

Placements in 2020/21

This document sets out the University's approach to the mark/s, progression and contribution to classification of a formal placement undertaken in an undergraduate programme during 2020/21.

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 an undergraduate programme.

The approach does not apply where a student spends a semester studying abroad in either Teaching Block 1 and/or Teaching Block 2 as part of a University of Bristol (UoB) unit (i.e. it is not a programme with Study Abroad or Study in Continental Europe), which is otherwise subject to the academic regulations in place for 2020/21.

Schools may have already re-structured the programme to accommodate a change as to when a placement will take place to account for the disruption caused by COVID-19 for students studying on a placement in 2020/21. These restructured programmes are governed by temporary amendments to regulation to [assessment, progression and classification](#), which supplement this document.

The University's current academic regulations within the [Regulations and Code of Practice for Taught Programmes](#) are temporarily amended for the 2020/21 academic year, specifically sections 26 ('study abroad', 27 ('industrial placements'), 30 ('student progression') and 32 ('awards and classification'), to the extent and in the manner set out below.

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; however, individual consideration should be applied where there has been differential impact upon a particular student with regards to their placement. Exam Boards have discretion to take account of circumstances that are specific to individual students, when considering their academic outcome.

Assessment

2. Assessment originally set by the placement or partner higher education provider for 2020/21 that is cancelled or significantly impacted 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. Schools may apply this provision where assessment has been missed from either teaching block, or where students have been unable to access a sufficient number of units at a partner provider. Examples of alternative assessment include a reflective essay or the submission of work already completed.

The placement year mark

3. As within normal regulation, the placement year is represented by a single year mark.
4. For students who have had their placement curtailed, for example because they cannot travel to resume studying abroad for Teaching Block 2 and are not able to study online with the placement provider, the placement year mark will comprise the average of the combined marks from the units taken at the partner and those from the UoB, weighted by credit point value.

5. With the approval of the Faculty Education Director as Chair of the Faculty Exam Board, schools have discretion to specify the assessment that counts towards the placement year mark 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.

Progression

6. Students being considered for progression will be awarded the credit points and permitted to progress to the next year of study where they have: (i) met the relevant learning outcomes associated with the placement year; and (ii) obtained a pass overall in assessment designated by their programme (as 5 above) in 2020/21. Exceptionally, where the placement year mark is, in the view of the exam board, unreliable or cannot be determined, the award of the relevant credit points may be based on condition (i) alone where there is evidence that the learning outcomes have been met.
7. If a student does not meet the standard for progression, then the exam board will offer another opportunity for them to meet the relevant condition (as provided above) where that is possible. Otherwise, a student should be transferred onto the appropriate point on the equivalent non-placement degree programme.

Classification

8. 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 qualified by this document.
9. Where the placement year mark/s is unreliable or cannot be determined, then the mark/s may be disregarded from classification at the final exam board. 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
30 March 2021*