



**Faculty of Science
Department of Computer Science**

Integrated PhD in Accountable,
Responsible and Transparent AI (ART-AI)
Taught MRes Year (Year 1)

**Programme Handbook
2019 - 2020**

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About this Handbook

This Handbook is intended for all students in their first year on the Integrated PhD in Accountable, Responsible and Transparent AI (ART-AI) in the academic year 2019/20.

Please note that the contents of this Handbook are accurate at 22nd August but that information may sometimes be subject to change after this Handbook has been issued. Your Director of Studies or Unit Convenor will inform you of any changes that will affect your programme or a particular unit. For further information about unit and programme changes, see the **Unit and programme changes** section in this Handbook.

While this Handbook signposts information about **regulations for students**, it does not have regulatory status itself, and the Regulations available online (Regulations for Students: www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students/ and Assessment Regulations: www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/new-framework-for-assessment/) are the most up-to-date and take precedence over the contents of this Handbook.

If in doubt about what applies to you, or if your circumstances change (for example if you are returning from a suspension of study, or transferring to a different programme) please contact your Director of Studies Dr. Marina De Vos (M.D.Vos@bath.ac.uk) for advice.

Welcome to the ART-AI

Welcome to the 2019 - 2020 academic session of The MRes in Accountable, Responsible and Transparent Artificial Intelligence (ART-AI) which is run by the Department of Computer Science but combines units from across three faculties (Science, Engineering and Design, and Humanities and Social Sciences) We hope that you will have an enjoyable and worthwhile time with us. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding your course, experience any problems or simply want to have a chat about your programme. I am looking forward to meeting you all in the months to come.

Please take some time to read through this handbook and familiarise yourself with its contents. In this handbook we highlight and summarise key information that most students on a taught programme need to know. It will often point to other information sources, which contain more detail for those who need it. Many of these sources will be provided on-line.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to me, your supervisor/personal tutor or professional services if you experiences any difficulties that have an impact on your studies or student experience.



Dr Marina De Vos, Director of Studies and Director of Training.

UKRI CDT ART-AI

The ART-AI CDT started in April 2019 and brings together researchers for computer science, engineering and social sciences to study artificial intelligence and its impact on society. We focus on how to make AI more transparent, how we can use it responsibly and how it can and should be used ethically in society and who should be accountable when things go differently than planned. We have a large pool of internationally recognised academic supervisors and a diverse range of academic and non-academic partners, both national and international.

Together with our highly qualified students we aim to have a lasting impact on the society we live in and the future one we are making.

The Centre is led by the Director Prof. Eamonn O'Neill. He is joined by Dr Marina De Vos as Director of Training and 6 theme leads: Dr Joanna Bryson, Dr Emma Carmel, Dr Alan Hunter, Prof Hugh Lauder, Dr Julian Padgett, Prof Peter Wilson. The Centre has an Independent Advisory Board and Strategic Partnership Board to provide oversight and guidance.

Key Contacts

Director of Studies

The Director of Studies, Dr Marina De Vos, manages all aspects of the taught postgraduate programme and has general oversight of the Department's postgraduate teaching activities. This includes the development of the curriculum and its delivery, quality management and enhancement, the operation of the assessment processes and student support. She is the person to contact if you need a coursework extension, or need to submit individual mitigating circumstances.

Personal Tutor

Your first year supervisor will also be your personal tutor for this taught year. Personal Tutors act as an interface to the central support services should financial, medical or other personal problems arise. Personal Tutors are not permitted to act as counsellors for non-academic issues, and will identify the appropriate individuals or services for you to access in such circumstances. This does not prevent you from accessing these services directly, but it is important that you keep your Personal Tutor informed of your circumstances so that you can be advised of any academic relief that might be available to you to help you in dealing with your other circumstances.

Unit Lecturers

A Unit Lecturer is a person who has been identified as having the responsibility for the delivery of all aspects of a Unit. This person will normally deliver the

main lectures within a Unit and will normally have prepared the course materials to be delivered within the Unit. If you have problems with the running of a unit you should normally approach the Unit Lecturer about it in the first instance.

Unit Tutors

Unit tutors are postgraduate research students or research staff who are allocated the responsibility of delivering a number of tutorials or laboratory classes within a Unit. They will normally deliver material provided by the Unit Lecturer, and will provide a point of more personalised academic instruction. If you need additional tutorial support for a unit, you should normally approach the Unit Tutor in the first instance - time will be set aside in most classes for such help.

Administrators

The PGT administrator, Matthew Albertyn, is responsible for coordinating postgraduate taught student support for ART-AI.

Department Coordinator

The Department Coordinator, Claudia Emery, is responsible for all aspects of the Department Office administrative support, and will be able to direct you to any help you require.

Centre Manager and Centre staff

ART-AI has a Centre Manager, Dr Brent Kiernan. He is responsible for all aspects of managing the centre, and will be able to direct you to any help you require. In time he will be joined by an administrator, an event coordinator and a research software engineer.

Chair of the Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC)

The SSLC is a key location of staff-student contact for feedback and quality enhancement. The Chair of this committee has a key role in encouraging staff and student participation, in the representation of the concerns of SSLC to other committees, and in the communication of the work of SSLC to students and staff.

Expectations

It is a University Regulation that you attend regularly. If you are not able to do so, or will be absent for longer than three days due to ill health, then you must contact your Director of Studies to discuss your situation and an appropriate course of action.

Further information

See Regulation 3: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students-2018-19/>

Some assessment relies on group work, so there is expectation that you can attend group meetings as scheduled by the group. Some units will have in-class tests, and unless coursework extensions are requested and granted, students are expected to be present.

For those on a programme with placement, you should attend all the placement sessions scheduled during your induction in Welcome Week.

Resources

Communications

There are a number of mechanisms used to communicate to students. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are always contactable and that they make **regular** use of these mechanisms. The primary point of contact for students on taught Masters Courses is Matthew Albertyn, who is responsible for overseeing postgraduate taught student support through to graduation. Matthew can be found in the Faculty of Science Postgraduate Office – **Wessex House 3.33**. As some taught Masters Courses have units in common with undergraduate programmes, you may need to address some queries with Susan Paddock, who supports our undergraduate programmes. If in doubt, please contact Matthew for advice.

Matthew Albertyn: facscipgtaadmin@bath.ac.uk.

Susan Paddock: s.l.paddock@bath.ac.uk

Department Office (3 West 2.03)

Departmental information is available here. The Department Coordinator and Undergraduate Programme Administrator are also located here.

E-Mail

E-mail is the primary mechanism for communication with students. Your University e-mail account is the only account that is used for communications. You should ensure that your e-mail account does not become full of old messages - e-mail will be discarded in this case and you will not receive vital Department messages. Failure to receive or check your e-mail cannot be considered as a valid excuse. As well as using e-mail to contact students, staff expect students to make use of e-mail to contact them. Their e-mail addresses are available on the Computer Science website: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/comp-sci/contacts/>

Your Bath email address has the format userid@bath.ac.uk Please make sure that your mailer also displays your name together with your email address.

Computing Resources

ART-AI (Computing) Laboratory

As ART-AI students, you have access to a computing laboratory. The ART-AI Lab is situated in room 1 West 2.53. You will need your library card to gain access. The ART-AI Lab is only available to ART-AI students or affiliated students and staff of the Department. You must not allow friends from other programmes to

enter or use the lab. This room is available for private or group study unless lab sessions are timetabled.

Not all units will schedule specific tutorial or lab times. Apart from guided exercise sheets, a number of units will have coursework that requires self-directed study (programming assignments, essay writing, reading articles, papers, books, finding information for yourself on the web) You are expected to be able to schedule your time appropriately to undertake any coursework or problem sheets. We do not generally allocate lab time because, as a postgraduate student with experience of working for a first degree, you should be able to direct your own learning and work and learn without the supervision of a tutor. Failure to utilise your study time to gain the necessary knowledge, practice and experience will inevitably lead to poor performance when you come to attempt the assessed coursework for the Unit.

Unit lecturers and/or unit tutors sometimes book extra laboratory/tutorial sessions for their units where they will be available to offer advice or help with problems. These sessions will be advertised in lectures, via Moodle or by email. The lab is open 24/7.

