MSc Programmes in the Department of Computing – Safety Net Policy

26 June 2020

We provide the following processes as measures for protecting students from issues arising from the conduct of some examinations this year as timed remote assessments.

1. Analysis and moderation of all module marks

   We will carefully analyse all module marks, comparing them with historical averages over the past 3 years. Marks will be scaled up if there is evidence that they have suffered from the new examination circumstances. After review and approval by the Examiners Board, these marks including any necessary scaling will appear on official transcripts.

2. Considerations of all module and degree borderline cases

   We will follow all College processes for consideration of compensated passes and module and degree borderline cases, as well as some special cases. All are listed below. These all apply to students who have passed or have a marginal failure on the modules.

   a. Students with module averages of 69.50-69.99, 59.50-59.99 or 49.50-49.99 (inclusive) will have their average rounded up to 70.00, 60.00 or 50.00 respectively.

   b. We will condone all module marks in the range 40-49.99 provided the module average is 50% or higher, after the application of item (a), if necessary. Condoning is a mechanism by which a module can be passed and credit can be awarded by the Examination Board where the student has achieved a marginal failure.

   c. Students with module averages within 2.5% of a borderline who do not fall in category (a) above, and who do not have a module mark below 40% will be considered for a higher classification band, based on their project performance. The tables in Appendix A show the project marks required for promotion to the higher band. These tables are applicable only if at least half of the module marks are at the higher classification.

   d. Students with an individual project mark within 3% of a borderline who do not have a module mark below 40% will be considered for a higher degree classification band, based on their module average after the application of item (a). The tables in Appendix B show the module averages required for promotion to the higher band. These tables are applicable only if at least half of the module marks are at the higher classification.

   e. If the module average is 53% or higher, after the application of item (a), if necessary, and all modules have a mark of 40% or higher, except for a maximum total shortfall of 3% across all
the modules, we will ignore this shortfall (without changing the module average). An example of a total shortfall of 3% across all the modules could be a module at 37% and all others at 40% or higher, or a module at 38% and another at 39% and all others at 40 or higher.

Point (c) applies only to those students who sat examinations in March and April/May.

3. Consideration of submitted mitigating circumstances

All students with accepted mitigating circumstances will receive further consideration, in line with college policy on mitigating circumstances. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. All students who have difficulties because of mitigating factors should make a case. The necessary form, with further explanations and full details of the college policy can be found on this web page (under Mitigating Circumstances): http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

All requests will be dealt with confidentially.

4. Resitting and completing the MSc

This year for the first time we will provide September examinations for those who failed or missed exams.

Projects assessment will be done by the same procedure as in all other years, including marking, second marking, moderation and consideration of any accepted submitted mitigations. Projects cannot be condoned in the sense of 2(b), above.

Note:

Some students have expressed concern about the integrity of remote timed assessments. We are fully aware of your comments and feedback on this issue, and assure you that we will deal with all suspected examination offences, including late submission of the timed assessment, on a case-by-case basis according to College processes detailed on http://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/plagiarism-academic-integrity--exam-offences/
Appendix A: promotion if the module average is below the borderline

For promotion to Distinction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Average, %</th>
<th>Required minimum project mark, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For promotion to Merit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Average, %</th>
<th>Required Minimum Project Mark, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For promotion to Pass:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Average, %</th>
<th>Required Minimum Project Mark, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B: promotion if the individual project mark is below the borderline

For promotion to Distinction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual project mark, %</th>
<th>Required minimum average across all modules, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For promotion to Merit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual project mark, %</th>
<th>Required minimum average across all modules, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For promotion to Pass:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual project mark, %</th>
<th>Required minimum average across all modules, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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