



Student Appeals Procedure 2018-19

The only valid grounds for appeals are the following:

- (a) Either that the candidate has established to the satisfaction of the Appeals Board that the assessment was missed due to a previously undisclosed illness or any other factors which the candidate was unable, or for valid reason unwilling, to divulge before the relevant assessment board reached its decision. The candidate's request must be supported by medical certificates or other documentary evidence acceptable to the Appeals Board;
- (b) Or that the Appeals Board is satisfied on the evidence produced by a candidate or any other person that there has been a material administrative error; or that the assessments were not conducted in accordance with current regulations for the programme or special arrangements formally agreed; or that some other material irregularity relevant to the assessments has occurred.

Disagreement with the academic judgement of an assessment board in assessing the merits of an individual element of assessment cannot constitute grounds for an appeal, nor complaints about the delivery or management of a programme expressed only after assessment.

Stage 1 Appeals

Stage 1 Appeal Forms are available through the Student Hub.

To be considered, an appeal must be submitted in writing to the Student Hub not more than 10 working days after the publication of the results from any assessment period.

Students are advised to seek advice from the Student Support Team and/or the Student Hub prior to submitting their appeal with regards to the evidence and information required on the Appeals Form.

Two senior members of University staff, from the Registry, review the appeal within 5 working days of receipt and make an assessment on whether the student has grounds for appeal. If the Registry decides that there are no grounds for appeal then the appeal will be rejected. The student will be informed in writing by the Registry of this decision within two working days of the deadline for appeal. If the student disagrees with the decision made at Stage 1 they may have the option of submitting a further appeal to the Registrar (Stage 3).

Where the decision at Stage 1 is that the student does have grounds for appeal, the appeal will progress to Stage 2 of the appeals process.

Stage 2 Appeals

The student will be invited to attend the Appeals Board meeting, and may be accompanied by a fellow student or a student union representative should they choose to do so. However, meetings are not arranged around the student's availability.

After considering all evidence, the Appeals Board will reach a decision to either dismiss or uphold the appeal.

If the Appeals Board dismisses the appeal, the Registry will contact the student who has appealed, outlining the reasons for reaching the decision, and advising him/her of their right to appeal to the Registrar (Stage 3).

Where the appeal is upheld a recommendation must be made for reconsideration by the relevant reconvened assessment board within 10 working days, subject to the availability of members. The assessment board, after duly considering the evidence, shall agree either to amend or confirm its original decision. The Registry will contact the student with the assessment board's decision.

Stage 3: Appeal to the Registrar

Stage 3 Appeal Forms are available through the Student Hub.

To be considered, an appeal to the Registrar must be submitted in writing to the Registry not more than 10 working days after the notification of the decision at either Stages 1 or 2. If a student is unable to meet the deadline for appeal at Stage 1 on the grounds of valid extenuating circumstances supported by compelling and independent documentary evidence, the student may appeal directly to Stage 3. In this case the student must appeal to Stage 3 before the start of the next academic term. Appeals submitted to Stage 3 after the start of the next academic term will not be considered.

The only valid grounds for appeal at Stage 3 are the following:

- (a) a student believes that a decision on their appeal has not taken account of all relevant information, because additional evidence comes to light, which due to exceptional circumstances were not provided at Stages 1 or 2;
- (b) a student believes that there has been a material procedural irregularity in the appeals process;
- (c) a student believes that there has been procedural unfairness in the appeals process.

If the Registrar, or nominee, determines that there are grounds for a review of an appeal decision, they will convene a Review Board within 10 working days of receipt. After considering all evidence, the Review Board will reach a decision to either dismiss or uphold the appeal.

Where the appeal is upheld a recommendation must be made for reconsideration by the relevant reconvened assessment board within 10 working days, subject to the availability of members. The assessment board, after duly considering the evidence, shall agree

either to amend or confirm its original decision. The Registry will contact the student with the assessment board's decision.

If the appeal is dismissed, the Registrar, or nominee, will provide a Completion of Procedures letter to be sent to the student who has appealed to outline the reasons for reaching the decision and, where appropriate, advise the student of their right to appeal to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA).