

**Academic and Student Regulations – Emergency Regulations**

**2020-21**

*[These Regulations came into force in September 2020 for the 2020/21 academic year. They have been updated, with revised Emergency Regulations in place from Monday 25 January 2021. These can be accessed via a* [separate document](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/emergency-regulations-2020-21-revised-january-2021.pdf)*. This version of the Emergency Regulations 2020/21 ceases to be current from Monday 25 January 2021].*

The University of Northampton developed a set of Emergency Academic and Student Regulations to respond to the unprecedented situation posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. These Regulations were approved by the University’s Senate and enacted from 1 April 2020. At the time it was stated that these Emergency Regulations would remain in place until they were revoked by Senate.

On 8 May 2020 Senate approved that the Emergency Regulations would remain in place for the September 2020-21 intake (and for students continuing with their studies in September 2020). Senate also noted that a review of the Emergency Regulations would occur to consider if any revisions were required. This is because the Emergency Regulations were written originally for a short-term situation. This review has been undertaken and the revised Emergency Regulations are now presented.

The Regulations will be implemented equally for onsite students and for partners. Although overseas partners may be experiencing the impacts of Covid-19 in different ways, the amendments that will remain in place to the Regulations for 2020/21 are supportive to students and so there is no detriment to retaining them for all provision awarded by the University.

Kathryn Kendon

Academic Registrar and Director, Student and Academic Services

May 2020

**Principles**

The five principles of the Emergency Regulations remain relevant for the 2020/21 academic year:

1. Students are not academically disadvantaged because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. i.e. the University adopts a ‘no detriment’ approach to student outcomes during this period.
2. Students are supported to complete their learning and assessment for this academic year where the nature of the subject matter makes it possible to do so.
3. For students studying at undergraduate level, that they are able to progress *subject to completion* where the nature of the subject matter means that it is not possible for their learning and assessment for this academic year to be completed. Post-emergency deadlines will be established for retrieval of outstanding work[[1]](#footnote-2).
4. Assessment against and achievement of Module and Programme Learning Outcomes, including any Learning Outcomes and associated supplementary regulations mandated by Professional, Regulatory or Statutory Bodies, remains the cornerstone of the University’s approach to the award of credit.
5. Maintenance of institutional and sector standards is paramount.

**Emergency Academic and Student Regulations[[2]](#footnote-3)**

The table below sets out the revised Emergency Regulations for the 2020/21 academic year.

For Levels 3-7

|  | **Current regulation[[3]](#footnote-4)** | **Emergency Regulation 20/21** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 3.7.11(p41) | Suspension of this Regulation [Removal of resit rights for students with module G grades at the first Assessment Board] |
| 2 | 3.5.11(p38)3.10.2-3.10.8(p44-5) | Revisions to the Mitigating Circumstances Policy to minimise the administrative burden on students. This might include some component of self-certification by students.Incorporation of a new option into existing processes (Study Breaks, Restarts etc) that will allow students to identify that their request is being made because of Covid-19. This will enable the teams considering those requests to do so in a manner that takes the specific circumstances around Covid-19 into account. |
| 3 | 3.5.43.5.5(p37) | Where grades for a module are incomplete, the final module grade will be calculated from the grades of the existing assessment components in the following circumstances:* If these are worth at least 50% of the total module mark
* Where at least 2/3 of the total credits for the level in question have complete module grades
* Where the programme leader can demonstrate completion of all PLOs (either already or through modules to be completed in following years)

*NB – final year students [Level 6, Level 7, Level 5 for students registered on an HND or Foundation Degree] who prefer to wait for an opportunity to complete all assessments within a module, in case this affects the overall module grade, will be given this opportunity even if it means that completion is delayed.* |
| 4 | 3.7.33.7.4(p40)3.3.23.3.3(p33) | Students will progress provisionally subject to completion of any modules that remain incomplete due to the nature of the subject matter and/or assessment type. A final deadline for retrieval of outstanding assessments and completion of those modules will be established. NB this is only relevant where a module remains incomplete and not where a student has failed a module following completion of all available assessment opportunities. |
| 5 | 3.7.13(p41) | Retain the maximum number of credits within a level that can be condoned but suspension of the requirement to attempt all items of assessment within a module to be eligible for condonement.  |
| 6 | 3.7.2 (p39) | Revisions to accumulated failure count to remove any credits failed in 2019/20 that were discounted from the accumulated failure count due to the impact of Covid-19. |
| 7 | 3.10.9(p45) | The Covid-19 study break category will continue to be used, where a study break is required because of the impact of Covid-19. This is subject to different rules from the standard study break category. |
| 8 | 3.7.3 (p40) | Suspension of the restriction on the number of credits from a lower level that students can study alongside credits from a higher level. Students will be able to study full-time (up to a maximum of 140 credits) if repeating failed modules, subject to any pre-requisites or other restrictions that are in place. |
| 9 | 2.4 | Algorithms for the 2020/21 graduating cohort will be considered, and any adjustments approved at Senate, around January 2021. |

For Level 8 Facilitated modules [relevant only to students studying for a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) and a Doctor of Professional Practice (DProfPrac)]

|  | **Current regulation[[4]](#footnote-5)** | **Emergency Regulation 20/21** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | 3.5.11(p38)3.10.2-3.10.8(p44-5) | Revisions to the Mitigating Circumstances Policy to minimise the administrative burden on students. This might include some component of self-certification by students.Incorporation of a new option into existing processes (Study Breaks, Restarts etc) that will allow students to identify that their request is being made because of Covid-19. This will enable the teams considering those requests to do so in a manner that takes the specific circumstances around Covid-19 into account. |
| B | 3.7.2 (p39) | Revisions to accumulated failure count to remove any credits failed in 2019/20 |
| C | 3.10.9(p45) | The Covid-19 study break category will continue to be used, where a study break is required because of the impact of Covid-19. This is subject to different rules from the standard study break category. |

1. Guidance will be provided on how post-emergency retrieval should be managed, whilst noting that it will be subject-specific. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. There may be Supplementary Regulations for certain programmes that take precedence over these new measures. Supplementary Regulations remain in force unless the PSRB has approved a temporary relaxation of those to reflect the circumstances created by Covid-19. Any temporary relaxation of these will be documented. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. References are based on the Academic and Supplementary Regulations 2020-21. References may differ for the Academic and Supplementary Regulations in place for other cohorts. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. References are based on the Academic and Supplementary Regulations 2020-21. References may differ for the Academic and Supplementary Regulations in place for other cohorts. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)