Reporting Problems with the PCs in the ART-AI Laboratory

The PCs in the MSc lab are all connected to the Computing Services network, and are used in exactly the same way as the Computing Services PCs in the library. Thus, problems with software packages (such as Microsoft Office not working correctly) should be reported to the Computing Services Help Desk in the Library.

However, the actual PCs are owned by the Department of Computer Science, so any problems with the hardware (such as broken monitors or mice) or with PCs not starting up correctly (e.g. not able to display the Computing Services login window), should be reported to the Computer Science Computer Support Staff, who are in Office 1 West 3.52 (email support@cs.bath.ac.uk).

Buying your own PC

If you do not currently own a computer and want to purchase a new PC, the Computing Services Shop, which is located within the Library, is able to supply computers (and computer components) at prices that are often lower than you would pay for equivalent machines on the high street.

The following sections provide you with further information on how you can use your computer to access the University facilities whilst you study at the University.

Network Links

If you are able to obtain a place within a University residence you will find that each room is equipped with a network point that you can plug your PC into. Details on how to configure your PC to use the Computing Services network and

how to configure your e-mail software and web-browser to operate through the Computing Services network are all available from the intranet:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/digital-data-technology-group-dd-t/>

Further help and advice is available to you from the IT Service Helpdesk (also located within the library) should you run into difficulties:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/getting-it-support-and-advice/>

Operating Systems

The academic staff within the Department of Computer Science make use of a variety of operating systems and software, depending on personal preference - Windows, MacOS, and Linux. Computing Services lab computers run Windows 7. The university has a site-licence for a number of Windows software packages. More details on these can be found on: www.bath.ac.uk/bucs/tools/software/
The campus computer shop in the Library has favourable deals for software and hardware.

For more details, see: www.bath.ac.uk/bucs/services/itpurchasing/

E-Mail

The university is using Microsoft exchange for its email and calendar services. This is supported through Outlook and Outlook Web App. It is possible to use the service on Mac and Linux as well. It is also possible to read mail and access your calendar on your smartphone.

For further details see: www.bath.ac.uk/bucs/email/

Productivity Software

The standard productivity software used within Bath University is Microsoft Office Pro (the standard versions are currently Office 2007 or Office XP). This is normally an expensive product, but the Computing Services Shop offers a special cut-price deal for full-time Bath University students. You should consult the Computing Services Shop for further details.

LibreOffice is free open source multi-platform productivity software suite offers file-compatible equivalents of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Draw and Microsoft PowerPoint, with a very similar look-and-feel to these Microsoft products. They are available for download from: <http://www.libreoffice.org/>

Your programme: General

The academic year is divided into two 14-week semesters, with each semester consisting of 11 weeks of teaching followed by a 2- or 3-week assessment period. A unit is an assessable block of study which may be in the form of a lecture course or an approved project. A single unit (6 credits) should correspond to approximately 120 hours of study time. In the case of a lecture unit this usually comprises 12-24 one-hour lectures, plus 10 one-hour problem classes/tutorials/practical classes and an element of private study.

For further information on Assessment Regulations, please look at section 10 of this handbook or go to <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt.pdf>

Unit Choices and Structure of the Programme

Students must take a total of 90 credits for the award of MSc. 60 credits in taught units and 30 credits in the project.

There is an opportunity for students to select their units online. This will be open from Thursday 26 September 10:15 to Tuesday 1 October 5pm.

Unit choices should be made in consultation with the first-year supervisor and director of training to assure that they meet the interdisciplinary requirements and suit direction of the research and background of the student.

Unit and Programme Changes

If you wish to make changes to the optional units you have chosen for the current academic year you must request form **CC FORM B** (change of unit) from the Faculty Office and discuss it with your Personal Tutor and the Director of Studies.

Similarly, if you wish to change programme you must request form **CC FORM C** (change of programme within faculty/school) from the Faculty Office and discuss it with your Personal Tutor and the Director of Studies.

Unit and Programme Catalogues

This is where you will find details about all individual units for the current academic year: www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/

The Catalogues also provide links to the University's assessment regulations, showing how these are applied to programmes of study.

Teaching/learning methods:

This programme comprises units taught across three faculties, with each discipline having their own pedagogy. All staff on ART-AI units are aware of the interdisciplinary make-up of the cohort but students will be exposed to a variety of teaching methods and practices.

Transferable skills are developed through a number of different activities. Although they are not all explicitly taught, these skills are learnt throughout the programmes, which are structured and delivered in such a way as to promote the development of the above skills. For a variety of units you will have assignments that promote team work and team management skills. Some units may also use methods of peer marking.

Many of the units require written work to be carried out by the students, such as worked solutions to problems, technical essays, and laboratory and project reports, and regular feedback is given to students on their written work within these units, in order to develop their powers of expression as well as their technical understanding. Oral communication skills are developed primarily within problems classes, tutorials, laboratory and project units.

Assessment methods:

Most of the units on this course have a significant proportion of coursework. Students will present their work as code, reports or presentation or take a viva-voce examination. Feedback is provided for all coursework. For the dissertation encourage critical thinking and reflection and working independently. Feedback is provided through the regular meetings with a supervisor.

While we aim to spread coursework deadlines, students are expected to manage their time and work on various assignments in parallel.

Timetables

Programme and unit timetable information can be found online at:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/timetable/>

You can also use MyTimetable to create a customised programme timetable that can be downloaded into an electronic calendar:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/timetable/MyTimetable.htm>

Submission Deadlines

Units with coursework will normally announce the schedule for coursework specification and submission during the first lecture of the semester. Submission deadlines are discussed with the director of studies to provide a spread of deadlines where possible. While every effort is made to spread the deadlines as

much as possible, submission deadlines will naturally fall towards the end of the semester.

Where possible we try to avoid changing days but when needed deadlines can be moved. The unit leader will announce this during the lecture and post it on Moodle where applicable.

A significant proportion of coursework on the Masters will need to be submitted through Moodle, our e-learning platform.

For paper-based coursework submissions, the Department of Computer Science uses special Coursework Boxes for submission of coursework. The Coursework Boxes for all Computer Science students are located in 1 West level 2.

Close to the submission date of a particular coursework, one or more of the individual posting slots will be labelled with the unit number and name, and the date and time of the coursework's hand-in deadline. All coursework must be submitted by posting it in the appropriate slot in the Coursework Boxes by the deadline identified on the coursework specification, unless otherwise specified by your Unit Lecturer. If you need to submit after the original deadline (late submission or because of a deadline extension), submit your work at the faculty office.

When submitting paper-based coursework, all students are required to complete a copy of the Coursework Submission Form. Copies of this form can be obtained from the Department Office. The completed form must be bound securely into the coursework submission as the first page of the coursework. These forms are used to ensure that all coursework has the required details to correctly identify the coursework to the student(s) who submitted it, and to provide a record of which students submitted coursework in each Unit.

Note: Submitting work that is substantially similar to that of another student or that merely regurgitates the content of a textbook is highly likely to result in the accusation of cheating/plagiarism/collusion and may lead to severe penalties.

No coursework will be accepted that is not submitted securely bound. The only binding which is acceptable are forms of binding that allow all the content of each page to be read without having to remove any pages from the binding. **DO NOT** use plastic pockets or plastic covers to hold your coursework - where possible, a single staple should be used. Sections of coursework that are inappropriately bound may not be marked.

All paper-based submissions must be in printed or legible hand-written form - submission of part or all of the coursework on computer disk, CD-ROM, DVD or any other electronic or magnetic storage media is not acceptable unless specified as part of the coursework submission. Submission by e-mail is not acceptable unless specified as part of the coursework submission. If you are unable to be present within the Department to submit your coursework, you may submit the

coursework by surface mail. Any coursework submitted in this manner must normally be posted in time to arrive by the deadline date, and should always be post-marked before the deadline for coursework submission. You are responsible for ensuring that any coursework submitted by mail is delivered safely and on time, by using a recorded delivery or courier service if appropriate. **Late submissions, without a deadline extension approved by the director of studies, will incur a penalty. Within 5 working days of the deadline, the mark will be capped to 40. After 5 working days the mark will be capped to 0.**

You are required to retain a copy of any coursework that you have submitted. Most coursework is retained for scrutiny by internal and external examiners as a part of the quality assurance processes of the Department. In the rare case where a student may claim that a coursework was submitted and our submission records indicate that this was the case but no coursework has been marked for that student, the student will be required to produce the second copy for marking. Failure to submit a second copy on request may result in the award of zero for that coursework. Any coursework submitted by post that is not received will be deemed to have not been submitted and will normally be awarded a mark of zero unless you can produce formal proof of postage and you are able to provide a copy of the coursework on request.

