

<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<b>Higher Education</b>
<b>TYPE:</b>	<b>Policy</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Extenuating Circumstances</b>
<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE:</b>	<b>Assistant Principal: Teaching, Learning and Quality</b>
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	

To ensure that no student is disadvantaged by circumstances beyond their control, whilst maintaining academic standards.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 These regulations apply to all students registered on Edexcel Pearson HNCs and HNDs at NSCG. For those students studying on partner University programmes please refer to the website address below to obtain information on the university procedures relating to extenuating circumstances:  
<https://www.staffs.ac.uk/students/course-administration/exceptional-circumstances>  
<https://www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/news/october-2024/university-policies-explained-understanding-extensions-and-extenuating-circumstances.php>
- 1.2 The College defines extenuating circumstances as *circumstances “which are beyond the control of the student, which could not reasonably have been foreseen or prevented by the student and which would substantially impact on a student’s performance in assessment.”*
- 1.3 In all cases, you are strongly encouraged to discuss the situation with your Lecturer, Course Leader, or Student Services.

## 2. Grounds for Claiming Extenuating Circumstances

- 2.1 The College has put in place arrangements to make reasonable adjustments for students with a disability. As a result, if you have a disability, you should only normally claim for extenuating circumstances when new and unforeseen circumstances occur which affect your work and are not addressed by the reasonable adjustment arrangements.
- 2.2 In considering claims for extenuating circumstances, the key considerations for the College will be whether the circumstances were beyond your control and could not have been foreseen or prevented, together with the impact these circumstances could have on your academic performance.
- 2.3 Taking into account the criteria in paragraph 2.2 above, the grounds on which extenuating circumstances can be claimed are normally limited to:
  - 1) a serious illness, which would have a detrimental effect on your performance;

- 2) the death of a close family member or personal friend, normally in the period leading up to the date of the assessment, which would have a detrimental effect on your performance;
- 3) other serious circumstances beyond your control, which could not have been foreseen or prevented and which would have a detrimental effect on your performance.

2.4 If you are studying on a part time programme, the College expects you to plan your work in order that you allow sufficient time to cope with both the demands of employment and study workloads. Nevertheless, it is recognised that you may, for example, have unplanned work patterns and/or unforeseen and exceptionally high workloads, and in those cases where acceptable evidence is provided, claims for extenuating circumstances could be considered under 3) above.

2.5 You may not normally claim extenuating circumstances on the basis that your academic performance has been affected by family, financial or other lifestyle problems. In particular, extenuating circumstances cannot normally be claimed on any of the following grounds (this list is not exhaustive):

- Inadequate planning, organisation or management on your part
- Timetabling of coursework or examinations
- Misreading of assessment dates and times
- Personal computer or printer problems
- Minor illnesses, such as a cold
- Holidays or social occasions
- Transport problems
- Moving house
- Normal work patterns & pressures of employment
- Pregnancy (unless unexpected complications occur)

If you are uncertain whether your claim might be legitimate, please discuss this with your Course Leader, Course Tutor or the College Quality Manager.

2.6 Any student who is alleged to have submitted falsified evidence in support of a claim for extenuating circumstances will be referred for consideration under the terms of the College's academic misconduct procedures.

### 3. Categories of Extenuating Circumstances

3.1 Extenuating circumstances can be claimed as follows:

- 1) Where you request to be allowed to submit work within five working days after the deadline for submission (a **late submission** request). A working day is deemed to be Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
- 2) Where you were unable to attend, or submit for, a scheduled assessment of any sort, and request a deferred assessment at a subsequent opportunity (a **deferral** request).
- 3) Where you believe that your performance has been unexpectedly and negatively influenced by circumstances beyond your control and wish this to be considered when decisions on progression are made (a **mitigation** request).

#### 4. Acceptable Forms of Evidence

4.1 All claims for extenuating circumstances must normally be supported by relevant and independent documentary evidence, such as a Doctor's note/certificate or a counsellor's statement. Supporting statements from College staff such as Lecturers, Course Leaders, Tutors, Technicians or Student Support Services will also be accepted as evidence. The College will not accept self-certification of your own circumstances or other evidence which is not supplied by an independent authority.

#### 5. Procedures for Dealing with Extenuating Circumstances Requests

5.1 All extenuating circumstances claims will be considered by an Extenuating Circumstances Panel.

5.2 If you wish to request a **late submission** beyond the coursework submission deadline, you should complete the extenuating circumstances form and submit it with your late submission of work, at the latest, five working days from the original deadline for submission. The Extenuating Circumstances Panel will make a decision based upon the evidence provided by you. You will be notified of the decision in relation to your late submission request within fifteen working days of the date of submitting your extenuating circumstances claim. If your claim for late submission is upheld, your work will be marked and counted as if it had been submitted by the original deadline. If your late submission claim is not accepted by the Extenuating Circumstances Panel but the work submitted was of a pass standard, then a pass grade will be awarded.

5.3 Where you request either **deferral** or **mitigation**, then you must complete the extenuating circumstances form and submit it by the deadline for submission of such claims, as published annually by the College. You will be notified of the decision in relation to your deferral or mitigation request within fifteen days of the deadline for submission of claims.

5.4 If your **deferral** request is granted, you will be offered another opportunity to take the assessment at the next available opportunity. If the deferral request is not granted and the original deadline for submission of the work has passed then the assessment will be awarded a fail grade.

