

No detriment principle – Phase two

November 2020

Summary:

- Between March and September 2020, Solent introduced a ‘no detriment’ principle to ensure the Covid-19 pandemic wouldn’t have a negative impact on student assessment outcomes.
- Now, for 2020/21, we have decided to extend and amend these measures – this is ‘no detriment - phase two’.
- We understand the impact Covid-19 continues to have and our aim is to give our students the best chance of succeeding and achieving their potential.
- These ‘no detriment – phase two’ measures apply to all Solent students, **except** those whose courses have conflicting PSRB requirements.
- Students with conflicting PSRB requirements will be informed directly by their course leaders.
- The ‘no detriment – phase 2’ measures have been developed in conjunction with the Faculties and the Student Union
- If you have any questions about what these new measures mean for you, please contact your course leader.
- *It is vital the value of a Solent degree continues to be recognised for its high quality by employers – so the updates we have made are in line with sector best practice.*
- *These new measures will be amended if there is a significant change in national circumstances.*

Take a look at the FAQs below to find out what changes have been made to the original ‘no detriment’ principle, and what this new phase means for you and your academic studies.

What was the original ‘no detriment’ principle?

Between March and September 2020, in order to ensure students weren’t negatively impacted by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, Solent made a number of updates to the assessment regulations and associated policies and processes to apply a ‘no detriment’ principle. The details of those original changes [are available here](#).

Why is ‘no detriment – phase two’ necessary?

- Over the summer the University worked hard to ensure that all courses could be delivered effectively this year either through hybrid learning (any element of a course with learning outcomes that require on campus delivery) or through fully online learning - in ways that ensured an excellent learning experience for our students.
- This meant that the original ‘no detriment’ arrangements ended at the end of September 2020, as planned, with some exceptions for courses that completed their final assessments in October 2020.

- However, we are aware of some continuing impacts on our students throughout this year, and that, for some students, the impacts of last year's restrictions could potentially influence their award outcome.
- Therefore, after consultation with the Students' Union and a review of sector practice and guidance, Solent has decided to make changes to the assessment regulations and associated practices for the academic year 2020-21 – 'no detriment – phase two'.

Can I apply for Extenuating Circumstances?

Yes. In addition, requests for Extenuating Circumstances (EC) to be considered will not be required to be supported by medical evidence as we recognise the pressures on the NHS, the guidance being given about attendance at medical facilities and the difficulty getting medical notes would create.

How will in-class tests be carried out?

In-class tests will take place on SOL within a five-hour window. Once a student has started their test, the time to complete will be the usual time for that assessment, for example 40 minutes, 1 hour etc. Exceptions may be necessary where Professional Body requirements dictate. Please check with your course leader if you are unsure if this applies to your course.

How will online exams take place?

We will continue to provide a 24-hour window for the completion of online exams. Students will have 24 hours to complete their answers and submit the exam via SOL, which will utilise Turnitin text matching software to ensure all answers are the student's own work. Exceptions may be necessary where professional body requirements dictate. Please check with your course leader if you are unsure if this applies to your course.

How will award classifications be calculated?

- The grades achieved during the 2020-21 academic year should be representative of the student's ability and effort and should therefore count towards classifications in the normal way.
- However, part time students, cross-sessional students and bachelors students who studied level 5 in 2019-20 will potentially have been impacted in their achievement during a period of their course where grades are used to calculate final classifications.
- So, for those students, arrangements are in place, for example just using level 6 calculations to take into account any disruption during 2019-20.

Have assignment deadlines been extended?

No. Changes to assessment deadlines were introduced due to the sudden and unexpected disruption which took place at the start of the pandemic. Assessment plans for 2020-21 have been developed taking current arrangements into account.

How long will Extenuating Circumstances extensions be?

- The length of approved Extenuating Circumstances extensions has returned to five working days.
- This will enable students to overcome short-term, mild disruption, with the option through the EC process to also seek a deferment in assessment.
- This length of extension is common across the sector and avoids a negative impact on students' overall studies and wider assessment processes.

What will be the impact of late submissions?

- Submissions that are up to five working days late (without an approved Extenuating Circumstances extensions) will result in a capped mark.
- Submissions that are more than five working days late will not be assessed and considered a non-submission.
- This submission window is common across the sector and avoids a negative impact on students' overall studies and wider assessment processes.

Can I progress with more than 20 credits deficit?

No. Arrangements have been put in place to support students through their studies and assessments this year where they are carrying larger deficits.

This is to help students avoid carrying large deficits forward and placing a greater burden on the following year, and the potential negative impact on the success of their future studies.

Will awards be made automatically with a credit deficit?

- No. Arrangements have been put in place to ensure teaching, learning and assessment standards and a positive student experience – and to maintain the integrity of Solent academic awards in line with the wider sector.
- Therefore, students are required to successfully complete all credits to gain their award.