

Addendum - LSE School Regulations for 2019/20 updated in response to COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, LSE has made a number of adjustments to assessment policies and regulations to be able to deliver a workable, robust and fair summer assessment period. These changes have been underpinned by the [LSE Assessment Principles](#) agreed at Academic Board in May 2018. The purpose of this addendum is to summarise changes that apply to Summer Term assessments (including online assessments that have replaced Summer Term exams) and the In-Year Resit and Deferred Assessment Period until further notice (for review prior to the 2020/21 academic year). They supersede the equivalent arrangements in place earlier in the 2019/20 academic session.

For the purpose of these regulations, 'Department' also refers to institutes or any other academic unit of the School that delivers a programme of study which leads to an academic qualification.

Applicable to all taught undergraduate and postgraduate students

Policy or regulation updated	Amendment
Extension Policy (further information can be found here)	Adjustments were made to the extension policy to account for the replacement of face-to-face examinations in summer 2020 with online assessments and exceptional circumstances facing students during the COVID-19 pandemic, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensions can only be considered and granted for coursework assessments; in the case of assessments replacing Summer Term exams in 2020, that means assessments with a duration longer than 24 hours. Extensions will not be granted for assessments lasting 24 hours or less. • For the summer 2020 assessment period, the maximum extension permitted is 50% of the assessment period concerned; e.g. for a two-week assessment, the maximum permitted extension will be one week. • Students are required to give a reason for an extension request, with a clear supporting statement, but evidence will not necessarily be required. This relaxation of evidential requirements is in direct response to the anticipated difficulties students may experience when obtaining some forms of evidence, e.g. medical certificates.
Deferral Policy (further information can be found here)	A temporary deferral policy applies to Summer term 2020, until further notice, allowing self-certified deferral for any assessments without the need to provide evidence or seek Department approval.
Exceptional Circumstances Policy (further information can be found here)	A temporary Exceptional Circumstances policy applies to Summer term 2020, until further notice, with relaxed evidential requirements in response to anticipated difficulties students may experience when obtaining some forms of evidence, e.g. for medical certificates. See also information on the consideration of borderline criteria for award classifications (links to relevant Classification Schemes below)

Applicable to all taught undergraduate and postgraduate students

Policy or regulation updated	Amendment
<p>General Academic Regulations – undergraduate students</p> <p>(to be read in conjunction with clause 57)</p> <p>General Academic Regulations – postgraduate students</p> <p>(to be read in conjunction with clause 55)</p>	<p>Late Assessment Submission (addition) - The penalties for late submission were adjusted for assessments replacing Summer Term exams to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online coursework assessments of over 24 hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the first 24 hours after assessment submission deadline: a pro-rata penalty of 5 percentage marks for every half-day (12 hours), or part, late. This will result in a maximum penalty of 10 percentage marks for the first 24 hours. - For beyond the first 24 hours after assessment submission deadline: the above penalty for the first 24-hour period and then a pro-rata penalty of 5 percentage marks per day (normal days not working days), or part, thereafter. • Online ‘take home’ assessments over a 24-hour window: A late penalty to be applied pro-rata of 5 percentage marks for every hour (or part) late. • Online ‘take home’ assessment with limited available time period within a 24-hour window: The usual exam-like ‘Fit to Sit’ policy applies, meaning that submissions will not be marked outside of the assessment window. A student who does not submit on time will receive a mark of zero for non-submission.

Applicable to all undergraduate students, excluding LLB

Policy or regulation updated	Amendment
<p>Three Year Classification Scheme for BA/BSc Degrees (clause 12.1)</p> <p>Four Year Classification Scheme for BA/BSc Degrees (clause 15.1)</p>	<p>Exam Boards will be mindful of the impact of COVID-19 on all students. One of the ways that this has been recognised is that the aggregate borderline criteria for award classifications will be expanded as follows (changes highlighted in bold and italicised):</p> <p><u>Usual borderline criteria:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the student is very close to the next higher classification boundary i.e. within 3 marks in a single paper which has been used for classification i.e. one full-unit or two half-units or within 10 marks on aggregate; and 2. that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and 3. that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly and negatively affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student’s own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and 4. that the student’s performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments. <p><u>Borderline criteria for students taking assessment during 2020:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the student is very close to the next higher classification boundary i.e. within 3 marks in a single paper which has been used for classification i.e. one full-unit or two half-units or within 15 marks on aggregate; and

