

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

UNDERGRADUATE NON-FINALIST NO-DETRIMENT AND CLASSIFICATION SAFETY NET

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

Who is this information for?

This information applies to non-finalist undergraduate students. It does not apply to students on Foundation Degrees (which are not classified), or to students on Honours Year programmes (who are by definition finalists), or to students on Validated programmes.

Specific information on the undergraduate finalist classification safety-net can be found at:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/covid-19-no-detriment-measures-for-taught-student-outcomes/>

What general no-detriment measures apply to undergraduate non-finalists?

You can read more about general no-detriment measures that apply to 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/>

What is the classification safety-net?

The classification safety-net is an element of our overall no-detriment measures related to determining the class of degree you get when you are in your final year.

This describes what is applicable for non-finalist undergraduate students who, in the academic year 2019/20, are in a part/stage of their programme which is weighted towards their final award classification - for example, if you are currently in your second year of a bachelor programme, or in the second or third year of an integrated master programme.

The safety-net is intended to provide additional reassurance regarding no-detriment to your classification if your study in 2019/20 will count towards your degree classification. It will be used by a Board of Examiners for Programmes in your final year, in conjunction with other no-detriment judgements.

The safety-net is not used at any point before the calculations for your final award. Overall Stage Averages (your average numerical marks for each year) will remain unchanged as part of your academic record. We will only consider an alternative calculation alongside your Overall Stage Average for 2019/20 when it comes time to calculate your classification. That alternative calculation is explained below.

First-year undergraduate students

As your first year is not weighted towards your final degree classification, there will be no classification safety-net applied when you graduate. Other no detriment measures will apply, however, when it comes to assessment, reassessment, and progression. You can learn more about these at <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/covid-19-no-detriment-measures-for-taught-student-outcomes/>.

Undergraduate non-finalists who, in 2019/20, are in a part/stage of a programme that is weighted towards the final award classification

Key features of the classification safety-net for undergraduate non-finalists in 2019/20 are:

- To be eligible, you must be (i) a non-final-year undergraduate in a year that counts towards your degree classification calculation; (ii) have taken all the assessments that have been set in that year; and (iii) have obtained the same number of credits as would normally have been required to progress from that year and to contribute to obtaining the award of your degree.
- You will not receive a class lower than that you would have been awarded if your eventual degree calculation had been based on including only your Semester 1 performance in 2019/20 instead of both semesters of 2019/20.
- The units you have **completed** in Semester 1 of 2019/20 are those we will take into account in this calculation. Year-long units will not be included.
- If you do sufficiently well in the Semester 2 assessment to merit a higher classification in the eventual calculation, you will receive it.

The classification safety-net consideration, and other no-detriment decisions about your award, will apply in the academic year in which you are considered for a classified award.

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

You can obtain your Overall Stage Averages (OSA) from your SAMIS records and check the weightings of these OSAs within your programme either in your programme handbook, or through the information in the Programme/Unit Catalogues.

Example of normal calculation

If you are in a simple, three-year bachelor programme, you might achieve an OSA from your second year that is 65%, and the weighting for that second-year stage is 32% of your final classification.

If, eventually, you achieved a final-year OSA of 73%, in a third-year stage weighted at 68% of your final classification, the calculation for your Overall Programme Average (OPA) and degree result would look like this:

$(\text{Stage 2 OSA} * \text{Stage 2 weighting}) + (\text{Stage 3 OSA} * \text{Stage 3 weighting}) = \text{OPA}$

$(0.65 * 0.32) + (0.73 * 0.68) = 0.7044 = 70.44\% = \text{First class}$

Example 1 of safety-net

To give an example, there might have been two 12-credit units in each semester, and one year-long 12-credit unit taken in your second year in 2019/20: note that the portion of work done in Semester 1 in that year-long unit doesn't count in the Semester 1 safety-net calculation. Completed units in Semester 1 are those which you have completed the study for, and for which you have taken the assessments. It would include a unit you had completed and where you had failed the unit in its assessment.

At the end of your second year, the normally-calculated OSA might be 65%, but you might know that some of the Semester 2 unit results were lower than anticipated because of disruption related to COVID-19.

To see how the safety net might work, in due course in your degree classification calculation, you have to work out the second-year Semester 1 average. To do this, you must identify the units you completed in Semester 1 of the second year. Suppose, in this example, you completed two 12-credit units, and got 73% in one of them and 75% in the other, the calculation would look like this:

$$(0.73 * 12/24) + (0.75 * 12/24) = 0.74 = 74\%$$

This is the alternative figure that could stand, instead of your OSA of 65% in due course for a degree classification, since it is better than the normal second-year OSA calculation.

The safety net here guarantees you the better of two OPA calculations. In the normal method for a simple, three-year bachelor programme. The second-year OSA reflects the results of all of your units weighted at 32% towards your OPA, with the other 68% weighting coming from your final-year results. In this alternative method, the safety-net allows any COVID-19-related disruption from Semester 2 in your second year in 2019/20 to be discounted by using the alternative calculation (weighted average of completed Semester 1 units) as the second-year contribution to your OPA.

The safety net will not change your second-year results or OSA, but the second-year contribution to your eventual OPA will be calculated in two different ways. This will be used in the OPA calculation at the point of your degree classification decision.

Please note the safety-net relates only to the simple OPA calculation for determining classification.

If you are a student on a programme with more than one non-final year that counts toward your degree classification - for example, an integrated master programme - the same principle applies. If, in 2019/20, you are on a year that contributes to your eventual degree classification, you can perform a calculation as described above, knowing that this year's weightings will be used when the results are carried forward into your degree classification calculation.

Please note that further thinking is underway about the treatment of placement/study-abroad periods undertaken in AY19/20 that are weighted towards the final classification.