

COVID-19:

Placement years in 2019/20

This document sets out the University's approach to the mark/s and progression from a placement year undertaken during 2019/20. A 'placement year' is defined here as where a student undertakes a formal component of study (normally in another country or in industry) for the award of 120 credit points over the course of an academic year as an identified requisite of a programme.

Semesters spent studying abroad in TB2, where a unit constitutes 60 credit points, are subject to the temporary general regulations for progression and classification in undergraduate programmes in 2019/20, available from: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/academic-quality/assessment/regulations-and-code-of-practice-for-taught-programmes/policy-revisions-covid/>.

Schools will have already put in place mitigation to account for the disruption caused by COVID-19 for students studying on a placement, where that has been possible.

The University's current regulations are otherwise temporarily qualified and clarified by this document.

Approach

1. A faculty or school should apply the approach set out in this document as generally as possible to its students on a placement year; however, a student-by-student consideration should be applied where there has been differential impact upon individual students with regards to their placement. Exam Boards have discretion to take account of circumstances that are specific to an individual student, when considering their academic outcome.

Assessment

2. Assessment originally set for 2019/20 may be replaced or supplemented by alternative assessment arranged by the University of Bristol to ensure that students have the opportunity to demonstrate that they have met the relevant programme learning outcomes.

The year mark

3. The placement year is represented by a single year mark or unit marks.
4. Schools, with faculty oversight, have discretion to define the assessment that counts towards the year mark/s on the basis that it is a fair representation of the student's performance. Assessment that has been designated pass/fail should be disregarded from the calculation of this mark/s.

Progression

5. Students will be awarded the designated credit points and permitted to progress to the next year of study where they have: (i) met the relevant programme learning outcomes associated with the placement year; and, (ii) obtained a pass overall in assessment designated by their programme (as 4 above) in 2019/20, notwithstanding any assessment that has been cancelled, missed or affected by a circumstance related to COVID-19. Exceptionally, where the placement year mark/s is unreliable or absent, then the award of the relevant credit points may be based on condition (i) where there is evidence that the learning outcomes have been met.

6. If a student does not meet the standard for progression, then the exam board may offer another opportunity for them to meet the relevant condition where that is possible. Otherwise, a student should be transferred onto the appropriate point on the equivalent degree programme.

Classification

7. The temporary regulations set out in the '*Classification in undergraduate modular programmes in 2020/21 onwards - for students on an intermediate year of study*' apply to the classification of programmes with a placement year, except where it is qualified by this document.
8. Schools, with faculty oversight, have discretion to determine whether the mark/s from the placement year is included within the safety net for the purposes of classification.
9. Where the placement year mark/s is unreliable or absent, then the mark/s may be disregarded from classification. In such cases, the relative programme weightings for units in the other years of study should be retained (e.g. a programme weighting of 15:10:75 in a four-year programme would equate to 1:5 for years 2 and 4).

*Approved by the Vice-Chancellor
4 June 2020*