5.5 If a claim for **mitigation** is upheld, you will be informed of the mark/grade awarded for the assessment. Following the meeting of the Assessment/Award Board, you will be offered the choice of accepting the original mark/grade or attempting the assessment again in order to improve the mark/grade. If you choose to attempt the assessment again, then the higher grade achieved in either the original or reassessment attempt will stand. If you choose to accept the original mark/grade then the original mark achieved in the module(s) will remain unchanged. You will also be notified if the claim for mitigation is not upheld. It is not possible for the Assessment/Award Board to speculate about precisely how you might have performed if the extenuating circumstances had not intervened and as result the Assessment/Award Board will not change any of your marks/grades as a result of a successful claim for mitigation. However, the Assessment/Award Board will take account of the recommendation of the College Extenuating Circumstances Panel when it considers your progression outcome.

5.6 You should note that, where appropriate, you may claim both late submission and mitigation for the same module(s).

- 5.7 Extenuating circumstances claims are always treated sensitively and in confidence. Only the Chair of the Extenuating Circumstances Panel and the administrator supporting the work of the Panel will be aware of your name, while other members of the Panel will consider your circumstances anonymously.
- 5.8 The decisions of the Extenuating Circumstances Panel will be made available to Assessment/Award Boards as appropriate. However, your particular circumstances will not be divulged to the Assessment/Award Board. As a result, the Assessment/Award Boards may not question the decision of a Extenuating Circumstances Panel.

## **6 Appeals**

- 6.1 You may appeal against the decision of the Extenuating Circumstances Panel. The only grounds for appeal are that:
- 1) The Panel did not take full and proper account of your extenuating circumstances claim; OR
  - 2) New, relevant and independent evidence, which for good reason you had been unable to make available to the Extenuating Circumstances Panel, had become available.
- 6.2 You must submit an appeal in writing, to the Vice Principal: Institute of Technology and Higher Education within seven working days of receiving notification of the decision of the Extenuating Circumstances Panel.
- 6.3 You may not claim extenuating circumstances after the published deadline for such claims to be received. If you have extenuating circumstances but miss the deadline for submission, you may appeal through the academic appeals procedure only after the Award Board has met and agreed on your progression or award, although you will be required to demonstrate reasonable grounds for not having earlier utilised the extenuating circumstances procedure.

## **7. How to Apply for Extenuating Circumstances**

- 7.1 If you consider that your circumstances fit the College criteria to apply for Extenuating Circumstances, or you have been advised to put in an application for Extenuating Circumstances by your Course Tutor or other member of staff, please use the Extenuating Circumstances Application. You can access this via the College HE Portal on I-Site. Please complete the form and return to your Course Leader.

## **8. Extenuating Circumstances Form**

See find attached below:

### PEARSON HN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES FORM

Please complete and return this form along with supporting documentation (refer to the Extenuating Circumstances Policy) to your Course Leader

<b>Student ID number</b>	
<b>Title of Programme</b>	
<b>Year of Study</b>	
<b>Type of Extenuating Circumstances claimed for:</b>	Late Submission                      Deferral                      Mitigation

There may be on occasion exceptional circumstances that might affect your ability to meet an assessment deadline or affect the level of your performance at assessment.

This form should be completed if you want to make the Extenuating Circumstances Panel and the Assessment Board aware of any extenuating circumstances which you believe may have adversely affected your performance in assessments. Please read the extenuating circumstances policy and guidelines before completing this form.

It is important to realise that only the most serious extenuating circumstances are likely to have a significant effect on your overall results. Please take time to assess your situation carefully and only submit details of extenuating circumstances if you are sure that they have *significantly* affected the quality of your work. Remember that the Assessment Board will be looking at the affected work in the context of the rest of your work throughout the year(s) and is unlikely to take extenuating circumstances into account unless it is apparent that the work in question is of a significantly lower standard. The Assessment Board will not change grades awarded, but will assess whether your performance had been adversely affected and will take this into account when making decisions about progression or deferral.

**Please give the Assessment Board an overall description of the impact of your extenuating circumstances on meeting an assessment deadline or performance in assessment?**

If you believe your performance in any assessed work during the year have been significantly impaired or you were unable to submit work or were absent from a practical or test\* please list the affected work and describe how it was affected or the reason for your absence.

List below the documentation which you have attached in support of your statement (Please note that the College will NOT seek evidence on your behalf – it is your responsibility to do this). The College reserves the right to check on the validity of the document(s) you submit by contacting the third party directly.

**\*If you do not provide appropriate supporting evidence your claim will be rejected.**

<b>Coursework &amp; Exams affected</b> Give unit code, title and name of coursework i.e., portfolio, journal etc or alternatively state exam. Include submission deadline for coursework and/or date of assessment.		<b>Period affected</b> State clearly exact dates affected both from and to. Do not state month only.		<b>Details of extenuating circumstances</b> Detail the circumstances clearly and concisely against <b>each</b> affected date you have entered.	<b>Evidence provided*</b> Submit this form with as much evidence as possible which supports the dates of assessment submissions affected. Use this column to identify the evidence you are providing. <b>Evidence must be provided for all extenuating circumstances claims.</b> (Note that the College will not contact third parties on your behalf to obtain proof – It is your responsibility to submit evidence)
<b>Unit</b>	<b>Name of coursework and/or exam, with dates</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>		


