

Study Regulations 2019-2020 and Annexe 0 of the Assessment Panel Policy and Examination Regulations 2019-2020 : Overruling Provisions following the COVID-19 Crisis

Preliminary Note :

IN THE EVENT OF A DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT LINGUISTIC VERSIONS OF THESE REGULATIONS, THE FRENCH VERSION SHALL PREVAIL.

1. Study Regulations (RGE) 2019-2020

- **Student's Annual Programme (PAE)**

Notwithstanding §3 of Article 14, the student's PAE can, if necessary, be adapted during the year and contain less than 60 credits, subject to prior consultation. This PAE modification must be validated as soon as possible and, in any case, before the start of the assessment period.

- **Notifications by e-mail**

Notwithstanding §1 of Article 24, emails sent to the student to their UMONS address are considered read within 24 hours of sending. This also remains the case during the university's closure.

- **Organisation of the 2019-2020 academic year**

The decree states that the summer resit period (Q3) of the 2019-2020 academic year will now begin on 11th July and end on 30th September 2020 (whereas, in normal times, it begins on 1st July and ends on 13th September).

The academic authorities endeavour to respect the initial assessment schedule of the second semester (Q2) as much as possible, while ensuring that the examination session runs smoothly.

In accordance with the 2019-2020 academic calendar, **the period devoted to the assessments, deliberations and proclamations will start on Monday 25th May, but will be extended up to and including Friday 10th July.**

The Q2 learning activities will end on Saturday 23rd May at the latest, with duly justified exceptions left to the discretion of the authorities of each Faculty. Faculties can choose to complete learning activities before this date, while bearing in mind that students must have at least one week of study leave before their first exam.

From 25th May to 10th July:

- Assessments will be scheduled between Monday 25th May and Tuesday 30th June
- **Deliberations and proclamations** will be scheduled from 2nd July to 10th July.

Regarding the summer resit period (Q3), provisions will be made in the coming weeks, according to the evolution of the health crisis.

The schedule of the 2019-2020 academic year will be adapted accordingly.

- **Wearing Masks**

Notwithstanding Article 31, for health reasons, the wearing of a surgical type mask, or a fabric mask of comparable form, is permitted and may even be imposed on the University's premises and other sites managed by UMONS.

2. Assessment Panel Policy and Examination Regulations 2019-2020 (Annexe 0 of the RGE)

- **Panels : composition, attendance quorum and voting means**

Notwithstanding Articles 4 and 8, the composition of each panel (jury) and the name of its Chairperson and Secretary will be made available to students online. Any objections can be made by e-mail.

Notwithstanding Articles 5 and 9, the attendance quorum is reached when at least half of the teachers responsible for compulsory teaching units participate in the deliberations, face-to-face or remotely.

Notwithstanding Article 14, decisions are made by a simple majority vote of participating members.

- **Session extension for reasons of *force majeure***

Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of Article 15, and for duly justified reasons of *force majeure*, the Dean may decide to extend a particular student's assessment period. This decision can only be made before the end of the assessment period, and after prior consultation with the student concerned.

- For the June assessment period, extensions can be in place until 30th September 2020.
- For the August-September assessment period, extensions can be in place until 28th November 2020.

Notwithstanding paragraph 2, in the event that a placement or other learning activity cannot be carried out within the usual timeframe because of the current health crisis linked to COVID-19, the Dean may, in agreement with the panel's Chairperson, propose that final-year Master, Advanced Master and AESS students postpone their placements and resits for the 2019-2020 academic year to 30th January 2021 at the latest.

For students who are not approaching the end of one of these courses, an extension can be considered until 28th November 2020 at the latest.

- **Assessment Schedule**

Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of Article 16, the schedule for the Q2 assessments and resits is communicated to students via Hyperplanning at least fifteen days before the start of the assessment period concerned. If necessary, students' order of passage will be communicated to them in due course through a channel left to the discretion of the Faculty.

- **Public Exams**

Notwithstanding the first paragraph of Article 19, for public oral exams organised remotely, students can insist on someone's presence on the assessment panel (jury) who was not part of the teaching staff for the subject, which is in accordance with Article 18.

Notwithstanding Article 19, paragraph 2 and thereafter, the procedures for viewing exams and the possibility of taking a photograph of your exam copy do not apply. These are replaced by alternative procedures compatible with a written assessment carried out remotely. Students will be informed of these implemented alternative procedures in due course.

- **Calculating UE scores in the event of administrative validation**

Article 20, 3rd paragraph. In case of administrative validation of an AA within a UE, the overall UE score is calculated from the weighted score of only the assessed AAs.

In case of administrative validation of a single AA within a UE, or all the AAs composing the UE, the UE is subject to a validation which does not influence the calculation of the PAE and cycle average.

- **Absence – Adjustments and session extensions for reasons of *force majeure* – Postponing assessments due to technical issues**

Article 31 §3. If the student is absent, or if it is impossible for the student to finish an exam due to an identifiable technical issue not attributable to the student, the teacher can offer the student the opportunity to sit the exam another time during the session, possibly by requesting an extension of the session from the Dean. This new opportunity may take different forms, depending on the circumstances.

The previous paragraph also applies to groups of students who have experienced the same circumstances.

§3 cannot be applied to cancel an exam which other students have sat.

Notwithstanding §2, paragraph 3 of Article 31, the student may also lodge an appeal by e-mail.

- **Pass Mark and Weighting**

Notwithstanding Article 32, if the student has obtained at least 10/20 for each UE which has been assessed in their PAE, this means they have passed.

Notwithstanding Article 33, in the exceptional case where a UE comprises only one AA which is subject to administrative validation, the average will be calculated on the basis of the scores associated with the other UEs of the student's PAE.

- **Announcement of Results (Articles 43 and 44)**

Depending on the evolution of the situation, it may be necessary to adapt the procedures for announcing and displaying results.

A proposal to adapt these provisions will be made later.

- **Rules applicable to mobility students**

Notwithstanding Article 47, in the event of *force majeure* recognised by the Faculty authorities, course programmes to be followed during a mobility placement may be adapted after the first four weeks of the placement. It must be adapted in accordance with the learning agreement modification procedure and must be validated by the student, the home faculty authority and the host institution before the start of the assessment period.

In the case of *force majeure* recognised by the Faculty authorities, mobility may be interrupted. The student may, in certain circumstances recognised by their Faculty authorities, continue to follow the mobility programme remotely and sit the associated exams of the host institution. If the host institution does not offer distance learning (online) courses or remote exams, or if the student does not have the technical means to follow the online courses or take the remote exams organised by the host institution, the student is authorised, by their Faculty authorities, to resume their studies at UMONS upon cancelling their learning agreement and adapting their PAE.

Generally, the Faculty authorities analyse each case of *force majeure* and try to find an alternative for each student.