Marking Criteria

Assessment and marking processes at the University are designed to ensure that assessment of your work is fair and consistent, and that academic standards are appropriate and comparable between the University and other higher education institutions. This is achieved in a number of ways.

Marking: Assessments you will complete during your programme are marked according to:

- *Marking criteria (or assessment criteria)* - these are the knowledge, understanding and skills which it has been identified that students should demonstrate in the assessment and which are taken into account during marking. They are based on the learning outcomes being assessed
- *marking schemes* - these are detailed descriptions of how specific numbers of marks should be assigned against individual components of an answer within the assessment task

- *Grade descriptors* - these are descriptions of the levels of achievement required in order to get a result within a given band of marks (e.g. 70% or more).

Anonymous marking: The University has adopted a principle of anonymous marking in order to protect students and staff from bias, and the perception of bias, in the marking process. It applies to all examinations and, where practical, other assessment. It is not possible to mark all coursework anonymously as in some types of assessment the student can be easily identified by the marker (e.g. presentations, group work, laboratory work) or it might not be practical, or in the student interest, to do so. You will be informed when your coursework is to be marked anonymously.

Moderation: Both the setting and the marking of assessments are independently checked through a process known as moderation to ensure that questions test the learning outcomes and are set at the right standard, and that marking is consistent and fair. Moderation is conducted by internal examiners and also by your External Examiner (see below).

Progression Rules

The MRes programme requires a 60% Taught Stage Average (the weighted average across all taught units) in order to progress onto the Interdisciplinary Thesis Formulation Report version of the dissertation stage of the programme. Students with a taught average between 50% and 60% will be transferred to the MSc version of the programme.

Students not meeting either requirement will be transferred to the PG Dip. Students obtaining 60% or more for their Interdisciplinary Thesis Formulation Report will progress onto the PhD part of the degree.

In compliance with NFA-PGT, all failed and non-condoned units need to be retrieved on a like-for-like basis.

Research Ethics

In adherence to university's [Code of Good Practice in Research Integrity](#) all students doing their dissertation project should discuss ethical implications with their project supervisor.

Unit and programme changes

We continually look for ways to develop and improve our programmes. For example:

- it might be desirable to make some updates to the content of the curriculum to reflect the latest developments in a particular field of study
- a review of the assessments across a programme (including feedback received) might identify that changes to an assessment would better support student learning.

Students who would be affected by proposed changes are consulted about them, either via their Staff/Student Liaison Committee or directly, depending on the nature of the change.

In addition, it is sometimes necessary to make changes due to unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances. For example:

- the accrediting body for a programme may require changes to be made to it
- it may not be possible to run a particular unit because a member of teaching staff with specialist expertise leaves the University and we are unable to find a suitable replacement
- it may not be viable to run a particular optional unit in a given year because very few students select it.

In such cases, the University will always try to ensure that any impact on students is minimised and that students are informed of the changes at the earliest opportunity.

All programme and unit changes are managed through a formal process set out by the University. The aim of this is to ensure that changes are academically appropriate and properly supported, take place in a timely manner, and safeguard the interests of students.

How Your Programme is Reviewed and Monitored

The University has in place a number of ways to ensure that programmes remain up-to-date, issues are dealt with and improvements made.

All programmes and units are monitored annually, looking at evidence for what is working well and identifying any actions that need to be taken. Taking account of student feedback, including feedback given through unit evaluation and other student surveys, is a key part of unit and programme monitoring.

Departments also conduct periodic reviews of their programmes. These provide an opportunity for in-depth review and development, involving input from students and from an adviser(s) external to the University.

Assessment

Feedback to students on assessment

During your programme, you will receive feedback on assessed work. Feedback on assessments may take different forms, depending on your subject and the type of assessment. You will be informed of the timing and nature of the feedback you will receive on each assessment, including whether the piece of work itself will be returned to you. For formal written examinations, you may receive general feedback relevant to all who sat the exam rather than individual feedback. You can discuss feedback you receive on assessments alongside your performance and progress in your studies at meetings with your Personal Tutor.

The university has a policy of providing coursework feedback within three working weeks after submission. When this is impossible, the unit leader will notify the students. Individual feedback is normally provided either written on the submission, using a feedback sheet or via Moodle. While individual feedback is provided, some unit leaders will normally provide general feedback through Moodle or during a lecture. Students are encouraged to contact unit leaders if they would like further feedback or clarification.

Feedback does not restrict itself to comments on formal assessment. Lab sessions, (informal) discussions with lecturers and tutors, meetings with your project supervisor also give you the opportunity to get valuable feedback on your progress. If you are unsure on how you are getting on with your unit/course, talk to your lecturer, tutors and/or personal tutor. Talk to us! Feedback does not need to be written down to be valuable.

Academic Integrity: Training and Test

As a student registered on a University of Bath award, you are required to undertake the academic integrity training and pass the associated test.

The academic integrity training aims to provide all students with a basic knowledge and understanding of good academic practice. This includes an understanding of plagiarism and other assessment offences, and skills necessary to reference your work appropriately.

The training and test are accessed from Moodle by clicking on the link entitled '**Academic Integrity Initiative**': <https://moodle.bath.ac.uk/>

If you have any access problems, then please contact Matthew Albertyn in the first instance.

When you have completed the training tutorial and are confident that you have understood it, you should undertake the test.

To pass the test you will need to achieve a mark of 85%. You can take the test as many times as necessary until you pass.

If you do not pass the test, you will need to re-visit the training and/or look at the other guidance available to you or as required by your Director of Studies, and then take the test again.

You will not be able to progress beyond the next progression point in your studies, irrespective of your programme marks, until you pass this test. Ultimately this means that, if you have not passed the test, you will not be able to receive your award. Your Director of Studies will be able to confirm when the next progression point occurs for your stage of your programme.

Further information

Academic and information skills:

www.bath.ac.uk/library/infoskills

www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/academic-skills-programme-asp

Regulation 3.7: www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students

Plagiarism detection and personal data

When you hand in a piece of assessed coursework, you will be expected to make a declaration that the work is your own and, where you have re-used your own work and/or used other sources of information, that you have referenced the material appropriately.

The University uses a plagiarism detection service. This service checks electronic, text-based submissions against a large database of material from other sources and, for each submission, produces an 'originality report'. It makes no judgement on the intention behind the inclusion of unoriginal work; it simply highlights its presence and links to the original source.

This service complies with the European General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) (GDPR). When you register with the University, you give it permission to process your personal data for a variety of legitimate purposes. This includes allowing the University to disclose such data to third

parties for purposes relating to your studies. The University, at its sole discretion, may submit the work of any student to a plagiarism detection service (in accordance with Regulation 15.3e – see below) and may make, or authorise third parties to make, copies of any such work for the purposes of:

- i) assessment of the work
- ii) comparison with databases of earlier work or previously available works to confirm the work is original
- iii) addition to databases of works used to ensure that future works submitted at this institution and others do not contain content from the work submitted.

The University will not make any more copies of your work than are necessary, and will only retain these for so long as remains necessary, for these purposes.

Please note that, if at any time the University submits any of your work to a plagiarism detection service, the service will be provided with, and will retain, certain personal data relating to you – for example, your name, email address, programme details and the work submitted. Such data may be transferred by a plagiarism detection service to countries worldwide (some of which may not be governed by EU data legislation) in order for the work to be checked and an originality report generated in accordance with the proper workings of the plagiarism detection service. Personal data is retained indefinitely by the plagiarism detection service upon submission of work. You may ask for your personal data to be removed by contacting the University's Data Protection Officer.

Further information

The University's procedures on Examination and Assessment Offences (QA53) are described at: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/qa53-examination-and-assessment-offences/>

Regulation 15, Assessment of undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students-2018-19/>

University's Data Protection Officer: dataprotection-queries@lists.bath.ac.uk

Academic Integrity: Penalties

Any student who is found to have used unfair means in an examination or assessment procedure will be penalised. 'Unfair means' here include:

- cheating - for example, unauthorised use of notes or course material in an examination
- fabrication - for example, reporting on experiments that were never performed
- falsification - for example, misrepresentation of the results of experimentation
- plagiarism, including self-plagiarism (see above)
- unfair collaboration or collusion - representation of work produced in collaboration with another person or persons as the work of a single candidate.

