

Safety Net Policy – January 2021



We are committed to ensure that your academic outcomes are not disadvantaged by the current circumstances associated with COVID-19. We appreciate that these are very challenging circumstances and we have taken steps to enable and encourage you to continue to engage with your learning and complete assessments.

In 2019/20, and as an **emergency response** to an **emergency situation**, the University put in place a 'No Detriment Policy' which recognised the huge disruption for students and staff, and the changes which had to be made to teaching, learning and assessment with little notice. This policy also contained provisions for the 2020/21 academic year.

Thus far we have:

- Put emergency arrangements in place at the end of the 2019-20 academic year to ensure that students who were completing and submitting assessments as we went into the first national lockdown were not disadvantaged by the sudden change in circumstances and working practices.
- Adapted programmes and modules to ensure they can be delivered in a blended format of delivery.
- Adapted assessments to ensure they continue to meet learning outcomes and can be completed and submitted online.
- Adapted traditional invigilated examinations to ensure they can be completed online for Semester 1.
- Paid specific attention to how we support students through their placements, including looking at how we can provide professional experience during the end of year placement blocks.
- Supported students with digital equipment to enable studying online from home.
- Supported self-isolating students through the allocation of a named member of the Student Engagement Team, provision of essential food and hygiene products, access to the 'head space' and mental health resilience programme via the MyLTU app, and made board games and online social activities available.
- Amended the Study Abroad Module to permit the 'study abroad' year to take place after completion of Level 6, rather than between Levels 5 and 6. (This to apply only to students who have completed Level 5 now and intended to take a study abroad year in 2020/21.); and
- Worked closely with the Students' Union to understand and respond to student concerns.
- For students on apprenticeship programmes, we have accommodated breaks in the learning and subsequent returns at appropriate points.

It is important to recognise that, unlike last academic year, the University has had time to prepare for 2020/21, and a huge amount of work has gone in to planning for this academic year by ensuring programmes, modules and assessments are adapted for blended learning.

However, in recognition of the continued disruption and as a result of the third national lockdown, we are increasing the provisions in place from Monday 18 January 2021 to include additional extensions to assessments.

The Safety Net Policy, with effect from Monday 18 January 2021, includes:

Current Provisions in Place:

- **Degree Calculations**

To take account of the impact of the pandemic, your degree classification will be calculated in five ways, as follows:

Foundation Degree. Summer 2021.

To take account of the possible impact of COVID-19 on your academic performance in Level 4, classification will be calculated in five ways as follows:

- (a) the arithmetic mean of all module marks for Level 4 and Level 5 is calculated and converted to a classification. (As current classification rules.)
- (b) the arithmetic mean of all module marks for Level 4 and Level 5 is calculated in a ratio 2:1 in favour of Level 5 credits and converted to a classification. (As current classification rules.)
- (c) profile considered across Level 4 and Level 5 weighted in the ratio 2:1 in favour of Level 5 credits. (As current classification rules.)
- (d) *mark and profile considered across Level 5 and Semester 1 Level 4 only in the ratio 2:1 in favour of Level 5 credits.*
- (e) *Mark and profile considered for Level 5 only.*

Level 6. (3-yr and 2-yr accelerated programmes) Summer 2021.

To take account of the possible impact of COVID-19 on your academic performance in Level 5, classification will be calculated in five ways as follows:

- (a) the arithmetic mean of all module marks for Level 5 and Level 6 is calculated and converted to an Honours classification. (As current classification rules.)
- (b) the arithmetic mean of all module marks for Level 5 and Level 6 is calculated in a ratio 2:1 in favour of Level 6 credits and converted to an Honours classification. (As current classification rules.)
- (c) profile considered across Level 5 and Level 6 weighted in the ratio 2:1 in favour of Level 6 credits. (As current classification rules.)
- (d) *mark and profile considered across Level 6 and Semester 1 Level 5 only in the ratio 2:1 in favour of Level 6 credits.*
- (e) *Mark and profile considered for Level 6 only.*

You will be awarded the best outcome from these five methods.

New Provisions in Place from 18 January 2021:

- **Extensions to Components of Assessment**

Increasing the number of extensions to be granted from 2 x 5 working days, to a maximum of 5 x 10 working days for Semester 2 components of assessments (not for assessments undertaken from Semester 1 unless a deferred opportunity has already been approved). Students can apply as normal via eVision after Monday 25 January (for submissions due between 18-24 January they should contact PAT@leedstrinity.ac.uk). Any extensions already used will be deducted from the maximum number of requests available (5 maximum) and late submission penalties will be applied for assessment submitted after the submission date of extensions granted. Students are strongly encouraged to speak to Module and/or Personal Tutors before making extension requests.