these circumstances, the case will be referred to the Academic Registrar who, in consultation with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the Deputy Dean (Education) from the relevant Faculty will determine an

appropriate application of the No Detriment policy that takes full account of the underpinning principles articulated above

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES

Although leading to a level 8 postgraduate research award, all courses leading to the award of Professional Doctorate include the study of 60-180 credits of level 7 taught modules.

Conditions 1 and 2 will apply to Professional Doctorate students studying level 7 modules in Trimester 2 and/or 3 where the total credit volume of level 7 modules being studied is in the range of 75-180 credits.

Condition 5 will apply to Professional Doctorate students studying level 7 modules in Trimester 2 or 3 where the total credit volume of level 7 modules being studied is 60 credits.

NON-MODULAR COURSES IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

It is not possible to apply the No Detriment policy, as described above, to the School of Medicine's non-modular courses due to the difference in course structure. However, it is important to provide assurance to both the Senate and to the General Medical Council that the threshold standard for progression continues to be satisfied, and to identify those students who require further support to meet this threshold.

The School of Medicine will run an online knowledge-based examination (SBA) using the same format and platform that students have already experienced. However, in light of the lockdown circumstances arising from the current Covid-19 pandemic, examinations in 2019/20 will not be used to determine the Educational Performance Measure (EPM), otherwise known as the decile ranking. The exact calculation of the EPM has yet to be determined, but results from other academic years over the duration of the MBChB course will be used.

In addition, the resit component of the assessment (to include the SBA and Portfolio) will be delayed to the final week in August in order to allow the School's academic staff to optimally support students by developing customised retrieval packages.

ADMINISTERING THE NO DETRIMENT POLICY

The *No Detriment* policy will be applied by the Academic Registry to student profiles following the completion of MAPs at the end of Trimesters 2 and 3 and before the Awards Board. MAPs will therefore undertake their duties as normal, appropriately assessing student work and allocating the actual marks that students have attained for their various assessment tasks, subject to normal external moderation processes. The student record system will store the actual mark achieved by students and also record any modified marks as a result of the No Detriment policy. Academic staff will not apply the No Detriment policy directly.