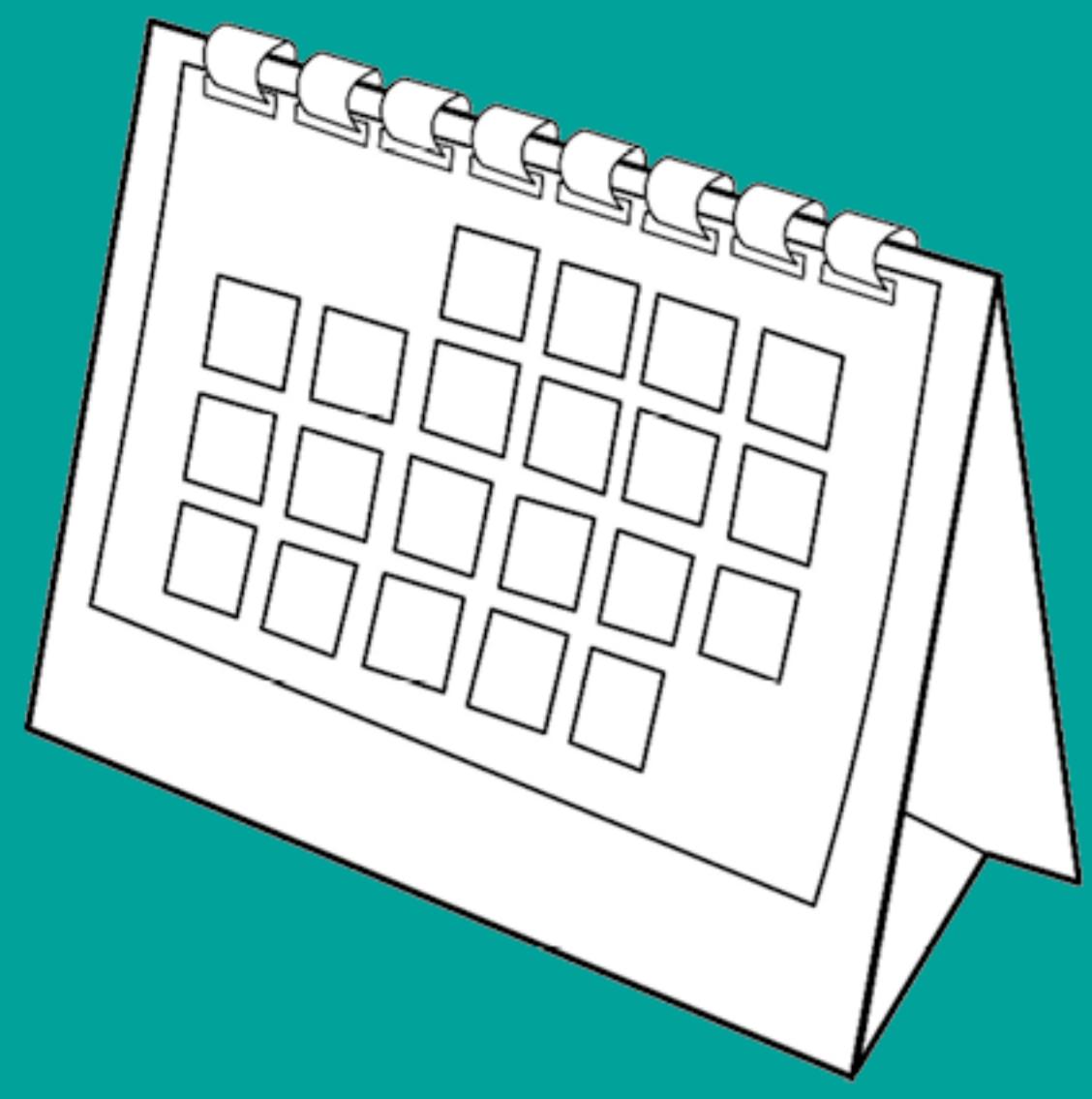


UCU's Marking and
Assessment Boycott
and the University's
'no detriment' approach

How will this affect you?



The University and College Union's marking and assessment boycott **began on Thursday 20 April 2023** and **will last until 30 September 2023**, unless a resolution can be reached sooner.

While **most students will be unaffected by this action**, we recognise that **you may have questions** about what this will mean for you.



You **should not change anything about your preparations for exams and assessments.**

It is in your best interests to **prepare as normal** and to assume that all your submitted work will be marked.

