

January 2020 Exam FAQs

For all Undergraduate students in 2019/20

Please ensure that you read the document carefully if you are taking a course with a January exam in 2020 or if you deferred or need to resit a January exam taken in a previous academic year.

If you are unsure which rules apply to you, please contact the Student Services Advice Team using the enquiry form: <https://lseportal.force.com/student-services/s/enquiry-form>.

1. Which courses have exams in January 2020?

The list of courses which have exams in January 2020 can be found [here](#).

2. When will the January 2020 exam schedule be available?

Friday 06 December 2019. Personal timetables will be on LFY by 23:59 on Friday 13 December 2019.

3. I am not sure if I need a new visa for my January exams, what shall I do?

The [International Student Visa Advice Team \(ISVAT\) web page](#) has extensive information for students re-taking assessments:

If you have questions about how your visa is affected by sitting exams as resits, or on return for deferral or interruption, please read this web page thoroughly. You must take action as soon as possible to ensure that you secure a visa in good time.

4. I am not in a position to sit my January exam; what are my options?

Please see the [deferral web page](#).

If you are absent from an exam without permission, you will incur a 0 mark for that assessment, and it may impact your progression, your eligibility to continue your programme or be awarded the degree, and/or your degree classification. You must follow the regulations and published procedures, and seek advice if you are unsure of what you need to do.

5. What if I miss a January exam? Will I still be able to progress?

An unauthorised absence counts as a fail, and will appear as “0-Absent” or “0-Incomplete” depending on whether the exam is the sole piece of summative assessment for the course. You should follow the deferral procedures if you feel that you are not able to sit your exam.

Progression will depend on your overall results at the end of the year, and your eligibility will depend on the [progression rules for your programme](#).

6. I need to defer a January exam, what do I do?

Before the School Closure – up to 20 December 2019

If you wish to apply to defer a January exam before the School closes on the afternoon of Friday 20 December 2019, please follow the normal process outlined on the [deferral web page](#).

During the School Closure – between 21 December 2019 to 01 January 2020 inclusive

LSE will be closed from Friday 20 December 2019 to Wednesday 01 January 2020 inclusive.

If you wish to defer in this period, please complete the deferral form and gather supporting evidence as soon as possible. Then, make contact with the relevant person in your Department to arrange authorisation – the [Contacts for Sub-Boards web page](#) will have details of who to send your deferral to in the closure period.

Please also look out for any out of office auto-replies, as they may have further information about who to forward your request to. If you are unsure of who to contact within your Department, please contact the Student Services Advice Team using the enquiry form: <https://lseportal.force.com/student-services/s/enquiry-form>.

You may be required to bring the form into LSE, in person, on Thursday 02 January 2020.

After the School Closure – from 02 January 2020 onwards

Please follow the normal deferral application process outlined at lse.ac.uk/deferral.

Please note, if you successfully defer the January 2020 exam you will be re-entered to sit the exam during the August 2020 In Year Resit and Deferred Assessment Period rather than the main Summer exam period in May/June 2020 or January 2021.

7. Is there anything I need to know regarding deferral of a January exam?

If you are seeking to defer a January exam, please be aware of the following:

- If you are taking an exam for a course with exams in both the January and Summer Term exam periods, you can only apply to defer proximate to the exam in question – i.e. a January deferral request only applies to the January exam. If you also wish to apply to defer the ST exam later on, you must do this at a time proximate to the ST exam.
- If you miss a January exam (through deferral or absence) this may result in:
 - Non-progression, which means that you would not be able to advance to the next year of your programme (unless you apply for and are granted [Exceptional Progression](#)); or
 - Not being eligible for the degree, if you were otherwise due to graduate this year

In both cases, you will have to wait until the IRDAP to resit the exam you had missed.

- If you defer the January exam for a course which has other elements of assessment (e.g. coursework, summer exam), you will still be expected to complete the other elements. Any pass marks you obtain in other assessments will be 'banked' and you will not need to re-take them.

- If you are not in a position to attempt the other elements of assessment, you should request deferral for them separately, in addition to the deferral for the January exam. If you think you need to defer both the January exam and other components of assessment, it may be more appropriate to consider [interruption](#).
- If you fail the January exam/assessment and go on to defer the summer exam/assessment (or vice versa) within the same course - you will be re-entered to sit the deferred assessment during the August 2020 IRDAP. You will also be provided with the choice of whether or not to also resit the failed exam/assessment during the same IRDAP.
- Where you opt to attempt the resit; the School will first use your original fail mark and the mark in the deferred course to calculate an overall course mark. Where this is enough to achieve a Pass mark in the course, this mark will be final and used to calculate your overall degree award. If this is a first attempt at all exams/assessments in this course, this mark will not be capped. If this is the case your resit mark will not be used.
- If, when added together it results in an overall fail for the course, your resit mark will be utilised and added to the mark achieved in the deferred exam/assessment. Where this subsequently results in an overall Pass, that mark will be capped.
- Attempting all elements of assessment during IRDAP might allow you to progress or graduate at the earliest opportunity rather than waiting to have to attempt the resit element. However, it may mean that in the event the resit mark is not used if you can achieve a passing mark by using the marks from just the first attempts at assessment.

