**School of Health in Social Science**

**Statement on the impact of and mitigation against Covid-19 and industrial action**

**Introduction**

Due to industrial action and Covid-19, semester 2 of this academic year 2019-2020 has been significantly disrupted, both for students and for staff. The University and the School of Health in Social Science have sought to identify and mitigate disruption to teaching and learning as far as possible while maintaining academic standards and the quality of students’ degrees. This statement provides a summary of the action taken.

**Overview of mitigation action taken by the School**

In March, the School undertook a careful review of its own semester 2 courses with outstanding teaching and assessment to determine the nature and level of disruption and to make any necessary changes to course delivery and assessments.

Teaching moved to online delivery. Coursework deadlines were moved if necessary. Where possible, final assessments for pre-honours courses were cancelled. Delivery of group presentations was adjusted to enable all students to participate regardless of location and time zone.

Boards of Examiners were fully briefed in June and were able to apply additional measures under the University’s ‘no-detriment’ approach to protect students against disadvantage in course results and in decisions around progression and awards.

* All assessments that fell on or after 9 March 2020 were assumed to have been impacted by the pandemic and were flagged for special consideration at course and programme levels for all students.
* Lateness penalties were removed for assessments submitted on or after 9 March 2020.
* For courses with multiple assessments, careful consideration was given as to whether affected components could be disregarded from the overall course mark while preserving a reliable course mark that met Learning Outcomes.
* Any failed assessments or non-submissions with deadlines on or after 9 March were recorded as null sits, not as fails.
* For failed courses, credit on aggregate\* was applied wherever possible in place of reassessment during the summer. This included outside courses.
* For failed courses that have to be passed for progression or award, summer assessments will be arranged on a first sit basis. Wherever possible, these will build on the work the student originally submitted for the course.
* For final year students, disrupted courses that had been passed were discounted from award calculations on a case by case basis if to the benefit of individual students.

For current third year students due to graduate next year, this rule will be applied to affected 2019/20 courses when their awards are calculated.

\*2019/20 credit on aggregate for pre-honours students:

The Board of Examiners awarded up to 40 credits on aggregate for failed courses that were not required for professional accreditation to students who had passed 80 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by industrial action or the pandemic.

\*2019/20 credit on aggregate for honours students:

The Board of Examiners awarded up to 60 credits on aggregate for failed courses that were not required for professional accreditation to students who had passed 60 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by industrial action or the pandemic.

**University Regulations and guidance**

[Taught Assessment Regulations 2019/20](https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/taughtassessmentregulations.pdf)

[Annex A Guidance for Boards of Examiners for Taught Programmes](https://uoe.sharepoint.com/sites/Covid19/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FCovid19%2FShared%20Documents%2FAnnex%20A%20Boards%20of%20Examiners%20Covid%20v6%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FCovid19%2FShared%20Documents) (Covid-19; industrial action)

[Special Circumstances Policy](https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/special_circumstances.pdf)

**Summary of mitigation action taken for each semester 2 course owned by the School of Health in Social Science**

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| **Course Name** | Identity and Experience in Health |
| **Course Code** | SHSS08002 |
| **Summary of actions**  **By the course team**  Course delivery was moved online. Under the University’s ‘no-detriment’ approach, the second assignment was cancelled. As assessment was after 9 March and was insufficient on its own to allow the Board of Examiners to determine a reliable numerical mark, the course was assessed on a pass-fail basis.  **By the Board of Examiners**  The assessment was submitted after 9 March so was deemed to have been impacted by the pandemic.  All lateness penalties were removed.  The course was flagged as having been impacted. This was taken into account when progression decisions were made.  Credit on aggregate was applied for students who had failed the course and met the criteria:  2019/20 credit on aggregate criteria for pre-honours courses:  The Board of Examiners was permitted to award up to 40 credits on aggregate for failed courses to students who had passed 80 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by the by industrial action or the pandemic.  Where credit on aggregate could not be applied for failed courses or non-submissions, null sits were recorded, not fails. This allows students a first attempt at the assessment during the summer. To minimise the impact of summer assessments, wherever possible, this will build on the work the student originally submitted for this course. | |

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| **Course Name** | Learning from the lives of others |
| **Course Code** | SHSS08003 |
| **Summary of actions**  **By the course team**  Course delivery was moved online. A cohort-wide extension of 7 days was granted for the poster presentation.  **By the Board of Examiners**  Both assessments were submitted after 9 March so were deemed to have been impacted by the pandemic. Lateness penalties were removed.  The report was essential to meet learning outcomes so could not be disregarded from the overall course mark calculation. The poster presentation was disregarded from the course mark for those individual students where this resulted in a higher mark.  The course was flagged as having been impacted. This was taken into account when progression decisions were made.  Credit on aggregate was applied for students who had failed the course and met the criteria:  2019/20 credit on aggregate criteria for pre-honours courses:  The Board of Examiners was permitted to award up to 40 credits on aggregate for failed courses to students who had passed 80 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by the by industrial action or the pandemic.  Where credit on aggregate could not be applied for failed courses or non-submissions, null sits were recorded, not fails. This allows students a first attempt at the assessment during the summer. To minimise the impact of summer assessments, wherever possible, this will build on the work the student originally submitted for this course. | |

