

Examinations Guidance 2026-Information for students

1. Introduction

Graduating and continuing students will be considered under standard regulations (section 7 of University regulations and the Code of Practice on Taught Programme and Module Assessment and Feedback) It is however recognised that there may be a small number of students where, due to a long and/or complex academic history it may be more appropriate to consider them under one of the emergency frameworks, namely the 2022/23 UG Graduating Cohort Arrangements, the 2021/22 Assessment Framework, the 2020/21 Fair Assessment and Fair Outcomes Policy, or the 2019/20 Emergency Framework for Assessment and Progression.

2. Role of the Board of Examiners and role of External Examiners As normal, the role of Boards of Examiners meetings in 2026 will be to oversee and confirm all marks, progress decisions and (where applicable) awards. Extenuating circumstances (ECs):

The impact of ECs should be considered as normal by Boards of Examiners for all students.

For all students, the Board will assure itself, as normal, that each student has met their programme learning outcomes and gained any core competencies required for professional accreditation.

Chair's Statement: The Chair (and external examiner) will need to sign off the statement as normal to confirm that the Board has operated appropriately, and all degree classifications have been agreed by the external examiner. Please note that external examiner sign off is a requirement in all cases where module marks and/or awards have been ratified, including where Chair's Action is taken outside of Examination Boards.

As normal, External Examiners are responsible for scrutinising and endorsing the outcomes of assessment processes, confirming results and progress decisions. Their role in moderating samples of work, meeting with students, attending Boards of Examiner meetings (virtually or in person) and submitting their annual report remains unchanged. External Examiners should be provided with the updated OfS Degree Classification descriptors (Appendix N) to consult when considering samples of work.

Meetings with students: External Examiners should be provided with the opportunity to meet with students, as normal, and encourage External Examiners to make every effort to attend these meetings. Meetings may be arranged virtually or in person.

Attendance at Board of Examiners meetings: As normal, an external examiner should attend all Board meetings (virtually or in person) or, if this is not possible, a consulting mechanism should be in place before marks and decisions are released.

Degree classifications: From 2022/23, there was no longer the need to consider a student's full profile of marks (i.e. including year 1) when determining the degree classification.

However, in individual cases, it is still possible to make an award 'Notwithstanding Regulations' based on the full profile of marks across all years of study, as long as the external examiner is supportive and subject to approval by the Progress and Awards Board (PAB).

This will apply only in cases where an award is being calculated for an individual student case using one of the previous frameworks and does not apply when standard regulations are in use.

The External Examiner should be asked explicitly to review and endorse all degree classification decisions. This is essential in order to evidence the maintenance of academic standards and that students have been treated fairly. This also applies to decisions taken via Chair's Action.

Annual report: External Examiners will be required to complete an annual report as normal and submit this after the Exam Board has taken place.

3. Operational information for End of Session processing

Profiling methods in operation for Undergraduate students in 2025/26

Borderline students on degree programmes eligible for profiling should be considered under the new Borderline Classification Algorithm (BCA) which is a single mechanism to replace the 2 profiling methods that were previously in operation (the Distribution of Module Classes, and the simplified method that had been in use since the 2020/21 Fair Assessment Policy)

The BCA is detailed in section 7.7 of the [Code of Practice on Taught Programme and Module Assessment and Feedback](#), and is summarised below.

To be eligible for uplift:

- **Bachelor's degrees:**
 - At least 120 credits at Stages 2 and 3 (i.e. years 2 and 3) must be in the higher class than the overall weighted mean mark, and of these at least 60 credits must have been achieved at Stage 3; AND
 - At least 100 credits at Stage 3 must be in the same class as, or higher than, the overall weighted mean mark; AND
 - The mark for the final year project/dissertation must be in the higher class than the overall weighted mean mark.
- **Master's degrees:**
 - At least 180 credits at Stages 2 and 3 (i.e. years 2, 3 and 4) must be in the higher class than the overall weighted mean mark, and of these at least 120 credits must have been achieved at Stage 3; AND
 - At least 200 credits at Stage 3 must be in the same class as, or higher than, the overall weighted mean mark; AND
 - The mark for the final year project/dissertation must be in the higher class than the overall weighted mean mark.

At least 20 credits of marks for the final year project/dissertation must be in the higher class than the Overall Weighted Mean (OWM) and the module(s) must be at level H or M and be at stage 3.

Final year sits/resits

Students who elect to take their reassessments and therefore wish to opt out of July graduation have a deadline of 5.00pm (UK time) on Friday 26 June to submit their online Final Year Reassessments form. Where a successful completion or award alternative qualification (Bachelors degree) has been released, students are directed via the online results page on the student gateway to contact Taught Student Administration (Registry) by submitting the online Final Year Reassessment form if they wish to retrieve failure and defer their July degree congregation and contact TSA via finalyearresit@contacts.bham.ac.uk with any queries.

The student-facing Defer Graduation Final Year Reassessments web page has a set of FAQs for students to provide advice and guidance and will be updated for the 25/26 graduating cohort. Once submitted, the form will be received by Registry. Students will receive an automatic confirmation that their form has been received. Students are directed to an email address owned by Registry for any queries relating to final year resits (finalyearresit@contacts.bham.ac.uk). This inbox will be monitored daily by Registry staff.

Where the degree classification changes following reassessment, this should be ratified at the next appropriate Exam Board.

4. Extenuating Circumstances Overall principles and framework

The overall principles and framework set out in the Regulations and Code of Practice on Extenuating Circumstances (ECs) continue to apply.

Evidence requirements

Students are required to provide evidence when submitting ECs. If students wish to request a deferral of any assessments, they are also required to submit their reasons and supporting evidence. Deferred assessments will be scheduled for the Supplementary Assessment Period in August and they will usually take the same format as the original assessments. Confidentiality If using video conferencing facilities for EC Panel meetings, Panel members must ensure that they are able to work in a space which will allow for confidentiality when discussing student cases. This is due to the sensitive nature of the information which may be presented or discussed.