Example: *AB123 is assessed by two exams, one in January and one in summer, each worth 50% of the unit. A student sits the exam in January 2020 and scores a fail mark. The student then defers the summer exam in May 2020. The results released in July 2020 will show an overall deferral for AB123.*

The student is re-entered to sit the summer exam in the resit period in the August 2020 IRDAP:

- *The student can chose to bank the fail mark and just attempt the deferred exam. If this results in an overall fail mark, they will resit the failed January exam during IRDAP 2021. OR*
- *The student can chose to sit both the deferred exam and resit exam during the 2020 IRDAP. Because the overall course mark is capped where a student is required to resit the School will first add calculate the overall mark using the mark achieved in the deferred exam and original failed January exam. If this results in an overall pass mark, the resit mark will not be used, but this means that the overall mark will **not** be capped at Pass.*
- *If this results in an overall fail in the course then the resit mark will be used to calculate the overall course mark. If this results in a passing grade the overall course mark **will** be capped at Pass.*

All of the above is subject to the student having attempts remaining in the relevant assessment.

Again, it must be stressed that absenting yourself from an assessment will use up an attempt and could have significant consequences for your award. You should seek [deferral](#) if you cannot attempt an assessment. If you miss an assessment without having deferral approved, you must contact Student Services immediately for further advice –: <https://seportal.force.com/studentservices/s/enquiry-form>.

8. I have received Repeat Teaching, what will my exam be based on?

If you receive repeat teaching for a course, you are examined on the syllabus for which you most recently received the teaching. If you are receiving teaching in 2019/20, you will be examined on the 2019/20 syllabus. It is not possible for you to be examined on any other syllabus. This means that if the course(s) you are having repeat teaching in is now assessed using a January exam where it was not previously, you will need to take that exam in January. You may only receive repeat teaching for the courses that have been formally agreed by the Repeat Teaching Panel. Further information can be found on the [Repeat Teaching web page](#).

9. If I fail or defer a January exam, can I take my next attempt in the Summer Term?

Not in the main May/June exam period. However, you can resit the exam (if you fail the course overall) or take the deferred attempt during the IRDAP which will be held late in the summer vacation period.

Scenarios for students who were in their first year of study in 2018/19 on courses involving January exams who are due to sit an exam in 2020 following deferral or failing the 2019 attempt

For students who have interrupted their studies or are having repeat teaching, advice should be sought from the [Advice Team](#)

Scenario 1: All assessment modes for the course remain the same; the exam is the same format and is worth the same weighting of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version:

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:

EC100, EC102, EC201, EC210, EC220, EC221, EC230
MA100
ST102, ST226, ST301, ST302

You will resit or take your deferred exam in the IRDAP in 2020.

Example: EC100 is assessed 50% by a two-hour exam in January and 50% by a two-hour exam in Summer Term. So as a resit student needing to resit both exams, you will sit both of your exams in IRDAP 2020.

Scenario 2: Your exam is moving from January to Summer Term, but nothing else has changed i.e. all assessment modes for the course remains the same, the exam is the same format and is worth the same weighting of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version:

There are no undergraduate exams that fall into this category for 2019/20.

Scenario 3: Your exam is moving from Summer Term to January and nothing else is changing i.e. all assessment for the course remains the same and the exam is the same format and is worth the same % of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version:

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:
IR355, IR368, IR369
MA107
SO102

You will resit or take your deferred exam IRDAP in 2020.

Example: IR355 was formerly assessed by a two-hour exam in the Summer Term (70%) and an essay (30%) in Lent Term. It will now be assessed by a two-hour exam in January (70%) and an essay (30%) in the Lent Term. As a resit student you will sit your exam in IRDAP 2020.

Scenario 4: The exam element of the course was previously held in January, or both in January and the Summer Term, and other changes have been made to the course i.e. the exam comprises a larger or smaller proportion of the overall assessment for the course, or additional assessment methods are being used, or the syllabus has changed:

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:
EC202

If the syllabus (i.e. the material being taught) for the course has changed, your Department will set a paper appropriate for the material you studied; this will be worth the same % of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version was at the time you studied. If the exam was previously in January or summer, you will resit or take your deferred exam in the in-year resit and deferral period (IRDAP) in the late summer vacation period in 2020. It will not be possible for you to take the exam at a different time.