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| **Course Name** | Language and Communication in Health and Society |
| **Course Code** | SHSS08005 |
| **Summary of actions**  **By the course team**  Course delivery was moved online. Under the University’s ‘no-detriment’ approach, the second assignment was cancelled. As assessment was on 9 March and was insufficient on its own to allow the Board of Examiners to determine a reliable numerical mark, the course was assessed on a pass-fail basis.  **By the Board of Examiners**  The assessment was submitted on 9 March so was deemed to have been impacted by the pandemic.  All lateness penalties were removed.  The course was flagged as having been impacted. This was taken into account when progression decisions were made.  Credit on aggregate was applied for students who had failed the course and met the criteria:  2019/20 credit on aggregate criteria for pre-honours courses:  The Board of Examiners was permitted to award up to 40 credits on aggregate for failed courses to students who had passed 80 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by the by industrial action or the pandemic.  Where credit on aggregate could not be applied for failed courses or non-submissions, null sits were recorded, not fails. This allows students a first attempt at the assessment during the summer. To minimise the impact of summer assessments, wherever possible, this will build on the work the student originally submitted for this course. | |

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| **Course Name** | Understanding and Investigation: Methods for Health Research |
| **Course Code** | SHSS10004 |
| **Summary of actions**  **By the course team**  Group presentations were changed from being delivered in person to a pre-recorded submission. A cohort-wide extension of 7 days was granted for the research proposal.  **By the Board of Examiners**  Both assessments were submitted after 9 March so were deemed to have been impacted by the pandemic. Lateness penalties were removed.  The research proposal was essential to meet learning outcomes so could not be disregarded from the course mark calculation. It would not have benefitted any student to remove the presentation from their course mark. Therefore no assessments were disregarded.  The course was flagged as having been impacted. This was taken into account when progression decisions were made.  Credit on aggregate was applied for students who had failed the course and met the criteria:  2019/20 credit on aggregate criteria for honours courses:  The Board of Examiners was permitted to award up to 60 credits on aggregate for failed courses that were not required for professional accreditation to students who had passed 60 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by the pandemic.  Where credit on aggregate could not be applied for failed courses or non-submissions, null sits were recorded, not fails. This allows students a first attempt at the assessment during the summer. To minimise the impact of summer assessments, wherever possible, this will build on the work the student originally submitted for this course.  The Board of Examiners will take into account the impact of the pandemic on this course at award. If passed, the course may be discounted from award calculations on a case by case basis if to the benefit of individual students. | |

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| **Course Name** | Nature, Greenspace and Health |
| **Course Code** | SHSS10010 |
| **Summary of actions**  There was minimal impact from industrial action but the course was disrupted by the pandemic.  **By the course team**  Course delivery was moved online.  Students who were unable to participate in the synchronous online group presentation session, were enabled to participate by other means, including pre-recorded contributions and scripts. Students submitted their slides after the presentation session.  Cohort-wide extensions were granted for the peer assessment, group report and individual portfolio assessments.  Attendance was assessed for the period up to the start of industrial action.  **By the Board of Examiners**  All submitted assessments were after 9 March so were deemed to have been impacted by the pandemic. Lateness penalties were removed.  All submitted assessments were essential to meet learning outcomes. None could be disregarded from the final course mark calculation.  The course was flagged as having been impacted. This was taken into account when progression and award decisions were made.  Credit on aggregate was applied for students who had failed the course and met the criteria:  2019/20 credit on aggregate criteria for honours courses:  The Board of Examiners was permitted to award up to 60 credits on aggregate for failed courses that were not required for professional accreditation to students who had passed 60 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by the pandemic.  Where credit on aggregate could not be applied for failed courses or non-submissions, null sits were recorded, not fails. This allows students a first attempt at the assessment during the summer. To minimise the impact of summer assessments, wherever possible, this will build on the work the student originally submitted for this course.  On a case by case basis, the course was discounted from award calculations if to the benefit of individual exiting students. For students due to graduate next year, this rule will be applied when their awards are calculated. | |

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| **Course Name** | Positive Health for Communities and Individuals |
| **Course Code** | SHSS10006 |
| **Summary of actions**  **By the course team**  Teaching in weeks 9 and 10 was delivered online via recorded lectures and an online collaborate session. A cohort-wide extension of 5 working days was granted for the case study.  **By the Board of Examiners**  The assessment was submitted after 9 March so was deemed to have been impacted by the pandemic. Lateness penalties were removed.  As there was a single assessment for this course, no assessments could be disregarded from the course mark calculation.  The course was flagged as having been impacted. This was taken into account when award decisions were made.  Credit on aggregate was applied for students who had failed the course and met the criteria:  2019/20 credit on aggregate criteria for honours courses:  The Board of Examiners was permitted to award up to 60 credits on aggregate for failed courses that were not required for professional accreditation to students who had passed 60 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by the pandemic.  Where credit on aggregate could not be applied for failed courses or non-submissions, null sits were recorded, not fails. This allows students a first attempt at the assessment during the summer. To minimise the impact of summer assessments, wherever possible, this will build on the work the student originally submitted for this course.  On a case by case basis, the course was discounted from award calculations if to the benefit of individual exiting students. | |

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| **Course Name** | Dissertation (MA in Health, Science and Society) |
| **Course Code** | SHSS10008 |
| **Summary of actions**  **By the course team**  A cohort-wide extension of 7 days was granted.  **By the Board of Examiners**  The University expected most undergraduate dissertations to have been substantially completed before the widespread impact of Covid-19. Mitigation was only deemed necessary in cases of significant disruption.  Lateness penalties were removed and credit on aggregate was applied for students who had failed the course and met the criteria:  2019/20 credit on aggregate criteria for honours courses:  The Board of Examiners was permitted to award up to 60 credits on aggregate for failed courses that were not required for professional accreditation to students who had passed 60 credits in 2019/20 and had an average of 40% across all courses unaffected by the pandemic.  No further action was taken. | |