The University's Quality Assurance Code of Practice, QA53 Examination and Assessment Offences, sets out the consequences of committing an offence and the penalties that might be applied.

Penalties for unfair practice will be determined by the Department or by the Faculty/School Board of Studies in line with the procedures set out in QA53. They may include failure of the assessment unit or part of a degree, with no provision for reassessment or retrieval of that failure. Proven cases of plagiarism or cheating can also lead to an Inquiry Hearing or disciplinary proceedings. Claims of inadvertence or ignorance will not be accepted as a basis for mitigation of a penalty.

If you are accused of an offence, the Students' Union's welfare services are available to support you. You have the right to appeal against the outcome of the investigation.

Further information

Examination and assessment offences:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/qa53-examination-and-assessment-offences/>

Appealing a decision about an assessment offence:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/appeal-against-a-decision-about-an-assessment-offence/>

Word counts

Written coursework tasks will normally have a word range or limit. This is in order to give an indication of the depth and detail of work required, and to ensure that students' submitted work is comparable. You will be required to declare the word count for your work when submitting it for assessment.

If you do not observe the given word range or limit for the coursework task, for example if you exceed the word limit, then a penalty will be applied. The penalty that would apply should be stated in writing when the assignment task is distributed. You should take note of what is included when calculating the total word count (e.g. whether or not contents pages, appendices, footnotes, bibliographies and other elements that are not part of the main text are included).

You should check with your Director of Studies if you have questions about word counts and penalties.

Late submission of coursework

You will be expected to hand in all assessed coursework and dissertations/projects by a specified date and time. This is to ensure fairness to all students.

If there are valid circumstances preventing you from meeting a deadline, your Director of Studies may grant you an extension to the specified submission date. Forms to request an extension are available from your Department. You will need to provide a description of the circumstances which you feel support your request. Your Director of Studies may ask you to produce supporting evidence.

Please note that:

- if you submit a piece of work after the submission date, and no extension has been granted, the maximum mark possible will be the pass mark
- if you submit work more than five working days after the submission date, you will normally receive a mark of 0 (zero), unless you have been granted an extension.

It is not usually possible to mark coursework anonymously if it is submitted after the deadline.

It is important that you speak to your Director of Studies as soon as possible if you become concerned about your submission deadlines.

See also the section in this Handbook on [**Submission deadlines**](#).

Individual Mitigating Circumstances

Individual Mitigating Circumstances (IMCs) are the conditions which temporarily prevent you from undertaking assessment or significantly impair your performance in assessment. As such, the measure of their severity is not about impact on you, but the impact on your affected assessment.

Full information and guidance on Individual Mitigating Circumstances and Assessment (including definitions of IMCs, in the document "What are Individual Mitigating Circumstances?") is available at: www.bath.ac.uk/registry/imc/imc-students.html

It is strongly advised that you become familiar with the available guidance so that you understand the process and timescales should such circumstances arise.

You should make yourself familiar with these definitions, in addition to any IMC guidance offered by your Department, and support and guidance offered through the Disability Service (<https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/disability-service/>) or the Students' Union Advice and Support Centre (<https://www.thesubath.com/advice/>).

Your Department/School will be able to advise you on how to submit an IMC claim, and your Director of Studies can help you to understand the potential implications of your IMC claim on your overall progress and/or award, in light of your academic achievement to date and the assessment regulations for your programme.

Your IMC claim must be submitted no more than three days after the affected assessment. The IMC form is available at: www.bath.ac.uk/registry/imc/imc-students.html

You will also need to submit evidence of how your circumstances affected the relevant assessment(s), for example, a medical certificate in the case of illness or injury.

If you know of a potential IMC that may affect your assessment before you begin an examination period or before a submission date, it is important that you speak to your Director of Studies as soon as possible. After speaking to your Director of Studies, if you do intend to submit a formal IMC claim for the assessment(s) you feel were affected, you will still need to complete the form and follow procedures.

Assessment Processes

Assessment and marking processes at the University are designed to ensure that assessment of your work is fair and consistent, and that academic standards are appropriate and comparable between the University and other higher education institutions. This is achieved in a number of ways.

Marking: Assessments you will complete during your programme are marked according to:

- *marking criteria (or assessment criteria)* - these are the knowledge, understanding and skills which it has been identified that students should demonstrate in the assessment and which are taken into account during marking. They are based on the learning outcomes being assessed
- *marking schemes* - these are detailed descriptions of how specific numbers of marks should be assigned against individual components of an answer within the assessment task
- *grade descriptors* - these are descriptions of the levels of achievement required in order to get a result within a given band of marks (e.g. 70% or more).

Anonymous marking: The University has adopted a principle of anonymous marking in order to protect students and staff from bias, and the perception of bias, in the marking process. It applies to all examinations and, where practical, other assessment. It is not possible to mark all coursework anonymously as in some types of assessment the student can be easily identified by the marker (e.g. presentations, group work, laboratory work) or it might not be practical, or in the student interest, to do so. You will be informed when your coursework is to be marked anonymously.

Moderation: Both the setting and the marking of assessments are independently checked through a process known as moderation to ensure that

questions test the learning outcomes and are set at the right standard, and that marking is consistent and fair. Moderation is conducted by internal examiners and also by your External Examiner (see below).

Boards of Examiners:

Assessment decision-making at the University is the responsibility of Boards of Examiners established at three levels: assessment outcomes go first to *Boards of Examiners for Units*, then *Boards of Examiners for Programmes*, then finally to *Boards of Studies*. Boards of Studies confirm decisions relating to student progression from one stage of the programme to the next and the final award.

The assessment marks you are given initially by markers are therefore provisional up until the point when they have been confirmed by the Board of Studies for your programme. An official release date is set when your confirmed results will be made available to you via SAMIS (the University's student records system). An academic appeal can only be made in relation to a confirmed result (see the section in this Handbook on **Procedures for Academic Appeals**).

All marks for a unit are reviewed at a meeting of a Board of Examiners for Units which will verify that the assessment process has been conducted appropriately and that the marks are an accurate reflection of the standards achieved. On rare occasions a Board of Examiners may decide to recommend a change to the provisional marks assigned initially, based on evidence that there was a problem with the assessment (for instance, disruption during an examination, or an exam paper that was too easy or difficult) which means that the marks assigned initially do not accurately reflect the standards achieved by the candidates. This adjustment is known as scaling and under these circumstances the marks of all affected students will be changed.

Examinations – information and guidance

Rules and procedures for examinations are set out in the University's Regulation 15 and Rule 2. The dates of the University's formal assessment periods are found on the academic year charts: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/academic-year-charts/>

You will have access to your personal examination timetable via SAMIS approximately seven weeks before the assessment period begins.

If you have learning or support needs and think you may require alternative examination arrangements, please seek advice from the Disability Service and inform your Director of Studies as early as possible.

Further information

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/exam-procedures/>

Regulation 15: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students-2018-19/>

Rule 2: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/rule-2-conduct-of-examinations/>

Disability Service: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/disability-service/>

External examiners

An External Examiner is someone from another University or a professional organisation who is suitably qualified and experienced in the relevant field of study. At least one External Examiner is appointed for each taught programme or group of programmes. The role of External Examiner is an important one in assuring that assessment processes are fair and academic standards are appropriate, and supporting the development of your programme. External Examiners review draft examination papers and samples of assessed work, and attend Boards of Examiners. They are members of relevant Boards of Examiners.

Once a year, the External Examiners will provide a written report on each programme. University staff, including the Head of Department and Director of Studies will look at these reports and a response will be made to the External Examiner's comments. Staff/Student Liaison Committees (SSLCs) also discuss External Examiner reports as part of annual monitoring activity.

You can read the latest External Examiner report for your programme, and the University's response to it. See: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/external-examiner-annual-reports/>

The External Examiners for the MRes part of your programme is Dr Sabine Hauert from the University of Bristol.

It is not appropriate for students to make direct contact with External Examiners. If you are dissatisfied with the process or outcome of an assessment, and are considering whether to raise this either informally or formally, the sections of this Handbook on **Procedures for Academic Appeals** and **Dealing with a problem involving the University: Complaints** give some more information about the University's procedures for student complaints and academic appeals. The section on **Student representation** sets out how students can engage with the quality management process through which the University considers and responds to External Examiners' comments and suggestions.