We've introduced a '**no detriment**' approach to enable students whose assessments are impacted to **progress to the next stage of their programme or graduate**, where possible, with the reassurance that their academic outcomes will not be seriously affected by this industrial action.



What is a 'no detriment' approach?

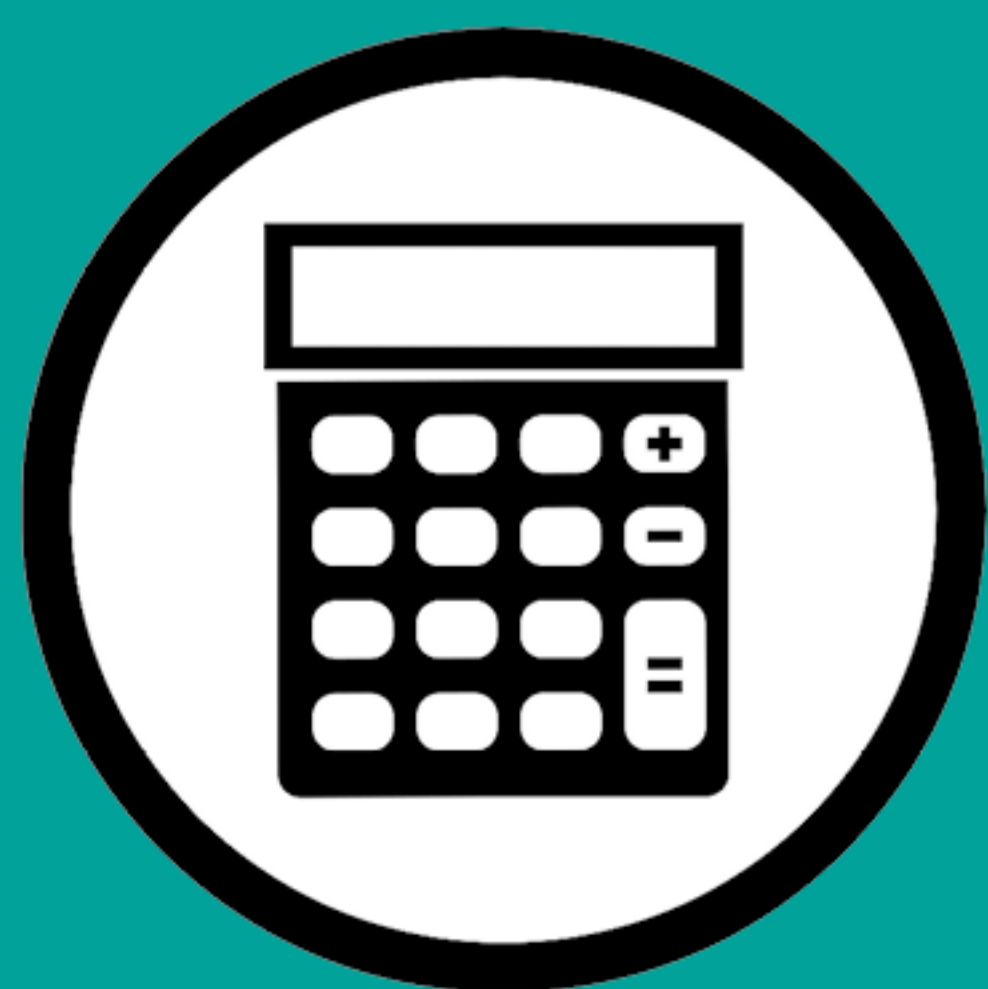


The 'no detriment' approach will use, where possible, a **temporary calculation of your weighted average for the year**, based on the marks that we have available for you up to the date of your programme's Exam Board.

This will enable us to calculate a temporary mark at the Exam Board for any individual student with missing marks **as a result of the marking and assessment boycott**.



Exam Board members will use your actual marks, while taking into account other available information (such as PECs/Student Support Plans/personal circumstances etc.), **to make a decision on progression to the next year of your programme or to make an award**.



Any student with missing marks will have their remaining marks entered **when they are available** and, at that point, the **average mark may be recalculated**.

Will my assessments be marked?

All students' assessments and work – including dissertations – will be read and marked, even if delayed by the impact of the boycott. For most students, assessment continues as normal.



What happens if I don't submit an assessment because I know it is affected by strike action?

You are required to attend all assessments, even if you know it will not be marked immediately.
All marks will be returned even if there is a delay.