Policy or regulation updated	Amendment
<p>(continued)</p> <p>Three Year Classification Scheme for BA/BSc Degrees (clause 12.1)</p> <p>Four Year Classification Scheme for BA/BSc Degrees (clause 15.1)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and 3. that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly and negatively affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and 4. that the student's performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments.
<p>General Academic Regulations – undergraduate students</p>	<p>To facilitate earlier resits or deferred assessments for students impacted by COVID-19 the following addition was made to clause 35.:</p> <p>During the academic year, if a student is required to resit an assessment or defers an attempt at an assessment, the next opportunity to take the assessment will be in or before the end of the next resit and deferral period. Students deferring an assessment during the resit and deferral period defer to the next resit and deferral period. Students who fail an assessment taken during the resit and deferral period, and are eligible to resit, can only do so in the next resit and deferral period.</p> <p>Addition: For the 2019/20 academic year, any student deferring an assessment or carrying a resit from the In-Year Resit and Deferred Assessment Period (IRDAP) 2020 will be exceptionally able to take outstanding assessments during the normal assessment period(s) for the relevant course(s) during the 2020/21 academic year, without being required to wait until the IRDAP 2021. This temporary suspension of the [above] policy is in light of the exceptional circumstances caused by COVID-19 and is intended to enable students to take outstanding assessments as quickly as possible.</p>

Applicable to all taught postgraduate students

Policy or regulation updated	Amendment
<p>Schemes for Taught Master's Degrees – details found here for:</p> <p>Four-Unit, Five-Unit, Eight-Unit (clause 5.1)</p> <p>Schemes for Executive Taught Master's Degrees – details found here for:</p> <p>Four-Unit (clause 5.1)</p> <p>Eight-Unit E-MPA and E-MPP (clause 7.1)</p>	<p>Exam Boards will be mindful of the impact of COVID-19 on all students. One of the ways that this has been recognised is that the aggregate borderline criteria for award classifications will be expanded as follows (changes highlighted in bold and italicised):</p> <p><u>Usual borderline criteria:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the student is very close to the next higher classification boundary i.e. within 3 marks in a single paper which has been used for classification i.e. one full-unit or two half-units or within 5 marks on aggregate; and 2. that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and 3. that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly and negatively affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and

Policy or regulation updated	Amendment
<p>(continued)</p> <p>Schemes for Taught Master's Degrees – details found here for:</p> <p>Four-Unit, Five-Unit, Eight-Unit (clause 5.1)</p> <p>Schemes for Executive Taught Master's Degrees – details found here for:</p> <p>Four-Unit (clause 5.1)</p> <p>Eight-Unit E-MPA and E-MPP (clause 7.1)</p>	<p>4. that the student's performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments.</p> <p><u>Borderline criteria for students taking assessment during 2020:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the student is very close to the next higher classification boundary i.e. within 3 marks in a single paper which has been used for classification i.e. one full-unit or two half-units or within 10 marks on aggregate; and 2. that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and 3. that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly and negatively affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and 4. that the student's performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments.

Policy or regulation updated	Amendment
<p>Schemes for Taught Master's Degrees – details found here for:</p> <p>Four-Unit (clause 5)</p> <p>Five-Unit (clause 5)</p> <p>Eight-Unit (clause 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MPA - 2-year MSc Management - Global MSc Management <p>Schemes for Executive Taught Master's Degrees – details found here for:</p> <p>Four-Unit (clause 5)</p> <p>Eight-Unit E-MPA and E-MPP (clause 7)</p>	<p>As above, Exam Boards will be mindful of the impact of COVID-19 on all students. One of the ways that this has been recognised is with the creation of an aggregate borderline criteria for the award of a postgraduate taught degree. This should be considered in addition to the expanded borderline criteria for degree classification above.</p> <p><u>The borderline criteria for award for students taking assessment during 2020 will be as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the student is very close to meeting the compensation aggregate for award. Passing three units plus one unit of good fail and; either 3 marks away from achieving a mark of 60 in one unit OR within five marks away from achieving the compensation aggregate (the sum of non-failed marks, which is 165 for 4-unit PGT programmes); 2. Having received a Bad Fail, that the student is within three marks away from achieving a "good fail" which would allow for an award. 3. Having passed three units; that the student is within three marks away from a Pass in one half unit. 4. That the student is within three marks away from achieving a Pass in a course deemed "critical to assessment" which if passed would allow for an award. 5. That the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question. 6. That the student has demonstrated that their performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments.

End.