



Appeals:

FAQs in relation to the 2022/23 Marking Assessment Boycott (MAB) & Industrial Action (IA) and the impact on Student Appeals

Marking Assessment Boycott (MAB)

Q. Can I appeal against my unclassified degree or a degree that has not yet been confirmed?

No. Students can only appeal awards that have been confirmed as final by their Board of Examiners. An unclassified degree or unconfirmed/provisional marks do not represent a final decision so they are not open to appeal.

Your final results and award classification will be published to you as soon as is practicably possible. Once published, your degree will be open to appeal in line with the [Appeal Regulations](#). Please be aware of appeal timescales listed in the regulations.

Q. Can I appeal against my classified degree that includes marks/course that have been impacted by the Marking and Assessment Boycott?

A. You can submit an appeal provided you have grounds, **however**, students can only appeal against awards that have been confirmed as final by their Board of Examiners.

Therefore, we **will not be able to consider appeals against any courses/marks which are provisional or unavailable and could only look at final, ratified marks**. Ratified marks can be appealed in the standard way if you feel you have grounds under Ground A or Ground B in line with the [Appeal Regulations](#) but the marks impacted by the *Marking and Assessment Boycott* **will not be considered**.

Appeals which are made at this time that relate to missing marks e.g. if you feel that you would have received a higher classification if missing marks were taken into account, **will not be accepted at this stage**. All appeals will be screened and if your appeal is based solely or partly on courses impacted by the *Marking and Assessment Boycott*, you will be informed and either the whole submission or the relevant parts will not be considered at this time.

Please note that we do not keep ineligible appeals on our system and it is the student's responsibility to adhere to the appropriate timescales, if they decide to resubmit their appeal when their results are finalised.

The provisional or unavailable marks will become available at a later date. Once these marks are available, your degree classification will be reconsidered in light of these marks. If your classification would improve as a result of the inclusion of these marks, your award will be recalculated. You will then be informed of the outcome and you will be issued with an updated degree certificate to reflect this. If, at this point, you feel you have grounds to appeal, the appeal process will be available to you.

Q. *My progression decision has been deferred, can I appeal this?*

- A. No. The deferral of a progression decision is not open to appeal as it is not a final decision. If you have concerns about your progression, we would suggest contacting your Student Advisor/Personal Tutor directly or your School's Teaching Office who may be able to provide you with more information.

Once a progression decision is made and ratified by the relevant Board of Examiners/Committee. This decision will be open to appeal in line with the [Appeal Regulations](#). Please be aware of appeal timescales listed in the regulations.

Q. *Can I appeal a course result impacted by the Marking and Assessment Boycott even if I have progressed into the next year of my programme?*

- A. If your course has been impacted by the Marking and Assessment Boycott and you have not received a final mark, this **will not be open to appeal yet**. Any mark that has not been ratified will be considered provisional until it is confirmed by the appropriate Board of Examiners/Committee.

Once your course marks have been confirmed as final, they will be open to appeal under the [Appeal Regulation](#) timescales. These will still be open to appeal even if you receive the ratified marks during the next year of your programme.

Q. *My appeal has been upheld, when will I find out if the mark/result has been reconsidered?*

- A. If an appeal is upheld, it does not guarantee that an outcome will change. An appeal is a request for a reconsideration of a decision. Therefore, if you establish grounds for appeal, it means you have established that there are grounds to ask the Board of Examiners to reconsider their decision in relation to you.

The University and College Union (UCU) have confirmed that Committees or Board of Examiners are subject to the marking and assessment boycott. Therefore, please be aware that this may lead to a delay in the reconvening of a Board of Examiners to reconsider their decision.

Any upheld appeal will be sent to the relevant Board of Examiners/Committee Convener and you will be made aware of this. This represents the end of the Academic Appeal team involvement and any future communications or updates regarding the reconvened Board/Committee should be made directly to the School.

