

FAQs on Examination Deferrals May 2020

Owing to the challenges faced by many students arising from the COVID19 pandemic, normal end of semester examinations are not currently possible. TU Dublin has worked to develop alternative strategies for the assessment of student learning that are fair, proportionate, and cognizant of the need to protect academic integrity and academic standards. The objective is to ensure students can complete their 2019/20 studies and become eligible to progress in their chosen programme or to graduate if in the final year of study.

We recognize that some students may not be in a position to undertake all of their examinations at this time and in light of this, TU Dublin has revised its approach to examination deferrals for May 2020 to help mitigate some of the concerns faced by students. You will find further details on the University's *Mitigation Policy - Enhanced Academic Supports for Students (Semester 2, May 2020)*, at <https://tudublin.ie/covid19/>

1) Where can I find the deferral forms and submission instructions?

Blanchardstown Campus: [Click here](#)

City Campus: [Click here](#)

Tallaght Campus: [Click here](#)

2) What is the policy on examination deferral for May 2020?

Students will have two opportunities to defer exams (no exam deferral fee will be applied):

- A. Before exams commence, any student may apply to defer any May exam without question. They simply need to complete and submit the relevant form. No supporting evidence will be required. This facility is available up to May 5th.
- B. After each examination, a student may apply to defer an exam if they feel that it did not go as well as they had hoped [owing to challenges experienced due to COVID-19 restrictions or other] or if they encountered some technical problem during the exam. They simply need to complete and submit the relevant form. No supporting evidence will be required. This facility is available up to 2 (two) working days after each individual exam.

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3) What if I do not defer an examination in May 2020?

Your exam will be graded in the normal manner and the grade will be considered by the Examination Boards in the normal way. Examinations Boards will in all cases consider the totality of a student's results throughout the academic year and, if applicable, consider extenuating circumstances that may have impacted on examination performance. Retrospective deferrals will not be allowed.

4) Can I apply to defer the exam after the grade is released?

NO. Deferral will only be considered as described under FAQ #2. Late applications for deferral will not be considered.

5) What happens if I do not attend for a scheduled exam?

This counts as a 1st attempt. You will be required to register for, and sit the supplemental/repeat examination at the next time of offer, normally in August.

Remember, if you fail to attend for an exam for any reason, you can apply to defer that exam within 2 (two) working days as described in FAQ #2b.

6) Are there any consequences to examination deferral? YES

- a) You are still required to complete and pass all modules in your programme. Therefore, you must register for and sit the deferred exam(s) at the next time of offer, normally August.
- b) Deferred exams will be treated as a first attempt* when taken at the next time of offer (usually August). This means that no cap is applied to the level of award the student may be recommended for in the final year of study (normally, if you have a 2nd attempt exam, you are capped to a Pass award – this will not apply if the exam was officially deferred).
- c) If you fail a repeat exam or fail to show up for a repeat exam, you will not be eligible to progress in your programme (or graduate if in final year). You will need to take those incomplete module exams again in the following academic year.

** This does not apply in cases where the student is due to sit an exam in May 2020 as a 2nd or subsequent attempt.*

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7) How do I register for a supplemental / repeat examination?

Students must complete and pass all modules in their programme before they can be eligible to progress (or graduate if in their final study year). Registration for repeat exams opens in July and can be done online.

8) Can I appeal my May 2020 examination results?

YES. The normal examination appeals processes will apply. The outcome of an examination appeal may be that (i) the result is unchanged, (ii) the marks awarded are increased, or (iii) the marks awards are decreased. Deferral of the exam is not an available outcome.

9) How many exams / assessments can I defer?

There is no limit on the number of exams a student can defer. However, the student must be realistic about the amount of work required to study for, and complete exams in August. Deferring too many exams will make preparation for August very challenging. Be realistic about the workload you can manage. Supplemental Examinations take place across a more congested or shortened timeframe so you should take this into consideration at the deferral-request stage.

10) What happens if I fail one or more of my deferred exams at the supplemental sitting?

See FAQ #6(c). If you fail one or more August exams, progression and/or graduation will be affected. You will have to successfully complete those failed exams at the next time of offer, likely May 2021.

11) When will repeats/supplementals be taking place?

Repeat/Supplementals will normally take place in the final 2 weeks of August. However, owing to the ongoing COVID19 situation, this is subject to change. Any changes to exam schedules will be notified to students by the University.

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12) Will I still have to pay for repeat fees for an assessment I failed in Semester 1?

NO. There will be no fees for supplemental assessments for any student (*even those repeating Semester 1 exams*).

13) I'm in my final year, what supports and/ or options are available to me if my repeat opportunity is not till the next academic year?

There are few modules that are not covered by repeat / supplemental examination in August. In the small number of cases where the repeat / supplemental is in the 2020/21 academic year, the normal student supports and access to facilities will be available to the repeat students.

14) Will the impact of COVID-19 on my studies be taken into account when I'm being graded on assessments or is it only if there's extenuating circumstances?

See also FAQ #3. Programme and Examination Boards are acutely aware of the impacts of COVID19 on students at this time. They have worked hard to provide alternative tuition and assessments to mitigate those effects. The University's *Mitigation Policy - Enhanced Academic Supports for Students (Semester 2, May 2020)*, requires Examinations Boards in all cases to consider the totality of a student's results throughout the academic year and, if applicable, to consider extenuating circumstances that may have impacted on examination performance. This allows the University to take a compassionate approach to the circumstances in which students find themselves as a result of COVID-19'.

15) Re Academic Integrity Statement: When will I know if I have to take an Oral exam, and if so, what will the format/content/structure be and when will it take place?

The use of oral examination is a normal part of assessment in some modules, and will continue to be. For May 2020 (and any future examinations taken under these alternative examination processes), students may be called for a oral examination in any module or programme. Orals will typically be of 15 minute duration. They will test students on subjects where they may be in a borderline situation between grades or award levels, or where there is a significant discrepancy between the May and previous examination performance. Orals may also be used to check a student's ownership and understanding of a topic as part of checks on academic integrity intended to build confidence in the alternative examination process. Orals will normally occur after the examination period and before examination boards are convened.

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16) How will I know if the assessment(s) I've deferred to the 'next available opportunity' won't be available for me to complete until next year?

The vast majority of modules have a repeat /supplemental examination opportunity in August. However, there are a very small number where this is not possible, normally where they require completion of a significant project element that can only be completed in term-time. In these cases, the students will be notified by the academic Department / School of the timing and requirements for completion of that module.

17) Will the Personal Circumstances form still be accepted?

YES. If during the examination period, a student is affected by some unforeseen but verifiable extenuating circumstance beyond their control (e.g. illness, accident, bereavement), they can apply to have those circumstances brought to the attention of the Examination Board when considering their academic performance. Supporting documentation e.g. medical cert. will be required.

18) Will compensation still be available if I fail one or more of my deferred exams in the supplementals or will I be able to carry this automatically to the next academic year?

YES. The normal compensation rules on each campus continue to apply. Please note that currently programmes offered on each campus are governed by the General Assessment Regulations (or Marks and Standards) for that campus, so these may vary from campus to campus. If in doubt, contact your academic Department / School.

19) Can I carry Fails into the next academic year?

Current assessment regulations apply. Currently programmes offered on each campus are governed by the General Assessment Regulations (or Marks and Standards) for that campus.

Blanchardstown Campus – Please contact the Student Information Desk for details at: SID@tudublin.ie

City Campus – Please refer to the [General Assessment Regulations](#)

Tallaght Campus – Students are not allowed to carry fails.