

## **'Safety Net' approach for all Undergraduate Degree Programmes**

We are conscious that students are currently working in unexpected and challenging conditions and we are responding flexibly to enable you to continue with your studies and ensure you are not adversely affected during this situation. *Specific information for students pursuing taught postgraduate programmes will be provided by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.*

In order to support you the University has, working with the elected officers of the Students' Union taken a number of measures to assist all students. This letter covers:

- **The temporary amendments we have made to our rules around student progression and achievement;**
- **Temporary amendments to the Extenuating Circumstances Policy;**
- **The 'safety net' (no-detriment) approach we have devised to protect students' pre-pandemic attainment levels.**

The University is committed to treating students with fairness and compassion and our decisions take full account of the unique circumstances in which we are currently operating. Our aim in making all of these arrangements is to ensure that the University provides a safety net to ensure that you are not disadvantaged by the current Covid 19 pandemic.

It is important that the University supports you to enable you to remain engaged with your studies and achieve the necessary credit to ensure that you may be awarded your degree or progress to your next level of study. We are committed to maintaining the value of your Swansea degree and ensure that it continues to enjoy high national and international standing and meeting the standards expected by external regulatory bodies. As such, all students are required to actively engage in alternative assessments provided, with a view towards progression or completion within the standard University time windows.

Any students who are unable to engage in alternative assessment should follow the Extenuating Circumstances Policy, which has been revised to support the 'Safety Net' approach outlined below.

### **Key Principles:**

#### **The following key principles apply to all Undergraduate Students.**

1. All students will be expected to accumulate the requisite number of credits related to the programme and level of study in line with the appropriate academic regulations. Once all assessments have been completed at the end of your programme, a 'Safety Net' calculation will be applied and compared to the 'standard' calculation of degree classification. The best outcome for the student between the standard and safety net calculation will be recorded as the final degree classification.
2. Students enrolled on programmes leading to professional registration, or any other programme defined as a special case by Colleges/Schools, will be included in the Safety Net approach. However, because of the requirements of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies there may be variations in how the safety net approach is applied. Your College/School will notify you of how the safety net approach will work for your specific programme.
3. Students who have not accumulated the required minimum number of credits by the end of the academic session **due to extenuating circumstances**, will have the chance to accumulate required credits through uncapped 'first sit' assessment at the

first available opportunity. Students may also then have the opportunity to repeat assessment as an external candidate on first sit basis, if necessary in the following academic year. Students who have not accumulated the required minimum number of credits by the end of the academic session but do not have approved mitigation due to extenuating circumstances will be considered under the University's Progression and Award Regulations.

Whilst the general principles of these arrangements shall apply to all students pursuing undergraduate or taught postgraduate programmes, more specific information for taught postgraduate students will follow by 24 April.

### **Application of Key principles**

- Modules (and assessments) undertaken during **Semester 1** and those submitted by **14 March 2020** are unaffected by the current situation (including any fails or Academic Misconduct).
- All Modules (and assessments) after this date are considered to have been potentially affected, unless otherwise identified at programme level.
- Colleges/Schools may request the date to be earlier in the academic year for specific assessments, if they feel students would otherwise be adversely affected.
- The Safety Net calculation as defined in the Regulations will include a minimum amount of required credits accumulated during the current level of study included in the calculation (which will potentially vary between undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes).
- **For students who have accumulated the minimum required credits by the defined cut-off date:**
  - The agreed 'Safety Net' calculation as defined in the Regulations will be applied.
- **For students who have not accumulated the minimum required credits by the defined cut-off date:**
  - Where available, the Level average from the previous year of study will be used as a substitute mark for any uncompleted credits in order to accumulate the required credits to calculate a baseline mark for comparison.
  - Once students have accumulated the required credits, the agreed 'Safety Net' calculation will be applied.