

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

UNDERGRADUATE 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 finalist undergraduate students. It also applies to students on Honours Year programmes (who are by definition finalists).

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

The classification safety-net does not apply to Foundation Degrees as they are not classified awards. Wider information on the [no-detiment provisions includes those that apply to students on Foundation degrees](#).

What general no-detiment measures apply to undergraduate finalists?

We will provide no-detiment measures for our 2019/20 student cohort (all students who are registered on a taught programme in 2019/20). This means that we will mitigate, as much as is possible, the effects of the Covid-19 disruption on our taught students' academic outcomes, while maintaining the standards of our degrees.

In summary, our academic decision-making will balance awareness of the context in which you undertook your semester 2 assessments with the need to maintain standards and preserve the value of your degree.

This document should be read alongside [Covid-19 No-Detiment Measures for Taught Student Outcomes - Student Explainer](#) and [Undertaking your Assessments](#).

What is the classification 'safety-net'?

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

This describes what is applicable for finalist undergraduate students who, in the academic year 2019/20, are in the final stage of their 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 (BEP), in conjunction with other no-detriment judgements.

The classification safety-net may change your degree classification if you meet certain criteria. However, your Overall Stage Averages (your average numerical marks for each year) and your Overall Programme Average will remain unchanged as part of your academic record. You must meet the requirements of your programme *i.e. be eligible for a classified award* before you can be considered for the classification safety-net. Such requirements would include meeting the minimum credit requirements including passing all Designated Essential Units and achieving an OPA of at least 40%.

The classification safety-net as it applies to final-year undergraduates during 2019/20 (including integrated Masters programmes and Honours Year programmes)

Key features of the classification safety-net for undergraduate finalist are:

- To be eligible, you must be (i) a final-year undergraduate; (ii) have taken all the assessments that have been set in your final year; and (iii) have obtained the same number of credits as would normally have been required to obtain for the award of your degree.
- You will not receive a class lower than the class which you would be awarded on the basis of your performance up to and including Semester 1 of your final year.
- The units you have **completed** in Semester 1 are those we will take into account in this calculation; year-long units will not be included in this calculation.
- If you do sufficiently well in the Semester 2 assessment to merit a higher classification, you will receive it.

Eligibility for the safety net

If you have met your programme's requirements for a classified award, but you have not yet completed all the assessments you have been set (for example, you have deferred some assessment), then the classification safety-net will not apply to consideration of your outcomes. Other no-detriment measures for considering your classification will still apply (see below).

If you have not yet met your programme's requirements for a classified award, and have yet to complete your deferred or reassessments, then once you have completed all the assessments you have been set the classification safety-net will apply to consideration of your outcomes.

Year-long units

We understand that you may be undertaking the final year of a programme that does not include many completed Semester 1 units. This is why the safety-net works in tandem with other no-detriment measures. We explain this further below.

Calculating your classification

How we normally would determine your classification, without Covid-19 disruption:

We normally calculate your Overall Programme Average (OPA) using weighting that is applied to all units that count towards classification—this then normally determines your degree class, either by achieving over the threshold for a classification, or by having an OPA above a certain level with enough credits at the higher classification (for example, if your OPA is 58.34%, and you have 30 out of 60 Part 3 credits above 60%, you would be eligible for a 2:1). Students with valid Individual Mitigating Circumstances against unit results will be considered by the BEP, where an evidence-base of all of your performance on unaffected and affected units will be used to determine whether you should be awarded a higher degree classification than your OPA would normally allow.

How we will determine your classification if you are in your final year in 2019/20:

First, we will calculate your OPA as we normally would, and will determine what your classification would be under normal circumstances as described above. We will then consider how no-detriment measures may apply:

Safety net:

We will apply the safety net calculations if you meet the essential criteria, to determine whether this will change your classification. If your classification would be higher after the safety-net is applied, we will award you the higher classification. The safety-net relates only to the simple OPA calculation; it does not include any consideration of units with results in a higher-class range.

Overall performance and no-detriment:

If your classification would not change as a result of the safety-net or if you have not met the essential criteria, we will then look at an evidence-base of your performance in all the units you have taken across your degree, as we normally would if you had valid IMCs (and taking any existing IMCs into account). These rules allow the BEP to consider promoting you to the next higher degree class/grade where evidence and judgement would support this, including consideration of units with results in a higher-class range.

Specific examples to illustrate the calculation of the safety-net are provided in the appendices below for Undergraduate finalist and Top-up Honours Years programmes.

Appendix 1: Undergraduate finalist safety net examples and calculations

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

You can obtain your previous Overall Stage Averages 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 have an OSA from your second year that is 65%, and the weighting for that second-year stage is 32% of your final classification.

If 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:

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

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

How might the safety-net work?

See also for fuller detail on how we will consider degree classifications with no-detriment measures.

Example 1 of safety net:

In this example, there might have been two 12-credit units in each semester, and one year-long 12-credit unit: 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.

First of all, you have to work out the final-year Semester 1 average. To do this, you must identify the units you completed in Semester 1 of the final year. Suppose, in this example, you completed two 12-credit units, and got 74% in one of them and 75% in the other, the calculation would look like this:

$$(0.65 * 0.32) + (((0.74 * 12/24) + (0.75 * 12/24)) * 0.68) = 0.7146 = 71.46\% = \text{First class}$$

The safety net here would guarantee you a First-class outcome if the rest of your results in Semester 2 caused you to have a lower normally-calculated OPA. If your normal OPA calculation gave a higher result, that would be used to calculate your degree class.

Please note the safety-net relates only to the simple OPA calculation; it does not include any consideration of units with results in a higher-class range.

Example 2 of the safety net:

This example illustrates a more borderline case. In this case, you might have an OSA from the second year of 65%.

If, in this final-year, your OSA calculation rested on five 6-credit units in Semester 1 with an average of 73% (made up of a 71%, a 72%, a 73%, a 74% and a 75%) and five 6-credit units in Semester 2 with an average of 61% (made up of a 59%, a 60%, a 61%, a 62% and a 63%), giving an OSA of 67%, the normal OPA calculation would look like this:

$$(0.65 * 0.32) + (0.67 * 0.68) = 0.6636 = 66.36\% = \text{Upper second class}$$

Your final-year Semester 2 performance being lower than normal because of the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the safety net calculation would look like this:

$$(0.65 * 0.32) + (((0.71 * 6/30) + (0.72 * 6/30) + (0.73 * 6/30) + (0.74 * 6/30) + (0.75 * 6/30)) * 0.68) = 0.7044 = 70.44\% = \text{First class}$$

The safety net would ensure you get a First-class degree, even though your Semester 2 performance suffered because of the Covid-19 disruption.

Please note the safety-net relates only to the simple OPA calculation; it does not include any consideration of units with results in a higher-class range.

Appendix 2: Undergraduate students on top-up Honours Year programmes

Your Honours Degree is classified on the strength of your performance in the Honours Year. The safety-net calculation can be applied in your case as follows:

Normal calculation based on two 12-credit units and one 6-credit unit in each semester might look like this:

$$((0.72 * 12/60) + (0.72 * 12/60) + (0.72 * 6/60) + (0.63 * 12/60) + (0.63 * 12/60) + (0.63 * 6/60)) * 1.00 = 0.675 = 67.50\% = \text{Upper second class}$$

The safety net calculation for the units with 72% in Semester 1 alone would look like this:

$$((0.72 * 12/30) + (0.72 * 12/30) + (0.72 * 6/30)) * 1.00 = 0.72 = 72.00\% = \text{First class}$$

Please note the safety-net relates only to the simple OPA calculation; it does not include any consideration of units with results in a higher-class range.