

January 2020 Exam FAQs

For all Taught Postgraduate 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/studentservices/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 published 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 exam, 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 do not think you are able to attend 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

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/studentservices/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.

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 in-year resit and deferral period (IRDAP) to resit the exam you had missed, if you have attempts remaining.

- 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. However when your results are released, it will show that the whole course has been deferred. 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](#).
- You cannot resit a failed element of assessment until you have completed the equivalent attempt number of all other elements of assessment for that course. This is because you can only resit a failed assessment if you have an overall Fail in the course.

This means that if a student fails the January exam and then defers the summer exam, they cannot resit the January exam until they have used up that attempt at the summer exam. The January fail will be “banked” until it can be combined with a summer result.

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 or November 2020 will show an overall deferral for AB123.

The fail from January is “banked”, and the student is not eligible to resit the exam in January 2021. The student is re-entered to sit the summer exam in May 2021:

- *If they score highly enough in this to pass the course overall, their AB123 mark is finalised and they are not eligible to resit anything.*
- *If they pass the summer exam but have not scored enough to bring the overall mark to a pass, the summer mark is finalised and the student will be entered to resit the January exam in 2022.*
- *If they fail the summer exam in 2021, they are re-entered to sit both elements in January 2022 and summer 2022 respectively.*

Further example scenarios can be found at the end of this document.

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 – please contact the Student Services Advice Team using the enquiry form: <https://lseportal.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?

No. As there are no autumn resits for your cohort, it would be inequitable for students who fail January exams to resit in the Summer Term, as there is no equivalent opportunity for students who fail summer exams to sit before the subsequent academic year. School regulations state that resits or deferred attempts can only be made in the equivalent exam period the following year.

Scenarios for students on courses involving January exams who are due to sit an exam in 2020 following deferral, interruption 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:

AC416
EC402, EC411, EC413, EC417, EC484, EC485, EC4B6, EC518
EH401, EH414, EH481
FM437
GV443, GV4C9, GV4G4
MY465, MY565

PP419
ST425, ST429

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: AC416 is assessed 80% by a two-hour exam in January, plus group work (20%) and the assessment is unchanged. So as a student taking a resit or deferred exam, you will sit your exam in January 2020.

Example: EC484 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 (week commencing 13 January 2020) and your Summer Term exam in May/June 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:

Exams that fall into this category in 2019/20 are:
EH413

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

Example: EH413 was formerly assessed 100% by a two-hour exam in January. It will now be assessed 100% by a two-hour exam in Summer Term.

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:
GV441
IR468, IR469
MC4M1, MC4M1, MC5M2
MY464
ST440

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: GV441 was formerly assessed 100% by a two-hour exam in the Summer Term. It will now be assessed 100% by a two-hour exam in January. 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:
AC411
EC421, EC423, EC424, EC426, EC427, EC428, EC465, EC475, EC476, EC487

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: AC411 was formerly assessed by a two hour exam in January (70%), an essay (15%) and a project (15%). For new students, it will now be assessed by a two hour exam in January (60%), an essay (20%) and a project (20%). 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:

EH402

GV467

PH428

ST435

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: GV467 was formerly assessed by a two hour exam in January (100%). For new students, it will now be assessed by one essay in the Lent Term (100%). As a resit student you will sit your exam in January 2020.