

UNIVERSITY OF BATH
COVID-19 NO-DETRIMENT MEASURES 2019/20:

POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT NO-DETRIMENT AND CLASSIFICATION SAFETY NET

6 MAY 2020

NOTE: *This document was created for, and applied to, the 2019/20 academic year.*

Who is this information for?

This information applies to postgraduate taught (PGT) students.

What general no-detriment measures apply to postgraduate taught students?

You can read more about general no-detriment measures that apply to all taught students, and specific information about no-detriment measures for assessment, at:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/covid-19-no-detriment-measures-for-taught-student-outcomes/>

We understand that as a PGT your outcomes may be affected *beyond* Semester 2 in 2020. For PGT, therefore, our no-detriment measures may allow you to:

- go on to viable dissertation/project work.
- be reassessed in more failed units than normally would be allowed.
- have more narrow failure condoned in units than normally would be allowed.
- suspend study or extend your registration beyond normal parameters.
- be granted reasonable extensions to have the chance to complete a dissertation/project without effects of disruption.

Boards of Examiners for Programmes (BEPs) will have limited discretion to make decisions about your outcomes, reassessment, progress, and classification. These no-detriment decisions could be exceptional to our normal rules.

What is the classification safety-net?

The classification safety-net is an element of our overall no-detriment measures specifically for classification decision-making.

This describes what is applicable for you as a PGT student in academic year 2019/20, when your final classification is calculated. The safety-net provides additional reassurance regarding no-detriment to your final award outcome. It will be used by a BEP in conjunction with other no-detriment judgements.

The safety-net is not used at any point before the calculations for your final award, for example, for calculating your Taught Stage Average or Dissertation/Project Average. These will remain as they are, but this year the safety-net will allow us to calculate your classification in two different ways, and we will use the better of the two.

Postgraduate taught classification safety-net

The eligibility criteria for the PGT classification safety-net is as follows:

- You have completed all the assessments set for you in 2019/20.
- You have obtained the same number of credits as would normally have been required to obtain for the award of the degree.
- You have undertaken your dissertation/project during the COVID-19 disruption (the period during which we anticipate continued COVID-19 disruption in 2019/20).

First the Board of Examiners for Programmes (BEP) will calculate your outcome according to normal classifications, then your outcome will be calculated using the safety-net. You will receive the better of the normal or safety-net classification.

An example of how this will work

How does the normal calculation (before the safety-net) work?

You can obtain your information about your Stage Averages from your SAMIS records and check the weightings of these Taught Stage(s) Average and the Dissertation/Project Average (DPA) within your programme either in your programme handbook, or through the information in the Programme/Unit Catalogues.

Below is an example of normal calculation, as set out in Appendix 11 of the NFAAR-PGT regulations (<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/nfaar-pgt-and-appendices/attachments/nfaar-pgt.pdf>):

Normally, the following award criteria will be used:

- The degree of Master with distinction will be awarded to a student who has all of: (i) an overall programme average (OPA) of at least 70.00%, (ii) a dissertation/project average (DPA) of at least 70.00%, and (iii) a taught stage(s) average (TSA) of at least 60.00%.
- The degree of Master with merit will be awarded to a student who has all of: (i) an overall programme average (OPA) of at least 60.00%, (ii) a dissertation/project average (DPA) of at least 60.00%, and (iii) a taught stage(s) average (TSA) of at least 50.00%.

The safety-net calculation removes the thresholds for dissertation/project average and taught stage average and simply uses the Overall Programme Average. So, following the normal calculation, we will then calculate your classification using the safety-net, and the following award criteria will be used in sequence:

- The degree of Master with distinction will be awarded to a student who has an overall programme average (OPA) of at least 70.00%.
- The degree of Master with merit will be awarded to a student who has an overall programme average (OPA) of at least 60.00%.

To take a simple example, with a TSA based on 60/90 credits and a DPA based on 30/90 credits, you might have the following result calculated in the normal manner:

$$(TSA * 60/90) + (DPA * 30/90) = OPA$$

$$(0.74 * 60/90) + (0.66 * 30/90) = 0.7133 = 71.33 = \text{Merit because of the DPA result being lower than 70.00\%}$$

Using the same results with the safety-net approach to cover COVID-19 disruption, the OPA of 71.33% on its own will guarantee a Distinction award.