A mark of zero will only be used where:

- an assessment has not been submitted
- an examination has not been attended
- a mark of zero has been genuinely awarded for the work.

Will the 'no detriment' approach be applied to all degree programmes?

Many degree programmes will not be affected by the marking and assessment boycott and for these programmes, the 'no detriment' approach will not be needed.

Some programmes, particularly those with **external accreditation**, have **compulsory components** and require students to **demonstrate competency in all aspects**.



Students on these programmes must therefore **pass all elements** of their assessments. For these individual students, we **may have to wait until all assessments have been marked**.



As a result, we may have to **make an interim decision to allow you to progress** with resits, if relevant, in the next year or an interim award may be made. Where the 'No detriment' approach cannot be applied for your programme, **Schools will inform you** of this after the Exam Boards have concluded.



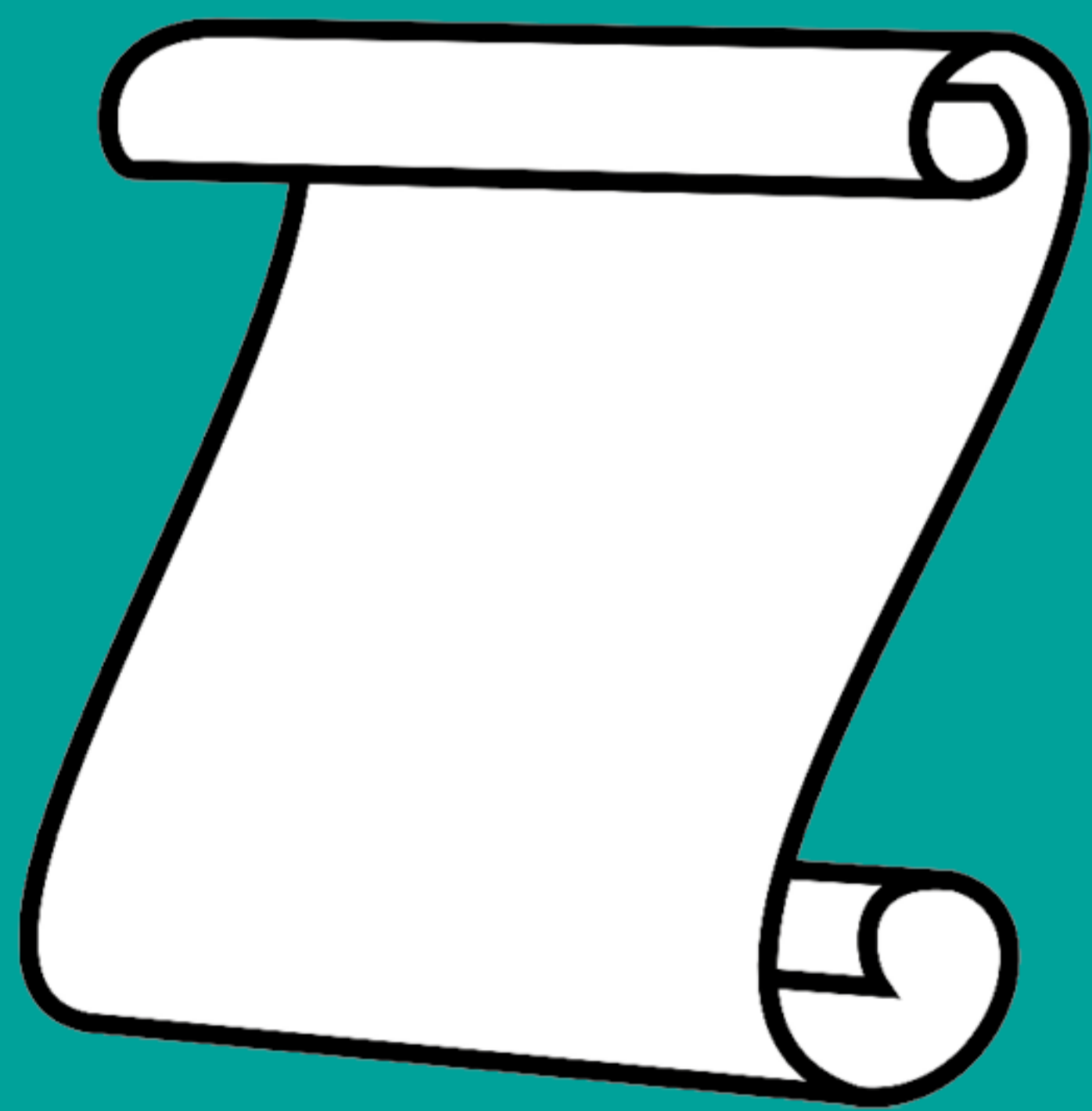
There may be a small number of students who **do not have enough available credits** to accurately consider a weighted average (because of deferred, failed or missed assessments or individual personal circumstances) and again, the 'no detriment' approach may not be able to be applied.

