

LTC15D195

Title: *Submission of Work for Assessment 2016-7*
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Issue

The policy on 'submission of work for assessment: submission of anonymised work for assessment, word limits and penalties, extensions and penalties for unauthorised late submission, provisional marks and feedback and retention of coursework' is reviewed for minor changes each year.

Recommendation

1. The Committee is asked to approve the changes as set out in the attached document. The substantive amendments proposed are:

Para 36. The University is committed to returning feedback and provisional marks on summative coursework to students who submitted by the deadline **as soon as possible, ideally within 15 working days and certainly no later than 20 working days after the published deadline for submission.**

Para 47. Electronic copies of students' work will be kept on the student record system **for the duration of their study on the course plus an additional year** before disposal

2. The Committee is asked to note that the policy is due for review as part of the periodic cycle of LTC reviews, that this will be scheduled for 2016/7 and as part of the review consideration will be given to the following:

1. Removal of unnecessary detail, and where appropriate moving this to either the Senate Guidance on Assessment (a document that wasn't in existence when the Submission of Work was first added to the Calendar) or a procedural document.
2. Removal of information that is duplicated from other sources (Extenuating Circumstances regulations, Plagiarism and Collusion regulation etc)
3. Review of the substance of the regulation with regard to the penalties/the use of a tolerance band/what is capped and what is not capped.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications associated with the proposal.

Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with the proposal.

Equality and Diversity

There are no equality or diversity implications associated with the proposal.

Timing of decisions

Approval by LTC will result in the revised policy being applied from the 2016/17 academic year.

Further Information

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Appendix

The proposed policy for 2016/7 for publication in the University Calendar.

Submission of Work for Assessment (Taught Programmes): Submission of anonymised work for assessment, word limits and penalties, extensions and penalties for unauthorised late submission, provisional marks and feedback, and retention of coursework

*Summative coursework is defined as work that is taken into account by a Board of Examiners for the purposes of progression and/or for an award. Formative coursework is defined as work that is not taken into account by a Board of Examiners for the purposes of progression and/or for an award.

Submission of Anonymised Work for Assessment

1. All written coursework, project reports and dissertations submitted by undergraduate and taught postgraduate students for assessments that have a summative component should be identified by a student's registration number and not by their name.
2. Coursework which is entirely formative – i.e. is to help the development of a student and which does not count towards decisions regarding progression or the conferment of an award – need not be anonymised.
3. In some circumstances, even though a piece of coursework is identified only by a student registration number, the first marker may know the identity of the student because of the nature of the assessment - e.g. because of the personalised form of teaching, or because a student has been given specific advice by a marker on the reassessment, and because supervisors will know the real identities of their project and dissertation students. It is also possible in these circumstances that a second marker may know the identity of the student. External examiners or moderators will not, however, be aware of the identity of the student.
4. If a marker considers that a written assignment should not be anonymised, s/he should consult the appropriate Faculty Associate Dean (Learning, Teaching and Quality), who may discuss the circumstances with the Academic Director of Taught Programmes.
5. Markers are reminded that they should not break trust with students by seeking to identify them from their registration number at the point of marking coursework.

Word Limits

6. Information on the word limit of each item of coursework (whether formative or summative) shall be published to students. The word limit will be clearly stated in the title of the written assignment, project, report or dissertation. For example, an essay may have the title 'Essay 1 (2500 words)', where the number in brackets indicates the word limit. (There will be obvious exceptions, for example, where the assignment requires formulae or computer code rather than text).
7. The word count for coursework, written assignments, projects, reports and dissertations shall include: footnotes and endnotes, references (in the main text), tables and illustrations and if applicable the abstract, title page and contents page. Any appendicised material and the bibliography or reference list shall be excluded from the word count. Where it is agreed that bibliographic referencing will take the form of footnotes and/or endnotes this

will not be included in the word count - any additional notes within the body of the text will be counted.