Assessment Regulations

The University's **New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations: Phases 2 & 3 for postgraduate taught programmes ('NFAAR-PGT')** specifies the rules governing students' progression from one stage of their programme to the next as well as for the award of degrees. The rules cover all areas of assessment, including supplementary assessment and the extent to which failure may be condoned.

If at any time you are in doubt about how NFAAR-PGT provisions apply to your work, please consult your Director of Studies.

This section highlights areas of the University's assessment framework for the type of programme you are undertaking. It explains the regulations that govern your assessment and outlines how the University makes decisions concerning your progression through your programme and award. Complete information is available in the NFAAR-PGT document.

Important information

This section may contain terms unfamiliar to you. In addition to the explanations we give below you can find full definitions at:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/nfaar-pgt-and-appendices/attachments/nfaar-pgt-appendix-02.pdf>

For full details of the NFAAR-PGT, visit:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/nfaar-pgt-and-appendices/attachments/nfaar-pgt.pdf>

For information relating to your programme, visit:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/>

Your programme and how you are assessed

Within your programme of study, there are *compulsory units*, (i.e. those units in a programme which must be taken by every student registered on the programme), and *optional units* (i.e. those units you may choose from a range of options).

The Programme Description: Structure of the programme section in this Handbook shows the structure of your programme. In the table, compulsory and optional units are labelled 'C' and 'O' respectively.

Please note that you can also access this information via links in your programme's description in the Programme and Unit Catalogues available at: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/>

At the end of the table, there is a link to the relevant appendix of the NFAAR-PGT which states exactly how the assessment rules operate.

The following points will help you to understand how the assessment rules relate to your specific programme, such as pass marks, averaging of marks and dealing with any failures:

Firstly, there are several references below to the persistent generic rules on the extent of any failures of units permitted overall. The rules are that you can only (1) fail and retrieve units, or (2) marginally fail units and have them condoned, **within set limits**. Breaking these rules results in failure of the programme

- Your programme does not have any Designated Essential Units (DEUs).
- Your programme has units that constitute the Taught Stage(s) Credits in a separate phase before the period in which you will do the Dissertation/Project type unit(s), as indicated in the table at the end of this section. The Programme Progression Requirement to get from the taught phase to the Dissertation/Project phase is a minimum of 60%. With a taught stage average between 50% and 60% you will be transferred to the dissertation stage of the MSc variant.
- Should you fail to qualify for the award of the degree of Master, you may be considered for the award of a related Postgraduate Diploma (subject to your having met the requirements) or Postgraduate Certificate

The normal pass mark for a unit is 40%. In some units, you might need to achieve a threshold mark in one or more component assessments in order to pass the unit overall. Particular rules apply to failure of units of the 'Taught type', or in the 'taught' stages. They are as follows:

- If you fail any non-DEU units badly (i.e. achieve less than 35%), you will have to undertake supplementary assessment unless you have failed so many units that you fail outright or the attempted retrieval would break the rule on how much failure can be retrieved.
- If you fail only non-DEU units marginally (i.e. achieve 35%-39%), you might be able to progress without supplementary assessment. Whether you do progress will depend on the total credit value of the failed units.

Dissertation/Project units have their own special rule on failure: only cases of marginal failure (i.e. 35%-39%) will be given permission for attempted retrieval

through supplementary assessment, and any resubmission that is permitted for marginal failure must be made within a specified period. Ultimately, you must pass a Dissertation/Project unit (or have an average of at least 40% for them if there are more than one) for satisfactory completion of the requirements for Dissertation/Project elements.

Your unit results are combined as follows to make overall assessment/award decisions:

- The Taught Stage(s) Average (TSA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units required to contribute to the taught stage(s), or by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units defined as of 'Taught type' required to contribute to the programme.
- The Dissertation/Project Average (DPA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for the unit(s) required to contribute to the Dissertation/Project stage(s), or by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for the unit(s) defined as of 'Dissertation/Project type' required to contribute to the programme.
- The Overall Programme Average (OPA) will be calculated by taking the credit-weighted average of marks for all units required to contribute to the programme.

A Board of Examiners will decide at appropriate points whether you are continuing to meet the requirements for the programme (including not breaking persistent generic rules whereby you can only fail and retrieve, or marginally fail and have condoned, units within set limits), and/or whether you have met all the requirements for your target award or any alternative that might be available. The outcomes will depend on both your performance in individual units and your overall performance. Generally, if you pass each of your units, you will progress and, in due course, be recommended for an award.

If you fail units beyond certain credit values, or you fail some too badly, you might break one of the persistent generic rules whereby you can only fail and retrieve, or marginally fail and have condoned, units within set limits, and this will result in failure of the programme - without any opportunity for supplementary assessment. (Further information on supplementary assessment is provided below.)

The criteria for making awards with distinction or with merit are described in the relevant NFAAR-PGT rules (paras. 78-80).

Supplementary assessment

'Supplementary assessment' is the term normally used for an opportunity given to a student to retrieve failure before starting the next stage of a programme, or by the end of the programme if it is a single-stage programme or the failed units are not Stage Required Units (SRUs). It generally involves re-doing coursework or re-sitting an examination. Students undertaking supplementary assessments are likely to have to do so at the University in the summer re-sit examinations.

For the 2019–20 academic year, this period will be 12 August to 21 August 2020.

Each unit's method of supplementary assessment is shown in the online Unit Catalogue.

At supplementary assessment, students will normally have the opportunity to gain credit for units then successfully passed and to have the mark gained reported to them for feedback purposes, but a maximum mark of 40% will be awarded and used in the Overall Stage Average, the Overall Programme Average, the Taught Stage(s) Average, and any award calculation.

In units where the original assessment is a written examination, supplementary assessment may sometimes take the form of reworking an examination paper, known as 'mandatory extra work', rather than re-sitting the examination. In such cases the pass mark is 70% and a mark below 60% is considered a bad fail.

If you pass all your supplementary assessments, you will be able to progress onto the next stage of your programme and/or, as appropriate, be considered for an award. If you do not pass them all, the outcome will depend on your overall performance including consideration of the rules about passing particular types of units and the persistent generic rules (as set out above).

Procedures for Academic Appeals

Students wishing to submit a request for an academic appeal should refer to Regulation 17 (Conduct of Student Academic Appeals and Reviews):
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students-2018-19/>

You are also strongly advised to read the online guidance provided by the Academic Registry: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/appealing-against-an-academic-decision/>

Independent advice about academic appeals is offered by the Students' Union Advice and Support Centre: <https://www.thesubath.com/advice/>

Regulation 17.16 outlines how you may appeal against formal Board of Studies decisions in respect of one or more of the following:

- i) the student's suitability to progress from one stage of the programme of study to the next
- ii) the student's suitability to remain on the programme of study
- iii) the marks/grades, degrees, certificates or diplomas, and the classifications/grades awarded to the student.

The regulation also sets out the grounds on which an appeal can be based (Regulation 17.16). Please note that:

- dissatisfaction with a mark or set of marks, or any other aspect of the properly exercised academic judgement of the examiners, will not of itself be acceptable as a valid ground for an academic appeal (Regulation 17.1)
- students who have concerns about assessment outcomes that have not yet been approved by a Board of Studies should seek advice in the first instance from their Director of Studies. This may include matters such as suspecting errors in the totalling or transcription of marks/grades, or wishing to seek clarification about the marking process (Regulation 17.2).

All academic appeals must be submitted within the timescales set out in Regulation 17. You must provide the required information and evidence, including a completed AA1 form. The form and further academic appeals guidance are available at: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/appealing-against-an-academic-decision/>

Student Complaints are dealt with under separate procedures. For more information, see: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/student-complaints-procedure/>

If you are uncertain as to whether your concerns are a potential academic appeal or a student complaint, please refer to the guidance at:

www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/complaints/

Study and support: Getting the most out of your studies

Accessing university email

You will need to use your University username and password to access your University email account. You are able to access your email by going to <https://outlook.office.com>

Your username also forms your email address (username@bath.ac.uk).

The University will often communicate with you about a range of important matters requiring action from you, including registration, unit enrolment, assessment, degree ceremonies, and matters such as tuition fees, via your University email account. It is a University requirement (Regulation 1.3) that you access your University email account regularly, even if you are out on placement or study abroad.

You therefore have a responsibility to ensure that your University email account can receive incoming mail and that you read your email regularly.

Once you graduate or withdraw from your course, you will receive an email stating exactly when your account will be closed. The email will give at least 30 days' notice.

Further information

Email guidance: www.bath.ac.uk/quides/accessing-your-university-email-and-calendar

Regulation 1.3: www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students

Your student record: SAMIS

SAMIS is the University's student records database. It provides an online portal where you can view details about your registration, update your contact details, and do other things such as viewing exam information, viewing your confirmed assessment results, and (where applicable) choosing optional units.

Further information

<https://samis.bath.ac.uk>

Moodle

Moodle is the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) used at the University of Bath. It is used by academic Departments to support learning and teaching at programme and unit level. It provides a platform for the delivery of resources and online activities, and can also support student interaction and collaboration.

Further information

[Computer Science Postgraduate Moodle Page](#)

Personal Tutoring

When you join the University, you will be assigned a Personal Tutor who will help you to get the best out of your university experience. Your Personal Tutor will:

- support you in your academic progress and personal development
- discuss with you programme choices, placement opportunities and future career plans
- provide you with a reference for your placement or career
- guide you to sources of expert help with any personal/welfare issues.

Your Personal Tutor should arrange to meet with you on at least three occasions in your first semester and at least once per semester thereafter. This enables you both to get to know each other, such that you can raise any issues with your tutor and your tutor can support you fully through your programme. It is important that you attend scheduled meetings with your Personal Tutor and let them know in advance if you cannot attend. Many of these meetings may be in small groups but you can also request a one-to-one meeting.

If you should have reason to wish to change your Personal Tutor, please contact your Director of Studies to discuss the matter.

Language and academic skills support and development

To help you get the best out of your studies and your future employability, we offer all our students a comprehensive range of year-round skills and personal development opportunities designed to complement your academic programme.

These opportunities have been designed to give you choice and flexibility to help you get the support and development you need at the time you most need it.

You can choose from classes, tutorials, drop-in sessions, workshops and online resources, to develop a range of skills, including how to:

- create well-written, clearly structured essays, reports and dissertations
- think critically in order to enhance your writing
- manage information sources and literature effectively
- give polished and effective academic presentations
- manage and analyse numbers, data and statistics
- enhance your use of mathematical tools
- use IT tools and resources effectively
- enhance your existing language proficiency, or learn a new language.

There are many opportunities available to you through our Careers Service and Students' Union to help you develop your skills and prepare for the workplace. For example:

- writing an effective job application and CV
- succeeding at interview or assessment centre
- leading and managing projects
- chairing meetings
- running a club or society.

Further information

Find out more about the skills support and development opportunities available here: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/get-ahead-with-skills-at-bath/>

Recognition for extra-curricular activities: The Bath Award

The Bath Award is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students. It recognises the experiences, skills and strengths you have gained through participation in extra-curricular activities, volunteering, work experience, part-time work, global opportunities and more. The Award enables you to reflect on your personal development as a student and future employee. Completing the Award will enhance your employability, increase self-awareness of your skills and enable you to articulate these effectively to future employers.

Further information

<https://www.thesubath.com/bathaward/>

The Library

The Library is open 24 hours a day, all year round, and provides print and electronic materials and information services to support study and research across the University. It houses over 500 PCs, wireless networking throughout, and provides areas for both quiet individual study and group work. Alongside 360,000 printed books, it offers over 26,000 electronic journals, 516,000 electronic books, 100 databases for information, literature and data searching, the University's exam papers database, and digital versions of the University's academic publications. The Library's electronic services, resources and support materials are all available directly from the Library's web pages (<https://library.bath.ac.uk/home>). The Library's copy and print service provides access to black and white and colour photocopying, laser printing and scanning.

Information specialists, our Subject, School and Faculty Librarians are responsible for services to individual Departments and the School. You will find their contact details, and subject specific guidance on the dedicated web pages they have created. These pages include a large range of recommended resources and support materials and are listed under 'Resources for your Subject' on the Library homepage (<https://library.bath.ac.uk/home>).

Our Subject, School and Faculty Librarians provide individual help to students and staff, as well as teaching information skills in Department and School programmes and through general University skills provision. All new students receive library introduction sessions during the induction period.

Further information

For information on all library services and resources:

<https://library.bath.ac.uk/home>

Computing Services and Facilities

Using your University username and password, you will be able connect to University computers, University email, the internet, file storage and printing services. You will also be able to get access to a range of free software, including Office 365 and antivirus. You can work from any location using our UniDesk and UniApps service, which gives you access to your files as if you were on campus.

If you would like to know more about these services, and how to access them, please visit: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/setting-up-your-it-as-a-student/>

IT Support is available from the IT Service Desk on Level 2 of the Library or online at: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/getting-it-support-and-advice/>

If you require learning assistance, Computing Services can support you with your computing needs. The Assistive Technology Team is available to provide advice and support. Additional resources are available, which include the Assistive Technology room, specialist software and computer hardware - including laptops for loan. Find out more at <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/assistive-technology/>

The IT shop in the Library stocks popular products such as academic software, DVDs, network cables and headsets. You can order many further IT products through the shop. Prices are often lower than in high street shops.

The Audio-Visual Unit also provides a range of equipment and facilities that can be used in support of learning. Find out more at <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/audio-visual/>

Further information

Computing Services: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/digital-data-technology-group-dd-t/>

Information for new users: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/setting-up-your-it-as-a-student/>

Information for users requiring learning assistance: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/assistive-technology/>

IT shop: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/locations/it-shop/>

Computing Services Twitter feed: [@UniofBathIT](https://twitter.com/UniofBathIT)

Recording of Lectures

'Lecture capture' technology is widely used on campus to record lectures. Lecturers on your units will inform you if lectures will be recorded and the recordings made available for you to view again online. Where provided, lecture recordings are made available as an additional resource for personal study and revision purposes, and you can pause and rewind recordings when you re-watch them. The University cannot guarantee recordings (for example in the event of a technical fault) and recordings are not made available indefinitely.

As set out in Ordinance 22.4, students are not permitted to copy or redistribute lecture recordings, or to make their own recordings of lectures. However, the University may permit students with a disability to record lectures where this is a reasonable adjustment under the provisions of the Equality Act, in order to give these students equal access to educational opportunities. In such circumstances the lecturer will be informed that the lecture is being recorded and the student may use the recording for their own personal study purposes only. Students with a disability should contact the Disability Service for further advice.

Further information

Ordinance 22: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/ordinances/>

Disability Service: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/disability-service/>

Student Representation

Feeding back your views to the University

The University is committed to reviewing and continually improving its practice. The University aims to engage students as active partners in their education (Education Strategy 2016/21). Three key ways in which we seek feedback are through:

- a) Staff / Student Liaison Committees (SSLCs)
- b) Surveys and evaluations
- c) the Students' Union.

We also use focus groups, Departmental working parties, 'Lets' Talk' events, in-class opportunities and various kinds of feedback sessions.

You can get actively involved in determining how your educational and student experiences are organised by becoming active in the Students' Union, by letting your Department know that you are interested in contributing, and by working in partnership with staff in your academic department and across other services at the University to co-creation solutions to improve the learning and teaching, and wider student experience.

On top of the informal mechanisms like talking with your Unit Convenor and your Director of Studies, every Department has a formal system so that all

students can comment routinely, in confidence and anonymously on the learning experience they have received. Such comments help us to check that:

- you have a clear idea of the aims and requirements of each unit you study
- our teaching is effective and stimulating
- the advice and feedback we provide on your work is helpful
- our resources are suitable.

You will be asked to complete a short online unit evaluation for units you have studied. You will also be asked to complete surveys from time to time on your experience of the programme as a whole. Please complete each evaluation fully, thoughtfully, and candidly. In particular, please tell us not only your opinion but also the *reasons* behind your opinion.

When we receive responses to evaluations, we analyse them – especially the positive suggestions for change and concerns that are voiced. 'We' doesn't just mean the University but students and their elected representatives too! Evaluation and survey data are always encouraged to be looked at in partnership between students and staff, so that solutions to the issues raised can be co-created together. Student feedback and the resulting actions are taken into consideration in annual monitoring of units and programmes. Survey results are discussed at committees where student representatives have the opportunity to input into any action plans developed in response to the issues raised.

