

Common Awards Management Board Meeting 28/01/2021
Student Representative Update
Claire Finlay, Rebecca Rock, David Onabanjo

Dear Students,

Below is an update from our recent CAMB meeting. Our next meeting is on May 4th, please send us feedback by April 24th for this meeting. Thank you, Claire, Rebecca and David.

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COVID

The 2019/2020 'No-Detriment' policy will not be extended into the academic year 2020/2021.

Guidance on the new approach to mitigation for the academic year 2020/2021 (the Academic Safety Net policy) will be published shortly. The No Detriment calculation will still be applied to affected marks from 2019–20 for students who were affected by Covid-19 in that year but who did not complete their programme until this year or later.

Please be assured that there is a united voice in Durham, on the CAMB and in TEI's to take this seriously and agree a fair and consistent approach.

CAMB has issued guidance for TEI's on how to take the impact of Covid-19 (eg reduced access to resources) into account when marking assessments.

The Common Awards FAQ's will soon be updated to include details of the Academic Safety Net policy for 2020/21: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/common-awards/news--events/covid-19/>

We have asked the CAMB to encourage TEI's to share with their students how they are mitigating for COVID. We have also asked the CAMB to update all students once the full approach to mitigation has been determined for this academic year. So you should receive an email regarding this. In the meantime please be aware that if you experience serious adverse circumstances arising from medical conditions, personal difficulties, bereavement or other significant causes which have an impact on your studies, you can use the [Serious Adverse Circumstances procedure](#).

Inclusion and Diversity

The Inclusion and Diversity group continues its work. Information on what's happening can be found at: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/common-awards/diversity--inclusion/>

Webinars on racism are now available on the Hub

Maximum Duration of Courses

Please be aware that gap years from study that are registered with Common Awards as suspensions or withdrawal from study do not count towards the overall number of years allowed to complete a course. In addition, if special circumstances apply (e.g. in relation to COVID) your TEI can apply for a concession to allow you more time to complete the course. Please contact your TEI in the first instance.

Online Resources

Please be aware that there are now over 10,000 books available on the HUB for our use. From the Hub homepage, click 'Online Books,' after the database has fully loaded – which may take some time with all the additional resources - 'Search All Books' to access this vast resource. If you need other books added, please ask your college librarian to contact the Hub for the titles to be added.

Media Training

We raised a suggestion that information and training might be provided to students in relation to planning, preparing, recording, editing and broadcasting online. How this might best be provided is being considered by the Management Board.

Disparity Between TEI's

We raised the issue that differences in expectations and grades have been noticed by students who have transferred mid-course from one TEI to another. Durham seeks to manage parity of grading by a process of assessment moderation and will ask the moderator with oversight of all the provision to review any examples that we have shared. If you would like to draw our attention to any specific TEI's please contact us directly. This is confidential and will not be traced back to students.