

**The “safety net” based on level average achieved by 13 March 2020¹
and
arrangements for assessments undertaken after 13 March 2020**

Provision of the “safety net”

1. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the move to online learning and teaching provision, the University has introduced a new “safety net” policy for students on taught programmes at levels 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 (academic year 2019/20). Students on postgraduate research programmes, Professional Training Year and Exchange (including Erasmus) programmes will be offered separate arrangements to allow them fair and transparent assessment opportunities.
2. The main aim of the “safety net” policy is to provide all students on taught modular programmes at levels 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 (academic year 2019/20) with a guarantee that their final aggregate level average mark for that level or stage of study will be no lower than the average of module marks (subject to eligibility criteria as described in p. 4 below) they had already achieved as of 13 March 2020.
3. All students, including those who have met the “safety net” eligibility criteria, will still be required to meet the learning outcomes for their current level or stage of programme and fully engage with their academic study and assessments to improve the guaranteed minimum level average mark, particularly where this mark counts towards the final award classification/grade. Where students are unable to submit work for all required assessments due to Covid-19, they may be eligible for [extenuating circumstances](#).
4. The “safety net” policy is based on the indicative level average mark from all modules attempted up to and including on 13 March 2020. A minimum number of credits for the level or stage of the programme must have been attempted for the “safety net” figure to be calculated as outlined below. A student must have attempted the final assessment of the module(s), irrespective of the module result (pass or fail), for these to be included in the “safety net” figure:
 - Foundation Year modular programmes:
 - The level average mark from modules with a total value of at least 45 credits
 - Undergraduate students (levels 4, 5, 6 and level 7 for Integrated Masters programmes):
 - The level average mark from modules with a total value of at least 30 credits
 - Taught postgraduate programmes (full time):
 - The level average mark from modules with a total value of at least 45 credits
 - Part-time programmes:
 - Subject to the minimum number of credits for the programme, the average mark from all modules attempted at the relevant level or stage of the programme before 13 March 2020
5. Students who meet the minimum credit requirement will have a “safety net” figure calculated on the basis of modules attempted up to and including on 13 March 2020. Once assessment for the level or stage of the programme has been attempted, the “safety net” figure will be compared with that achieved for all modules at the level or stage. The higher weighted average will then be used to determine eligibility for compensation, progression and classification.

¹ For clarity: This includes assessments undertaken on Friday 13 March 2020

6. Students with approved extenuating circumstances for modules undertaken on or before 13 March 2020 who meet the minimum credit requirement will have a “safety net” figure calculated on the basis of modules attempted on or before 13 March 2020. The weighted average used for the “safety net” will be recalculated once assessment for all modules undertaken on or before 13 March 2020 has been attempted. This will determine whether the weighted average for modules studied prior to the 13 March has improved. If so, the “safety net” figure will be amended upwards. The “safety net” figure will then be compared with that achieved for all modules at the level. The higher weighted average will then be used to determine progression and classification.
7. Students with approved extenuating circumstances for modules undertaken on or before 13 March 2020 who do not meet the minimum credit requirement may still be considered eligible for the “safety net” policy once they complete the module(s) assessments. The weighted average for modules studied on or before 13 March 2020 will be used as the basis of the “safety net”. The “safety net” figure will then be compared with that achieved for all modules at the level. The higher weighted average will then be used to determine progression and classification.
8. Where students have partially undertaken assessment on or before 13 March 2020 (or later as a result of extenuating circumstances) for modules concluded during semester two, a “safety net” will be applied for the remaining assessments within those modules. Where mid-module assessments attempted on or before 13 March 2020 have a weighting of 25% or more, the mark for the module will either be the weighted average mark for units of assessment attempted on or before 13 March 2020 or the weighted average for all units of assessment within the module, whichever is higher². For the purposes of the “safety net” calculations the module will be considered to have been completed after the 13 March 2020.
9. Where mid-module assessments attempted on or before 13 March 2020 have a weighting of less than 25%, the module mark will be calculated in the normal way using a weighted average from all units of assessment. For the purposes of the “safety net” calculations the module will be considered to have been completed after the 13 March 2020.
10. Transcripts will be annotated to explain the use of the “safety net”.
11. The “safety net” will be applied unless there are restrictions imposed by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB).

Arrangements for students undertaking mid-module assessment after 13 March 2020

12. Mid-module assessments may have been undertaken after the 13 March 2020 cut off point in week 6 (week beginning 16 March 2020) or week 7 (week beginning 23 March 2020). Students with ECs relating to these assessments may have been offered an opportunity to attempt the assessment in weeks 8 or 9 or be asked to complete a single final assessment to verify learning outcomes for the module.
13. For students who attempted mid-module assessments in weeks 6 or 7 (or weeks 8 or 9 as a result of extenuating circumstances relating to these assessments) the final module mark will either be calculated using the weighted average across all units of assessment for that module or will be calculated only using the final alternative assessment(s) weighted at 100%, whichever is higher.
14. Students who missed the mid-module assessments scheduled for weeks 6 and week 7 will have the module mark calculated on the basis of the final alternative assessment(s) only.

² For clarity: The module level “safety net” will only apply where the module learning outcomes have been met and the module has been passed overall.