Your feedback is important to both the University and the Students' Union. Please keep telling us what is going well and what needs to get better. Try not to store issues up for a future SSLC meeting or the Unit Evaluations. Talking early to your Unit Convenor and Director of Studies will mean that any potential issues can be solved sooner thus enhancing your own experience on a particular Unit. We will communicate how feedback on units and programmes, and the wider student experience, has been acted upon.

Student representatives

As a student of the University you are automatically a member of the Students' Union (although you have a right to opt out - see section below on **Students' Union membership**). Officers of the Students' Union represent students' interests on University decision-making bodies. In addition, numerous elected student representatives play important roles on various Departmental, Faculty/School and University committees. All student representatives are elected through online elections facilitated by the Students' Union.

There are many opportunities for elected student representatives. If you are elected to serve on Departmental, Faculty/School or University committees you will be expected to represent the views of your fellow students and provide feedback following meetings.

Student representation on Committees

Departmental level:	<p>Each Department has at least one Departmental Staff / Student Liaison Committee (SSLC). These comprise several elected student members, known as Academic Reps, and an equal or smaller number of staff members. Academic Reps are elected at the beginning of every year through online elections. Their role involves collecting the views of the students on their programme and attending SSLCs where they represent these views to their Department.</p> <p>The SU and the Centre for Learning & Teaching receive minutes of SSLC meetings in order to gain an overview of key themes explored, good practice identified and actions taken. This information helps to inform student engagement activity and summary reports prepared by The SU for the University.</p> <p>There is also provision for student membership of the Department Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee: normally one undergraduate and one postgraduate (taught) representative.</p> <p>Academic Reps attend SU Academic Council meetings. These take place regularly during semester time in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• keep SU Officers and fellow Academic Reps informed of academic developments throughout the University• discuss common problems and interests affecting Departments• gather student opinions and views to be used by the University and The SU• update Academic Reps on key issues. <p>Do contact your student Academic Reps at any time to inform them of good practice or areas for enhancement in your units and programme. This is normally the person who represents your year or degree scheme on the Departmental SSLC.</p>
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Faculty/ School level:	Student representatives are also elected as Faculty Reps to sit on a number of Faculty/School level committees such as the Faculty/School Board of Studies and the Faculty/School Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee. Faculty Reps are also members of the Students' Union Academic Exec Committee.
University level:	University committees with student representation include the Council/Senate/Students' Union, the University Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee, the Programmes and Partnerships Approval Committee, and Senate.

If you are interested in opportunities to represent student views, please contact The SU: academicreps@bath.ac.uk

The Students' Union, with support from the University, runs a full training programme for student representatives which includes initial training at the beginning of the academic year and ongoing support and development opportunities.

If you need to raise a concern, remember there are various routes open to you. You can discuss issues directly with a lecturer, your Personal Tutor, or the Director of Studies. Individual problems are often more readily resolved in this way. The Students' Union Advice and Support Service, described below, also provides students with information and confidential advice.

Further information

Students' Union Academic Representation including contact details for Academic Reps: <https://www.thesubath.com/academicreps/>

[Election of Academic Reps: https://www.thesubath.com/elections/](https://www.thesubath.com/elections/)

Student Engagement: shape your University:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/student-engagement-shape-your-university/>

Outline election procedures are included in QA48 Student Engagement with Quality Assurance and Enhancement, Annex A: Staff/Student Liaison Committees: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/qa48-student-engagement-with-quality-assurance-and-enhancement/>

Students' Union Membership

All students registered with the University are automatically given membership of the Students' Union; however you have the right not to be a member. For further information on opting out of this membership, please go to the Code of Practice for the Students' Union: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/code-of-practice-for-the-students-union-su/>

Student Support

Most students find there are occasions when it can help to talk to someone about a personal problem or issue. In many cases your Personal Tutor, Director of Studies, or a Wellbeing Adviser (see the **Wellbeing Service** section below) will be able to help. However, sometimes more specialist help is needed. The University has a range of professional support services that you can approach directly. Your two main contact points are Student Services at the Roper Centre in 4 West and the Advice and Support Service in the Students' Union.

Student Services

Student Services can provide advice and support on a range of issues including:

- counselling and mental health
- disability issues
- money and funding
- wellbeing and welfare.

You can make an individual appointment or just pop in to our daily drop-in sessions.

Student Services can also provide letters confirming student status for a variety of purposes, which can be requested by logging on to SAMIS: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/services/register-as-a-student-of-the-university-and-update-your-details/>

The Roper Student Services Centre in 4 West is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm throughout the year (tel: 01225 383838). Services are also available from the Virgil Building in Bath city centre.

For the full range of Student Services, see: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/student-services> or email: studentservices@bath.ac.uk

The Students' Union Advice and Support Service

The Students' Union Advice and Support Service provides information and advice for students on a range of topics affecting their education and wellbeing. This includes academic issues such as Individual Mitigating Circumstances (see the section in this Handbook on **Assessment**), changing course or assessment offences. They also provide Housing Advice on topics such as contract checks, landlord issues and council tax.

In addition, The SU Advice & Support team is one of the four departments at University of Bath that students can report Harassment, Discrimination or Bullying incidents to as part of the [#NeverOK Report & Support](#) campaign.

The Students' Union Advice and Support Service is open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm in term time (from 10.00am on Fridays) and 10.00am to 4.00pm during vacations (tel: 01225 386906, email: suadvice@bath.ac.uk)

The Advice and Support Service also supports the SU Diversity and Support groups – details of which can be found at: thesubath.com/diversity-support

For the full range of services see: thesubath.com/advice

Further information

A guide to the wide variety of support and information available to students can be found at: www.bath.ac.uk/students and the Students' Union website: thesubath.com

Wellbeing Service

The University's professionally qualified Wellbeing Advisers provide a welfare and wellbeing service to all our students. You can talk to a Wellbeing Adviser about anything and we are also available evenings and weekends.

We hold daily drop-in sessions on campus, including weekends and University vacations. Drop-in sessions are also held at the Virgil Building in Bath city centre and we run activities over Christmas and Easter for students who remain in Bath.

Further information

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/wellbeing-service/>

Advice for International Students

The Student Immigration Service provides immigration advice and support for all international students, including a Tier 4 extension service if you need to extend your visa. The Service offers workshops, a daily drop-in service, advice via email, phone and web-based platforms, or individual appointments can be made through the Helpdesk in The Roper Student Services Centre, 4 West.

Further information

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/visas/>

Student Services organise University-wide induction and welcome events in September. Events are also organised for incoming exchange students at the start of each semester.

Further information

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/studying-at-bath-as-an-erasmus-exchange-or-visiting-student/>

For students who join outside of the standard semester dates, induction and welcome events are organised by the relevant Department.

Dealing with a problem involving the University

We want to ensure that, if you have a problem concerning the University, it is resolved as quickly as possible. As described above, there are student representatives on all formal decision-making committees – at Departmental, Faculty/School and University level. Student representatives help to anticipate potential problems and, when problems occur, to raise them so that they can be dealt with promptly. As a result we can often resolve problems *before* they get to the stage where a formal complaint might be necessary.

The Students' Union offers advice for students on a range of issues through its Advice and Support Service. Its advice is independent of the University. See the section above on **Student Support**.

Complaints

If you do need to make a complaint, there are procedures in place to deal with it, outlined in the University's Student Complaints Procedure (see below).

These procedures are designed to ensure that your complaint will be dealt with in good faith and that you will not be penalised for complaining. When we receive a complaint, we will first seek to deal with it through informal discussion. If this fails to resolve the issue at hand, you can raise the complaint formally.

There are separate procedures for requesting a review of progression or award classification decisions. See the section in this Handbook on **Procedures for Academic Appeals**.

Further information

Student Complaints: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/student-complaints-procedure/>

Bullying, harassment and victimisation

We believe that all our students and employees are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and to be free from discrimination, victimisation, bullying, or any form of harassment. This is set out in the University's policy, Dignity and Respect for Students and Staff of the University of Bath: Policy and Procedure for Dealing with Complaints (below).

