

## Exceptional regulations for summer 2019/20 and academic year 2020/21: Extenuating Circumstances (ECs).

Due to COVID-19, the University of Nottingham has taken the decision not to hold examinations in the summer exam period that require students to be present on campus, and many other items of assessment will need to be altered. These regulations should be read in conjunction with all existing regulations, as well as the Exceptional regulations on Progression, Assessment and Classification. These regulations apply to all students undertaking assessment from 1/2/2020 until the end of the summer examination period 2020 and for academic year 2020/21. We will keep these regulations under review and may extend the period further.

Pro-active communications regarding teaching and assessment arrangements should alleviate the need for many speculative extenuating circumstances, however the University recognises the exceptional demands of the current circumstances and sets out the following, which should be read in conjunction with the existing extenuating circumstances policy. Where a tension arises between these exceptional regulations and existing regulations, the exceptional regulations take precedent.

EC1. Students and colleagues should be encouraged to act responsibly and avoid taking unnecessary risks. The NHS has published guidance (UNM/UNNC please reference country specific guidance) regarding self-isolation and recommended actions and, as a general principle, any student taking measures to comply with that guidance should not fear additional disadvantage in respect of the University's handling of extenuating circumstances claims.

EC2. The University recognises that:

Unless hospitalised, a student is unlikely to be able to obtain medical evidence of illness as NHS\* and other medical advice is to stay home and not engage with medical services;

A student is unlikely to be able to provide evidence of Information Technology (IT) short-comings due to remote access;

Students may not have access to the IT equipment necessary to complete a programme of online learning;

A student should be able to provide evidence of travel which has resulted in the need to self-isolate in accordance with NHS\* and other medical guidance;

Students in high-risk groups due to underlying health conditions are likely to be able to provide evidence of those conditions should they choose to self isolate on a pre-emptive basis.

(\*UNUK service; UNM and UNNC to apply equivalent)

EC3. If students are intending to travel overseas, they should follow all advice and note any travel restrictions for their intended destination published by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (or equivalent for UNM and UNNC) on its [Foreign Travel Advice webpages](#). In all cases, students should consider if their travel is at all essential at this time.

EC4. Extenuating Circumstances Panels are asked to assess claims on the basis of evidence available to them and to consider a student's own account of impact. Panels may request evidence of travel or underlying health conditions if relevant to the case. Panels should approve extenuating circumstances claims and suspend the need for the usual

standards of evidence where the case presented amounts to a compelling account of impact on the student's ability to study or take assessments.

EC5. Any decisions to not attend teaching, supervision etc, either physically face-to-face or through digital means, where students are able to attend, and where those decisions are not based on advice published/recommended by the NHS (and UNM/UNNC equivalent) or government websites, or due to reasonable concerns related to a student's underlying health, would not be covered by the exceptional extenuating circumstances regulations.