



How we will ensure that no student is disadvantaged because of the Covid-19 pandemic 2021-22

1. Guiding Principles

Norland has devised a set of Guiding Principles to support planning and to facilitate consistency of decision-making. It will also provide a record of the rationale underpinning key decisions.

1. We are committed to working together in a collaborative, constructive and courteous way as one community. We are all in this together
2. We are committed to responding to this rapidly-changing situation thoughtfully and carefully, using the expertise we have and drawing on the expertise of others where necessary
3. We are committed to making decisions guided by facts and accurate information and best preventative practices to promote the health and safety of our community, from our students and their families, to our staff, placements and clients, and to the wider society
4. We are committed to the national effort of taking the necessary measures to slow down the spread of COVID-19. We must all do our part to ensure our individual and collective health and safety
5. We are committed to ensuring that the quality and standards of our academic offering remain consistently robust and credible
6. We are committed to supporting students to access learning, teaching and assessment online, so that they may complete their academic year and progress as planned
7. We are committed to minimising the impact of this crisis on the most vulnerable
8. We are committed to communicating often, clearly and accurately, with all stakeholders
9. We are committed to supporting our students, NQNs and Norlanders to understand their roles within the current crisis and to continue to uphold our mottos of *Lover Never Faileth* and *Strength in Adversity*

2. Approach

We have been working to adjust both the way we are teaching and the assessments we set so that we mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on you and your course.

We know that students will have been impacted by this pandemic in all sorts of different ways. As you may know from previous messages Norland will be taking a 'no detriment' approach when confirming your grades and degree outcomes. This will ensure that your results are fair and reflect your true performance, whilst also protecting the quality, standards and integrity of your degree and diploma. Below, we outline the ways in which we will achieve this.

Please note that these measures will be in place while face-to-face teaching is not possible and will be reviewed when students are permitted to return to face-to-face teaching.



3. Why no detriment exists

The no detriment approach is in place for Boards of Examiners to use because there is disruption to studies that is unavoidable and significant.

Broadly, this means we consider the following points when we make award decisions:

- When the event(s) happened in relation to when/how you were being taught or assessed
- The effect the event had on your ability to study for, or take, an assessment
- The mark you received in the assessment

We then act to remove negative impacts on you and ensure you are awarded your credit and/or degree fairly while maintaining our academic standards and securing the value of your qualifications.

4. Actions

Action 1: Referrals

Where you have referred for the first time a module that was submitted **after** 1st January 2021, you will be given another opportunity to take the assessment, as a first attempt with no penalty applied (i.e. the full range of grades are available and the module is not capped at 40%).

Where you have received a refer grade for a module submitted **before** 1st January 2021 and you then submit and pass your second attempt after 1st January 2021, the capped 40% grade will apply because that is the highest grade that you could have expected if Covid-19 was not a factor.

Where a module consists of 2 assessments, the no detriment measures will apply only to the assessment carried out since 1st January 2021.

Action 2: Additional opportunity

Where you have received a refer grade for a module submitted **before** 1st January 2021 and you then submit your second attempt after 1st January 2021 and refer again, you can choose to have another, final, opportunity to take the assessment, but the capped 40% grade will still apply because that is the highest grade that you could have expected if Covid-19 was not a factor, or you can choose to re-take the module the following academic year. You will not be charged for the re-take in 2021/22.

Where you have received a refer grade for a module submitted **before** 1st January 2021 and you then submit your second and third attempts and refer both, you will need to re-take the module in the following year. You will not be charged for the re-take in 2021/22.

Action 3: Practical experiences

We have reorganised the timetable and moved all practical masterclasses to the third trimester to ensure that you are able to learn from hands-on experiences. We have been able to schedule any classes missed in the second trimester without extending your term dates. This means that first and second years will get a concentrated schedule of practical masterclasses just before they go on



placement in the third trimester. For third years, the missed masterclasses will be incorporated into your Employment Weeks.

Action 4: Placements

The impact on placement learning is different for each year group and you will already have received information about how your own placements have been reorganised. The new placement pattern ensures that all students who engage with it will have the opportunity to complete the required type and length of placement within the original term dates. Passing these placements will mean that you can progress to the next stage of your Norland studies without delay. Please note that we have designed any 'virtual' placements to allow you to meet some criteria within your portfolios, which will supplement the experience you will have in your hands-on placement later in the year.

Action 5: Extensions to deadlines

Norland has a well-established [Mitigating Circumstances procedure](#) (MCs) which allows students who have been faced with **UNFORESEEN AND UNAVOIDABLE** circumstances to apply for an extension to a deadline. Evidence is usually required to support all applications. We will be removing the requirement for evidence to be supplied for any request related to the impact of Covid-19. This might be impact on your physical or mental health and wellbeing or practicalities such as not having the correct equipment with you on lockdown in order to complete an assessment. This applies to both the degree and diploma and you will be able to apply for MCs for all assessments affected by the pandemic, without a limit. To apply for an extension, please complete the form available on MyDay (link above) and send it to mitcircs@norland.ac.uk.

Please note that all assessments, including placements, will still need to be completed and passed.

5. Summary

Since the first lockdown, Norland has invested heavily in systems to allow learning and teaching to continue online and we believe that any disadvantage to students will be minimal. Lessons learned from the previous lockdown have demonstrated that many of the online placement activities enhanced students' practice when they returned to hands-on placement. Analysis of students' academic performance during the last academic year has also shown that the measures we took resulted in no detriment to students' achievements. We are therefore confident that the above measures will support students to achieve to their full potential without adversely impacting quality and standards and protecting the integrity of the awards.