This policy and procedure applies to all staff, students and third parties (e.g. contractors to the University). University of Bath launched an online Report and Support tool, where all staff, students, and visitors can report discrimination, misconduct, harassment or assault by using this tool. You can report anonymously or get support from an adviser.

Further information

Dignity and Respect Policy: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/dignity-and-respect-for-students-and-staff-of-the-university-of-bath-policy-and-procedure/>

Report and Support tool: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/report-and-support/>

Advice for students with disabilities, long-term illness, and specific learning difficulties

If you have a disability and/or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia), we strongly advise you to speak to the Disability Service team, your Personal Tutor or Director of Studies as soon as possible and preferably before your programme begins. Referral to the Disability Service will enable us to assess your needs and make arrangements to support you.

Any personal information you give when disclosing your disability will be treated in confidence and made available *only* to relevant members of staff and only *with your permission*.

If you don't disclose your disability it may be difficult for the University to provide suitable support to help you during your studies. Disclosure will not disadvantage you in any way.

The Disability Service provides advice, guidance, information and support for a range of needs including:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders/Asperger's Syndrome
- dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties
- mental health
- mobility impairments
- sensory impairments
- health conditions such as epilepsy, HIV, diabetes or chronic fatigue.

A screening process is available if you think you may have a specific learning difficulty/dyslexia.

Disability Advisers are also responsible for making applications for alternative arrangements for exams and assessments. Therefore, if you think that, because of a disability, you need alternative exam arrangements (such as extra time or the use of a computer) please discuss this with a Disability Adviser without delay.

Further information

www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/disability-service/

Pregnancy and Maternity

The University is committed to being as flexible as possible in supporting students who become pregnant, decide to terminate a pregnancy or have a very young child. You are not under any obligation to inform the University of these circumstances, but doing so will enable us to put in place arrangements that will assist you in undertaking your programme of study.

You can seek advice, guidance and support via your Director of Studies, Personal Tutor and the University's Student Services.

Further information

www.bath.ac.uk/guides/getting-advice-if-you-are-pregnant-while-studying-or-have-a-young-child/

Care leavers, Estranged Students, Refugees and Young Adult Carers

The University is committed to supporting students from a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances including those who are care leavers, from a Foyer or are estranged from their family. We are aware of the challenges students may face when starting university and we want you to get the best out of your programme and university experience. We are able to offer you advice and guidance about settling in, academic studies, funding, accommodation, wellbeing and careers. The service we provide is confidential and entirely optional in relation to the level of support you feel that you may need.

We also offer eligible undergraduate students a non-repayable bursary of £1,000 per academic year plus £1,000 to help with start-up costs and a further £1,000 on graduation – a maximum of £7,000 over a 5-year programme including placement.

Further information

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/additional-support-and-funding-for-care-leavers-foyer-residents-and-estranged-students/>

Equality, diversity and inclusion

The University of Bath is fully committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive working and learning environment, where difference is celebrated and seen as a strength and where all members of the University community (including students, staff, visitors and third parties) have mutual respect for each other. Instances of bullying, harassment and discrimination hinder the development of such an environment and negatively impact on the individual's self-worth and wellbeing, as well as on our wider community. At University of Bath, we value, promote and celebrate inclusion, challenging discrimination and putting equality, diversity and belonging at the heart of everything we do.

Further information

There is a range of information and resources available at <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/> or email: equalsdiv@bath.ac.uk

Protected Groups

There are nine protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/protected-groups/>

Resources

Equality and Diversity Policies, Practices and resources can be found on this page:

www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/equality-and-diversity-policies-practices-and-resources/

Careers Service

The University Careers Service can support you through the career planning process, whatever your career aspirations. In addition to providing support with developing your employability, and guidance on how to make informed career decisions, members of the Careers team will provide help with perfecting your CV, practising aptitude tests, and improving your interview skills. Being in regular contact with several hundred major employers, the Careers Service is also a fantastic source for internship and graduate job vacancies for Bath students, as well as the organiser of several major careers fairs each year.

Further information

The Careers Service is open throughout the year, including the vacations. Check the web site for opening times: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/careers-service/>

The web site includes the *Myfuture* vacancies portal.

Contact careers@bath.ac.uk or 01225 386009 or follow the Careers Service on Twitter @CareersatBath or Facebook (search for BathUniCareers).

General Information

The Academic Year 2019-20

Semester 1

Event	Dates
New student arrivals	Saturday 21 September 2019 - Sunday 22 September 2019
Welcome Week	Monday 23 September 2019 - Sunday 29 September 2019
Semester 1	Monday 30 September 2019 - Friday 13 December 2019
Semester 1 vacation	Monday 16 December 2019 - Friday 3 January 2020
Semester 1	Monday 6 January 2020 - Friday 24 January 2020

Semester 2

Event	Dates
Semester 2	Monday 3 February 2020 - Friday 3 April 2020
Semester 2 vacation	Monday 6 April 2020 - Friday 17 April 2020
Semester 2	Monday 20 April 2020 - Friday 29 May 2020

University Regulations for Students

All registered students of the University are subject to the University's Regulations for Students. The Regulations contain rules and other important information about being a student at the University of Bath, including regulations governing the payment of fees due to the University, student discipline, fitness to study and those governing attendance, conduct and progress in studies. They also form part of the formal contract between you and the University. You will find references to the requirements of the Regulations for Students throughout

this Handbook. You are advised to download a copy of the Regulations and read them carefully as they contain a lot of important information.

Important information

The full Regulations for Students can be found at:

www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students/

Registration Status

Note that only registered students may use the University's facilities, such as email, Moodle and the Library. You will be asked to register online at the start of your programme of study and then to re-register at the start of every academic year thereafter until you have completed your programme. It is a requirement that you register when asked to do so. Tuition fees for each academic year are payable at registration in full or in instalments.

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/quides/registering-with-the-university/>

Regulation 1.1 explains the requirement to register. Regulations 2.4 and 2.10 explain the consequences of non-payment of tuition fees:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/regulations-for-students-2018-19/>

Attendance Monitoring

Guidance and requirements on attendance, including the University's Attendance Monitoring and Engagement Policy for Tier 4 students, are available at: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/quides/attendance-monitoring-for-tier-4-students/> This page also sets out information on when and how to request an authorised absence.

Change in your Circumstances

It is important to ensure that the University holds your correct, up-to-date, personal and academic details within SAMIS, the University's student records database. If you change your address – either your semester-time or home address – please update your details online at: <https://samis.bath.ac.uk>

If you change your name, you will need to provide valid proof of the change. Please speak to your Department or Faculty/School administration, or Student Services in the Roper Centre, for advice on how to do this.

If you are considering suspending your studies, transferring from one programme to another, or withdrawing from your programme, please discuss your situation with your Director of Studies. They will be able to advise you on an appropriate course of action.

It is a University Regulation (3.1) that you attend regularly. If circumstances are such that you are not able to do so, then please contact your Director of Studies to discuss your situation and agree an appropriate course of action.

Your Personal Tutor will also be able to provide support and guidance on matters relating to your programme.

The financial implications of withdrawing from the University or suspending your studies can be significant.

You will find general information at: www.bath.ac.uk/students/finance/changes-to-your-study/withdrawing-or-suspending-from-your-course

The Student Money Advice Team in Student Services and the Student Finance Office will be able to advise you on the implications for fees in your situation and on how to suspend any student funding you are receiving.

If you are an international student holding a Tier 4 visa, you should consult the advisers in the Student Immigration Service about the implications of suspending or withdrawing from your programme:

www.bath.ac.uk/topics visas

You will need to register any change of academic circumstance, including a change of optional units, with the University. Please speak to your Department or Faculty/School administration who will advise you on how to do this.

Health and safety

The University's Health and Safety Policy Statement is available at:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/health-and-safety-policy/>

The Policy Statement is also displayed throughout the campus. Staff within the University Health, Safety and Environment Service (Wessex House 3.12) provide professional advice on health and safety matters and monitor the health and safety performance of the University.

Further information

Email: uhse@bath.ac.uk

Current University guidance on fieldwork, work placements and overseas travel:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/fieldwork-safety-standard/>

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/placements-and-study-abroad-programmes-safety-standard/>

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/overseas-travel-safety-guidance/>

Data protection

The University's Data Protection Policy and Guidelines on Data Protection may be accessed via the data protection website: www.bath.ac.uk/data-protection