8. Students should declare the word count of the text of their assignment on the coversheet (electronic or hard copy) submitted with their piece of work.
9. Markers who suspect an assignment is over the word limit should assign it an un-penalised mark, and return it to the Learning and Teaching Hub, flagged appropriately, for investigation and application of any resulting penalty. Penalties will be applied if work exceeds the word limit, with a 10% tolerance allowance.
10. Students are required to submit an electronic version of the originally-submitted work in a format which can be checked for word count (for example Word or Excel) when requested by Learning and Teaching Service staff to do so, when the marker has raised a suspicion that the student has exceeded the word count.
11. Failure to submit an electronic version of the work for checking will result in the mark for the assignment being capped at the pass mark.
12. Cases of intentional misrepresentation of the word count will result in the mark being capped at the pass mark.
13. When an assignment is excessively over the word limit, the marker is obliged to read up to the limit but is not obliged to read beyond it. It is recommended that a 10% allowance is made in determining the cut-off point, which should be clearly identified on the script by the marker. The awarded mark will reflect the assignment content up to that cut-off point. In addition, this awarded mark will have a 10 mark deduction penalty applied by Learning and Teaching Service staff. For Pass/Fail assignments where the word count is found to exceed the word limit plus 10%, the judgement on whether the grade is a pass or a fail should be made only on the text up to the word limit plus 10%.

Penalties for exceeding the word limit

14. The penalties for exceeding the word limit are:

Less than 10% over word limit	No Penalty
10% or more over the word limit	Deduction of 10 marks from original mark
Failure to provide an electronic copy when requested	Mark capped to the pass mark
Intentional misrepresentation of the word count on the coversheet	Mark capped to the pass mark
NOTE: 1. When the original mark is within 10 marks of the pass mark, the penalty will be capped at the pass mark 2. Original marks below the pass mark will not be penalised	

Arrangements for Submission of Work for Assessment

15. The method of submission for assignments will be published to students, for example through the Student Information System's web interface, eVision.
16. For the majority of assignments, students will submit their work electronically. Where electronic submission is set up for a module assignment it will be the *only* method to submit the assignment; hard copies will not be accepted.
17. For some modules electronic submission is not appropriate, and the work should be submitted to the relevant Learning and Teaching Service Hub.
18. Students will only be required to submit one copy of their coursework for assessment, although two copies may be required for projects and dissertations **that are submitted in paper form**.
19. The deadline for submission will be 15.00 on the specified date.
20. Students should be reminded, when work for assessment is set, that the deadline for a piece of work is the last possible time for the work to be submitted without penalty for late submission (in the absence of extenuating circumstances) and not the preferred time for the work to be submitted, the earliest time for submission being one week ahead of the deadline
21. The specified date for submitting work for assessment should be a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and may include vacations.
22. Work submitted after the published deadline may be submitted up to 20 days after the published deadline. The method of submission will be the same as for pre-deadline submission. Late submission in the absence of acceptable extenuating circumstances will be subject to a penalty as set out below.

Confirmation of Submission

23. Submission confirmation details will be published to students (through eVision or the Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard)) at the point of uploading, for electronic submissions, and on the day after the deadline, for hard copy submissions that have been submitted by the deadline.

Extensions for Late Submission of Work for Assessment

24. Each Semester, submission and return deadlines should be published to students, for example through eVision.
25. Students who have a valid reason for needing an extension may self-certify on one occasion per year, subject to certain conditions as detailed in the [Extenuating Circumstances Regulations](#)
26. Where an extension is granted to an individual for a group submission where all members contribute, the extension will apply to all group members.
27. Where extenuating circumstances prevented the student from applying for an extension in advance of the submission deadline, work submitted after the deadline should be accompanied by a completed [University Extension Request Form](#). Allowance will be given for acceptable extenuating circumstances and in such cases penalties for late submission will not be applied.

Penalties for Unauthorised Late Submission of Work for Assessment

28. The penalties for **late submission of numerically marked work for assessment** in the absence of acceptable extenuating circumstances are:

<i>Work submitted</i>	<i>Marks deducted</i>
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After 15:00 on the due date and before 15:00 on the day following the due date	10 marks
After 15:00 on the second day after the due date and before 15:00 on the third day after the due date	20 marks
After 15:00 on the third day after the due date and before 15:00 on the 20 th day after the due date.	all the marks the work merits if submitted on time (i.e. no marks awarded)
After 20 working days	work will not be marked and a mark of zero will be entered.