If the syllabus has not changed (i.e. just the assessment methods have changed) your Department will set a paper appropriate to the assessment methods in place when you received the teaching on your course. This will be worth the same % of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version was at the time you studied. This may mean that you sit a longer or shorter paper than other students sitting an exam with the same course code at the same time as you. You will resit or take your deferred exam in the IRDAP in 2020. It will not be possible for you to take the exam at a different time.

Example: EC202 was formerly assessed by a one hour exam in January (25%) and a three hour exam in Summer Term (75%). For new students, it will now be assessed by a one hour exam in January (22.5%), a three hour exam in Summer Term (67.5%) and course engagement (10%).

Scenario 5: Your exam was previously held in January, but the course assessment has now changed and no longer includes an exam, or the course has been withdrawn.

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:
PH228

You will resit or take your deferred exam in the IRDAP in 2020. It will not be possible for you to take the January exam at a different time.

Example: PH248 was formerly assessed by a two hour exam in January (67%) and a 1500 word essay (33%). The course has now been withdrawn. As a resit student you will sit your exam in IRDAP 2020.

Scenarios for students who were in their second or third year of study in 2018/19 on courses involving January exams who are due to sit an exam in 2020 following deferral or failing the 2019 attempt

For students who have interrupted their studies or are having repeat teaching, advice should be sought from the [Advice Team](#)

Scenario 1: All assessment modes for the course remain the same; the exam is the same format and is worth the same weighting of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version:

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:

EC100, EC102, EC201, EC210, EC220, EC221, EC230
MA100
ST102, ST226, ST301, ST302

Your Department will set a paper or papers that match the previous exam timings. If you previously took an exam in January, you will resit the exam in January with all other students. It will not be possible for you to take the January exam in the Summer Term. Similarly, you will resit summer exams in the Summer Term.

Example: EC100 is assessed 50% by a two-hour exam in January and 50% by a two-hour exam in Summer Term. So as a resit student needing to resit both exams, you will sit your January exam in January 2020 and your Summer Term exam in Summer Term 2020..

Scenario 2: Your exam is moving from January to Summer Term, but nothing else has changed i.e. all assessment modes for the course remains the same, the exam is the same format and is worth the same weighting of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version:

There are no undergraduate exams that fall into this category for 2019/20.

Scenario 3: Your exam is moving from Summer Term to January and nothing else is changing i.e. all assessment for the course remains the same and the exam is the same format and is worth the same % of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version:

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:
IR355, IR368, IR369
MA107
SO102

You will take the exam in January with all other students. It will not be possible for you to take the exam in the Summer Term.

Example: IR355 was formerly assessed by a two-hour exam in the Summer Term (70%) and an essay (30%) in Lent Term. It will now be assessed by a two-hour exam in January

(70%) and an essay (30%) in the Lent Term. As a resit student you will sit your exam in January 2020.

Scenario 4: The exam element of the course was previously held in January, or both in January and the Summer Term, and other changes have been made to the course i.e. the exam comprises a larger or smaller proportion of the overall assessment for the course, or additional assessment methods are being used, or the syllabus has changed:

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:
EC202

If the syllabus (i.e. the material being taught) for the course has changed, your Department will set a paper appropriate for the material you studied; this will be worth the same % of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version was at the time you studied. However, if the exam was previously in January, it will still take place in January; if the exam was previously in Summer Term, it will still take place in Summer Term. It will not be possible for you to take the exam at a different time.

If the syllabus has not changed (i.e. just the assessment methods have changed) your Department will set a paper appropriate to the assessment methods in place when you received the teaching on your course. This will be worth the same % of the final mark as the previous deferred/failed version was at the time you studied. This may mean that you sit a longer or shorter paper than other students sitting an exam with the same course code at the same time as you. However, if the exam was previously in January, it will still take place in January; if the exam was previously in Summer Term, it will still take place in Summer Term. It will not be possible for you to take the exam at a different time.

Example: EC202 was formerly assessed by a one hour exam in January (25%) and a three hour exam in Summer Term (75%). For new students, it will now be assessed by a one hour exam in January (22.5%), a three hour exam in Summer Term (67.5%) and course engagement (10%). As a resit student, you will sit your January exam in January 2020.

Scenario 5: Your exam was previously held in January, but the course assessment has now changed and no longer includes an exam, or the course has been withdrawn.

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:
PH228

Your Department will set a paper or papers that match the previous exam timings. If the exam was previously in January, it will still take place in January. It will not be possible for you to take the January exam in the Summer Term.

Example: PH248 was formerly assessed by a two hour exam in January (67%) and a 1500 word essay (33%). The course has now been withdrawn. As a resit student you will sit your exam in January 2020.