Q. *I have had my access to my University email account closed whilst waiting for my outstanding results. Will I still be able to appeal from a personal email address?*

- A. Yes. Students can submit their appeals from a personal email address if they no longer have access to their University account. If you are aware of your University email account closing, we would suggest you download or take copies of any emails that you may wish to use in your future appeal submission.

Q. I have concerns about my current situation, who can I approach for support?

- A. We appreciate the impact that the *Marking and Assessment Boycott* is having on students and if you have any concerns in relation to your academic progress, you should contact your personal tutor/student advisor or School's teaching office in the first instance.

Health and Wellbeing support is also available for all student and information on this can be found here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/students/health-wellbeing>

For appeal process queries, you are welcome to contact the Appeal Team via academic.appeals@ed.ac.uk

However, as the department that administers the appeal process, we cannot provide you with advice or guidance on the strengths or merits of any potential appeal you might wish to make, as this would constitute a conflict of interest. We are only able to provide you with advice about the procedural aspects of the University's appeal process

The [Edinburgh University Students' Association \(EUSA\) Advice Place](#) would likely be beneficial to you to have a discussion about your situation and concerns with an Academic Advisor at the Advice Place.

The [Advice Place](#) are independent of the University, and are able to offer free and impartial advice to students in matters relating to appeals. You can contact the Advice Place in the following ways -

Telephone - 0131 650 9225 OR Email - academic.advice@eusa.ed.ac.uk or advice@eusa.ed.ac.uk

Q. Can I raise my appeal to the Ombudsman (SPSO)?

- A. No. The [Scottish Public Services Ombudsman \(SPSO\)](#) is only able to accept cases after you have gone through the University Appeal procedure and you have received a Completion of Procedures letter with your outcome.

As unclassified/unconfirmed degrees or marks impacted by the Marking Assessment Boycott are not yet eligible for appeal, they are then not yet able to go through the University Appeal Procedure and cannot be submitted to the SPSO for consideration at this time.

Industrial Action/Strikes (IA)

Q. My course was impacted by strike action, can I appeal on this basis?

- A. The impact of strike action does not represent grounds for appeal under Ground A and B of the [Appeal Regulations](#). This is because Schools made changes to teaching and assessment to mitigate the impact of strike action to ensure Learning Outcomes can be met and informed the relevant Board of Examiners of any steps they took.

Information on the University's response to Industrial Action can be found here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/industrial-action>

For information on specific mitigation, relevant to your courses, you should contact your School directly.

For non-industrial action related appeals, these can be submitted as normal. If you have evidence that there was irregular procedure or improper conduct in the implementation of the mitigation measure, you may submit an appeal under Ground B.

If you are dissatisfied with the measures put in place, the [University Complaints Procedure](#) may be open to you but this would be out with the [Appeal processes](#).

Q. My supervisor was unavailable at times due to industrial action/strikes, is this a ground for appeal?

A. The Student Appeal Regulations state:

“It is the student’s responsibility to submit a piece of work which is capable of satisfying the relevant Examiners. Students should be aware that they are ultimately solely responsible for the academic quality of their dissertation or thesis. Students should be aware that approval by a Dissertation, Project or PhD supervisor, and following the supervisor’s advice and guidance, carries no guarantee of success at examination. Any such approving or guiding comments cannot constitute a ground for appeal.”

Therefore, a supervisor’s absence, at times, due to strike action, would not represent a ground for Appeal.

You should contact your School with any concerns you have regarding supervision. If following this, you remain dissatisfied, the [University Complaints Procedure](#) may be open to you but this would be out with the [Appeal processes](#).

Q. I have concerns about how the industrial action impacted my programme, who can I approach for guidance?

A. We appreciate the impact Industrial Action has had on students and if you have any concerns relating to your academic progress, you should contact your personal tutor/student advisor or School’s teaching office in the first instance.

Health and Wellbeing support is also available for all student and information on this can be found here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/students/health-wellbeing>

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The Student Appeal Regulations for 2022/23 can be found here:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/atoms/files/studentappealregulations.pdf>

The Appeal Guidance for Students can be found here:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/atoms/files/appealguidanceforstudents.pdf>