Saturdays and Sundays will **NOT** be taken into account for the purposes of calculation of marks deducted.

NOTE

- The penalties assume the work will have a maximum of 100 possible marks. The penalties should be adjusted pro-rata for any other (numerical) marking scheme.
- **Where work incurs a penalty for late submission, the full penalty will be deducted from the original mark even when this results in a fail mark.**

29. **Late submission of pass/fail marked work for assessment** in the absence of acceptable extenuating circumstances will be awarded a fail mark.
30. All submitted work for assessment up to 20 working days after the published deadline will be marked normally and a non-penalised mark recorded on the script/coversheet. The Learning and Teaching Service staff will deduct any penalty for late submission where there are no accepted extenuating circumstances and record this on the coversheet. Any work submitted for assessment more than 20 working days after the published deadline (where there are no extenuating circumstances and where an extension has not been approved) will not be marked and will receive an automatic mark of zero / fail. This will apply to work submitted beyond an approved extension date, if the submission date is more than 20 working days after the published deadline.
31. The [Academic Appeals Procedure](#) may be used where a request for an extension to a deadline has been denied. However, penalties are not open to appeal.
32. The unauthorised late submission of work or exceeding the word limit are the only circumstances in which marks may be deducted from the merit mark. Where medium level plagiarism or collusion is detected an adjusted mark reflecting the merit of the work actually undertaken by a student will be awarded. Where a student does not achieve an intended learning or assessment outcome the marks awarded or withheld will reflect this. Negative marking is not permitted.

Provisional Marks and Feedback

33. Marks for summative coursework remain provisional and possibly subject to change until confirmed by the relevant Board of Examiners.
34. Feedback on assessed work will cover essays, reports, exercises, presentations, performance and practice placements. It will take account of the learning outcomes of the assignment and the relevant marking criteria. Comments may be subject-specific and/or generic, and will include the relevant feedback form where appropriate.
35. The deadline for return of feedback and provisional marks on larger pieces of work, notably essays, will where possible be set sufficiently in advance of the deadline for handing in a further piece of work of the same kind to ensure students can benefit appropriately from the feedback.
36. The University is committed to returning feedback and provisional marks on summative coursework to students who submitted by the deadline **as soon as possible, ideally within 15 working days and certainly no later than 20 working days after the published deadline for submission.**
37. Because of their nature, dissertations, placement reports, projects, and portfolios at undergraduate and at Master's level, are not covered by the standard turnaround guidelines and are normally returned within 30 working days
38. It is recognised that illness or other unforeseen circumstances may delay turnaround time beyond the 20 working days deadline: where this occurs students affected by the delay should be informed.
39. Where a student, under the informal stage of the academic appeals procedures, requests that a single-marked piece of summative coursework be second marked, the outcome should normally be available within a further 10 working days.
40. Where a student has been given an extension to submit coursework after the deadline, feedback and provisional marks will normally be provided to that individual within 20 working days of the new submission date. Where an approved extension to the deadline exceeds the published deadline for feedback and provisional marks, a module organiser or teacher who has set the original piece of work will set an alternative assignment (consistent with the learning outcomes for the original piece of work) so as not to compromise a fair assessment opportunity.
41. Feedback in the form of basic statistics (e.g. average marks and standard deviations) will be made available to student cohorts, where appropriate, so that students may gauge their performance against that of their peers (no individual will be identified).
42. Students will be given advice on the academic support available to them in the event of feedback indicating areas for improvement and enhancement.
43. Students are expected to retain a copy of all their summative coursework in all years of their course in case this needs to be recalled for scrutiny by Boards of Examiners as part of their decision-making processes for progression to the next Stage and/or degree classification and for moderation purposes with regard to academic standards of awards.

Return and Retention of Coursework

44. The method of return of coursework will be published to students. Methods include online return for electronically-marked work, collection from

designated coursework boxes in the Hub, and from Module Organisers in class.

45. Work returned via the Hub will be available for one week, after which time it will be sent to the students' advisers to return to their advisees.
46. Uncollected paper copies of work will be disposed of after the end of the academic year the work was completed in.
47. Electronic copies of students' work will be kept on the student record system **for the duration of their study on the course plus an additional year** before disposal.