Schools will be working directly with these students on an individual basis in the usual manner to support them to continue with their studies with the least disruption.

How will it apply to final year students (UG and PGT)?

If you are a final year student affected by missing marks as a result of industrial action, you **may be awarded an interim degree** and your **degree classification will be recalculated when all marks have been received.**

At that point, if your **overall average mark has increased** based on your marks, you will be **considered for the higher classification award** in accordance with the standard University regulations.



For students affected, the **classification will be issued on a 'no detriment' basis**, meaning that once all late marks have been received, these would only be **used to increase (and not decrease) the degree classification.**

Degree certificates/transcripts will **still be issued promptly for temporary awards**, but will be **replaced if a higher award was later issued.** If your classification has decreased once all marks are received and all modules have been passed, **the higher classification will remain in place regardless.**

What will my transcript look like if the 'no detriment' approach has been applied?

If the 'no detriment' approach is applied to your marks, you may find that the following codes are used on your transcript against a module:

'Deemed to have passed' – If marks are missing due to the marking and assessment boycott, where possible, the Board of Examiners will use this code to **allow you to progress to the next stage of your programme**. In this scenario, when the missing mark becomes available and the mark is a failing mark, you will **not** be required to resit that module.

Module Code	Module Title	Semester of Study	Module Credits	Mark	Module Status	Attempts
HIS3000	Reading History	Semester 1	20	74	Pass	1
HIS3347	Consuming Empire: Global Trade and the Transformation of Britain, c. 1688-1820.	Semester 1	20	82	Pass	1
HIS3035	Elizabeth I: the Politics of Religion	Semester 2	20	#	<u>Deemed to have passed</u>	1
HIS3020	Writing History	Full year	40	#	<u>Decision delayed</u>	1
NCL3007	Career Development for final year students	Full year	20	85	Pass	1

'Decision delayed' – If marks are missing due to the marking and assessment boycott, this code will be used **if a programme has core competencies or accreditation requirements**. When the missing mark becomes available, if it is a failing mark, you will be required to resit the module at the next normal occasion, to demonstrate you have achieved the competency.

In both of the above cases, **no mark for the affected module will be included** on the transcript. **The symbol '#'** will be used until the missing mark becomes available, at which point the transcript will be reissued.

How will my degree be classified?

Where possible, a **classified degree will be awarded using the marks available** to the Boards of Examiners and, once all the marks are returned, the **full profile of marks will be reviewed** and may **result in a higher classification of degree being awarded.**

Final year students whose modules have been affected by the marking and assessment boycott **may receive a transcript which states the final stage decision as an 'Interim unclassified award'** rather than a classified degree.

End of stage decision: Interim unclassified award

This will be **replaced on the transcript once all marks are available** showing the corrected or higher classification at which point the degree certificate will be issued.

Students will be **invited to attend graduation ceremonies as normal** but **certificates will only be issued once all marks are available** and the **actual classification has been determined** by a Board of Examiners.



Where can I access further help and support?

As many colleagues will not be participating in the marking and assessment boycott, and those who are doing so are not required to declare in advance, **it is very difficult for us to predict the impact at an individual level before assessment deadlines have been reached.** However, your **school will be monitoring the impact** as the assessment period progresses and will be able to **provide further advice following the Exam Boards.**

In the meantime, please see our:

Industrial action webpage
for the latest updates



[ncl.ac.uk/students/
industrial-action-22-23](https://ncl.ac.uk/students/industrial-action-22-23)

'No detriment' webpage
for more information



[ncl.ac.uk/students/
industrial-action-22-23/no-detriment](https://ncl.ac.uk/students/industrial-action-22-23/no-detriment)

Industrial action FAQs
for common queries



[enquire.ncl.ac.uk/en/academic-
support-for-current-students](https://enquire.ncl.ac.uk/en/academic-support-for-current-students)

Support available for your
health and wellbeing

ncl.ac.uk/wellbeing

Support available from
the Academic Skills Kit

ncl.ac.uk/academic-skills-kit